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OKBU

MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

WELCOME WEEK

B I S O N S T Y L E

MOVE-IN DAY

Cheering upperclassmen swarm freshmen's vehicles and haul every stitch of their belongings to their dorm rooms.



FALL 2014

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Traditions. Every university has them. But what makes them special? The people.

Every August, the beginning of the fall semester brings a group of new students to OBU to experience the Welcome Week traditions that make OBU unique. Some traditions have been around many years and others have been created in more recent years. Beanies. Ka-Rip. The Walk. Move-In Day. The Alma Mater. Regardless of whether the tradition is old or new, students

experience Welcome Week at OBU "Bison Style."

In this issue, we give you a peek into the OBU traditions of Welcome Week. These are the times when cherished relationships that will last a lifetime are formed, firm foundations for college life are built and challenges to make a difference in the world are accepted.

From the moment a student arrives on Bison Hill, we seek to help them grow in their Christian worldview and to wholly prepare them academically, spiritually and socially for their chosen profession. We covet your prayers for our students as God works in their lives and through the lives of OBU faculty and staff to prepare them to become everything God has called them to be.


David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President

OBU

magazine

FALL 2014 | VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

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OBU Magazine is published by the Marketing and Communications Office, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma. It is mailed to more than 38,000 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 405.585.5413.

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A Challenge to New Bison

On Tuesday evening of Welcome Week, new students take part in “The Walk,” beginning at the oval and ending on the steps of Raley Chapel. As is tradition, upperclassmen greet them with cheers and celebration, and charge them with what it means to be a Bison as they begin their careers at OBU.

Seniors Chelsea Abinah and Cody Moser delivered these inspiring and challenging words of advice to the new students:

Moser My friends. Bison Hill has eagerly anticipated this day. We have prayed, planned and prepared for your arrival and that you will take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to you here at OBU, build some of the deepest relationships you have ever had, learn more than you have ever learned and encounter Christ in a new and fresh way.

Abinah Begin to learn in a way that searches for the truth in every possible place. Begin to make friendships that are going to last a lifetime. Begin to let this place, this community, transform you and the way you think, act, speak and love ... Challenge yourself to build a legacy that is your own. Take full advantage of every opportunity thrown your way. Be involved. Take in what you are learning so that you are more than a good person, but a person that makes a difference.

Moser We ask you will be open to what God has for you every day here at OBU. Look for the opportunities to love others and to do things that don't make sense according to the standards of the world ...

Two thousand years ago, a man named Jesus came and completely changed the world. He told the people that “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel,” Mark 1:15 ... As representatives of the kingdom of God, we are called to spread the good news that Jesus is king ... It is good news for all of us sinners and for those who have rebelled against

God, for every man, woman and child. As ambassadors of the kingdom, and with the unique education and training you will receive at this place, your responsibility is to take the gospel of Jesus Christ and His kingdom into the world.

Abinah And so, our hope for you, the class of 2018, is that you become deeply involved in the life of this campus ...

Moser You accept the challenges to grow in your knowledge.

Abinah You make friendships that are lifelong.

Moser You don't come out of this journey unchanged.

Abinah You have days that are full of challenges followed by days overflowing with love and support.

Moser You are not scared to ask tough questions.

Abinah You find answers to those problems you encounter.

Moser You find yourself faced with unanswerable questions to remind you there is something bigger out there.

Abinah Learn to make this community your own.

Moser Gain knowledge for the sake of being more whole.

Abinah And most importantly, grow to be a part of this legacy. ■



OBU students Chelsea Abinah (right) and Cody Moser address new students during “The Walk” on Tuesday evening during Welcome Week. The students ended The Walk in front of Raley Chapel, where Abinah and Moser delivered an emotional charge, challenging them to, “Grow to be a part of the legacy,” on Bison Hill.



WELCOME WEEK is a time of tradition,

a time of excitement and

a time of embracing new students into the OBU family.

Its rich traditions – some old, some new –

welcome new students into the fabric of campus life.

It's a time to make new friends and experience Bison Spirit firsthand, all while finding encouragement and support to **launch the college journey.**

WELCOME WEEK

BISON STYLE



GOODBYE PRAYER

Late on Saturday afternoon of move-in day, parents and students gather on the lawn of Raley Chapel to say goodbye.

It's a time of celebration and prayer for what God will do in the students' lives and a time of comfort for the parents, as their sons and daughters take the next step.



UNITY GATHERING

On Monday night of Welcome Week, new students meet at the Unity Gathering for a time of worship and to learn about the importance of living together as one on Bison Hill. To conclude, one candle is lit and passed through the crowd until all candles are lit, illuminating a beautiful image of peace and togetherness.



Angela Sanders

*Mom of a 2014 Freshman
Edmond, Oklahoma*

My concern in dropping my son off at school was not so much whether he was ready for college, but whether OBU was ready for him, as I knew he would need structure and an immediate nudge in the right direction.

My concerns were laid to rest within 15 minutes of arriving. Structure was the order of the day with alumni and staff directing traffic and answering questions at every turn. Before we knew it, Hunter's car was completely unloaded. The tension in our shoulders and apprehension in our hearts greatly eased. Somewhere in the midst of the smiles, handshakes, laughter and excitement, we had exhaled without realizing it.

The hearty welcome we received set the tone for the rest of the day. We waltzed through what could have been a difficult day with relative ease. The family prayer and scheduled goodbye time was particularly helpful. I had anticipated that moment for over two years, and thanks to the careful planning of OBU, it was one of the most memorable moments of my life, an unexpected celebration of all God has done in Hunter's life and all He will continue to do.

I still cried all the way home, but was able to reflect on the day with gratitude.

>>> Read more of
Angela's story online at
okbu.edu/mag.

THE WALK

A longstanding OBU tradition, The Walk begins at the Oval and ends on the south steps of Raley Chapel. It is similar to the procession students follow as seniors on commencement day. It is a time of togetherness for incoming students, a symbolic beginning and completion of their journey at OBU.



View a video of The Walk, at okbu.edu/mag



KA-RIP!

Ka-Rip! is a spirit chant yelled by OBU students and fans during sporting events. New students learn the yell during Welcome Week and face-off during Ka-Rip! Wars. Anyone can be called out at any time by a simple ...

"Hey Bison! Go with Ka-Rip!"

Ka-rip Ka-rap Ka-riplo typlo tap

Oh! Oh!

Rincto lincto hio-totimus

Hopula scipula copula gotimus

Chink-to-lack Chink-to-lee

Ka-willa, Ka-walla, Ka victory

Oh! Oh!

Hoogula choogula choogula can

Ragula tagula melican man

Let'er go rip, let'er go ruse

Tingula Tangula, turn'em a-loose

Zip! Bang! OBU!



View a video of the Ka-Rip Wars, at okbu.edu/mag



Holly Edwards*Director of Student
Leadership and Engagement*

It has been a privilege to see Welcome Week through many different lenses from my time on campus. I experienced Welcome Week as a freshman, as an Admissions Counselor, as a Residence Director and now as the administrative sponsor in charge of new student orientation. It has become one of our greatest traditions. It not only introduces our new students to who and what OBU is, but it also provides a platform for new students to make connections and build lifetime relationships.

The move-in process is one of the most memorable parts of Welcome Week. As soon as new students pull onto campus, they are greeted by friendly faces and screams. Our Welcome Week Workers (Tri-W's) then 'grab' all of their belongings from their vehicles and make sure it gets safely to their rooms. It's an easy and memorable process for new students and their families.

Serve Shawnee happens on Monday and gives our new students the opportunity to work with upperclassmen performing community service projects as they connect with people in the local community.

The Walk is a great welcome week tradition and signifies that freshmen have become part of the OBU community.



SMALL GROUPS

Students are divided into groups led by Welcome Week Workers, or "Tri-W's." During the week, these groups meet every day and help students create bonds that they will carry with them through college and beyond. In the groups, new students learn more about OBU and Shawnee.

The groups tour Shawnee, participate in service projects, attend book studies, have dinner with faculty members and more. Small-group participation helps new students get connected on campus and in the community.

dinner with faculty



service projects



THE BEANIE

OBU was founded in 1910, and shortly after, the Beanie became a tradition. Originally worn by new students the entire year, the Beanie is now worn during Welcome Week to distinguish new students from returning students. The green and gold material boasts the school's colors and is a cherished symbol of Bison Hill.

Hunter Sanders

2014 Freshman
Edmond, Oklahoma

At first, I was really apprehensive about Welcome Week. Why in the world would I want 20 people shaking my car? Why would I need them to take my luggage? Why did I need a beanie? Why was I being forced to meet people?

When I pulled up to the crowd waiting to toss my car to-and-fro, I realized something. Nobody was there to annoy me. They were all there to help me. Before I even stepped out of my car, my luggage was in my room. No joke.

The Tri-W leaders were invaluable in helping me get plugged in.

The thing that helped the most, though? The Beanie. I thought it would estrange me from the rest of the student body. Instead, it brought me closer to my peers and helped me get a great start to my social life.

Coming in to Welcome Week, I really didn't expect to find community. It turns out I was right – community found me. I didn't even have to step out of my car to know I was wanted. I didn't have to leave my seat in Raley to know I was wanted. People even bought my dinner to make sure I made friends and felt significant. I'll admit, I didn't want Welcome Week, but it was more than I could have ever wished for.



small group discussion

vision^{FOR A} new century

Campaign Progress and Opportunities



Will Smallwood
*Vice President for
University Advancement*

The pages of this magazine are filled with stories of the great traditions of Oklahoma Baptist University. From Welcome Week and the first-year experience for new Bison to new faculty to competition on the playing fields to the world-changing work of alumni, OBU is EXCELLENCE! In the same way, the generosity of alumni and friends in providing financial support to OBU is a tradition of excellence. Beginning with a gift of 60 acres and a new building, the City of Shawnee started this tradition in 1910.

The tradition of giving to God's work at OBU continues today. Since the start of the Vision for a New Century Capital (VNC) Campaign in May 2011, you have provided more than \$41 million in resources to begin construction on Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall for the College of Nursing, complete the Mathena Center for sports medicine, and fund, with gifts nearing \$18 million, 142 unique endowed scholarships. In every way, these resources have set a new standard of excellence at OBU. Through

these efforts, new traditions will be established for future generations of students.

We celebrate and give thanks for your faithful generosity. Even as we near the monetary goal of the campaign, there is still the need for additional funding to complete the remaining VNC projects. Remaining projects include the W. P. Wood Science Building expansion, Ford Music Hall renovation, Agee Residence Center renovation and the construction of the Student Services Center. University Advancement team members will continue to press forward in the fourth year of the campaign, leading regional fundraising efforts in southwestern Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma as well as around the world in order to surpass the goals of the campaign and OBU Vision 2020 with excellence.



Revive the Roof – A campaign to replace the roof tiles on Raley Chapel



Finally, it is my pleasure to announce the launch of the Revive the Roof campaign for Raley Chapel. After more than 50 years, the original tiles on the roof of Raley Chapel will be replaced in summer 2015. In the coming year, you will hear and see exciting ways in which you can be a part of the Revive the Roof Campaign. Your \$20 gift helps purchase one of 42,000 tiles needed to complete the project. Speaking of traditions, Raley Chapel is the launchpad for student educational and spiritual journeys while at OBU, and she has sent out more than 18,000 graduates to transform the world for God's glory.

Through your giving, you enable all of us on Bison Hill to bear the standard of excellence. If you have not had the opportunity to be a part of the ongoing tradition of excellence at OBU, would you please consider sending a gift to one of the campaign projects using the provided envelope? You can find out more about the campaign and other exciting giving opportunities at www.okbu.edu/advancement. Your support will help us pursue another great tradition at OBU: to equip our 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.



Student athletes are assisted by athletic trainers and medical personnel in the Mathena Center. The sports medicine facility was completed in July.

Top Photo: Construction is underway for Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall for the College of Nursing. The new facility will be located on the corner of MacArthur and Kickapoo, just north of Shawnee Hall (pictured to the left of the construction site), and east of the Mabee Learning Center and Owens Hall (pictured above the construction site).



OBU Earns Top National Rankings

OBU earned top national rankings once again, continuing the longstanding recognition of academic excellence on Bison Hill.

For the 21st consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report listed OBU as Oklahoma's highest ranked college on the "Best Regional Colleges of the West" list for 2015. OBU is also ranked in the top ten "Great Schools, Great Prices" regional colleges and is the only Oklahoma college on "A-Plus Schools for B Students" for regional colleges.

"We are pleased to once again receive this recognition from U.S. News & World Report," said OBU President David W. Whitlock. "For more than two decades, these rankings have recognized the commitment to excellence and the vision for academic success which we hold dear at OBU. The dedication of our faculty, staff and students

to the University's mission helps OBU deliver the highest quality Christian liberal arts education."

For the 10th consecutive year, OBU has been named one of the best colleges and universities in the western United States by The Princeton Review. OBU was one of 124 institutions recommended in the "Best in the West" section on the educational research firm's website feature, "2015 Best Colleges: Region by Region."

Colleges selected each year must meet two criteria. First, they must pass reviews for academic excellence. Second, students at each college are independently surveyed through a secure online survey. Students are asked to rate their own school on several issues, from the accessibility of professors to the quality of the campus food, and answer questions about



themselves, fellow students and campus life.

OBU was also named one of the Best Baccalaureate Colleges of 2014 by Washington Monthly magazine, ranking 28 out of 346 schools. Washington Monthly gives high marks to institutions that contribute to society, enroll low income students, help them graduate and do not charge a fortune to attend.

"These rankings recognize

OBU's commitment to the highest level of academic excellence," said Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life. "Our faculty and staff work tirelessly for our students, and we are excited to see this recognition for their hard work and sacrifice. Their dedication and efforts make achievements like this a reality."

For more on OBU's rankings, visit okbu.edu.

Whitlock Named Senior Fellow of ERLC Research Institute



OBU President Dr. David W. Whitlock has been named a Senior Research Fellow for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention. The ERLC is the SBC's ethics, religious liberty and public policy entity with offices in Nashville, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C.

The ERLC recently announced the launch of the new Research Institute under the direction of its president, Russell Moore, along with the appointment of new scholars and professionals as research fellows.

"The aim of the Research Institute is to be a catalyst to connect the agenda of the gospel to the complex questions of the day – and to do so at the highest levels of academic scholarship for the good of local congregations," Moore said. "I am thrilled to get to work together with an exceptionally gifted band of scholars and leaders as we seek to be persuasive, prophetic witnesses engaging the academy and equipping the church."

The newly named fellows come from all six Southern Baptist seminaries, several Baptist colleges, private and public universities and other prominent institutions such as the Heritage Foundation and the American Center for Law and Justice.

"I am pleased and honored to serve the ERLC and Southern Baptists in this role," Whitlock said. "Oklahoma Baptist University has a prominent voice in our denomination and provides leadership around the globe in issues of ethics and theology. I'm humbled to serve and excited to see how the Lord uses this group of scholars to further His work."

Roberts Named VP / CIO



OBU has appointed Paul W. Roberts as vice president for information integration and chief information officer. Roberts, who will retain his role as

dean of library services, will use his new position to integrate technology and access to information into the entirety of university life.

"This position provides strategic and tactical planning for all aspects of technology integration, facilitates communications and manages projects and priorities related to technology use and information access," said OBU President David Whitlock.

As CIO, Roberts will provide vision and leadership in the planning, development and implementation of university-wide information systems and services.

Roberts, who joined the OBU staff in 2012 as dean of library services, is currently pursuing a doctorate in church history at the Theologische Universiteit Kampen voor de Gereformeerde Kerken in The Netherlands. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in biblical studies from Central Baptist College; a Master of Divinity in biblical and theological studies from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Kentucky; and a Master of Theology in reformation studies from the Reformed Theological Seminary.

Roberts served four years as director of patron services for the James P. Boyce Centennial Library at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he previously served as reference librarian and systems coordinator and archival assistant. He has also served as preaching pastor in a bi-vocational role at several churches since 1999. He is the author of numerous academic publications and papers, as well as library publications and presentations.

Richards Named Dean



The OBU College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS) welcomed Dr. Rhonda Richards as dean of the college, effective June 2.

Richards earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a minor in computer information systems. In 2002, she earned her Master of Business Administration from Southwest Baptist University and began her teaching career at Southwest Baptist in the accounting and computer information systems departments.

In 2005, she joined the faculty at Southeastern, earning a doctorate in business computer information systems with a minor in accounting at the University of North Texas in 2012.

"God called me here to OBU, I have no doubt about that," she said. "This position gives me an opportunity to combine my passion for education and my corporate experience to follow God's calling and grow a program that will reach people globally for Christ. I want to help provide opportunities for students to transform the world."

This fall, the CGPS began offering online Master of Science in Nursing courses and two new tracks in the MBA program: leadership and project management.

In the near future, the college plans to offer more online courses in the MSN program, an online Master of Arts in Christian studies with concentrations in leadership and apologetics, and a Master of Arts in intercultural studies with concentrations in intercultural and orality.

"OBU integrates faith and learning and does this while seeking to transform the world," Richards said. "Our students earn a degree that will enable them to change the world for Christ."

Parrish to be Inducted



Dr. John W. Parrish, executive vice president emeritus at OBU, is one of 12 being inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame's class of 2014

during a formal ceremony and dinner Oct. 14 at the Jim Thorpe Museum/Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Parrish retired from the OBU administration in November 2002, after more than 38 years of service. However, he has continued to serve the University through sports broadcasting and as chairman of OBU's centennial committee.

During his time at OBU, he served in numerous positions, including sports information director, director of public relations and interim president of the University from 2007-08.

Parrish has also written and published books about OBU history and served as president of the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society in 2006, 2007 and 2013.

Parrish has received numerous honors and awards from OBU, including having the University's public relations office suite named in his honor. He was named an honorary member of the OBU Alumni Association in 1989 and was inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame the same year. He received OBU's Meritorious Service Award in 1989 and the OBU Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1974.

The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame is a service of the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, established in 1991 as a nonprofit to support awareness of higher education's vital role in Oklahoma history.

For more information about the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame or the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, visit www.ohchs.org.

Bison Hill Welcomes New Faculty for 2014-15

OBU welcomed 15 new faculty members for the 2014-15 academic year.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences

DR. D.H. DILBECK joins the faculty as assistant professor of history. He served as an instructor in 2014 at the University of Virginia, where he was a teaching assistant from 2011-14. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and religion from OBU, and a master's degree and doctorate in history from the University of Virginia. He also received the art, humanities and social sciences research fellowship from the University of Virginia.

TRICIA HANSEN joins the faculty as assistant professor of education. She served as a special education specialist from 2012-14 at the Oklahoma State Department of Education. She also served as a special education teacher from 2005-12 in the Cajon Valley Union School District in El Cajon, California, where she previously worked as a special education paraprofessional from 1998-2005. She earned her bachelor's degree in liberal studies from National University in San Diego, California, and her master's degree in special education from the University of San Diego.

KELLIE YOUNG joins the faculty as assistant professor of education. She served as an adjunct professor at OBU from 2006-14. She taught kindergarten, second and fourth grade at Grove Public Schools from 2005-14. She also taught second, fifth and sixth grade at Moss Public Schools in Holdenville, Oklahoma, from 2000-05. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in secondary education from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. She was the Grove Teacher of the Year for 2011-12 and won the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma Teacher of Today Award in 2012.

DR. ALAN NOBLE joins the faculty as assistant professor of English. He served as an instructor at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, from 2008-14 and an instructor at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, California, from 2006-08. He earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in English literature from California State University in Bakersfield and a doctorate in English and contemporary American literature from Baylor University.

DR. MICHAEL TRAVERS joins the faculty as professor of English, chair for the division of language and literature and associate dean for the College of Humanities and Social

Sciences. He served as professor of English at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, from 2010-14; vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana, from 2008-10; professor of English at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary from 2002-08; and numerous other teaching and academic positions since 1972.

The Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts

STEPHEN DRAPER joins the faculty as instructor of broadcast journalism and mass communications. He served as the senior editor for KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City from 2012-14. He has also held several other media positions, including social media consultant for Hands From the Heart Home Healthcare Services and media producer and volunteer coordinator for the International Mission Board in the Middle East. Draper earned a Bachelor of Science in electronic media and film from Townson University in Townson, Maryland.

JUSTIN PIERCE joins the faculty as instructor of instrumental music. He served as the temporary woodwinds and jazz ensemble instructor at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, from 2013-14, and as an adjunct instructor of woodwinds at Eastfield College, in Mesquite, Texas. He has served as an applied jazz saxophone instructor and lab band director at the University of North Texas in Denton, and has 10 years of teaching experience. He earned his Bachelor of Music in saxophone performance from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and his master's degree in jazz studies from the University of North Texas. He is currently working toward a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in saxophone performance from the University of North Texas.

DR. KATHY SCHERLER joins the faculty as assistant professor of music education. She served as assistant professor at Cameron University from 2013-14, where she directed choral activities. She was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Texas at Arlington from 2008-09 and assistant professor at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, from 2004-08. She has over 20 years of elementary and secondary experience teaching music. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Cameron University, master's degree from Texas A&M and Ph.D. from the University of North Texas.



DILBECK



HANSEN



YOUNG



NOBLE



TRAVERS



DRAPER



PIERCE



SCHERLER



SMITH



TAPLEY



WILLIAMS



DUMANCAS



NOBLE



ARBO



CRAGIN

The College of Nursing

MEGAN SMITH joined the faculty as assistant professor nursing. She served as pediatric education specialist for the University of Oklahoma Medical System in Oklahoma City from 2012-14. Prior to that, she served as an inpatient pediatric care nurse at The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center from 2009-12 and as an inpatient pediatric surgical nurse from 2008-09. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, and her Master of Science in Nursing from OBU. She is a certified pediatric nurse; certified by the American Heart Association in Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support; and by the Emergency Nurses Association in the Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course.

NATALIE TAPLEY, assistant professor of nursing, served as an adjunct at the University of Oklahoma from 2009-12 as well as a full-time faculty member from 2012-14 as a clinical instructor. She also served as the campus nurse for Shawnee High School in 2011. She taught at Rose State College from 2007-12, as a professor of nursing and a clinical instructor. She also worked as a staff nurse at The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center from 2001-06, and then as a PRN until 2013. She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is certified by the American Heart Association in Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

RITA WILLIAMS, assistant professor of nursing, was as a registered nurse for Integris-Baptist Mental Health in Spencer, Oklahoma, from 2009-14. She also served as an RN at St. Anthony Behavioral Medical Center in Oklahoma City from 2008-14. She taught at Langston University from 2005-14 and served as an RN at Griffin Memorial Hospital in Norman from 2005-08. She earned both a Bachelor of Science in education and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Langston University, and then earned her Master of Science in Nursing from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She holds certifications and licensure from the American Public Health Association, Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, National League for Nurses, the Oncology Nursing Society Cancer Chemotherapy certification and is a certified case manager.

The James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics

DR. GERARD DUMANCAS joins the faculty as instructor of

chemistry and stockroom manager. He has served as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City since 2012. He worked as a graduate researcher and teaching assistant at Oklahoma State University from 2008-12. Dumancas earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of the Philippines and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in chemistry from Oklahoma State University.

BRITTANY NOBLE joins the faculty as an instructor of mathematics. She served as a part-time lecturer at Baylor University from 2008-14. She also worked as an adjunct faculty member at California State University in Northridge, California, from 2007-08 and as a teaching assistant from 2005-06. Noble earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics with a secondary teaching option and a Master of Science in mathematics from California State University. She is currently working toward her Master of Science in economics from Baylor University.

The Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry

DR. MATTHEW ARBO joins the faculty as assistant professor of biblical and theological studies after serving as assistant professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, from 2011-14. Arbo earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy and religion from Liberty University. He then earned a master's degree in philosophy of religion from Liberty as well as a master's degree in theological ethics from the University of Edinburgh. He later earned a Ph.D. in theological ethics, also from the University of Edinburgh. Arbo authored and published the book, "Political Vanity: Adam Ferguson on the Moral Tensions of Early Capitalism."

The Paul Dickinson College of Business

DR. JOHN CRAGIN rejoins the faculty as professor of international business and social entrepreneurship after serving as CEO of Vertical Learning Curve in Oklahoma City from 2006-14. Prior to that position, he served as professor of business at OBU from 1990-2006. He has also served as director of international operations for Central Plastics Company and a developer for the Moscow Economics School. Cragin earned his bachelor's degree in sociology at OBU and his Ph.D. in management from the University of Oklahoma. Cragin has been published in numerous publications, including Christianity Today, International Journal of Management and Marketing Research Journal.

... ENGAGE A DIVERSE WORLD

Each year, dozens of OBU students, faculty and staff take Global Outreach (GO) Trips which enforce OBU's mission:

To transform lives by 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 Jesus Christ.

OBU's Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach mobilizes, trains and manages GO Trips.



OBU Students
Clay Mattox (front center) and Blair Rogers (middle left) with other student missionaries in Portland, Oregon. They lived in Portland for two months while forming relationships and sharing their faith.

During an evangelistic effort near Ceará-Mirim, Brazil, IMB missionary Rick Thompson (second from right) and Brazilian Marciano Santos (right) share the plan of salvation using an "evangelism ball," a soccer ball with colors symbolizing key elements of the gospel. Thompson and Santos, worship pastor at Taneytown (Maryland) Baptist Church, worked with Brazilian Baptists and the OBU women's soccer team during an outreach project in and around Natal, one of the 12 host cities for the FIFA World Cup™ in Brazil.



IMB PHOTO BY LINA WHITE

209 Total number of students and mentors attending GO Trips within the past year

24 GO Trips this year

5 Continents reached in the past year
(Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America)



An OBU Global Outreach team poses with the Spanish flag in downtown Seville, Spain. The team members built friendships with the locals by joining English clubs in the area and hosting a vacation Bible school for local children. These English clubs allowed Spanish adults and students the opportunity to converse with English speakers each week.

»»» For complete stories about these GO Trips and others, visit okbu.edu/go.



Four OBU faculty members traveled to India to share the gospel and seek opportunities for future GO Trips. The group saw firsthand physical and spiritual poverty and used every opportunity to share the hope and healing Jesus offers.



In late May, six students and one faculty member from OBU journeyed to Cameroon expecting to bring news of Jesus Christ to the nationals, but soon discovered they were sent to bring encouragement to local Christians. Pictured left, OBU student Jacklynn Williams with children from a local orphanage.

OBU GLOBAL OUTREACH

Zip! Bang! OBU

HOMECOMING 2014

November 6-8

For decades, Bison have gone with Ka-Rip. You and your fellow alumni excitedly "let'er go ruse" as you cheered the Green and Gold to victory. Time and again, we all return to this enduring tradition as a way to celebrate the Bison Spirit. Trends mark our times and novelty fades, but our University chant continues to tie generations of alumni and friends together.

So too does Homecoming weekend. Each fall we recognize the traditions that set our alma mater apart. No matter your graduation year, we can all reflect on OBU's distinction and how the relationships we formed as students transformed our lives.

Homecoming is dynamic and full of evolving elements, designed to capture the essence of OBU's community. This year, we welcome you home to the traditions that defined your life on Bison Hill.

Zip! Bang! OBU!

Registration

Begin your Homecoming experience by stopping by the upper level of the Geiger Center to sign in and pick up your name tag and program with the most up-to-date information for the weekend. You can also check the list of attendees to see who else is planning to be on Bison Hill.





Homecoming Highlights

Worship in Stubblefield Chapel

A special Homecoming Worship will be held in Stubblefield Chapel on Friday afternoon. Led by Dr. Bill Green, '64, the worship service will feature congregational singing and solos from alumni of the 60's and 70's including Walter Grady, Richard Huggins, Mike Knight, Dee Anne Meece, Paul Purifoy, Jack Rogers, Robert Wagoner and Mary Crews Worthen. Make

plans to join us for this time of praise and testimony.



Class Reunions

Reunite, reminisce and share memories with your former classmates. This year we are celebrating the 50-Year Club and the Classes of '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04 and '09. Didn't graduate with one of these classes, but have friends who did? Don't miss the opportunity to reconnect. All alumni are invited to attend.

Affinity Reunions

Featured reunions include Behavioral and Social Sciences, Bison Glee Club, College Players, Enactus, Global Outreach, Intensive English Program, Mortar Board, Student Nurses Association, Theta Sigma Chi and



University Chorale. Check online or in the Homecoming program for more details including locations.

Bison Sporting Events

Get ready to "Go with Ka-Rip" as the Bison take on Bacone College in this year's Homecoming football game. Make sure to save your voices for the basketball doubleheader vs. Manhattan Christian. You can also take part in the action by signing up for the Bison Stampede or the Golf Tournament. More details are available at okbu.edu/alumni.

Alumni Fest

Join us for a casual dinner and great time of fellowship



immediately following the football game and before heading to the basketball games or the Bisonette Concert. This is a free event, but registration is required.

For a full schedule of events and more detail, please visit okbu.edu/alumni.

Visit okbu.edu/events to register for Homecoming 2014 today!

Take advantage of the lowest pricing possible and avoid day-of ticket prices.

Online registration is even easier as a member of the OBU Online Community.

For more information or to register by phone, please call **405.585.5413**.





An Enduring Joyful Noise: Bisonettes Celebrate 60 Years

The Bisonette Glee Club, full of tradition and history, has been an institution on Bison Hill since its founding by Dean Warren M. Angell in 1954. Talented vocalists from all over the world can lay claim to membership as a Bisonette. This fall, we honor those women and the directors that have led them for the past 60 years.

Established as an ambassador organization, the Bisonette Glee Club began as a public relations entity. In its earliest days the group existed to promote the University's mission. In conjunction with promoting the school, the women's singing group would grow to give meaningful musical performances that impacted generations of audiences.

The choir has carried a reputation for excellence since its creation. In its first year there were 29

members. By its fourth year, the group had doubled in size – a testament to its growth and popularity at OBU and across Oklahoma. Early directors identified goals to ground the ensemble's mission: serve as entertainment in venues across the nation, develop and nurture the musician-ship skills of its members, and spread the gospel through their performances and daily lives.

A student in the group's early years, Jack Pearson, '59, would come to be the longest tenured Bisonettes director to date. Pearson served as director for thirty-two and a half years, over half of the choir's existence. For him, the Bisonette Glee Club's story is a lifelong and personal one, full of fellowship and memories. He personally knew members from the group's first year, and can boast that

"...the history of the Bisonettes is a story of making beautiful music, a story of students and their relationships, and making lifetime friendships." **JACK PEARSON**

his own three daughters were Bisonettes.

"After decades of directing the group, it's clear the history of the Bisonettes is a story of making beautiful music, a story of students and their relationships, and making lifetime friendships," said Pearson. "Having the opportunity to participate in the fellowship and formation of the group's members continues to be rewarding for me."

Dr. Darla Eshelman directed the Bisonettes from 2005-09. She too was drawn to the choir for its reputation of meaningful relationships. Even more, Eshelman coveted her role as director because it meant leading young women as they ministered to others.

"I was humbled and honored to direct a choir so focused on drawing its members and audiences closer to

God," said Eshelman. "I am thankful and blessed for the time I spent making music and honoring Christ with these young ladies. They are forever in my heart."

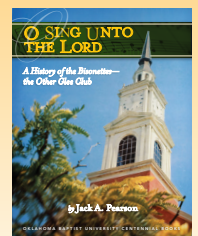
Now under the direction of Dr. James Vernon, the choir continues to fulfill its longstanding tradition of excellence as it tours nationwide in addition to performing in OBU chapel services, Homecoming, Hanging of the Green, at state conventions and other various events.

During Homecoming, a special dinner banquet and Celebration Concert will commemorate the Bisonettes 60th Anniversary.

Former directors Pearson and Eshelman will return as guest conductors. Bisonettes of all ages are invited to participate. Additional details are available at okbu.edu/alumni. ■

To learn more about the Bisonette Glee Club and its history, read former Bisonette director Jack Pearson's book *O Sing Unto the Lord: A History of the Bisonettes – the Other Glee Club*.

Pick up your copy at Homecoming, or visit okbu.edu/100/books.html for ordering information.



Linda McElroy: A Legacy of Spirit



"All of those that took time to come and be a part of the squad were truly part of my life. **They're my kids** – they know that."

DR. LINDA MCELROY

No amount of chants or cheers could fully capture Dr. Linda McElroy's enthusiasm for standing at the helm of OBU's Cheerleading Squad. This year McElroy, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, enters her 25th and final year of coaching. One of the longest tenured coaches in OBU's history fondly bids farewell to a coaching career of lasting impact on generations of Bison.

McElroy joined OBU in the spring of 1990 as assistant professor of kinesiology and leisure studies. With a long history of cheering, she was the obvious choice to coach OBU's cheerleaders. "Cheerleading was a part of who I was," said McElroy. "Coaching OBU's squad was a continuation of what I had done all my life."

In her first year, McElroy transformed the squad by providing a new form of leadership. The group now had structure, guidelines and a defined mission; but more than that, they had a leader with vested interest and a commitment to be at every practice and every game. Quickly, McElroy – affectionately known as "Coach Mac" – became the heart and soul of the team.

"She was determined the school and spectators would be proud of their cheerleaders," said Heather (Rhea) Streich, '93. "She immediately changed the standard from cheerleaders as performers to spirit leaders whose goal was to encourage crowd participation whether on the sidelines or at half court."

Throughout the years that high standard continues to hold, even as OBU added new athletic teams and by doing so increased the responsibilities of her cheerleaders. Ever faithful to the squad's mission to motivate fans and athletes, Coach Mac's leadership model and investment in her cheerleaders has paid off. When asked what her greatest achievement as coach has been, her response is simple: "For whatever reason, they tend to stay." Third generation Bison cheerleader Becka (Weber) Pillmore, '08, was one of many

who cheered all four years, in part due to McElroy's influence.

"Coach Mac was not just a cheerleading coach, she was my campus mom," said Pillmore. "She is responsible for some of my favorite college memories, and supported me during some very hard times."

McElroy has been and will continue to be a longstanding presence on Bison Hill. Although her coaching career comes to an end next spring, her stint in the classroom will continue. She will also be present at plenty of basketball and football games, with one caveat: "I will always be more interested in the cheerleaders than the game." ■

In celebration of her years of coaching, a reception in Coach Mac's honor will take place in the Noble Complex's Mabee Suite during the Homecoming basketball games on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 7-9 p.m. **All are invited to attend.**

Considered the highest honor bestowed by the OBU Alumni Association, Alumni Achievement Awards are presented each year during the Homecoming Harvest Dinner. A nominee must be a former student, not necessarily a graduate, who has "demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her profession, business, vocation or life service." Award criteria state that the achievement must be "of such nature as to justify pride on the part of the OBU community for its part in the contribution."

Alumni Achievement Award

Bob Hoffman, '79

Bob Hoffman, '79, former OBU men's basketball player and head coach, will receive the Alumni Achievement Award at the annual Harvest Dinner during homecoming festivities Friday, Nov. 7. He led the Bison men's basketball team from 1990-99, claiming a coaching record of 243-79 at OBU and earning 1993 NAIA Coach of the Year honors. He was inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

Hoffman is the current head coach at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Since his arrival in 2008, he has led the team to a 125-82 record, four championships, nine high-major wins and 13 postseason wins. In March, his #14 seed Mercer Bears upset the #3 seed Duke Blue Devils in the second round of the 2014 NCAA tournament, making national headlines.

A native of Oklahoma City, Hoffman has been successful at every stop in his coaching career. His overall record as a head

coach at the collegiate level is 400-171. He currently ranks among the top 25 active collegiate coaches in winning percentage.

Hoffman played guard and forward for the Bison from 1976-79 and scored over 1,000 points during his career. He served as assistant men's coach at OBU for two seasons before being named head coach of the Southern Nazarene University Lady Redskins. He led the team to the 1989 NAIA National Championship in just his second year. In three seasons, he compiled an 88-16 record, and was named Sooner Athletic Conference, District 9 and NAIA Coach of the Year.

He returned to Bison Hill as men's head coach in 1990, and three seasons later, he guided the Bison to a 34-4 record and a berth in the NAIA national championship game. He compiled a record of 244-78 at OBU, earning six trips to the NAIA Tournament and two appearances in the championships.

He coached 10 All-Americans and 21 All-Conference selections, and was named Sooner Athletic Conference Coach of the Year four times, National Coach of the Year by Basketball Times and the NAIA, and District 9 Coach of the Year.

Hoffman's teams averaged more than 90 points per game and led the NAIA in field goal percentage seven times.

He left OBU for the University of Texas Pan-American in 1999, compiling a 69-75 record at the NCAA Division I school. He guided the team to 12 wins in his first season, more than the previous three seasons combined. His team went 21-9 during the 2001-02 season.

Hoffman spent two years as an assistant coach at the University of Oklahoma, where the Sooners recruited a class ranked in the top five nationally. The team won their first Big 12 championship en route to a two-year record of 45-17 and back-to-back NCAA appearances. He left OU to coach professionally with the Rio Grande Valley Vipers and later the Arkansas



JOHN DONOHUE PHOTO

Aeros, before taking over at Mercer in 2008.

Hoffman was recently honored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as the 2014 John Lotz "Barnabas" Award winner. The award is presented annually to the basketball coach in the nation who best exhibits a commitment to Christ, integrity and encouragement to others and lives a balanced life.

The award is the latest in a long line of distinctions Hoffman has earned through 23 seasons as a collegiate head coach. For the second year in a row, he was named the Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year. Last season, he surpassed 500 career coaching victories and 750 games coached.

Hoffman and his wife, Kelli, have one son, Grant.

To nominate a candidate for the Alumni Achievement Award, visit okbu.edu/alumni/awards.html, download and complete the nomination form, and return it along with a letter of nomination, detailed biographical information on the nominee and other supporting material. Documentation of the nominee's contributions should be in the form of a resumé, supported by extensive letters of recommendation.

Alumni Achievement Award

George Wilson, '50

George Wilson, '50, a career Southern Baptist missionary and administrator, will receive the Alumni Achievement Award at the annual Harvest Dinner during homecoming festivities Friday, Nov. 7. He was previously honored with the Alumni Association's Profile in Excellence award in 1984 and honored by the University with an honorary Doctor of Divinity in 1992.

Born in Shawnee, Wilson earned a Bachelor of Music Education from OBU in 1950. He went on to earn a Master of Religious Education in 1954 and Doctor of Education in 1957, both from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Before launching his career on the mission field, he served in the U.S. Army Training Reserve and U.S. Air Force, and directed music and education for several churches in Oklahoma and Texas. During stateside periods, he served as a professor

of religious education at OBU from 1968-69, and a visiting professor at Southwestern, Midwestern and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminaries.

Wilson and his wife, Beth, traveled to Hong Kong in 1957. During two stints from 1957-73 and again from 1979-98, the couple served a combined 36 years on the mission field, the majority in Hong Kong and the final three years in New Zealand.

Wilson held numerous positions with Hong Kong Baptist College and Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary, serving in roles as dean, professor and acting vice president. He resigned from his missionary service in 1973, returning home to care for his and his wife's ailing parents. While stateside, he spent six years as a professor of education administration at Southwestern.

Upon reappointment to the mission field, they returned to Hong Kong in early

1979. During his absence, the seminary had been depleted with both administration and faculty. Wilson was asked to resume his post as academic dean in addition to teaching and filling in as the administrator general. He became acting president and dean the following year while continuing to teach.

The seminary began to grow and began sending their Chinese students to the U.S. and elsewhere for doctoral work, to develop the seminary's faculty. Wilson counted that as one of his highest priorities. The seminary began construction on new facilities, added new curriculum and grew enrollment.

During this time, he also served as acting president and ultimately president of the Asia Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary, a group of eight cooperating Baptist seminaries seeking to provide more "local" training for potential faculty and graduate students and to keep them in Asia for their advanced degree work.

He developed skills in speaking, reading and writing Cantonese, and has a command of the language including idioms and puns. He preaches from his well-worn Chinese Bible and fell in love with the culture and



food. He became known, especially among his Chinese friends, for his love of some things that might repel other Westerners, including dishes like fish eyeballs.

He continued to teach at the seminary until 1987, when administrative duties were too demanding to continue as a professor. Upon his ultimate departure, he was honored as professor emeritus.

In January 1995, he and his wife transferred to New Zealand where he served as pastor and church developer at Pakuranga Chinese Baptist Church before retiring from the field in 1998. In the years following retirement, he continues to preach and pastor in Chinese Baptist churches.

Wilson lives in Norman, Oklahoma, and has four grown children: Sarah Clark; Denise Cottrill; George R. Wilson, III; and Dale Wilson.

Through the Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award, the OBU Alumni Association honors an outstanding young alum each year for special achievement and loyal service in the alum's specific field of endeavor. The recipient must be a former student, not necessarily a graduate, within the last decade. The alumnus/alumna should have demonstrated recognizable accomplishment in his/her profession, business, or avocation, in such a way as to bring pride and honor to the University.

Graduate of the Last Decade

Ryan Blackwell, '06



Ryan Blackwell knows he was called to serve the Lord in ministry, whether teaching, preaching, leading or whatever the capacity may be. Yet despite his open heart to follow God, he was surprised by where that calling would take him.

A native of Fayetteville, Arkansas, he is a 2006 OBU graduate with a Bachelor of

Arts in religion. Following commencement he travelled to California where he completed a Master of Divinity in 2008 at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife then moved back home to Arkansas, where he accepted a position as pastor of young adults.

Life was good. They were

serving in a church they loved, their ministry was flourishing, he was leading and finding opportunities to preach, their closest friends were involved in the ministry, their first child was born and both sets of grandparents lived within 15 minutes. They were living a happy, comfortable life, when God called them to take a leap of faith and leave their comforts behind.

"We were serving in a church called Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas and began to just have this overwhelming desire to go to a context where the lostness was vast so that we could reach people with the gospel," he said. "We didn't know exactly what that looked like, but we thought we might plant a church in San Francisco. It had always been a city that was on our heart. Then, I received a call one day from the president at Golden Gate Seminary, and he said that he felt led to submit my name to a pastor search team at First Baptist Church of San Francisco, which was about the most opposite thing from a church plant that you could get. It was the first church planted on the west coast in 1849."

Blackwell accepted the call, and he and his family headed west. He recently completed his fourth year serving as lead pastor of the church re-plant of FBC, San Francisco. Over that span of time, the church has experienced revitalization and has grown from 100

to over 300 people on a weekly basis.

"God gave us a passage, Genesis 12," he said. "We were living near our family, near our closest friends, and the call of Abraham was, I want you to leave the land of the people just like you, I want you to leave the land of your parents to go to a place where you're going to be a blessing to the nations. And so, we knew that was God's call in our life."

"As I walk daily in a city known for sin and pride in all the wrong things, I'm constantly reminded of something very important," he said. "God has loved this city and been present in this city and been working in this city way before any of us ever showed up. That's encouraging – it's not all up to us. God has a plan for this city."

"I am very thankful for how far we've come yet we believe our greatest days are still ahead," he said. "More than ever, we want to reach people here in San Francisco for the gospel and to equip them to be mature disciples of Jesus Christ."

Blackwell and his wife, Rachel, live in Daly City, California, with their children Brady and Allie.

For a listing of previous GOLD Award recipients, visit okbu.edu/alumni/gold.html.

Faculty Hall of Fame

Dr. Robert Laessig

The University is proud to announce the induction of Dr. Robert O. Laessig into the OBU Faculty Hall of Fame. A native of Germany, Laessig first came to OBU in 1947 as associate professor of German. He was later named professor of German and distinguished service professor of humanities. In 1961, he left Bison Hill to teach at the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Kentucky, later serving at Kentucky Southern College and Western Kentucky University. He then returned to OBU and taught part-time beginning in January 1975.

Born in Gotha, Germany, in 1904, he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Berlin. He also attended the Baptist Theological Seminary in Hamburg from 1935-36. In 1936, he traveled to the British Cameroons as a missionary and superintendent of mission schools.



When war broke out in Europe, he and his family were taken prisoner by the British and held for six-and-a-half years in a camp in Jamaica. After the war, he came first to the University of Oklahoma and then to OBU in the fall of 1947.

Besides German, he taught Russian, led the OBU band and taught music appreciation classes. He spoke 12 languages fluently and could read and write around 20 more.

One nominator said of Dr. Laessig's personal impact, "He invited me to Friday evening music sessions where six or seven of us would listen to a new recording of a major symphony and follow the score on his coffee table. His wife then would serve cookies and tea. He was one great professor."

2014 Profile in Excellence Recipients

Ryan Abernathy, '97

*Community Initiatives Director; Teaching Pastor
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma/
West Metro Community Church
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

G. Ray Ballew, '55

*Music Educator and Music Minister
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Andy Harrison, '89

*Falls Creek Program Director and
Student Ministry Specialist
Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma
Piedmont, Oklahoma*

Julie K. Jennings, '93

*Senior Manager, Human Resources
Pfizer, Inc
Englewood, Colorado*

Kevin E. Klinger, '94

*Fourth Grade Public School Teacher
Woodall Public Schools
Tahlequah, Oklahoma*

Brad Leslie, '61

*Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service
Flagstaff, Arizona*

Dr. Kay Harris Mizell, '69

*Professor of English
Collin Community College
Greenville, Texas*

Ryan Powell, '97

*Owner/Video Producer
Overpass Productions
Littleton, Colorado*

L. Glen Redding, Jr., '76

*Executive Director
Stillwater Housing Authority
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

Dr. E. Elbert Smith, '80

*Director of Field Personnel Orientation
International Learning Center – IMB
Richmond, Virginia*

Catherine Kay Casey Smith, '81

*Nurse Manager
CrossOver Healthcare Ministries
Richmond, Virginia*

Susan Ann Baker Wooten, '74

*Vice Provost, Professor of Art
Anderson College
Clemson, South Carolina*

Homecoming Theatre Production



Much Ado ABOUT NOTHING

by William Shakespeare

directed by

Carly Conklin and Stephen Kerr

Nov. 6 & 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 8 & 9 @ 2:30 p.m.

CRAIG-DORLAND THEATRE

Witty banter abounds in the modern setting of political candidates returning from the campaign trail, celebrations and inevitable romance. What work of Shakespeare would be complete without a heartless villain who threatens the happiness and innocence of all? In this powerful comedy, Shakespeare makes you laugh, but also breaks your heart – and then magically puts it back together again as if it were all "much ado about nothing."

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

Nov. 14 & 15 @ 7:30 p.m.



SPRING 2015

OBU THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Radium Girls

MARCH 27, 28 & 29

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

APRIL 30 & MAY 1, 2 & 3

For ticket information
visit okbu.edu/theatre.

Julie Jennings '93

Serving God's Most Important Resource



Green and gold runs through Julie Jennings' veins. A third generation OBU alumna, she followed in her family's footsteps to Bison Hill. Yet, she has blazed her own trail since – one filled with success by serving others.

"OBU has been a part of me my entire life," she said. "My dad, Merl Jennings ('64), was the vice president of student

development. My college experience was a bit unique because most days, I got to see my dad on campus. Several times a week, he would meet me in the cafeteria for breakfast or lunch and became a 'father away from home' for many of my friends."

After graduating with a degree in public relations and a minor in business administration, she desired to work in sales for Hallmark cards. She did not get the job because she lacked sales experience. To gain that experience, she sold books for the Southwestern Company, where she also recruited and managed sales teams for four years.

Her path took a turn when she joined Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a sales rep in Enid, Oklahoma. After two years, she was promoted to sales recruiter and a year later into human resources. Seventeen years later, she now serves as a senior human resources business partner supporting the president of sales and both district and regional sales leaders in Pfizer's U.S. sales organization.

"I feel so fortunate to be in the profession of human resources where I can use the combination of my God-

given gifts, skills and talents on a daily basis," she said. "The most important resource our business has are the employees of our company."

One of Julie's nominators for the Profile In Excellence award said this about her impact:

"Because of Julie's relationship with Christ and her compassion and love for others, she completely changes the minds, hearts and lives of those she comes in contact with. Because of Julie, the quality of colleagues (Pfizer) brought into the organization improved ... the values the organization emphasized began to morph into qualities that are consistent with lives we as believers strive to represent."

She credits several OBU faculty and staff members for making an impact on her life and career. "Dr. Robbie Mullins was a positive influence on young women who had an interest in pursuing a career in business," she said. "Coach Bob Hoffman led our basketball team to the NAIA Championships my senior year; Bobby Canty counseled countless students in the Career Planning and Placement Center; and Bill Pope, OBU's photographer, has taken thousands of pictures for decades that capture so many special memories at special events. I can remember many times I would see President Agee standing on the sidewalk talking with students, genuinely interested in how they were doing. These are just a few examples of so many people at OBU who created a true 'home away from home' for students."

"My faith is the lens by which I view all of life," she said. "OBU brought the academic, relational and spiritual facets of life together to prepare me to live that out after college," she said. She has indeed lived those lessons out, sharing her faith perspective with all she encounters.

Jennings lives and works in Colorado. She enjoys being in the mountains, spending time with family, leading small groups, mentoring young women in her church and volunteering for the Denver Hospice. ■

Ryan Powell '97

Beyond the Requirement



Television and computers display show after show, commercial after commercial, daring to connect with viewers through strategic messages. Video is a powerful medium, which may convince people to buy something, inform them about the latest news or touch the viewer's emotions.

For Ryan Powell, telling stories in a compelling

way through video is a day-to-day job. Powell has produced award-winning videos for clients such as ESPN, Compassion International, Dare2Share, Promise Keepers, Youth For Christ and MOPS, among others.

Prior to these successes, Powell decided to attend OBU in 1994. "To be honest, I can't think of one reason that I picked OBU other than a calling from God," said Powell. "What else did I need?" He notes Drs. Roger Hadley, David Byland and Bill Hagen each having a unique impact on his education at OBU.

From Hadley, he learned the importance of telling stories responsibly to a world that depends on information. Byland compared Powell's projects against his potential, not other students' work. "I've learned to always strive for doing the best work I can."

Powell describes Hagen as the professor that made everything "click," and the one that made a liberal arts education come together. "[Hagen's] teaching made me realize that English literature, language, science, film, communications and even 'Civ' all worked together to form a well-rounded education and individual."

While in college, Powell helped with Campus Activities Board shows running lighting or audio, working with artists such as MercyMe, Jars of Clay and Jami Smith. He graduated on a Friday in 1997, and married his wife, Dyann, ex. '99, the next day. He was 45 minutes late to the rehearsal due to graduation running longer than expected. "My wife would tell you that I haven't been on time for anything since then."

Powell moved to Colorado soon after college and began working for a small video production company. In 2007, he launched his own company, Overpass Productions. In 2010, he accepted a position as communications director for Mission Hills Church in Littleton, Colorado, where he produced worship service videos, directed a creative team, and oversaw audio, video and lighting systems.

During his time at the church, weekly attendance grew from 1,200 to over 4,000 people. "It was an awesome time of being part of a great movement of God." Danny Oertli, worship arts pastor at Mission Hills Church, reflected on his time spent working with Powell. "Every once in a great while, I'll have the rare privilege of working with someone who not only thrives in the tech world, but who has honed the craft of storytelling and communications," said Oertli. "Ryan Powell is one of those rare people."

Early on in 2014, Powell felt he accomplished what he set out to do at Mission Hills Church and returned full-time to running Overpass Productions and working freelance video productions.

"The most rewarding projects that I get to work on are those that inspire change," said Powell. "It gives me chills when I see my work has caused people to be more generous, take action on a social issue or even surrender to the call of God."

Powell lives in Colorado with his wife, Dyann, and their three daughters, Kylie, Jessica and Emma. He enjoys skiing and golf in his free time. ■

Dr. Kay Harris Mizell '69

A Global Perspective



In college, we learn much – English, history, languages, mathematics. We learn facts and figures, details and concepts. We learn about scientific theories, philosophy and art. We even learn about other cultures. For some, these moments of learning cease when formal education years end. But for students of Dr. Kay Mizell, what they learn changes them.

Mizell's students take her lessons and a new worldview with them, forever altering their perspective and appreciation for cultures around the world.

Mizell grew up in a military family, living in many countries along the way. During her childhood years, she formed a deep passion and love for international cultures. She has lived in France, Germany, Japan, England and Spain, and has traveled to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and eighteen other countries ranging from the Czech Republic to Iceland.

She graduated from OBU in 1969 and then earned a Master of Arts in English from Hardin-Simmons University, and later a doctorate in the teaching of college English specializing in rhetoric from Texas A&M-Commerce. In 1987 she began teaching English at Collin Community College in Plano, Texas, where she has remained for 27 years. She currently teaches American literature, composition and rhetoric, and for 10 of her years at CCC, she has served as the Honors Institute Director in charge of the honors programs for the college's five campuses.

Through all of this, her love for international cultures has transcended her work and enriched the lives of countless students as well as her family. Her impact is real and far-reaching. Three of her children have served or are presently serving on the mission field in various parts of Asia. On campus, her interest in international students led her and another colleague to establish an academic advisory group to help students acclimate to life in the U.S.

Although she teaches American literature, she often uses international topics, news and themes as part of her instruction, broadening the worldview of her students and sparking a love and interest for other cultures within them. "I use topics that introduce world issues, for example, hunger in the Sudan, election protests in Pakistan and Kenya, or ethnic violence in Turkey," Mizell said.

The merging of topics with internationally relevant themes deeply affects her students, and her passion about various world cultures forever changes their perspectives and worldviews. Several students have even decided to serve or work internationally due to her influence. They have seen the way she adds an international flair to topics and stories, weaving in the cultural significance throughout. Through this integration of world issues, Mizell makes a difference in her students' lives in more ways than simply teaching them the subject. She teaches them to understand and care for humanity.

Mizell is changing the world, one student at a time, inspiring them to think globally, understand other cultures and make a lasting impact for generations to come.

Mizell resides in Greenville, Texas. She married Rod Mizell, an Air Force veteran and corporate pilot, in 1969. They have four children and ten grandchildren. ■

Kevin Klinger '94

Finding God's Purpose



Kevin Klinger came to Bison Hill with a purpose. He knew what his future held and what he wanted to do. He journeyed to OBU with a specific plan in mind. Yet, he was surprised to find a different path. Four years later, he left with an education degree, a newfound passion for teaching and the discovery of God's true purpose for his life.

Klinger began at OBU in the religion department preparing to become an Army Chaplain. However, while taking the required physical exam to join the Army, he found he could not pass the eye exam.

"I began to question what I was going to do, Klinger said. "A friend and I applied to work at Kanakuk camp during the spring semester. By summer I was working with kids and really enjoying it. I soon switched to elementary education and have been teaching for almost 20 years now."

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Klinger currently works as a fourth grade classroom teacher at Woodall Public Schools outside of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he has taught for 16 years. He was named Woodall District Teacher of the Year for the 2009-2010 school year.

"He loves his students, prays for them, and works diligently in teaching and preparing them for the future," said Laci, Klinger's wife of 15 years. "He is my hero and my inspiration. He is a godly husband, father and teacher, and I look to him and learn every day."

"He has a passion for our youth and education that is evident in his daily walk," said Joanne Patrick, one of Klinger's coworkers. "He inspires our students to always do their best; he holds his students accountable for their behavior; he remains calm and positive even on the worst days."

Before he was inspiring students to do their best, Klinger was being inspired by teachers of his own.

"I felt very comfortable with all of my professors," he said. "I would say Dr. Jimmie Russell, in the elementary education department, was extremely impactful. She was demanding, but very practical."

Klinger, who graduated from OBU in 1994, still appreciates his time spent on Bison Hill.

"I could not have asked for a better higher education experience," he said. "My wife received a good education at her school, but she comments on how fondly I speak of the total experience I had at OBU. I received a well-rounded education. I was involved with both on-campus and off-campus groups. I was involved at Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee all four years.

"All the activities that were available at OBU helped build the framework for my professional and leisure philosophies," he said. "I enjoyed the fellowship of being together with like-minded guys. We had good clean fun while we were able to earn a Christ-centered education. It wasn't always perfect, but I wouldn't trade my experience at OBU for any other."

Klinger, his wife Laci, and his children Karson and Presley live in Park Hill, Oklahoma. In his free time, he enjoys exercising, coaching his son's sports teams and spending any time he can with his wife and kids. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Tahlequah, where he teaches an adult Sunday school class. He is an active deacon and currently serves as secretary for the deacons. ■

Four OBU Bison to Enter NAIA Hall of Fame

"To have two coaches, a player and a distinguished alumnus going into the NAIA Hall of Fame in one year says a lot about our program. It's a great time to be a Bison." **ROBERT DAVENPORT**

Four Bison have been selected to be inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame.

Doug Tolin

Men's Basketball Coach Doug Tolin, who is in the OBU Athletics Hall of Fame and is the all-time leader in men's basketball wins at OBU, will be inducted this spring. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame this summer.

"We're extremely proud of the work Doug has done over the years and the way he represents the University," said



TOLIN

Robert Davenport, OBU director of athletics.

Tolin, OBU coach since 2000-01, has led the Bison to 14 consecutive NAIA Tournaments, including the national championship in 2010. His teams have reached at least the quarterfinal round seven times. He has led the Bison to the NAIA championship game three times. He was voted SAC Coach of the Year in 2002, 2003 and 2012, and was NAIA Coach of the Year in 2010.

He led his Bison to three consecutive regular season conference titles from 2002-04 and another three in a row from 2010-2012. In his second season, he took the team to the NAIA championship game before winning it all in 2010. He returned to the finals in 2012.

He has coached six 30-or-more-win teams, with his lowest win total being a 19-win campaign.

Tolin has coached nine All-NAIA Tournament picks, nine first-team All-Americans, a third-team All-American and three NAIA Players of the Year, as well as nine All-America honorable mention selections and 11 NAIA All-America Scholar Athletes.

He has been named Coach of the Year by the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches



MASTIN

Association and Oklahoma Coaches Association, and owns more than 10 other conference, regional and district Coach of the Year awards.

Ford Mastin

Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross-Country Coach Ford Mastin, a member of the OBU Athletics Hall of Fame, will be inducted May 20 in Gulf Shores, Alabama, at the Track and Field National Championships Banquet of Champions.

"Ford has always represented OBU well and maintained a high level of success throughout his coaching career here," said Davenport. "We're very excited to have him honored in this way."

Mastin is a 10-time NAIA National Coach of the Year with nine NAIA national championships since starting with the Bison in 1996.

Mastin has won seven National Coach of the Year awards, one each in 1998, 2005, 2010, 2011 and 2012, and two in 2007.

The Lady Bison have won five team national championships, have finished as runners-up four times and have two third place finishes. The Bison have captured one team national championship, have

finished as runners-up three times, have 12 third place finishes and have nine national fourth place finishes.

The Lady Bison have won 16 consecutive SAC championships. The women's cross-country team has won 12 out of the last 17 SAC titles. The men's track team has won 14 of the last 16 conference championships, while the men's cross-country team has won nine out of the last 17. Since arriving in 1996-97, Mastin's cross-country and track programs have produced more than 400 All-Americans.

Mastin was named OBU's Most Promising Teacher in 2001 and has garnered numerous conference and regional coach of the year honors. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2008 and OBU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.

Josh Collazo



Former Bison baseball player Josh Collazo, the first Bison baseball player to be inducted, will enter the NAIA Hall of Fame in January

2015. He will join OBU head coach Bobby Cox, a 2011 inductee.

"Josh is a once-in-a-lifetime player that came in and completely changed the program," Cox said. "He set a really high bar for people to emulate and try to match."

The power-hitting first baseman holds multiple single-season and career records at OBU, including most runs scored in a season (78), most home

runs hit in a season and in a career, and most runs batted in for a season at 100.

Collazo is the only Bison slugger to hit at least 20 home runs in a season, and he did so twice, blasting 22 home runs in 2008 and 24 in 2009. His 46 career home runs are also an OBU record.

Collazo had a career batting average of .420, the third-highest in program history. His 169 total RBI also rank him third all-time. For his career, he finished with 147 runs scored while collecting 162 hits.

Collazo was drafted by the San Angelo Colts in 2009 and played two seasons in the United Baseball League, an independent professional baseball league. He also played one season with the Shreveport-Bossier Captains in the American Association independent baseball league. He hit for a .360 batting average and slugged 17 home runs in his professional career.

John Hudson



Sooner Athletic Conference Commissioner and OBU alumnus John Hudson will be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame

at the organization's 2015 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He has overseen the unprecedented growth and success of the conference since its inception in 1978, when as an attorney, he wrote the original SAC Constitution. What began as a

five-team, Oklahoma-based athletic league with only three sports, has grown into a 10-school conference that spans three states and crowns champions in 13 different sports.

Under Hudson's direction, the SAC has maintained a long-standing tradition of fielding outstanding athletic programs with many teams and individuals going on to showcase themselves on the national stage. SAC members have won 80 NAIA team championships since the league formed 36 years ago.

As SAC Commissioner, Hudson serves as the supervisor of basketball officials for the Sooner Athletic Conference. He has also been involved for many years in the training of basketball officials, in the SAC as well as in the Big 12 Conference and Missouri Valley Conference. He has conducted his own officials' camp for many years, and serves as an officials observer for the Big 12.

Prior to serving as the SAC Commissioner, Hudson played and coached basketball at OBU. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma's School of Law in 1973, after which he served as the men's basketball coach and athletic director for two years at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

Hudson is a practicing attorney, focusing primarily in the areas of financial law, financial transactions, real estate, oil and gas, and commercial lending. ■

John Hudson segment by **Justin Tinder**
Sooner Athletic Conference Sports Information Director

Bison Build on First Year Successes



The OBU Bison football team began its second season back on Bison Hill with a bang, starting 3-0. Last year's team was the first to hit the gridiron after a 73 year hiatus. Over the first three games, the Bison offense averaged 56 points per game.

The first game saw the team travel to Winfield, Kansas, to take on the Southwestern College Jaguars. The Bison left the field with a 47-17 win, with OBU limiting their opposition to only a field goal through the first three quarters of the game. OBU put up nearly 500 yards of offense with 274 rushing and 210 passing yards. The Bison defense let their impact be known, holding the Jaguars under 250 yards of offense and grabbing three interceptions.

Following the win over Southwestern, the Bison headed back to Kansas where they took on the University of Saint Mary. OBU took down the USM Spirens in a 62-37 victory. As the score indicates, the game was filled with offense on both sides.

"We told our players all week they need to be ready for a dog fight," said OBU Coach Chris Jensen. "It takes a great deal of maturity to keep moving forward. We're glad to have the win, but we don't feel good about it. There are a lot of things that need to get better to keep moving."

After defeating USM, OBU returned for their first home game of the season to be played against Missouri Baptist, continuing a streak of six consecutive home game sellouts. The Bison dominated both sides of the ball, winning 59-7. OBU's offense struck first, taking a 7-0 lead 82 seconds into the game. They came out strong in the second half, too, scoring 21 third-quarter points. The Bison shut out MBU in the first half.

Remaining home games for the Bison include contests against Haskell Indian Nations University Oct. 18; Texas College Oct. 25; and the homecoming game against Bacone College Nov. 8. Tickets may be purchased at obubison.com. ■

Volleyball off to Good Start

The Lady Bison volleyball team entered the season with a No. 14 NAIA poll ranking and was picked second in the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) preseason poll.

In late September, OBU held a 14-6 overall record and 4-0 record in the SAC – compiling 50 consecutive SAC regular match wins over the past few years.

Under the direction of head coach Anna Howle, the three-time defending SAC champions continue to push forward with a No. 18 ranking.

"We have played a lot of great NAIA competition during the preseason tournaments and feel like our team is starting to gain confidence and maturity," Howle said. "We are excited about our final year in the Sooner Athletic Conference and competing against our rivals."

Notables include a well-fought victory against No. 4 Madonna University (Michigan), a season-high 12 blocks in the three-set sweep against Southwestern Christian, and Valerie Stetzer, OBU senior from Arlington, Texas, twice received the SAC's Libero of the Week honor.



Five to Enter OBU Athletic Hall of Fame

OBU RECENTLY INDUCTED five former Bison standouts to the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held, Friday, Sept. 26, in the Noble Complex Mabree Suite. The athletes comprised OBU's largest Hall of Fame induction class.

Men's Basketball

Frank Benson scored 851 points and averaged 23 points per game in the 2006 season as part of his 1,232-point career, which was shortened by injury. He was First-Team All-America, First-Team All-Conference and was All-NAIA Tournament. He had a 49-point game against East Central.

Jamel Coachman was a 2004 NAIA First-Team All-America and Sooner

Athletic Conference Player of the Year, after earning Newcomer of the Year honors in 2003. He averaged 17.3 points, scoring 630 in his senior season and finished with 1,098 points in his career.

Baseball

Daryl McCollough led the 1989 World Series Bison with a .418 average with 89 hits, the fourth-highest single season total. He was All-District and honorable mention All-America. He is second in career hits (215) and career runs (178).

Gene Stanley has four of the top five single-season stolen base marks in OBU baseball history, including 63 thefts in 1999. He is OBU's all-time

leader in hits (257), runs (259) and stolen bases (177). Stanley carried a career .373 batting average and was a two-time All-Sooner Athletic Conference shortstop.

Women's Basketball

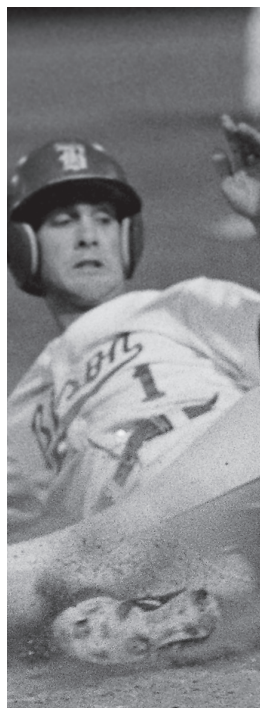
Andy Holubova Wooldridge is 12th all-time in scoring at OBU with 1,250 points. She was Second-Team All-America in 2000 and First-Team All-America in 1998. She was twice First-Team All-Conference and earned 1998 SAC Newcomer of the Year honors, leading OBU to two NAIA quarterfinal appearances. She is third in career scoring average (19.2), third in single season rebounding average (10.2), and sixth in single season rebounds (296) and scoring (663). ■



BENSON



COACHMAN



McCOLLOUGH



STANLEY



WOOLDRIDGE



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Campus Loses Beloved Professor

Dr. Kristen Stauffer Todd JULY 2, 1966 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2014

BY **Devon Hale**
News Editor, *The Bison*

A collection of dusty musical history books line the shelves, a plaid couch sits across from a wide desk covered with coffee mugs, and dried yellow roses peek out from vases scattered throughout the room. This is the office of Dr. Kristen Stauffer Todd.

While the office may have an academic purpose, Dr. Todd used it to connect with her students and share more than a decade's worth of memories with a campus.

As her husband, Phil Todd, sits in her chair, he smiles to himself, thinking of all the lives his wife touched.

"Her students come in here for advice, they come in here for dating advice, they come in here for relationship advice, they come in here for music history advice, they come in here for girl talk/sister talk, they come in here to cry, they come in here to joke around ..." he said.

Dr. Todd began teaching at OBU in 1999. Throughout her career she earned many distinctions, notably the Most Promising Teacher Award and the Seven Who Care Award.

Perhaps the most important part of her career was the way she cared for those around her. "She was a servant," Phil said. "All she wanted to do was serve."

On April 21, 2014, Dr. Todd sat down to write the first post of her blog "Work

The Problem." The problem she was working was cancer.

In that first post, she mentioned the diagnosis of breast cancer that seemed so daunting, but also the love and support from friends and family that was more powerful than any disease could ever be.

She decided to face the problem, to work it out and to fill every moment with the love she knew she was surrounded by.

On Sept. 1, 2014, Todd passed away into the hands of the Lord, after having fought a courageous and inspiring

battle with her cancer.

Her time at OBU left a lasting impression. Whether it was over coffee, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups or just small talk, Todd had a way of making every person in the room feel special. She listened with her heart and touched with her soul.

Besides her kindness and courage, her humor will also be missed. She faced every moment with a sense of joy that turned the ordinary into something to celebrate.

To her, every day was an opportunity to let those in her life know they were loved.

She often wondered about her cancer, her future and what it all meant, but her ponderings always turned into rays of hope.

She filled her life, family, friends and students with it. She never gave up the belief that there was something to hope for. She was God's instrument of love for not only the OBU campus, but also for every person her life touched.

Phil said the love and support offered has been astounding, particularly on Todd's Facebook page.

"Former students, friends, people that we knew from grad school, people that

she was in high school marching band with, people she went to school with at Baylor, people at Eastern Kentucky ... my fraternity brothers, her family, my family, people that didn't even know either of us but knew our kids – it's just erupted," he said.

"I'm telling everyone that was just the tip of the iceberg – she was the real deal."

As we remember her life and celebrate her legacy, let us all strive to live our lives the way she did, with joy in our hearts, music in our souls and love in everything we do.



➤➤➤ For full article and reflections by faculty, staff and students, visit obubison.com/mag

okbu.edu/visit
➔ **CAMPUS VISIT DATES**



NIGHT ON THE HILL

November 13-14

March 5-6

At this overnight event, you will gain an in-depth look at life as an OBU student by staying on campus with a student host. You will also have the opportunity to attend a chapel service, visit a class and tour campus.

okbu.edu

BE-A-BISON DAY

December 3

January 16

February 13

This is your chance to get a sneak peek at college by experiencing a day in the life of a college student. Get a closer look at Bison Hill as you attend a chapel service, visit a class, grab lunch in the dining hall and tour campus.



To register for an event day, go to
okbu.edu/visit or call **800.654.3285** for more information.

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