

OBU magazine

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

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LUCAS ADAMS

2014 SIR ALEXANDER
FLEMING SCHOLAR

Sports Teams Win National Titles

Gala Features Dr. Benjamin Carson

Vision for a New Century Campaign





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FROM THE PRESIDENT



As spring returns and commencement draws near, OBU readies for one of the most significant events on any campus. Commencement. Each spring our newly minted graduates begin new journeys, some to enter chosen careers and others to pursue additional studies in graduate programs. Regardless their callings, OBU graduates are wonderfully prepared to be transformative agents around the world in science and medicine, the arts, education, humanities, missions and ministry, law and commerce—in all areas of knowledge.

They are well prepared with a broad liberal arts education. They have been challenged to think critically and analytically. They have been charged to view the world through the lens of faith, using their careers to serve the Lord and to reach others for Him. They have been equipped not just to make a living, but to make a life.

In this edition of “OBU Magazine,” you will see shining examples of success in the lives of our students, alumni, faculty and staff.

You will read about an outstanding science student and how OBU is helping shape his life and future; about four of our outstanding alumni and the contributions they are making in the world; and about athletic championships, awards, and recognitions for our teams, coaches, and staff.

Our Green and Gold Gala in March was a tremendous success as we had the opportunity to tell the OBU story to over 700 people at the Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum while raising money for student scholarships.

You’ll also learn of significant changes happening on campus including new facilities under construction, buildings being renovated and repurposed, and long-term visions becoming reality as we pave the way for an exciting future.

As you read these exciting stories, I trust you will sense the momentum continuing to build on Bison Hill. These are eventful days as our community strives together to live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ. Great days are ahead for OBU and it is thrilling to be a part of such an incredible University. God bless OBU.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Wesley Whitlock". The signature is stylized and fluid.

David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President

It's Our Turn To Give Back



Pat (Baker) Prescott, '70, addressed the audience in Potter Auditorium of Raley Chapel during Homecoming Chapel 2013. Prescott charged the audience to "give back to OBU." She stressed the quality of an OBU liberal arts education and celebrated the difference it makes in people's lives.

Patricia (Baker) Prescott, '70, knows a thing or two about education. After completing her elementary education degree, she began her teaching career at Sequoyah Elementary in Shawnee, Okla., and retired in 2010 as a middle school principal in Tennessee. She is a member of the OBU alumni association board of directors, and strongly believes she owes her success to the liberal arts education she received at OBU.

During the 2013 Homecoming Chapel, Prescott addressed the audience in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. "Good morning and welcome to Bison Hill again," she began. "When Lori [Hagans] asked me to do this, to talk about why I give to OBU, I thought 'this is going to be difficult because I don't give to

senior environmental chemist. She recalled how he was touched by a very special professor at OBU. "He had an amazing professor that changed him forever, and that was Dr. Jim Hurley. Dr. Hurley expected the best work, and he taught in a Socratic method that made his students not only learn by listening, but you really had to think, you really had to respond," she said. "Learning became important to my husband because of the prospects of what he could do with that learning to make the world better. His experience at OBU changed him into a person with a strong intellect and a drive to be of service with his degree, and it was good, and he was different."

Prescott also recalled their daughter Amy's early desire to come to OBU. "She loves to tell

"The difference between a liberal arts education and a regular education is huge, especially when you get to the work place."

OBU ... I give back to OBU.' And giving back is going to take me a long time, because so much was given to me as a student here."

Prescott's theme was a call to "give back to OBU," as she cited numerous examples of the excellence produced by OBU's liberal arts core and the difference it made in her family. "When I came to OBU, I did not truly understand the meaning of a liberal arts education," she said. "They told me I had to take algebra, and I had to take science, and I had to take some other things. I thought 'I don't need those things, I'm an elementary teacher.' But it became very clear to me that I needed all of that and more, because the difference between a liberal arts education and a regular education is huge, especially when you get to the work place."

Her husband, Charles Prescott, '73, retired from Valero Energy Corporation in 2011 as a

people that she learned 'Jesus Loves Me' and 'Ka-rip' on the same day," she laughed. Amy now works as a physical therapist at Integris Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation in Oklahoma City. "Her time here as a student was good, but she didn't realize that it was different until PT school, when she found out that she had courses that some of her PT class members had not had. She began PT school ahead of the others in her class because of her knowledge base, because it was good, and she was different."

Prescott feels a debt of gratitude to OBU for her personal experience and the experiences of all her family members. "So today, I come to you to encourage you to join my family. Give back to OBU. Support this strong liberal arts school. Give through the Vision For a New Century campaign and celebrate the difference."

2012 National
Merit Finalist*
Lucas Adams was
named a 2014 Sir
Alexander Fleming
Scholar. The prestigious
award is offered by
the Oklahoma Medical
Research Foundation.

*Each year only 1% of high school students
become National Merit Finalists – roughly
15,000 out of 1.5 million nationwide.

High school sophomores and juniors compete
by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit
Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT exam).



A person wearing a white lab coat is standing in front of a window with light-colored blinds. The person's arm and part of their torso are visible on the left side of the frame.

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

On a typical day, Lucas Adams walks to class, ready to face the challenges of each day just like every other student. Yet this National Merit Finalist, a sophomore chemistry and mathematics major from Oklahoma City, sees the world a bit differently than most college students his age. He sees a greater work happening in his life. He doesn't only study science because he wants to or because he enjoys it. Adams feels that God has called him to this field to make an impact for Christ, and he believes OBU is the only place to help him reach his full potential.

Adams spent the first several years of his life in McAlester, Okla., where his father pastored First Baptist Church, McAlester. In fifth grade, they moved to Oklahoma City, where he graduated high school from Putnam City North. Adams was strongly considering OBU and another in-state school late in his senior year, when he visited campus for "Be A Bison Day." He had been to campus for Super Summer and a worship camp, but this time was different.

"OBU is impacting me not just to become a better scientist, but also to become a better learner and overall observer. Though science and religion may seem inherently contradictory, OBU's integration of faith and learning brings the subject of Christianity into nearly every class that I attend, including seemingly rigid subjects such as calculus and chemistry."

Jacy O'Dell
Sophomore
Biochemistry



Lucas Adams practices using a multi-channel pipettor, while Erica Heon (left) and Jacy O'Dell assist.

He said the difference was the faculty. "I had the chance to meet professors and I walked into some of their offices. They told me they were praying for me and that really stood out to me."

That first impression didn't change after Adams enrolled. "The close relationship with the professors at OBU is so powerful," Adams said. "They know me personally, and know how we as students need to be challenged. The opportunity to work closely with professors as academic and spiritual mentors is so unique."

"The material has been rigorous, it's been challenging but even more so the professors know me and they're able to challenge me personally. They know what I'm capable of and they know what I could be capable of," he said. "That relationship has fostered an academic environment I've never experienced before, and I don't believe I could experience at any other university."

The close relationship with the professors wasn't the only thing that stood out to Adams after he arrived on Bison Hill. "I was really impressed and surprised in a good way with the high level of achievement within the student body. It's an elite student body academically," he said. "There are also so many activities here, and people are so welcoming, that it's easy to find a place where you can succeed and you can excel."

Adams has done just that. Not only has he excelled in the classroom and in the lab, he also is a member of the Bison Jazz Orchestra, a vice president in Student Government Association, a member of the Welcome Week Steering Committee, a member of the volunteer action committee and a teaching assistant in the organic chemistry lab. He also takes piano lessons on campus and volunteers weekly off campus at the Hope House in Shawnee, where he hangs out with kids, helps teach a Bible story and helps them with homework or

whatever is needed that day. He actively attends Temple Baptist Church in Shawnee and is a member of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

This personal touch from faculty and students also has helped him through the transition into college life. “My parents moved to Washington state last year, so my OBU family has been important to me in that change,” he said. “I was also surprised by the number of hours needed for each class, so this support has been helpful in dealing with that as well.”

A Calling

When you talk with Adams about science, you hear passion in his voice. Not just excitement over the knowledge base or over the process, but a passion for bringing God’s truth into this field. Adams feels called to the sciences.

“As a science major, seeing everything on a cellular level, then a genetic level, it’s really opened my eyes to the beautiful creation of man, of nature, of everything, and just the order God has put into everything,” he said.

“The value of a place like OBU is that it can take students, whether they’re ministry majors or whatever their major might be, and foster within us a powerful witness for Christ. That means we don’t just have powerful witnesses going into ministry but we have powerful witnesses going into industry, going into the humanities and going into all walks of life,” he said.

The Future

Adams desires to enter medical research, ideally researching infectious and tropical diseases. His career plans recently took a big step, as he was named by the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation as one of 11 students statewide for its 2014 class of Sir Alexander Fleming Scholars. The students were selected following a competitive statewide application and interview process, with more than 100 students applying.

As Fleming scholars, students spend eight weeks during the summer working with

medical researchers on a specific project. Their projects cover topics from autoimmune disease to cancer to heart disease. At the end of the program in late July, each scholar presents their research findings to the foundation’s scientific staff.

The Fleming Scholar Program was founded in 1956 as a way to give Oklahoma’s high school and college students “hands-on” biomedical research experience. The program is named for Sir Alexander Fleming, the famed British scientist, who discovered penicillin. In 1949, Fleming came to Oklahoma City to formally dedicate the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation’s first building.

“This unique program provides a close-up look at medical research and a career in the sciences,” said OMRF Fleming Scholar Program coordinator Carlisa Curry. “It’s an intense and challenging experience, but many scholars find new scientific areas to explore, and new career options often open up to them as a result of their time at OMRF. They might miss some time by the pool, but the rewards are definitely worth it.”

Adams looks forward to the opportunity to share his faith with other scientists who may not know the Lord.

“In the sciences, Christians are often a minority, and it’s important to have scientists who are experts in their field who are also witnesses for Christ,” Adams said. “People at OBU have enabled me to see that God is everywhere. He’s in the science. He’s in the literature. He’s in the music. He’s in every aspect of our lives.”

Adams believes that the combination of Christian faith, personal attention from faculty, a close-knit community of academically successful students, and the abundant opportunities for involvement and service, make OBU a unique and special place. For those reasons, he feels that OBU isn’t simply preparing him for his future. Adams concluded, “I believe I’m being transformed at OBU, to be the person God wants me to be so I can live the life God has called me to live.”



To learn more about the impact OBU is having on Lucas Adams, scan the code above or go to okbu.edu/mag/1.



Designing the Future:

Fuller Inspires Students to Shape Their Passions Into Art

COREY FULLER comes to work each day with the future in mind. Not what he will do that day or what's for lunch. Not world events or politics. Not technology or the stock market. But the future of his students ... what they will learn, what they will create and who they will become.

Fuller has a passion not only for design, but also for inspiring the creative spark in his students. "I really enjoy working with college students," Fuller said. "They're at such a transformational stage in life in which they're beginning to learn the path that God has for them. The transformation from freshman to senior is so fun and rewarding to watch. Students come to college with an inkling of what they might like to do in life, but in college they get to explore their passion, in this case art and design, on a deep level."

Fuller joined the OBU faculty in 2009 and quickly gained the respect of others for his ability and dedication. He was honored with OBU's Promising Teacher Award in 2013.

The Spark

"Graphic design was something that I found out about toward the end of my high school career. I've always enjoyed drawing, but I didn't necessarily like drawing people or doing still life compositions or landscapes," he said. "I thought I couldn't be a traditional artist because I didn't like drawing people and being expressive in that way with my drawing, but then I discovered graphic design."

Fuller takes the same inspiration and creativity he pours into his own work and pours it into his students. His students have paid attention, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed. Fuller's students recently won six Addy Awards at the 48th Annual Addy Awards Gala in Oklahoma City, conducted by the American Advertising Federation. This is the first year OBU has entered graphic design pieces in the Addy Awards, yet six of OBU's nine entries won, bringing home two gold Addy's, three silver, and one bronze.

"The students put in a tremendous amount of time, effort and creativity," Fuller said. "I can tell them how terrific I think their work is, but it's nice to have the validation that comes from a very reputable organization such as the American Advertising Federation."

OBU student Rebekah Alexander won two Addy's; a Gold for her ad "Zombie/Human" and a Silver for her package design "Native Blends." Diana Barns won a Silver Addy for her ad "Honey Bee Sweet Tea." Molly Hennesy took home a Bronze with her photo "Alley Cat." Noelle McDowell won Gold with her business to business piece titled "En-Light."

Sara Wilson won a Silver Addy with her package design "Explorer Blends." "Corey's teaching has caused me to learn and grow as a designer," Wilson said. "He pushes you to do your best and to notice the little details that bring a piece together. He really tries to prepare you for having a career in graphic design and to make sure you understand and know all the things that will help you."

"I feel privileged to have worked with them on these projects," Fuller said. "Hearing our students' names at the Addy Awards Gala was very exciting and it helps to further the reputation of OBU's division of art and design in Oklahoma's creativity industry."

Pieces from Fuller's collection, "The Daily Artifact." The exhibit features 366 "artifacts," created one per day for an entire year.



Together, the posters amass a 73-foot wide by seven-and-a-half-foot high wall of art.

► To read the Addy Awards story and to see the winning projects, visit okbu.edu/mag/2



Daily Inspiration

In 2011, Fuller was inspired to take on a project of his own. Seeing beauty and struggle in the daily creative process, he set a personal challenge to create a drawing, design, photograph,



doodle or other piece of artwork every day for a year from March 25, 2011 to March 25, 2012.

Combined, these works comprise a collection titled “The Daily Artifact.” Fuller has received acclaim for the exhibit, which features 366 “artifacts,” all formatted to 12-inch by 18-inch posters. Together, the posters amass a 73-foot wide by seven-and-a-half-foot high wall of art.

As a result, Fuller’s work has been exhibited nationwide, including: Space 38|39, New York City; Indiana Wesleyan University; University of Central Oklahoma; Oklahoma Baptist University; Sips Downtown Kafé, Shawnee; and Legacy Bank, Edmond/Spring Creek, Okla. The exhibit most recently was displayed at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City from Jan. 16-April 5, 2014.

Fuller explained how odd it feels to have his work displayed so publicly, considering how much time he spent working alone, yet it’s been a rewarding experience.

“It’s a project that was done in almost complete solitude, with some late nights and early mornings of cranking these things out,” Fuller said. “So, it seems very bizarre to see the work out in a public space and to have others looking at it. Each artifact has a story to it, and the most rewarding part of the process has been in getting to talk to people about the project and seeing what stories resonated with them.”

A full-color book that explains the meaning of every artifact is now for sale.

A Blank Canvas

“God gives each of us a blank canvas for every new day,” he said. When asked what’s next for him, Fuller said, “I’m getting into what I feel like is a new turn in getting artists together to have experiences and to collaborate. I like the idea of getting artists, musicians and poets together. If I could start to create some events or experiences to bring those together, that’s a very rewarding thing for me.”

Fuller recently staged such an event, calling it, “Cold Remedy: A Curated Evening of Music and Readings,” featuring the art of Julie Blackstone and Molly Hennesy, music by the band Massey, and readings by two personal friends and writers, Brent Newsom, OBU assistant professor of creative writing, and Jim Ray. The event was held on a Friday night in February at Sips Kafe in downtown Shawnee.

“I wanted to create an event, specifically in a winter month, that would alleviate the ‘common cold’ in our spirits – an event that would foster creativity, brighten our outlook and attend to our souls,” he said. “All



OBU’s Promising Teacher of 2013: Corey Fuller displays a poster for his exhibit, “The Daily Artifact.”

of this took place in a small, intimate venue.”

Fuller also dreams of creating events outside of the local setting. “I’ve even thought about setting up some different retreats for artists to get away to some remote desert location and have time to talk together and also have time to be in solitude to work on whatever their craft is: writing, songwriting, making art. I think it would be really worth the time. When you get out of a normal setting, I think you begin to think of your work in new ways.”



Gala Features Dr. Benjamin Carson; Raises Funds for Scholarships

OBU hosted the annual Green and Gold Gala March 4 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. More than 700 people attended the event, which supports OBU students with scholarships.

"Last year, 94 percent of all our students received some form of financial aid," Will Smallwood, vice president for advancement at OBU, told the Gala audience. "Many students would not be able to attend OBU without the scholarships that have been provided by our generous donors. To continue to enable these students the opportunity to receive a Christian liberal arts education from a nationally-ranked university such as OBU, we work diligently to increase the scholarship funds we provide. The Green and Gold Gala is one opportunity for contributors to help meet students' needs."

News 9 anchor Kelly Ogle was the emcee for the event. "It is inspiring to see so many people supporting the education and experience that OBU offers," Ogle said. "Oklahoma Baptist University has many outstanding qualities, and we are pleased to see so many of you stand behind this excellence."

OBU student Molly Munger led the gathering in the invocation, thanking God for the way OBU is changing her

life and the lives of so many others. Munger is a sophomore psychology, pre-counseling major from Harrah.

OBU President David Whitlock welcomed the crowd, thanking them for their continued support for scholarships. "I have the unique opportunity to speak to many groups about OBU, and I always stress to them, that what we do at OBU matters," Whitlock said. "As an important part of our community, what you do matters as well. Your generosity and support matter. It matters to our students, to our state, to our nation, to our world, and it matters to the kingdom."

"When you provide life-changing transformational experiences for students, you also change the lives of everyone they come into contact with as well. Our mission is to transform lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence, to integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, to engage a diverse world and to live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ," Whitlock said. "Our desire is to help

every student who wants to attend OBU with the financial resources to do so. A great portion of this financial assistance is made possible by many of you in this room. Because of you, lives continue to be transformed on Bison Hill."

U.S. Rep. James Lankford introduced the keynote speaker for the evening, Dr. Benjamin Carson, thanking him for his faith. "It is my honor to have the opportunity to introduce a husband, a dad, a doctor, a scientist and a researcher, an educator, and very importantly for us, a God follower....Dr. Ben Carson," he said.

Carson is a world-renowned author and neurosurgeon. He is an emeritus director of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center for 39 years. In 2001, he was named by CNN and TIME magazine as one of the nation's 20 foremost physicians and scientists. In 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of



MCNEESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the land. Also in 2008, Carson was recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Harvard's Center for Public Leadership, as one of "America's Best Leaders." He has written several books, including his most recent, "America The Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great," which was released in 2012 and made the New York Times Bestseller List.

"I am absolutely delighted to be here," Dr. Carson said. "America is still a place of dreams. As a youngster, I dreamed of medicine. I loved anything that had to do with medicine. I loved to hear the mission stories in church that would frequently feature missionary doctors, who seemed like the most noble people on earth."

As he began to analyze the gifts and talents God gave him, he realized he had good hand-eye coordination and the ability to think in three dimensions. As a result, he decided on a career in neurosurgery. He began working with adults but soon

The annual Green and Gold Gala was held at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Pictured, clockwise, left to right: Dr. Ben Carson, Kelly Ogle, crowd and stage at the Gala, and Bison A Capella.

realized the rewards of working with children.

"You can operate for 10, 12, 18 hours on a kid...and if you're successful, the reward may be 50, 60, 70 years of life," he said. "It's wonderful to be a part of healing."

Carson's message traced the history of his life and demonstrated the power of education in transforming lives to carry out their potential. Having grown up in a rough neighborhood, Carson said, "I remember as a nine-year-old thinking I probably wouldn't live to 25 years of age."

But he had his mother's love and encouragement. Although she only had a third grade education, she challenged her children to be their best and pushed them to go above and beyond what school required.

She even required them to read two books per week and turn in book reports to her on each. Carson implored the audience to continue to learn something new every day of their lives and to seek knowledge daily.

"When you become very knowledgeable, you become a formidable foe for falsehood and a formidable ally for truth," he said.

Carson concluded his speech by charging the audience to have the courage to take action in the fight for our values and the fight to protect America from decline, saying, "The next time you sing the national anthem, and you get to the end of the first stanza, and it says 'The land of the free and the home of the brave,' just remember that it is impossible to be free without being brave."

>>> For more information on supporting scholarships at OBU, call 405.585.5412 or visit okbu.edu/mag/3.



Andy Harrison '89

The Ramblin' Theologian

Finding himself outside the bounds of convenient proximity to the Shawnee campus, Andy Harrison traveled the nearly two-hour commute to OBU for classes three times a week during the 1988-89 academic year. The trusty 1967 AMC Rambler may not have been the most typical mode of transportation at that time – but then again – Harrison is no ordinary man.

Harrison has devoted over 28 years of his life to youth ministry, and as Falls Creek program director and student ministry specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, he oversees the operation of Falls Creek, a camp that hosts over 50,000 students and 900 churches each summer in Davis, Okla.

He and his wife, Kim, authored “The Discipling Cycle,” a three-year series of in-depth discipleship studies for high school students, sold through LifeWay Publishing. He also has contributed to several curriculums and projects such as the Moral Compass parent ministry strategy; “Sumpherō,” a youth discipleship curriculum; and “Project:LOVE,” a purity and integrity project for teenagers.

Harrison attended OBU following high school in the fall of 1979, but left after the fall semester of 1981. Taking a short hiatus from school, he continued classes at Tulsa Junior College, spent a year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and returned to

OBU his final year, earning a bachelor's degree in history with a journalism minor.

Harrison said he is grateful for history professors such as Dr. Glenn Sanders and Dr. Carol Humphrey, who were instrumental in helping him complete his degree in one year.

“I appreciate both their professionalism and their individual care in helping me



“I never really knew my professors at other schools, but I did at OBU, and it made a big difference.”

reach his goal. “I never really knew my professors at other schools, but I did at OBU, and it made a big difference,” he said.

From his time at OBU, Harrison said one of his favorite experiences was writing a column for *The Bison*, OBU's student newspaper, titled “Ask Andy.” The column's satirical look at

life on campus was popular enough that he was asked to continue while in seminary, which was then renamed “The Ramblin' Theologian” to match his Rambler vehicle and seminary studies.

“I think the experiences I had at OBU helped me learn to work with people,” Harrison said. “Education – in an academic sense – is necessary and indeed helpful, but what I learned by working with others, applying myself to projects bigger than myself, and caring about the needs of others has served me very well.”

In 1991, he was called to First Baptist Church of Durant as full-time youth pastor and minister to senior adults. “[Serving in] Durant was a phenomenal time of ministry as God used those years to mature my skills as a minister and raise up disciples in our church,” said Harrison.

In 2000, Harrison joined the BGCO as student ministry education specialist, focusing on assisting Oklahoma churches in the areas of youth Sunday school and discipleship.

James Lankford, previous director of Falls Creek and now U.S. Congressman, left the BGCO in 2009 to run for Congress. Harrison initially became interim director of Falls Creek, and then accepted the position on a permanent basis in 2010.

“We are blessed to have Falls Creek, and I am twice blessed to lead it,” he said.

Brad Leslie '61

The Gift of Perseverance

Brad Leslie served two years in the United States Marine Corps following high school. Entering OBU in 1958 with some limited self-confidence, perhaps due to prior academic struggles, Leslie found himself unsure of what major to pursue.

Naysayers suggested college was a questionable choice for him. But when Leslie told OBU Professor Opal Craig during a speech class that he did not have a major, she replied, "You do now!" Leslie proceeded to graduate with a bachelor's degree in speech in 1961 and claims Craig was the "shining star" of his experience at OBU.

"[Craig's] office was always open to me and she provided me counsel on many occasions," Leslie said. "For me, she was the consummate teacher, counselor and friend."

A rigorous academic school is not without its challenges, but Leslie experienced encouragement throughout his time on Bison Hill.

"OBU gave me the gift of perseverance," Leslie said. "The message was always there, 'don't quit, there is a way you can make this work.'"

He graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1965 with a Master of Religious Education degree, and eventually obtained two units of clinical pastoral education. During his time in seminary, Leslie began serving as recreation director at First Baptist Church, Irving, Texas, the church in which he was ordained.

He continued his ministry in churches throughout Oklahoma, Louisiana and Ohio, serving in roles of youth director, education director and assistant to the pastor. Leslie persevered on the path God had in store for him, and decided to pursue a new career when an opportunity arose.

Leslie accepted a position in 1969 as Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service. During his 27 years of service, Leslie held protective assignments with seven presidents of the United States, from Lyndon Johnson to Bill Clinton – some full-time assignments and others temporary. He also led and coordinated advance security preparations and surveys – both foreign and domestic – for U.S. Secret Service protectees.

He has served as a full-time special agent for Lady Bird Johnson, the former first lady. He also worked as

"For me, Opal Craig was the consummate teacher, counselor and friend."

shift supervisor on assignment with foreign heads of state, and intelligence coordinator for presidential visits. He evaluated mentally and emotionally disturbed people with a propensity for violence toward public figures and interviewed people who made threats to determine if their threats were credible.

He was a spokesperson to police schools, banks, college classes and



professional service groups. When speaking to groups, he would detail protective responsibility and the Service's criminal investigations.

Leslie retired in 1995 but continued to use his gifts working background investigations for the FBI, as well as volunteering as a chaplain for his local hospital and serving as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

"It was meaningful to be involved with the human condition in the courts and to glimpse a moment in time, a presidential candidate, a foreign dignitary, an inauguration, and a handshake with a president," said Leslie.

Leslie, now 76 years old, lives in Flagstaff, Ariz., with his high school sweetheart and wife, Peggy. He enjoys playing tennis, visiting friends, and spending time with his four children and three grandchildren.

Kay Smith '81

On Mission for the Lord

At age 13, Catherine “Kay” (Casey) Smith, '81, attended Mayfair Baptist Church near her home in Oklahoma City, where one summer day before leaving for Falls Creek, her life was changed forever.

“I heard my mother and uncle talk about Falls Creek, and although I was shy and hardly knew anyone, I knew I wanted to go,” Smith said. “That week Mrs. White, one of the adult women from the church, asked if I had ever asked Jesus into my heart. I told her, ‘no,’ so she brought me out to the dining hall where she and the pastor explained how I could receive eternal life. I was saved that night, baptized the following Sunday, and warmly received into my new church family.”

Ladies in the church nurtured her through youth Bible studies, mission trips, Falls Creek and Acteens. As college approached, they urged her to seek the Lord’s will for her college choice. It wasn’t long before she contacted OBU and expressed interest in the nursing program.

“Juanita Millsap, then chairman of the nursing department, was one of the first people I met at OBU,” Smith said. “She enthusiastically welcomed me. The nursing faculty desired to train nurses who could think critically and lead professionally. That has been invaluable throughout my missionary and nursing career.”

“After graduation, I moved to Texas to begin my nursing career at Fort Worth Children’s Hospital and to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary,” she said. “My goal was to receive the 20 hours necessary to be appointed a career missionary with the Foreign Mission Board.”

While in Fort Worth, Kay discovered a friend she had met her freshman



“OBU introduced me to godly men and women who imparted spiritual truth, academic knowledge and the principles of Christian life.”

year at OBU who was also studying at Southwestern. She and Elbert Smith, '80, soon were married and moved back to Oklahoma where Elbert pastored at Vivian Baptist Church in Eufaula. During that time, they returned to OBU every Monday to attend seminary extension classes on campus.

In 1984, they were called to the mission field and began planting churches in Mexico. They returned to the U.S. to pastor again in Oklahoma before moving to Indiana to plant churches. Their three children, Daniel, Katie, and Carissa, were born during this time. In 1996, they returned to Mexico where they planted churches in Mexico City.

The couple transferred to South Asia until 2004, when they came to Richmond for Elbert to direct the training of new field personnel at the International Mission Board’s International Learning Center (ILC). Kay soon began volunteering as a nurse at the ILC, became a part-time employee, and now serves in her position there full time.

“It’s a great privilege to encourage those called to go,” she said. “We provide travel vaccines and health information for personnel serving overseas. This is a great combination of mission service and nursing. The most rewarding part is serving alongside our personnel as they prepare to go to the nations.”

“I came to OBU unprepared for Christian service, much less a career in nursing,” Smith said. “OBU quickly introduced me to godly men and women who imparted spiritual truth, academic knowledge and the principles of Christian life with me. While at OBU I met people with whom I maintain relationships today, people who have been influential leaders in my life.”

Dr. Elbert Smith '80

Called to Serve

While walking on the OBU campus during a visit, Dr. Elbert Smith, '80, said he realized there was no other place that seemed right for a Southern Baptist from Oklahoma to prepare for the pastorate. Born in Claremore, Okla., Smith was called to the ministry at a young age while growing up at First Baptist Church, Verdigris.

“Choosing OBU exposed me to professors that challenged me to academic excellence while keeping me close to the local churches in Oklahoma,” he said. “OBU provided a balanced view of academic excellence plus practical devotion and ministry that have remained with me these 35 years of ministry.”

Smith recalls two professors that impacted him deeply, Dr. Rowena Strickland and Dr. Warren McWilliams.

“As Dr. Strickland walked through Scripture, her love for the Bible and her love for the author were unmistakable and very contagious. Dr. McWilliams provided a healthy balance of historic, evangelical faith and contemporary theology while modeling a personal walk with God,” he said. “I remember the impact it made on me as a young student to have Dr. McWilliams speak on prayer at a BSU retreat.”

Following graduation, he began work on his Master of Divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. While there, he renewed a friendship with Kay Casey which had begun during their freshman year at

OBU. The couple was married August 14, 1982. Since that time, he served as pastor of churches in Eufaula, Perkins and Checotah, Okla., and planted a church in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Smith later completed his Doctor of Ministry in 1990 from Southwestern



“My experience at OBU combined academic excellence and active ministry in the churches.”

and his Doctor of Philosophy in 2013 from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 1984, while listening to a representative from the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board or IMB) speak at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, God called

the Smiths to missions. They spent the better part of the next 15 years planting churches in Mexico, holding different positions and responsibilities along the way.

In 2004, after serving briefly in South Asia, they moved to Richmond, Va., where he was named director of field personnel orientation for the IMB.

“Since that time, we have had the privilege of investing in over 6,000 personnel during the two months before they go to the field. They have all patiently endured my OBU coffee mug I carry throughout the day,” Smith laughed.

“I am always challenged by the diversity of the groups and the desire to connect with as many as possible in order to speak into their lives in a way that will impact their service overseas,” he said. “I am very passionate about God’s faithfulness and His Word, about how His Word should be our guide for faith and practice – including missionary practice. The challenge is to connect with each group in such a way that they go out very confident in Him, conforming to His ways.”

Smith credits OBU with a major impact on his ministry.

“My experience at OBU combined academic excellence and active ministry in the churches. That balance is continually needed as we attempt to prepare new workers with content that reflects sound missiology and theology in a way that relates to their learning styles and worldviews.”

Campaign Goal - \$42 million

Amount given and pledged - \$38 million

vision FOR A new century

Celebrating God's Blessings



Will Smallwood
Vice President for
University Advancement

In May 2011, as a result of OBU 2020: Mission, Vision, and Values, Oklahoma Baptist University launched the Vision for a New Century Capital Campaign with an audacious, God-sized goal of raising \$42 million to impact every aspect of campus life. The VNC Campaign objectives and goals, representing the largest undertaking in the history of OBU, were the result of extensive research and conversations with alumni, donors, friends, Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, parents, and other OBU stakeholders.

Not quite three years into the five-year effort, God has richly blessed OBU with more than \$38 million in gifts and pledges. In that time, we have seen the amazing hand of God at work through outstanding alumni, donors and friends of the university. We rejoice over the provision of more than \$16 million to establish 118 unique endowed funds at OBU. Most of these endowment funds are scholarships, allowing more students to experience the life-transforming educational experience found on Bison Hill.

By the time you receive this magazine, OBU will be planning to break ground on the 31,000 square foot Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall – the future home of the OBU College of Nursing – to take place in mid-May. We will also celebrate the renovation and expansion of the former home of the OBU President into the Sara Lou and Bob Cargill Alumni and Advancement Center. In the coming weeks, OBU will also break ground on the new Mathena Family Athletic

Training Facility, an addition that will serve the growing number of student athletes on the campus of OBU. Harold and Patricia Mathena and their family have generously provided the resources to completely underwrite the costs of this facility.

We are grateful for what God has done through you at OBU and we pause to celebrate the blessings of God on this special place. Even as we give thanks, the task to which we have been called is not yet finished. For OBU to lead the way in Christian higher education, we must continue to have the best faculty, the sharpest students, and an unflinching commitment to continue its rich tradition of academic excellence and faith integration. To accomplish this, the campaign calls for us to turn our efforts to four projects.

First, OBU will focus its efforts on raising much-needed funds to renovate Ford Music Hall. Since its completion in 1951, Ford Music Hall has served as a practice and training facility for music students. Second, as a result of the exponential growth of the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics, OBU will seek funding to build an addition to the Wood Science Building. Third, OBU will invest in a student services center to create a one-stop shop for current and prospective students and their families. This facility also will serve as the campus welcome center and grand entrance. Finally, building upon momentum, OBU will pursue additional endowment resources for scholarships, faculty positions and academic

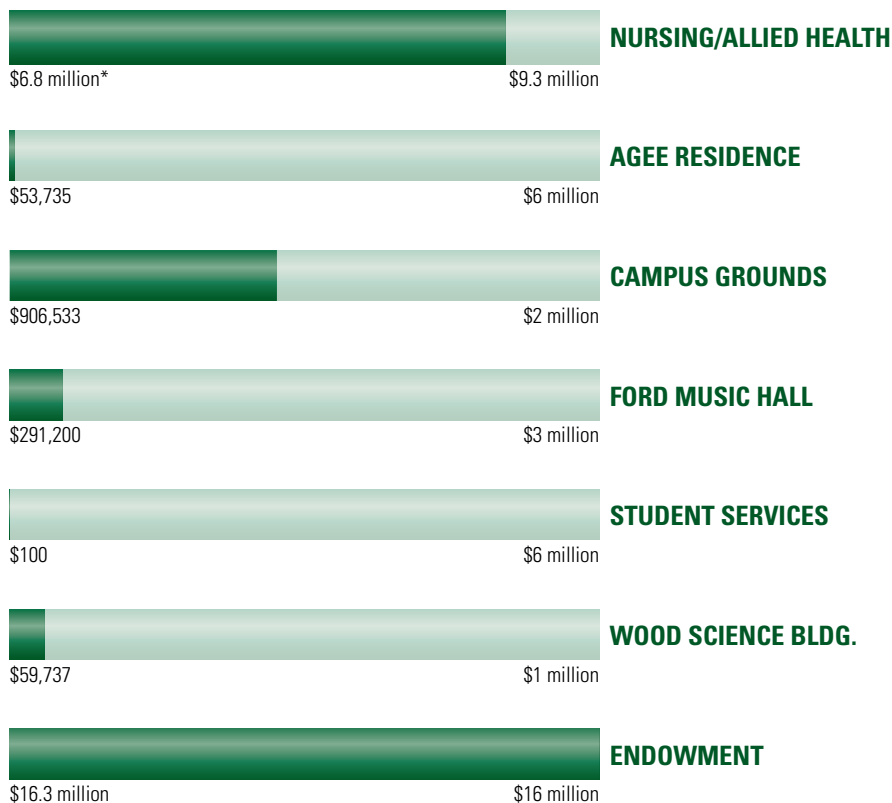
programs to continue offering affordable Christ-centered education.

We are often reminded here on Bison Hill that what we do matters. With that said, what you do matters, too. It matters to the students who study here. It matters to Oklahoma. It matters to the world. And it matters for the kingdom of God.

Thank you for all the ways in which you have “mattered” to OBU, moving her to greater levels of service and excellence. If you have not yet made a financial gift or pledge to OBU, a business reply envelope is included for your convenience. As always, our team would be happy to visit with you on how you can impact the next generation through Christian higher education. We can be reached at development@okbu.edu or at our new number 405.585.5412.

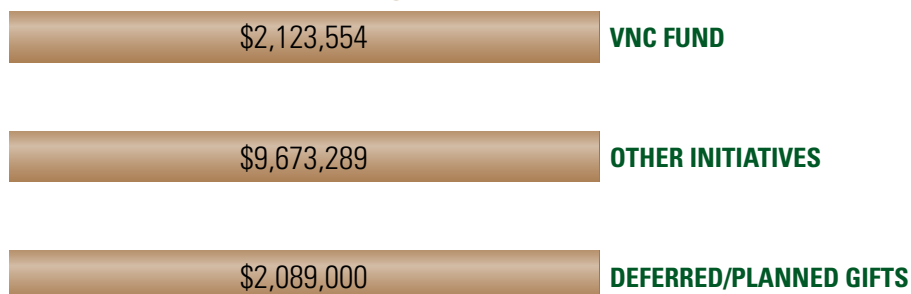
Campaign Projects

■ Gifts and Pledges ■ Goal



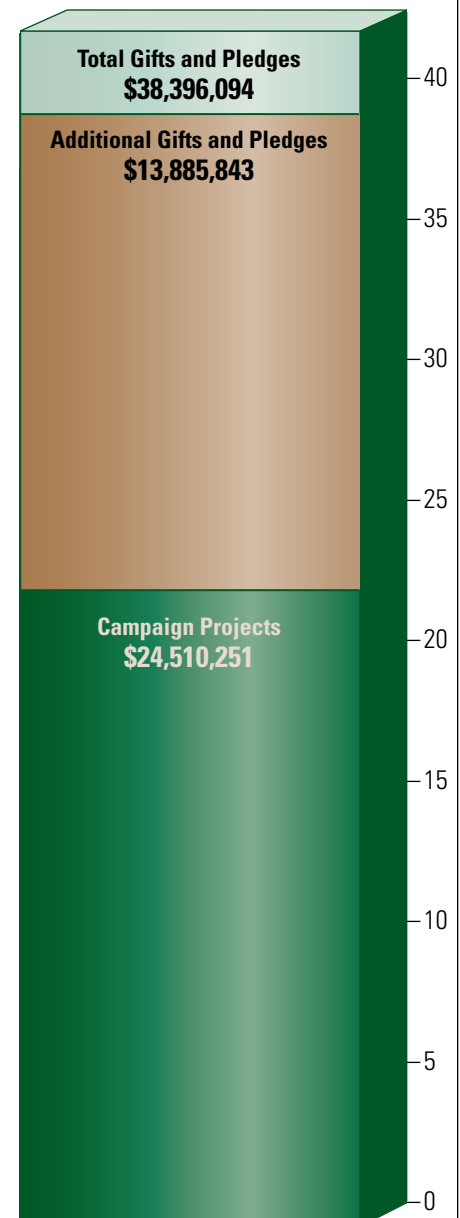
*Does not include \$1 million Mabee Challenge Grant.

Additional Gifts and Pledges

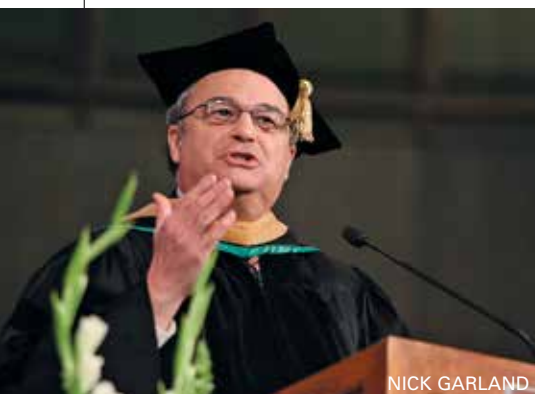


Campaign Goal

\$42 million



GARLAND TELLS GRADUATES: 'Life is Full of Beginnings'



NICK GARLAND



Hearing a message encouraging them to start a new beginning, 104 OBU graduates received their diplomas during OBU's 2013 Winter Commencement on Friday, Dec. 13.

The ceremony combined graduation for undergraduate students from OBU's Shawnee campus and graduate students from the OBU College of Graduate and Professional Studies in Oklahoma City.

During the ceremony in OBU's John Wesley Raley Chapel, the graduates heard from W.C. "Nick" Garland, Jr., senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, and current president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Garland encouraged students to keep their

focus on Jesus Christ as they encounter their greatest exam until now – life.

Garland told graduates, "Today, you are stepping out into the world and stepping up to be all that God created you to be."

Garland identified three new beginnings or commencements in life: birth, academic graduation and the day Christians begin eternal life. "This commencement is to recognize the beginning of your journey toward your dreams, aspirations, calling, commitments and your life," he said.

The program included recognition from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, which founded the university in 1910. Dr. Anthony Jordan, executive director and treasurer, brought greetings

on behalf of the BGCO. The graduates were inducted into the OBU Alumni Association by Lori Hagans, executive director of the association.

Junior Cody Moser, president of the Student Government Association, and Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life, presented the undergraduate graduating class. Rachel Potts, who received her master of business administration degree, and Norman presented the College of Graduate and Professional Studies graduating class.

>>> Watch
Commencement video:
okbu.edu/mag/4



OBU and CPN Sign Agreement for Online MBA Program



OBU President David Whitlock and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman John Barrett signed a collaborative agreement between the two organizations to provide a corporate online MBA program for the CPN to offer to its members, employees and constituents. Pictured are (seated from left) Linda Capps, CPN vice chairman; Barrett; Whitlock; Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life; (standing from left) Shane Jett, CPN Community Development Corporation executive director; Jason Greenwalt, CPN executive operations coordinator; Shelly Francka, director of the OBU College of Graduate and Professional Studies; and Randy Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services.

OBU Celebrates Annual Founders' Day

OBU observed its annual Founders' Day celebration Feb. 5, in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. The event is held annually to commemorate the university's incorporation in 1910.

Dr. David Whitlock, OBU president, welcomed guests to the service. Dr. Linda McElroy, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, led in the reading of Psalm 103. The University Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Brent Ballweg, Burton H. Patterson professor of music, then performed "Hosanna! Rejoice and Sing" by Craig Phillips.

To commemorate the event, Dr. C. Pat Taylor, Southwest Baptist University president, delivered the 2014 Founders' Day address. Taylor served as OBU's chief academic officer from 1986-96. As senior vice president and provost, Taylor was responsible for OBU's academics, student development, admissions, religious life, library services and athletics.

He was selected as the 24th president of SBU in 1996 and since that time, he has been instrumental in the success of the Partners in Excellence campaign and the addition of two master's degree programs and two doctoral programs. Prior to his

time at OBU, Taylor served as associate vice president for academic affairs at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and was an assistant professor of education at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

Taylor's theme was "The Christian University: Is it Worth the Price?" During his speech, Taylor challenged students, faculty, staff and administration to consider the responsibilities inherent in Christian education. "Christian universities have the same responsibilities as any university; however, we must do all the things expected of any university and we must do them better. Whatever we do in the name of Christ should be done with a commitment to the highest quality," Taylor said.

"The Christian university impacts society by doing the three basic purposes of higher education – instruction, research and providing educational services for our constituents," Taylor said. "When the spiritual dimension is added, Christian universities provide society with graduates who have a Christian worldview, and who can make a difference in their professions and in their communities. Graduates of Christian universities are taught the importance of service and how to be servant leaders."

Taylor demonstrated the value of Christian education and left the audience with his conclusion, "The Christian university ... is it worth the price? Based on the evidence I have personally observed, I have no doubt. The answer is yes. We are worth the price."

OBU also conferred honorary doctorate degrees upon three individuals during the Founders' Day chapel service. Honorees included Willa Ruth Garlow, with the Doctor of Religious Education degree; Dr. Emerson Falls, with the Doctor of Divinity degree; and Linda Capps, with the Doctor of Humanities degree. Whitlock and Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life, performed the ceremonies.

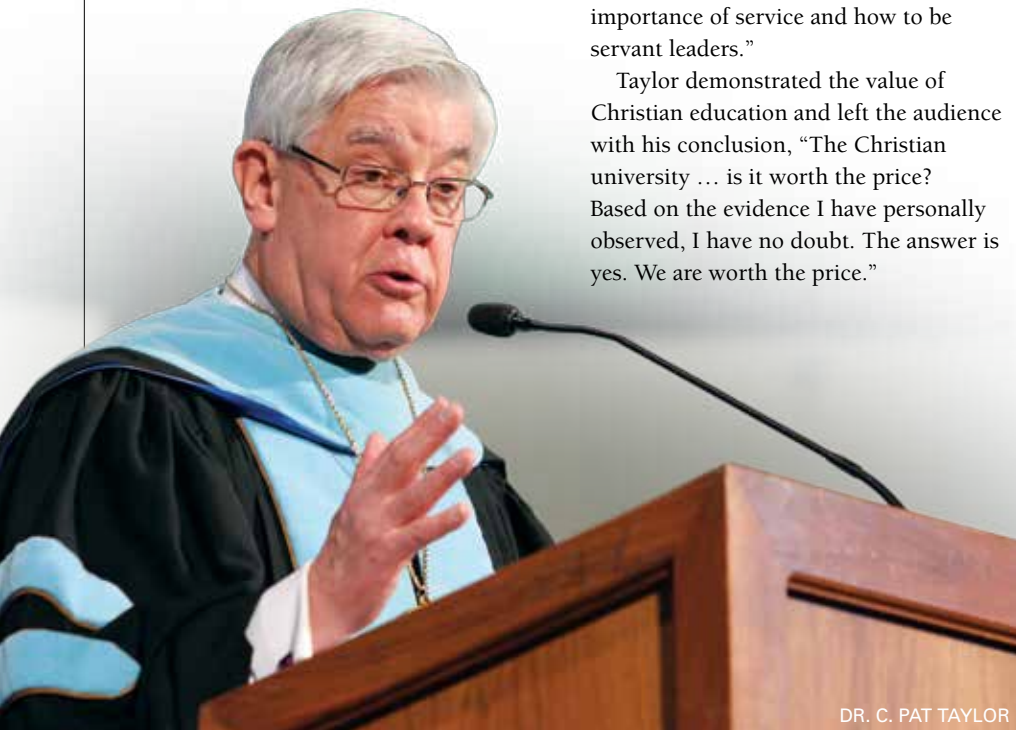
A 1950 OBU graduate, Garlow is a motivational speaker, childhood specialist, and writer. She has written curriculum materials and articles for LifeWay publications and various other magazines. Garlow has spoken in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and 34 states in the United States. In 1980, she was presented OBU's Alumni Achievement Award.

Falls is a Native American of Sac and Fox and Choctaw descent. Born and raised in Oklahoma, he left to attend Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California where he earned the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. Falls also became the first elected Native American to serve as president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Capps is the vice chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, holding the second top-elected position for approximately 31,000 tribal members. She worked in the education field for nearly 25 years as a high school business teacher, adult education instructor, and as a government-contracting specialist with the Oklahoma Bid Assistance Program. She earned a Master of Science degree in education from the University of Central Oklahoma.

To conclude the service, Dale Griffin, dean of spiritual life, read a poem he wrote titled "Ode to the Beanie," which may be read on the inside back cover of this magazine.

>>> For the complete story, visit okbu.edu/mag/5



DR. C. PAT TAYLOR



OBU Names Perkins Associate VP for Enrollment Management

by Devon Hale

As Bruce Perkins looks out the window of his Thurmond Hall office, he reflects on the campus that captured his heart eight years ago. That campus is Oklahoma Baptist University.

Perkins first came to OBU in 2006 as the newly appointed director of admissions. In 2011, OBU named him dean of enrollment management. This year, he steps into his new role as associate vice president of enrollment management.

Perkins supervises many areas that students and faculty come in contact with every day. "Enrollment management encompasses supervision of admissions, student financial services, the registrar's office, the academic center and also the Milburn Center [which includes] student success and academic advising," he said.

"The job is the drawing together of resources all across campus to manage enrollment, and what that means is not only to recruit students and retain students, but to help us accomplish specific objectives as it relates to enrollment," he said.

While his role within the structure of the University has grown larger over the years, Perkins said he still remembers the series of events that led him to OBU.

Before working at OBU, Perkins was a pastor for 25 years in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. After that, he became president of Shiloh Christian School in northwest Arkansas.

Perkins said he was working toward his doctoral degree at Oral Roberts University when he noticed a job listing for OBU in a bulletin handed out to the doctoral candidates. He said he kept noticing the job opportunity and finally applied for the position.

In September 2006, he became director of admissions, but Perkins said the job did not come without challenges, namely

declining enrollment. "There was sort of a heaviness on campus," Perkins said. "Not that people were unhappy...but it is just like anything. When things are not going well, it is hard to find your joy in those circumstances. You continue to do your job and you continue to do it well, but there is a certain air of joy and excitement that is missing."

Perkins said that when he interviewed for the position he was informed about the enrollment challenges, but despite the obstacles, he was determined to help. "Instead of being put off by that, I was sort of intrigued by that because that is just kind of the way my career has gone - going to places that were challenging and trying to see if I can be a part of the solution," he said.

Since then, Perkins said the atmosphere of OBU has changed and that he is happy to be a part of that change. "I'm in my eighth year here at OBU, and it has been very rewarding to watch the change, not just in enrollment, but also a change in what I would call the ethos of the campus. That has been as rewarding to me as the numerical growth in enrollment."

Perkins feels that his experience as a pastor has prepared him for success at OBU. "It helped, I think, having someone else who could relate to pastors on the staff and be out there encouraging churches to tell the OBU story. I knew what their week was like, I knew what their Monday was like and I knew what their goals and their objectives were, so I could help them understand how OBU could fit into that."

Perkins said his experience working at Shiloh Christian School in Arkansas helped as well. "The private Christian school experience [helped] because that was another area that we really needed to make a greater impact on, so I had a network of people that I knew and I understood how they thought," he said.

Perkins said he looks forward to the future where he and his colleagues continue to help advance the University.

"One of the things that has helped us in enrollment management is that mindset that we are never satisfied with status quo," he said. "Even though it is successful, we

want to always evaluate it, peel back the layers and say 'what can we do better?'"



Potts Promoted to Director of Admissions

Rachel Potts was promoted to director of the admissions team in August 2013 after serving as assistant director of admissions since August 2011.

"Rachel has added value to our admissions team from her very first day," said Bruce Perkins, associate vice president for enrollment management. "Her enthusiasm, work ethic, leadership and commitment to excellence is contagious. These traits and skills have only grown stronger as her areas of responsibility have increased over these past four years. I have no doubt the university will benefit from her leadership as director of admissions and continue to reach students who need the transformational ministry of OBU. I look forward to her service on the enrollment management team in her new role."

As director of admissions, she is directly responsible for leading the admissions team in the accomplishment of new student enrollment goals, Perkins said. The task involves the daily operation of the admissions office, as well as strategic planning for the future and the administration of university resources.

Among her many responsibilities, Potts plans campus visits and special events for prospective students considering OBU. Among those responsibilities is "Be a Bison Day," an event held multiple times each year. The day is specifically designed for high school seniors in order to give them a first-hand look at life on Bison Hill.

"Be a Bison Day provides prospective students with an opportunity to experience college life, both inside and outside of the classroom," said Potts. "While brochures and pamphlets of information are helpful, actually coming to visit a college campus is crucial in the decision-making

process. It allows students an opportunity to experience and interact with our community, keeping in mind that Bison Hill could potentially be their home for the next four years."

In addition to "Be A Bison Day," Potts and her team plan other events for prospective students including "Night on the Hill" and "Spring Preview Day."

Potts grew up in Ponca City, Okla. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in May 2009 with bachelor's degrees in journalism and broadcasting. She earned an MBA through the OBU College of Graduate and Professional Studies in 2013.



Chapman Hired as Assistant Dean of Students

OBU recently welcomed new staff member, Kenneth Chapman, Jr., to Bison Hill as the assistant dean of students for campus life.

The position serves as an extension of campus life, focusing on multiethnic affairs, disability services, and parent and family programs.

Chapman said his main goal is to ensure all student populations feel valued and a part of the Bison family, as well as a part of God's kingdom.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2007, a Master of Education from the University of Oklahoma in 2012, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Oklahoma.

Chapman previously worked as coordinator of student programs for the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, served as an academic advisor for Oklahoma State University, and currently teaches a college success course as an adjunct instructor for UCO.

Chapman is president of the Oklahoma Academic Advising Association and serves as a member of the Alliance of Emerging Professionals, American College Personnel Association, National Association of

Student Personnel Administrators, among other memberships and activities.

He is a licensed and ordained minister, currently serving as assistant to the pastor at House of Prayer Baptist Church in Del City, Okla.

"I just want to be in on the fun and rewarding experience of developing current and future leaders for Jesus Christ," Chapman said.



Lightsey Named Career Development Director

OBU recently welcomed new staff member, Marissa Lightsey, to Bison Hill as director of OBU's Career Development.

Lightsey earned a bachelor's degree in applied communication from OBU in 2010 and is pursuing a master's degree in human resource administration from East Central University.

Since she graduated from OBU, Lightsey has served as a communications associate for the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, and as the upward bound advisor and the GEAR UP advisor for Seminole State College's TRiO program.

Lightsey said she hopes to offer discipline specific job fairs in the future, to better serve each student and department.

"I would love for my office to be a tool used for both the recruitment and retention of students, as well as the continued development of alumni," Lightsey said.

With strong written and verbal communication skills, knowledge of academic and cultural backgrounds of diverse student populations, and a familiarity with OBU's campus life, Lightsey was welcomed back to Bison Hill as an integral staff member.

"It feels great to be back at OBU. I especially enjoy the opportunity to work for the people who have invested so much time and effort into my education," Lightsey said. "I owe a lot to my OBU family and it is truly a blessing to be here."



OBU Welcomes Day to Marketing Staff

OBU recently welcomed new staff member Kenny Day to serve as the university's marketing communications coordinator.

Day completed a bachelor's degree in journalism/advertising from the University of Oklahoma in 1999. He attended OBU for three semesters before completing his degree at OU. He met his wife, Jana, while attending OBU.

Upon graduation, Day spent a short while working in the newspaper business for a Tulsa based company. He then spent nine years working for faithHighway, a Christian marketing and advertising firm that serves local churches nationwide with production and placement of TV commercials, websites, and other communications tools. For the past five years before returning to Bison Hill, Day served as the marketing communication coordinator for Northeast Technology Center school district in northeastern Oklahoma. He currently serves as the president of the Oklahoma School Public Relations Association.

Aside from his professional life, Day served in a bi-vocational role as music and youth minister at Beaver Street Baptist Church, Jenks, Okla., for the past four years before moving to Shawnee.

"I'm so excited to come home to Bison Hill to join the team at OBU," Day said. "I want to be a part of growing and increasing the reach and influence OBU has in our state, in our country, and in the world. God is doing so many wonderful things here at OBU, and I'm blessed to be a part of it."

Day and his wife, Jana, have been married for 16 years. Jana is a certified elementary teacher with five years of experience teaching fifth grade, and she has also spent several years as a full-time mom. They are blessed with two wonderful children, Emily, 11, and Tyler, 8.

Six Professors Receive Senior Faculty Status

by Matthew Welborn

In February, OBU trustees granted six professors senior faculty status, giving many reasons for celebration. Those granted senior faculty status were Dr. Tonia Crane, assistant professor of education; Dr. Vickie Ellis, associate professor of communication arts; Dr. Carolyn Gregory, assistant professor of education; Dr. Louima Lilite, assistant professor of voice; Dr. Jennifer McQuade, assistant professor of music; Dr. Tony Yates, assistant professor of natural science.

Senior faculty status is evaluated based on performance in teaching effectiveness, professional development, service to the University and Christian commitment and service.

A few of the professors granted senior faculty status shared their responses to the news.

"I was honored, humbled, and delighted. I've always looked up to the senior faculty members on this campus; I will try hard to merit the trust that was shown to me by OBU's decision to grant me SFS," Ellis said. She received her doctoral degree in 2001 from Texas A&M University and has worked for OBU since 2008.

Similarly, other professors responded to the news with feelings of honor and humility.

"I feel quite honored to have received senior faculty status from the OBU trustees and look forward to many years of continued service at OBU," Yates said. He received his doctorate from the University of Oklahoma and will complete his sixth year of employment with OBU this semester.

"I was humbled by the decision of the trustees and grateful that God clearly chose Bison Hill as a field where He wants me to harvest diligently for His kingdom," Lilite said. He earned a doctorate in musical arts from Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester and is

in his sixth year of teaching at OBU.

"It was truly a feeling of joy when I learned that the Board of Trustees had approved my senior faculty status," Gregory said. She earned a doctorate in education at Oklahoma State University and has worked at OBU since 2008.

The professors granted SFS worked many years to achieve their success. Ellis said there were some influential people that signaled her toward teaching.

"My junior high speech coach and high school speech, debate, and drama director, Connie Montgomery, inspired a love for teaching and learning," Ellis said.

Montgomery took Ellis to a two-week long summer drama institute at East Texas State University. "That fostered both my love for theatre and education," Ellis said.

"Teachers already want to be here and teaching – it's their dream. What matters is connecting students and subject matter, and connecting that back to God."

— DR. VICKIE ELLIS

During Ellis' undergraduate years, she was further influenced by her advisor at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

"I was at a low point in my life... I began to fear that I would not be able to complete all the components of the degree," Ellis said.

But her advisor encouraged her, telling her she could be a teacher. "He said it with such conviction, I believed it was true," she said.

Lilite said his previous experiences in education coincided with his love for music, leading him to his arrival at OBU in 2008.

"Teaching is one of my greatest joys," he said. "I began teaching music at a very young age but decided to turn it into a

career while a teaching assistant in voice class at Biola. I also was honored to teach my first voice majors [at Penn State] and fell in love with teaching vocal music."

"At Eastman, I was awarded the Excellence for Teaching prize for teaching assistants in 2007, an honor that opened doors for me to come to OBU," he said.

Yates said his love for learning also began at a young age.

"As a child growing up on a farm, I was mesmerized by the animals, plants, and other forms of life that surrounded me on a daily basis, and I tried to learn as much about these life forms as I possibly could," Yates said. "I later discovered that one of the best means of learning and retaining information was through teaching.

Teaching also gave me an opportunity to share my love of biology with others."

Ellis said she enjoys teaching at OBU because of the freedom to speak about God and biblical truths. She also said the students make the teaching experience enjoyable.

"I love teaching at OBU because faculty have the freedom to reflect upon biblical truths when highlighting theories and concepts. We can celebrate Jesus' love during each phase of our career here," Ellis

said.

"Teachers already want to be here and teaching – it's their dream," Ellis said.

"What matters is connecting students and subject matter and connecting that back to God."

"Furthermore, the students I work with are genuinely curious, respectful, and fun."

Gregory said sharing her testimony of God's presence in her life, especially during her teaching career, brings her pleasure.

"What I enjoy most about teaching at OBU is the freedom to share with the students how our Lord has always been with me throughout my teaching career," Gregory said. "I also enjoy being part of



CRANE



ELLIS



GREGORY



LILITE



MCQUADE



YATES

faculty who are also focused on having our Lord as the center of their lives.”

Yates said students are a prime source of his joy with teaching. Relationships formed with colleagues bring joy to him as well.

“My joy in teaching at OBU comes primarily through the students who pass through my classes, in teaching and watching them mature as students and individuals, and in helping them identify and achieve their goals,” Yates said.

“In addition, the relationships that have been established between myself and my OBU colleagues – both within and outside the science arena – have made my experience at OBU quite enjoyable.”

Lilite said a full engagement in his vocation through his profession brings him joy as a Christian.

“Teaching at OBU affords me the freedom to practice my true vocation (encouraging others biblically) through my profession (teaching music and other topics),” he said.

“The unapologetically Christian aim of our mission statement makes it not only possible, but fruitful.”

In achieving the aim of the OBU mission statement, Yates said he tries to convey Christian principles through his teaching.

“I have been committed to Christian principles since a young age. I attempt

to convey my commitment to Christian principles through my actions and teaching,” he said.

In the end, it is the call of Christ that unites the community at OBU and brings hope for the future.

“One way I am able to stay connected to sharing my spiritual life with my professional life is to pray for my students, pray for my classes, and pray for what goes on in those classes,” Ellis said.

“I am looking forward to seeing a new generation of men and women on fire for the Lord, open, attentive, and ready to obey Christ. I am overjoyed to think that I might have a part to play in that,” Lilite said.

Bandy Receives SEBTS Alumni Achievement Award



Dr. Alan Bandy, OBU Rowena R. Strickland assistant professor of New Testament, recently received the Southeastern Baptist Theological

Seminary (SEBTS) Alumni Achievement Award during the 65th annual Evangelical Theological Society meeting.

“This is a significant recognition for Dr. Bandy and OBU,” said Dr. Mark McClellan, dean of the OBU Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry. “What added more esteem to his award was the additional recognition of his missionary commitment and service. I am deeply grateful to have a scholar like Dr. Bandy as a member of our faculty.”

One of 13 academic paper presenters and panelists, Bandy also presented his academic paper titled, “No More Us and Them: An Analysis of Jew and Gentile Relations in Paul’s Letters.”

Bandy joined the OBU faculty as the Rowena R. Strickland Professor in New Testament in the fall of 2009. Before arriving at OBU, Bandy served as assistant director of Ph.D. studies for SEBTS. His areas of expertise are New Testament and Greek with a specialization in the apocalypse of John. Bandy has published several articles in various journals, such as *Journal of New Testament Studies*, *Neotestamentica* and *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*.

Bandy has served in several ministerial church positions including pastor of Teachey Baptist Church in Teachey, N.C.,

pastor to students at National Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and pastor to children/youth at Calvary Baptist in Loyall, Ky.

“Dr. Alan Bandy represents the ideals of a faculty member in the Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry. He is both a scholar and a practitioner; a pastor-theologian,” said Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life. “He exemplifies the highest standards of academic excellence in his teaching and publications. He likewise is able to demonstrate the relevance of the academy for church and society. We are truly blessed to have Dr. Bandy on our faculty and concur with our colleagues at SEBTS that he is a worthy candidate to receive this recognition.”

Fortieth Annual Concerto-Aria

OBU's 40th annual Concerto-Aria Concert featured the musical gifts of 10 students who performed with a full orchestra Sunday, Feb. 16.

Student soloists are selected by audition. This year's concert featured OBU student performers Sammy Andrews, junior musical arts major from Checotah, Okla.; Sadie Elliott, junior musical arts piano performance major from Oklahoma City; Morganne Garcia, senior music education major from Rogers, Ark.; Graeson Griffin, sophomore musical arts in piano major from Shawnee, Okla.; Benjamin Hopkins, junior vocal performance major from Bartlesville, Okla.; Joy Knight, senior vocal performance and English major from North Richland Hills, Texas; Bailee Rogers, junior vocal performance major from Bixby, Okla.; Victoria Christine Smith, sophomore musical arts major from Frisco,



Pictured, left to right: Sadie Elliott (seated), Graeson Griffin (seated), Michael Wilson, Sammy Andrews, Victoria Smith, Benjamin Hopkins, Joy Knight, Bailee Rogers, Morganne Garcia, and Elizabeth Youngblood.

Texas; Michael Wilson, sophomore, music composition major from Yukon, Okla.; and Elizabeth Youngblood, senior vocal performance major from Midwest City, Okla.

Dr. Ken Gabrielse, professor of music and dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, conducted the performance.

Opera Theater Performs Triple Feature

OBU Opera Theater presented its annual Opera Theater fall production Nov. 22-24. The production, directed by Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Mark McQuade, featured three stylistically varied performances by OBU students.

The first performance was a scene from Mozart's interpretation of the story of Don Juan, "Don Giovanni," and featured two students enrolled in OBU's Music Theater I course: Bailee Rogers, a junior vocal performance major from Bixby, Okla., and Ben Hopkins, a junior vocal performance major from Bartlesville, Okla.

McQuade, who served as the production's costume designer, set designer and properties designer, said everyone who wants to earn a music degree should have some experience with Mozart.

"His music has influenced the Western traditions so much, that I see it as foundational. His operas are still a major part of the standard repertory, and the two arias presented in tandem are two of the

great ones."

The second production on the night's repertoire was the first act of "Nunsense," a zany, pun-filled Broadway comedy. "Nunsense" was performed by OBU students Courtney King, a sophomore music major from Oklahoma City, Okla.; Elin Williams, a sophomore music education major from Richardson, Texas; Elizabeth Youngblood, a senior vocal performance major from Midwest City, Okla.; Joy Knight, a senior double major in English and vocal performance from North Richland Hills, Texas; and sophomore MaryKathryn Daugherty, from Binger, Okla.

"I chose 'Nunsense' because I wanted the cast to explore a genre and engage a culture that was quite foreign to them," said McQuade. "Most of the cast has little to no musical theater background, nor did they have much experience with musical comedy. When you add in the structured dynamics and ritualistic elements of convent life, this piece provides excellent

opportunities for the students to grow on multiple levels."

The final piece was the performance of Giacomo Puccini's "Suor Angelica," one part of his "Il Trittico." The one-act opera, according to McQuade, serves as a "miniature masterpiece of true Romanticism." It was performed by Sayra Goodman, a freshman worship arts major from Tuttle, Okla.; Hanna Helbig, a freshman music major from Claremore, Okla.; Bailee Rogers; Ariel Hawkins, a sophomore vocal music education major from Oklahoma City; Melanie Clanton, a junior music education major from Fort Smith, Ark.; Kaitlin Slothower, a senior Spanish major from Piedmont, Okla.; Amanda Merrick, a senior vocal performance major; De'Erica Givings, a freshman music major from Bristow, Okla.; Elizabeth Youngblood; and Ethan Barlean.

The students were accompanied on the piano by Sadie Elliot, a sophomore piano performance major from Oklahoma City.

THEATRE SEASON: Keeping the Faith

The 2013-14 OBU Theatre season is based on the theme, “Keeping the Faith.” To date, they staged “Tartuffe” in the fall, and “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” was performed in February.

“This season spanned thousands of years and moved audiences from ancient lands to urban landscapes,” said Dr. Jeffrey Wells, associate professor of theatre. “The theme is fascinating, inspiring, and thought provoking. I am more excited about the depth of this season’s offerings than I have been in a long time.”

“Tartuffe” is Moliere’s classic comedy about power, greed and deception. The story takes place in the opulent 17th century home of Orgon, where Tartuffe – a fraud and a pious imposter – has insinuated himself in an effort to swindle his trusting benefactor.



Pictured above, Tartuffe, (left) played by Andrew Barker, threatens Orgon, played by Antonio Quintana.

In the production “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” Joseph, his father’s favored son, is a boy blessed with prophetic dreams. When he is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers and taken to Egypt, Joseph endures a series of adventures in which his spirit and values are vigorously challenged. Set to an engaging cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubble-gum pop and rock ‘n’ roll, this Old Testament story emerges both timely and timeless.

Chick- fil-A Express Grand Opening



Left to right, the Chick-fil-A cow; Steve Plunkett, senior management consultant at Chick-fil-A; Dr. David Whitlock, OBU president; Shaz, OBU mascot; and Randy Smith, OBU executive vice president for business and administrative services.

Students, employees and community members celebrated the grand opening of the new Chick-fil-A Express restaurant on OBU’s campus in Shawnee Tuesday, March 4.

Representing Chick-fil-A, Steve Plunkett, senior management consultant, said, “Chick-fil-A has been successful because the company’s leadership sees no conflict between Biblical principles and effective business. We are honored to be here.”

Plunkett also directly addressed the students in attendance, by encouraging them to, “Figure out who you are before you decide what to do.” He said that was the key to Chick-fil-A’s corporate success.

OBU President David Whitlock then expressed his appreciation for the University’s partnership with Chartwells, and the opportunity to bring Chick-fil-A to campus.

The restaurant is open to the public, and has created 18 new jobs which will be a benefit to the local economy.

Black History Month Observed

OBU hosted several events during February in observance of Black History Month. The events were coordinated by Kenneth Chapman, assistant dean of students.

The month of February is designated as Black History Month in the United States. It was originally founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a professor of history who earned his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1912, as a week to celebrate and learn about the many achievements of African Americans in America. The first Black History Month was celebrated at Kent State University in Ohio in 1970. In 1976 President Gerald Ford urged citizens to participate in learning about the many contributions that African Americans have made to our country.

“Celebrating black history at OBU is an opportunity to learn about contributions and accomplishments of African Americans,” Chapman said. “It is also a chance to dialogue about the past while embracing the future together. One thing to remember is that America would not be what it is without the contributions of many people from different races, ethnicities, and cultures. Likewise at OBU, we would not be the amazing university we are, without contributions from diverse people called by God and who live for Jesus Christ.”

Several events were held to commemorate black history. An African American read-in was co-sponsored by the OBU English department and the OBU diversity committee. Several readers shared literary works from various African American authors. Other events included a diversity student involvement meeting, and a gospel music service in Stubblefield Chapel, featuring the choir from Galilee Baptist Church in Shawnee.

Campus Construction Updates

Residential Village

Construction on two of the five new buildings planned for OBU's Residential Village was completed in time for the start of the 2013 fall semester, providing 48 new apartments for students to enjoy. The third building, now under construction, will provide an additional 12 apartments. This building is scheduled to be ready for 46 students to occupy on move-in day in August. The new housing comes just in time as OBU's enrollment continues to grow and the need for on-campus housing rises.

Construction on the largest facility in the Residential Village, building four, will begin in May and will accommodate 160 students in suite-style dorm rooms. The building will be located at the intersection of MacArthur Street and Raley Drive. A groundbreaking ceremony for this building is scheduled for May 15 at 11 a.m. Target date for completion is fall 2015.

Nursing and Allied Health Building

Groundbreaking for Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall, the 31,000-square-foot building that will house the College of Nursing, has been set for May 16 at 10:30

a.m. Located on the corner of MacArthur Street and Kickapoo Ave., Stavros Hall will be one of the first buildings seen as visitors arrive on the Shawnee campus.

Nick Stavros, founder and CEO of Metro Appliances and More, provided the lead gift to name the new facility. Stavros was married to the late Jane Eleanor Stavros, daughter of Victor C. Hurt, legendary OBU athletic director and football, basketball and track coach.

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation issued a \$1 million challenge grant for the construction of Stavros Hall contingent upon OBU securing the additional funding needed for the project. Target date for completion is January 2016.

Geiger Center

An important element of the contract with OBU's new food service vendor, Chartwells, includes several changes to food service offerings and facilities. The 2013-14 academic year saw the opening of Chick-fil-a Express, Bison Grill, a convenience store, and a "Starbucks We Proudly Brew" location featuring Starbucks drinks, pastries, and other items. New flooring and furniture were installed in the

downstairs GC area.

Significant remodeling changes will also occur during the summer in the Laura Scales Dining Room located in the upper GC. The renovation will include a conversion to more of a restaurant-like atmosphere featuring interactive cooked-to-order meal stations and self-serve food platforms. Renderings of the remodeling may be seen on the right.



>>> For the latest construction updates go to okbu.edu/mag/6





OBUmobile App Available to Public

With smartphones becoming a reliable all-in-one tool, mobile applications have become increasingly useful in everyday lives. OBU's information systems and services department and marketing and communications department teamed up to create "OBUmobile" in partnership with DubLabs, now available for iOS and Android devices.

The mobile app includes a campus map with building hours, upcoming campus and athletic events, the latest news and sports scores, and Banner Web access, among other features.

"OBU is well aware of the fact that we have become a 'mobile society' and this certainly is reflected in the lives and culture of our students," said Gary Nickerson, assistant vice president for business affairs and information systems and services. "With this in mind, it became obvious that we needed to begin looking into the ability to deliver important information and access it in a mobile format."

The application also includes other practical functions such as a "Get Help" button to easily access emergency contact information. Users can also access the University's email system, social media accounts and popular student links.

Damon Seymour, OBU Web developer and designer, worked on the design and visual development of the application. Responsible for OBU's website skin redesign a year prior, Seymour designed for consistency between the two mediums.

"I wanted the app to fit in with the visual direction we were going with the website – we used similar colors: green and charcoal with splashes of gold, the oversized spire, and the same style of iconography," Seymour said.

"Damon was an invaluable member of the development team," Nickerson said. "His knowledge and skill set made the app very 'classy.' I love his graphic and color scheme."

Currently, OBUmobile is available on all iOS devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod) and



Android-based devices. A Windows 8 version will be released soon. Search "OBUmobile" on the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store to download.

Teams Win National Titles, All-American Honors

Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving

Championship banners photo - inside front cover

The OBU Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams both won the 2014 NAIA National Championship, defending their titles from last year. The competition was held March 5-8 at the Oklahoma City Community College Natatorium.

The Bison finished with 900 points for the meet, well ahead of runner-up Olivet Nazarene with 485 points. Lady Bison swimmers accumulated 849 points, while second place Savannah College of Art and Design scored 492 points.

"Coach Sam Freas just continues to bring the best swimming and diving to OBU," said OBU Director of Athletics Robert Davenport. "We couldn't ask for a better program, both in terms of success and the way they represent the University."

The men's team has won three straight championships since the program's start in 2012, while the women are repeat champions after finishing runner-up in 2012. The teams set 11 new records during the week. OBU also claimed six individual championships, setting five new NAIA records in the process. They also defended titles in eight relay events.

The teams earned an astounding 83 total All-America honors among 27 athletes. Bison men featured 13 winners, while the Lady Bison featured 14. Three Bison were five-time All-Americans; two swimmers were honored as four-time All-Americans; four Lady Bison swimmers were three-time All-Americans; three Lady Bison swimmers were two-time All-Americans; and two Bison swimmers were honored as two-time All-Americans.

Indoor Track and Field

The OBU Lady Bison indoor track and field team defended its NAIA Women's Indoor Track and Field Championship while the men's team placed fourth. The event was held March 6-8 in Geneva, Ohio.

"Ford Mastin and his coaching staff have done it again," Davenport said. "We're proud of both track teams and extremely pleased with the women as they continue their dominance."

Akela Jones earned Most Valuable Athlete honors. The sophomore won titles in the pentathlon, long jump, 60-meter hurdles (8.31) and high jump (5-10). She



Sophomore Akela Jones won the 60 meter hurdles, pentathlon, high jump and long jump at the 2013 NAIA Indoor National Championships, establishing five national records and earning Most Valuable Athlete honors.

set a total of five NAIA National Championship meet records on the way to her second-straight Most Valuable Performer honors.

The Lady Bison racked up at least six individual titles for the third-straight year. Jura Levy won her third-consecutive championship in both the 200 meters (23.59) and the 60 meters (7.35). Jones and Levy became the first OBU competitors with six career championships. The OBU men's meet was highlighted by Clay Shepperson's national championship in the 800 meters, finishing in 1:52.12.

Twenty-one of OBU's athletes won a total of 45 All-America honors during the meet. Ten OBU women won 25 honors and 11 Bison carried home 20 of the awards.

Mastin Named NAIA 2013 Coach of Character

OBU's Ford Mastin, head coach for cross country and track & field, was named the 2013 NAIA Coach of Character. He was formally recognized at the 73rd Annual NAIA Convention Awards Luncheon on April 12, in Kansas City, Mo. This prestigious award is given annually to an NAIA head coach who has embraced the NAIA Champions of Character program, demonstrated character through sports and instilled a culture of community leadership through volunteering or service.



Since returning to his alma mater in 1996, Mastin has built a winning tradition at OBU. His cross country and track & field teams have won eight national championships and have produced more than 300 All-Americans.

Mastin teaches, mentors and challenges student athletes in the area of character development. He established and continues to organize Champions of Character team meetings several nights each year, where OBU alumni return to speak to the team regarding the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. Current student athletes then prepare skits illustrating these core values and present them to elementary schools, furthering the reach of the Champions of Character message.

Mastin is known for his devotion to his student-athletes, but the key to his success comes in tying character to athletic performance. "Practicing running drills and throwing techniques become significant if they are associated with the values that others may observe as we are placed in the public eye through the avenue of competitive athletics," Mastin said.

OBU Alum and Former Coach Bob Hoffman Leads Mercer to Upset Win Over Duke



JOHN DOMONEY PHOTO

OBU alumnus and former men's basketball coach Bob Hoffman led his No. 14 seed Mercer Bears team to an upset of the No. 3 seed Duke Blue Devils in the second round of the 2014 NCAA tournament.

Hoffman was also 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. This season has seen Hoffman reach notable milestones, including the 500th win of his career and his 750th game coached.

Since his arrival at Mercer in 2008, Hoffman has led the team to a 125-82 record, four championships, nine high-major wins and 13 postseason wins.

—Rick Cameron

Senior Assistant Vice President for Marketing Communications, Mercer University

OBU Athletics Update

Bison Baseball

The OBU Bison baseball team earned the program's first No. 1 national ranking in the NAIA Baseball Coaches' Top 25 Poll released on April 8.

"Anytime you accomplish something at a program for the first time, it's special," said associate head coach Chris Klimas. "It means a lot to the guys who wore the Bison uniform in the past."

The OBU baseball team started the 2014 season with high expectations. Hall of Fame Coach Bobby Cox brought back a very talented group that includes the 2013 Rawlings NAIA Player of the Year and four returning All-Sooner Athletic Conference players. As of April 8, the team was 32-6 after opening the season with a program-record 22 straight wins.

After three straight national postseason appearances, the Bison will call upon several key contributors from last season to make an impact this year.

"This is probably as big of an accomplished core group coming back as we've had in a long time," Klimas said. "This team will have an opportunity to win games in part due to their athleticism up and down the lineup."

Senior Matt Page returns from a season where he was named the NAIA Player of the Year, first-team All-America, SAC Player of the Year and First-Team All-SAC.

"These are probably across the board the most athletic position players we've had," Klimas said. "From top to bottom, they probably run as well as any team we've had in the past 10 to 12 years."

Lady Bison Softball

The OBU softball team entered 2014 with high hopes for a successful season. The Lady Bison returned the bulk of its school record 62 home runs from 2013 and entered the season ranked 15th. As of the beginning of April, they were on the right track, with a 25-10 overall record and 12-2 in the conference.

"We have a solid core back this season and our freshman

Sammy Leisinger ▶

Matt Page ▼

Tyler Davis ▲

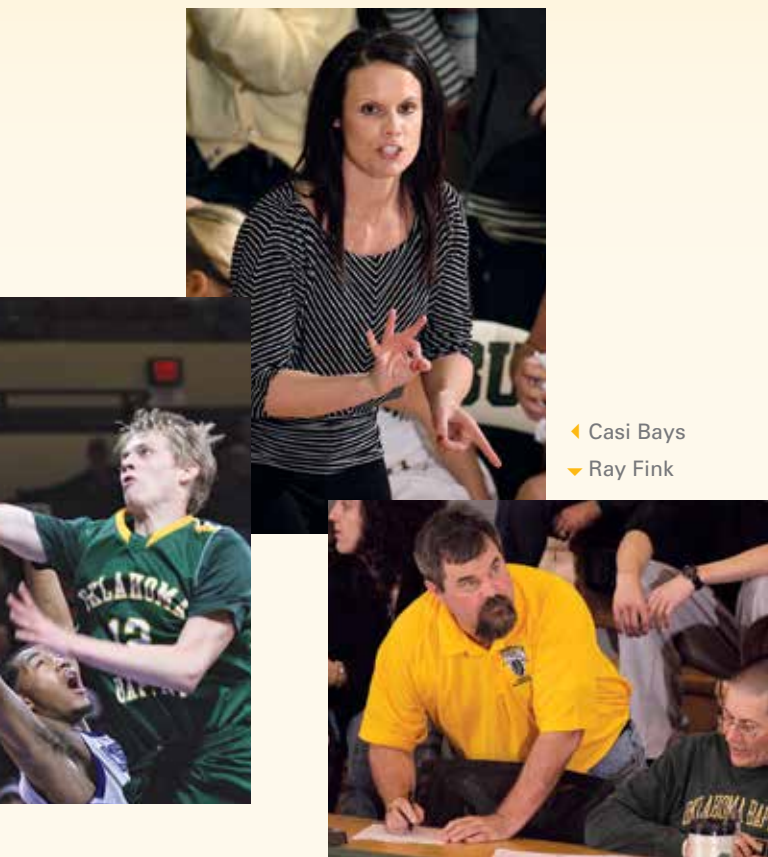


class is very strong," said Lady Bison Head Coach Pam Fink. "It's been more than 10 years since we went to the NAIA Tournament, and it is time to go back. We are out to win the conference and get back there."

Bison Basketball

The OBU Bison men's basketball team won the Sooner Athletic Conference tournament, defeating Wayland Baptist 70-69 in the championship game. The Bison won four games in four days, beating ninth-seeded Texas Wesleyan, top-seeded Southwestern Assemblies of God, fifth-seeded Mid-America Christian and the second-seeded Pioneers.

Hayden Darst, the tournament MVP, led the Bison with 20 points, followed by Cale Jackson with 16, Aaron Abram with 15 and Eric Stubbs with 10. Darst was joined on the All-Tournament team by Abram and Hustle Award winner Jackson. Abram was Second-Team All-Conference and All-Conference Tournament. Jackson was the recipient of the Pattison Family Champions of Character Scholarship,



◆ Casi Bays
 ▼ Ray Fink

recognizing accomplishment on and off the court. Coach Doug Tolin was SAC Coach of the Tournament.

“That was an exciting end to an exciting tournament,” OBU Director of Athletics Robert Davenport said. “If anyone can get a team going at the right time, it’s Doug Tolin.”

The win gave the Bison a ticket to the NAIA Division I men’s Basketball tournament in Kansas City, Mo. This was the Bison’s 14th consecutive trip to the tournament. However, the team fell short in the opening round, losing to top seed Cal State San Marcos 88-81.

“We’re so proud of the way the men finished the season,” Davenport said. “Doug and Kyle Tolin overcame a lot and pulled together a great run at the end.”

Lady Bison Basketball

The No. 6-ranked Lady Bison (28-5) women’s basketball team claimed the first Sooner Athletic Conference Tournament Championship in program history, defeating John Brown (Ark.) 60-57 at the Noble Complex. Junior Charity Fowler was named SAC Tournament MVP. Senior

Allie Brandenburg won the Hustle Award. Jalissa Council was also named to the All-Tournament Team.

“We’re so proud of the women’s basketball team and the accomplishment of winning their first-ever SAC Tournament,” Davenport said. “What an exciting tournament to watch.”

OBU women’s basketball head coach Casi Bays was named SAC Co-Coach of the Year. Charity Fowler and Jalissa Council were named First Team All-SAC. Guards Janell Beacham and Elisabeth Daniels made Third Team All-SAC, and Zbeyda Aremi was All-SAC Honorable Mention.

The Lady Bison then travelled to the NAIA Division I Women’s Basketball national tournament in Frankfort, Ky., but fell 94-91 to 7-seed Shawnee State (Ohio) in overtime. The No. 2 seed Lady Bison trailed by as much as 14 in the first half, but cut the deficit to seven by intermission.

“We’re very proud of the season coach Bays and the Lady Bison had this season,” Davenport said. “The turnaround this season was a great building block for the future.”

Fink Named SAC SID of the Year

Longtime OBU sports information director and Sooner Athletic Conference sports information director Ray Fink has been named SAC SID of the Year. This is the first year for the award, which also places Fink in the running for the NAIA SID of the Year.

“I’m very excited to win this award,” Fink said. “Coming from other SIDs in the league makes it very special. There were a lot of new personal and professional challenges this year, but that’s part of life and part of the excitement of the work.”

Fink began working in the OBU sports information office as director in November 1993 and became the SAC sports information director in 2004. He won the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association’s Ike Pearson Award in 2002.

Fink is responsible for media relations, statistics, internet broadcasts, website maintenance and social media for the university’s 21 varsity sports.

HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS



Clockwise: Alumni and current members of the University Chorale perform in a concert commemorating the ensemble's 50th year on campus; Mary Kathryn Timberlake MacKenzie, '69, is greeted by Dr. John Parrish, OBU executive vice president emeritus; reunions abound at homecoming; the Bison Jazz Orchestra performs at the Fine Arts Musical Gala; the Bison men's basketball team and the Lady Bison both defeated Dallas Christian College in homecoming matchups; Dr. Nancy Cobb Lippens, '73, serves as a guest conductor for the Chorale's 50th anniversary; Dr. Brent Ballweg, '78, greets Betty Woodward, associate professor emerita of music and widow of Dr. James Woodward, long-time Chorale conductor and former dean of the College of Fine Arts.



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Dr. Bob Cargill, '51, and Dr. David Whitlock, president, during Cargill Alumni and Advancement Center Renovation Launch ceremony; Harvest Queen Jessa Manner from Topeka, Kan.; Harvest King Brandon Melton from Oklahoma City, Okla.; Class of 1963 50 Year Club Reception; the first Homecoming Tailgate; the pep band performs at the homecoming football game; the Bison football team take the field against Panhandle State University at the first homecoming football game since 1940; class of 2003 reunion breakfast.





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NOVEMBER 7-8



Cargill Alumni and Advancement Center Ceremony

Homecoming festivities included the Renovation Launch Ceremony for the Sara Lou and Bob Cargill Alumni and Advancement Center. Alumni and longtime supporters of OBU, Sara Lou Cargill, ex '50, and Bob Cargill, '51, provided a \$500,000 gift to renovate the former president's home located on the north side of MacArthur. Completed this spring, the facility serves as the official welcome center for alumni when returning to the OBU campus and houses

the office of university advancement.

"We are grateful for the generous support and leadership provided by Sara Lou and Bob Cargill," said OBU President David Whitlock. "We are thankful to them for giving us the privilege to renovate this historic home into the hub of all alumni and fundraising activities for the university."

During the festivities, Cargill noted that OBU presidents and their families have lived in the home

for over 65 years, hosting numerous guest speakers, receptions and dinners for students, faculty, staff, trustees and many others.

"Many referred to it as the 'president's mansion' in the 1940's, but it was a source of pride for all Oklahoma Baptists, and a model of excellence, service and beauty toward which the University has striven, until we have our wonderful campus today. This grand, old house has well served all of us who love OBU,"

Cargill said. "The future looks even brighter. This beautiful building will house the advancement and alumni offices with ample space to welcome and entertain alumni, prospective students and their parents, and those who provide financial support."

The Cargills have also served as co-chairs for the alumni phase of the Vision for a New Century Campaign, through which alumni have given and pledged \$3.8 million.



Participating in the Renovation Launch Ceremony are (from left) City of Shawnee Mayor Wes Mainord; Lori Hagans, OBU executive director of alumni; President David Whitlock; Dr. David Lawrence, Chair of the OBU Board of Trustees and Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Weatherford; and Dr. Bob Cargill.

Ode to the Beanie



M. DALE GRIFFIN

Beanie, roughly stitched, green and gold
And just a might too tight
You are a common thread
Woven through all our generations

From 1919 to the present, your surface has evolved
At times a wooly feel
At others, more of a sheer line
And recently a cool thin texture
To aid in the cooling of the crown

And members of every new class have stumbled into
the typical
Bobbie Pen clip
One hand over the top hold
Back pocket tuck
Or the back pack tie down

Whether worn in the dome centered, frontal lobe
or the traditional crown location,
Your presence remains a mystery
Why are you here?
From where have you come?
And why have you stayed?

Could it be that you symbolize a common experience
That ties each class to the other?
Bop Cops, CIAs and Tri-Ws alike
have watched a sea of green and gold caps
march past in lines of order and surrender

How is it that willingly you are embraced
And easily traced across the globe
Of life, title and position

You've shown up in the most unusual places
I've seen you on a shelf in offices of power, learning,
Finance, and cross cultural living.
Find a bison serving in a foreign land
And you'll likely see a beanie close at hand.

You are such the humble sort
Small and out of style
Crafted by loving but unknown hands

You're even considered a bit on the dangerous side
Because you could be viewed as a tool of initiation
A rite of passage or persuasion

No, we do not willingly entrust you to our scalps
And these freshly enrolled minds
Because of your appearance or stature in our land

Rather, we are thrilled to stand under the same arch
That graced the heads of Sunday Fadulu
Bill Pogue, and a cat named Kubacek
Your passengers have manned the longest flight in space
Saved lives from a single patent
And encouraged weary leaders along the way
They have sung songs over the masses
Governed over the few and the many
And held in their hands the responsibility to teach and
train the next generation

And most dearly, you have donned the head of my friends
One named Avery, the other Calvin
I still miss them to this day

Could it be that when I pick you up and study your roughly
stitched line
I'm actually reaching back in time?
Is it possible to embrace those friends
I'll not see again until I cross that distant shore?

Or, could it be that better yet, I honor friends who have
stepped beyond the veil
by looking into dovelike eyes
of new Bison roaming the plain
and by asking, "What wondrous songs will you compose?
What unrelenting problems will you dispose?
What feats of unimagined impact will you complete?
What treasured jewels will you lay at His feet?

Oh, yes, beanie
Don again, the heads of the assembling throng
For you are resting on the heads of these magnificent
creations
As though you are the hand of God
Blessing their first day on Bison Hill declaring,
"I will never leave you... nor forsake you..."
Do not fear, I am with you wherever you go."

In the 1919-20 school year, the freshman class became the first OBU students to wear beanies. The beanies were called "Green Caps" and were worn for a full year as a sign of penance. By 1925, the student handbook said that freshmen had to wear green caps whenever on campus from the beginning of school until Thanksgiving. In 1933, the student handbook said that freshmen were required to wear the green caps until the final home football game. At halftime of the final game, freshmen were permitted to burn their caps.

In 1968, freshmen were supposed to wear beanies between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. while on campus during orientation week. If they won the upperclassmen/freshmen tug-o-war at the end of the week, they could dispose of the beanies. If they lost the tug-o-war, they had to wear the beanies for another week.

Beanies have differed in color and shape through the decades. But the tradition of recognizing freshmen with this little cap has continued for 95 years.

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Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus
SEPTEMBER 2-11, 2014

For more information or reservations, contact Pastor Wendell C. Lang at 405.227.5200 or pastorlang@coxinet.net.