

• THE •  
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
OF OKLAHOMA

VOLUME ONE. NUMBER ONE.

OCTOBER, 1915



**Administration Building Completed**

**143 Students Enrolled for Fall Semester**



# OBU

## MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

FALL 2015 | [okbu.edu](http://okbu.edu)



## Shawnee Hall Reaches Century Mark

Freshman Class Second Largest in University History



Students gather east of the Geiger Center for activities during Welcome Week.

OBU welcomed the second largest freshman class in school history to campus this fall. The class of 556 new freshmen is second only to the record-setting class of 580 freshmen in 2013.

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Strong foundations. They are essential.

A building's foundation must be strong to support its structure. Without a strong foundation, the building is inevitably vulnerable. Likewise, our lives must be built upon a firm foundation of principles, values and faith in order to weather the storms of life.

Our University's foundation is built upon academic excellence and a commitment to the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Our mission as a distinctively Christian liberal arts university is to transform lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world, and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.

We are blessed at OBU by generations who came before us, who sacrificed to build such a strong foundation for our beloved University, and in this issue of OBU Magazine, you will read about some of our strong foundations.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Shawnee Hall for example, you will read how this first permanent structure on Bison Hill came to be and the lasting impact it has made. You will read about the conception and implementation of the Western Civilization program at OBU. You will learn how alumni have influenced the world through music and motivational speaking.

Strong foundations prepare us for future success. You will learn from Robert Davenport, our director of athletics, about OBU's second year of candidacy for NCAA Division II membership and how that future was built upon decades of success in the NAIA. You will likewise read an update from Dr. Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement, about how the generosity and support of donors, alumni, faculty, staff and students has provided foundations and helped complete many exciting projects on campus.

We live in challenging times, but they are exciting days as believers. Because our lives--and our beloved University--are built upon a firm foundation, we of all people have an unshakable hope and optimism. As we celebrate the accomplishments and achievements shared in this issue, we give thanks to God for blessing us with such a storied past, and we pray for wisdom, discernment, and His provision as we prepare for an exciting future.

David Wesley Whitlock  
OBU President

# OBU

magazine

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# WORTHY FAITH

*Mitchell Jennings, 19-year-old sophomore cross-cultural ministry major, shares how he found his place this summer in Thailand.*

OBU sophomore Mitchell Jennings, a cross-cultural ministry major, traveled with other students and mentors to the other side of the globe this summer to the bustling city of Bangkok, Thailand, as part of OBU's Global Outreach program. The trip took them to the metropolitan area in and around Bangkok, where the students met with and served alongside Thai Christians as they cared for Pakistani refugees. Many of these refugees were Ahmadi Muslims or Christians who fled to Thailand to escape religious persecution.

The students worked with a local church to provide desperately needed supplies to the refugee families. Due to limited resources, the church was only able to provide one bag of provisions per family every two weeks.

"We met several times a week with the refugees from Pakistan," Jennings said. "They had little to nothing, so their physical needs were extensive."

Although resources were limited, Jennings said the gifts of food and supplies gave the refugees a great hope that God will continue to provide for them. In addition to distributing the supplies, the students worked with refugee children at a small school set up just for them.

Jennings' said his faith was strengthened as he worked with the refugees. He could see that their faith

in Jesus was strong, despite a lack of material possessions.

"Hearing the Pakistani refugees tell stories of the persecution they faced,

guards and his fellow inmates. God used this man's testimony to show me the importance of allowing God to use me as I help others grow into a faith worthy of persecution."



and then seeing how strong their faith remained even in the face of that persecution, encouraged me so much in my own walk," he said. "Many of them were staring death in the face simply because they professed to be saved by the blood of Jesus. I was reminded that the blood of Christ offers the same salvation for me as it does for them."

Although he found it difficult to hear about the hatred and persecution they suffered, Jennings said God used it to teach him valuable lessons.

"I've grown up reading about Paul in the Bible," he said. "This summer, I met a modern day 'Paul,' a man in an immigrant prison who prayed for and shared the gospel with the prison

Jennings hopes to one day serve and work with the people of northern Africa.

"My experience in Thailand taught me many things that I will be able to apply in the future," he said. "My heart is encouraged, because I know that although I may face persecution, God is faithful to His followers."

Find  
your Place

# 100 YEARS

1915 2015

## SHAWNEE HALL



Rising out of the prairie land amidst farmland fences, a water pump and baskets by the front steps, this building was the first of what was to become Oklahoma Baptist University.

**ARCHITECT:** Charles H. Dudhoelter & Company

**CONTRACTOR:** C.E. Higgins

**SQUARE FOOTAGE:** 44,853 square feet



### 1911

Pictured above, a large crowd gathers to witness the laying of the cornerstone of the first building of the great Baptist University of Oklahoma. The cornerstone was lowered into its place Feb. 22, 1911.

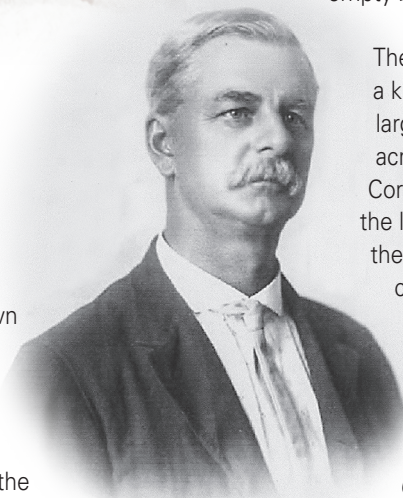
Progress on the building was interrupted due to depressed business conditions. Classes continued to be held downtown Shawnee in the First Baptist Church, the Convention Hall and the new high school.

### 1912

The Board of Trustees deemed it wise to temporarily close the school until they completed their own building.

### 1913

To avoid vandalism and secure insurance on the building, it had to be occupied. In the fall of 1913, W.P. Blake and his family left North Harrison Street in Shawnee and became residents of that empty building.



The northwest corner was used as a kitchen and dining room, and a large room on the southwest corner across the hallway as a storeroom. Corresponding rooms upstairs were the living room and bedrooms. It was their home until early 1914 when construction resumed.

#### **W.P. Blake**

*Construction Supervisor and Chairman of the OBU Board of Trustees from 1909-17.*



The Report of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist University of Oklahoma to the Baptist General Convention of the State of Oklahoma in session at Shawnee, Nov. 17-20, 1914, reads as follows:

*We, your Board of Trustees, rejoice that under the Providence of God our efforts to establish a great Christian educational institution in Oklahoma have been recorded by the gift of a One Hundred Thousand Dollar Administration Building...*

# 1915

## *Doors opened*

Doors of the University were opened for matriculation and classification on Monday, Sept. 11, 1915. The kitchen equipment was not yet installed causing the women's matron, Mrs. Cortez Stubblefield, to cook meals on a camp fire for the first two weeks of the semester.

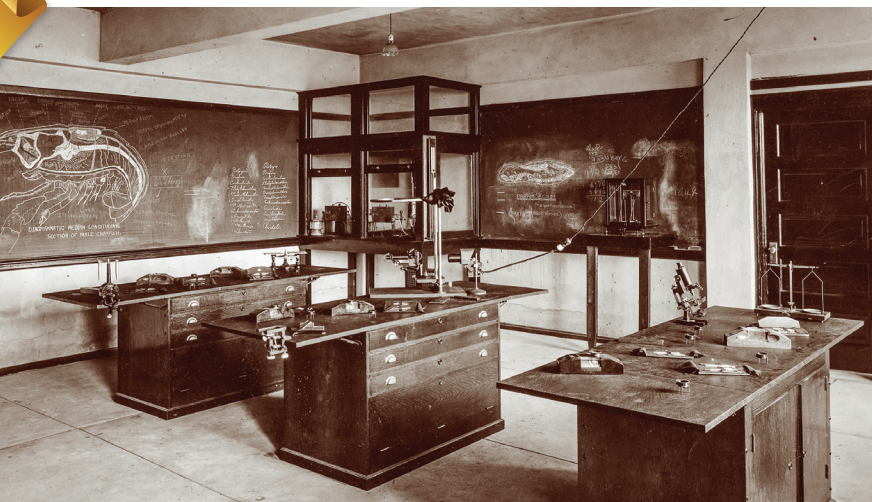
During the first years, the top floor was used for a women's dormitory with a portion of the floor reserved for library holdings. The second floor housed classrooms, administrative offices, and a combination gymnasium/auditorium supplied space for assembly and athletic activities. The ground floor included a kitchen and dining area, recreational space and laboratory classes.



**SHAWNEE HALL LIBRARY, 1915.** 6,000 well-selected volumes; standardized and accepted by the State Board of Education. *(original caption)*

## 1916

Women moved from Shawnee Hall into Montgomery Hall. Science laboratories were completed.



**1916 BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.** Accepted by State Board of Education as standard. Note drawings on board and fine quality of instruments, high grade balances, etc. (original caption)



## 1917

**First graduation** ceremony held on OBU's campus was in Shawnee Hall's auditorium.

## 1918

The campus newspaper, **The Bison**, was established.



*"Approximately 2,000 men were trained during the 16 months they were here."*

## 1919

**Rhett Mae Dorland** came to OBU to teach public speaking and dramatic arts.



The completion of a men's dormitory and gymnasium allowed the Shawnee Hall auditorium to be reserved for concerts, dramatic productions and chapel.

## 1920

The yearbook, the **Yahnseh** (Cherokee term for bison), was established.



## 1923

In 1923, a printing press was purchased. OBU Press was housed in the basement and became a major employer of OBU students. By 1926, the OBU Press had obtained a linotype and a more modern press, and was printing all issues of the *Bison*, as well as four other papers and the OBU catalogs.

## 1940-41

The clock was added to the south gate.



## 1941

The library was moved from Shawnee Hall and books were moved to temporary quarters in Montgomery Hall until the new library opened in 1945.

**WORLD WAR II.** OBU served as an Army aviation training site from 1943-44. Part of the former library space in Shawnee Hall was converted into lecture rooms for the Army training unit. Cadets lived in WMU Dormitory, attended classes in Shawnee Hall, drilled on the oval, and exercised on the athletic field.



—OBU President John W. Raley

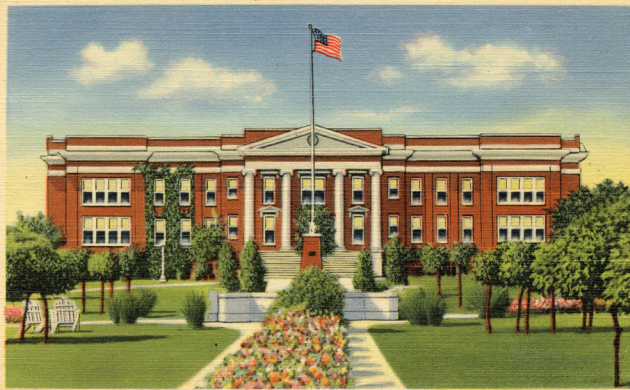
## OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY SHAWNEE

A Four-Year Co-Educational University: College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, School of Education, School of Aviation. Degrees granted: A. B., B. S., B. S. in Education, B. S. in Business Education, B. S. in Home Economics, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music Education; and all required work for Pre-Professional Courses in Medicine, Law, Engineering, etc.

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PLACE  
ONE CENT  
STAMP  
HERE

POST CARD



c. 1945  
POSTCARD

## 1949

The Yahnseh was dedicated to Rhett Mae Dorland with these comments:

*Leadership ability, unceasing effort, and dramatic talent are traits which merit recognition – especially when all three are found in the same person. Add to these a love for students, a fine sense of humor and great dependability, and you will see in part the many reasons why we take pleasure in dedicating this 1949 Yahnseh to Mrs. Rhett Mae Dorland. Her contribution to the school in building a worthwhile speech department and in directing many enjoyable productions each year exemplify her life as a teacher and a friend.*

Rhett Mae Dorland retired in 1956 and the theatre was named for her.



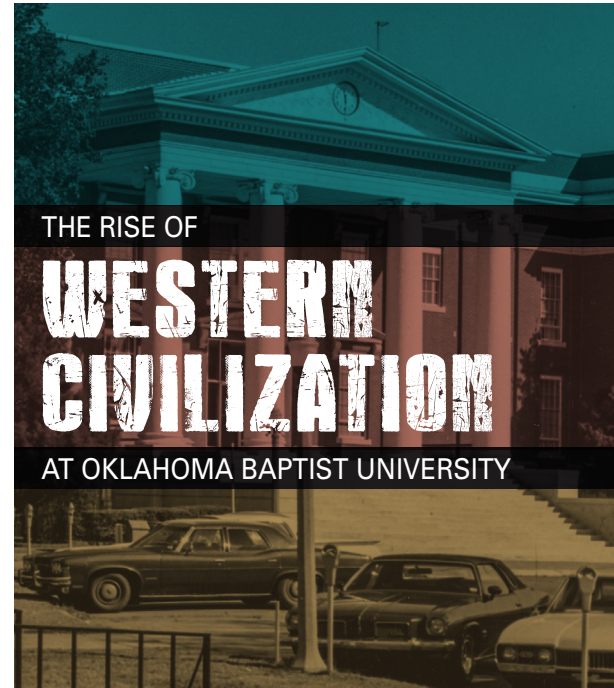
PHOTO BY OBU PHOTOGRAPHER JACK PUTNAM

## 1964

On Jan. 14, 1964, a former OBU student rented an airplane and intentionally flew it into the south side of Shawnee Hall. The area that sustained damage was a classroom, where only two hours prior, students were assembled to take a test. A French class of about 40 students was in a room just 30 feet from the impact. The pilot was killed, but miraculously no students or staff members were injured.

## 1970

Changes to the curriculum called for classrooms that could be used for lecture-discussion approach. Two third-floor classrooms were equipped with horseshoe-shaped tiered seating for 60 students to accommodate the western civ classes taken by OBU sophomores.



Dr. William "Bill" Mitchell co-taught the first class of western civ in the fall semester of 1970.

*(Story page 10)*

## 1971

Extensive remodeling began to provide space for business classes and for *The Bison* and *Yahnseh* staff.

## 1972

The new \$110,000 Business-Communications Center was dedicated April 15, 1972.

Contributors in the ceremony included:

**Dr. William E. Neptune**

*Dean of College of Liberal Arts*

**Robert L. Cargill**

*Director of Development*

**Lloyd G. Minter**

*Vice President of Phillips Petroleum Co.*

**Jenkin Lloyd Jones**

*Featured speaker and editor/publisher for the Tulsa Tribune*

**William G. Tanner**

*OBU president*

## THE BISON

JANUARY 19, 1972

As the sawdust settled and the paint dried, the OBU journalism department recently moved into their new facilities in the basement of Shawnee Hall.

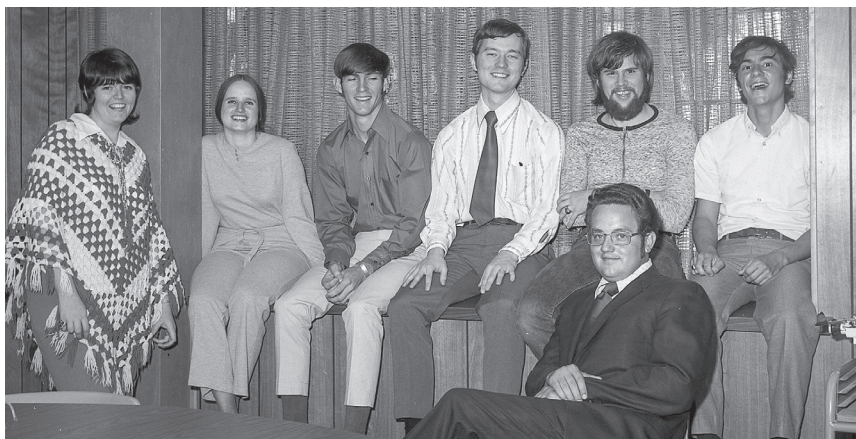
The **business department** occupied new facilities on the first and second floors, which included offices, business labs and The Fred Watts seminar room.

**Fred Watts** was department head of history/economics from 1925-49. Watts Hall, a building used by the business department, was named in his memory from 1949 until 1971, when it was destroyed. The seminar room was dedicated in his memory.



Above, Jim Shull teaches accounting and uses Marchant calculators (the larger machine) and ten-key calculators. Left, a typing lab features new state-of-the-art typewriters.

The **communications facilities**, located on the first floor, included a journalism-student publications laboratory, photography studio and film rooms, and offices for public relations, journalism, and photography services.



Seated in the north window of Shawnee Hall is the 1972 Bison newspaper staff. L-R: Twila Douthit, Elizabeth McMains, Eddie Ashcraft, Craig Carter, Randy Kraft, and Humberto Mora. John W. Parrish, advisor, is seated at the new horseshoe-shaped desk utilized for journalism labs and classwork.

## 1973

Sections of the original bricks did not match due to the interrupted construction. After refurbishing the mortar, the bricks were stained to attain even coloration.

## 1976

Mabee Learning Center was completed and the audiovisual department was vacated and moved.

## SHAWNEE NEWS STAR

SEPTEMBER 27, 1977

Soft, sturdy new seats await the first audience, a rebuilt light booth is ready for the flip of the switch and fresh paint brightens the walls in recently renovated Dorland Theatre at Oklahoma Baptist University.

First production  
in the renovated theatre  
**THE PRODIGAL**



Agamemnon was played by Dr. James E. Hurley, OBU biology professor.

## c.1990

Classroom space on the first floor was converted into a counseling laboratory which included a mock therapy room, a large one-way mirror to observe the mock therapy room, a classroom capable of seating 32 students, and a sound system between the therapy room and classroom.

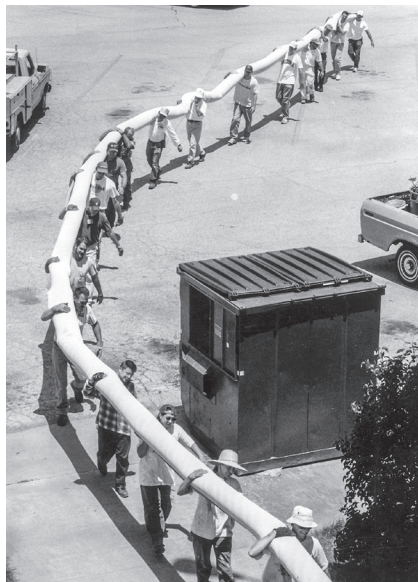


PHOTO BY OBU PHOTOGRAPHER BILL POPE

1978 – Workmen carry a 178-foot roll of carpet for the first floor hallway.

## 2002

The Fred Watts seminar room was converted to a call center for admissions.

The public relations offices moved to the Agee Residence Center, and the vacated space was used to expand the theatre department. The theatre was again renovated and renamed the Cleo L. Craig-Rhett Mae Dorland Theatre.

**Cleo L. Craig** was an astute business man who purchased interest in Pepsi Bottling Co., and the banking industry. The Cleo Craig Foundation made a significant contribution to assist with the renovation of the theatre.



October 15, 2002 – Dedication of the Craig-Dorland Theatre. Flanked by two theatre students are: (L-R) Joyce Aldridge, Johnny Cullison, Joseph R. Weaver, OBU President Mark Brister, Helen and C.L. Craig, Paul Hammond, Roger Hadley and Laura Byland.

## 2003

First floor classroom space was repurposed for university counseling.

## 2014

The admissions call center space was remodeled and became a suite for the Marriage and Family Therapy Program.

*Shawnee Hall represents a rich history and tradition of academic excellence at OBU. We are honored to be among those who celebrate her centennial anniversary.*

*– OBU President David W. Whitlock*

# 2015

## *A Century of Open Doors*

The exterior of Shawnee Hall has undergone extensive cleaning and restoration this summer. The dropped ceiling on the porch has been replaced with decorative metal ceiling tiles that are similar to its original construction, revealing some of the original gables that were later covered by construction through the years. The steps to the main entry have been replaced and new rails added. Two classrooms have been completely remodeled and updated with state-of-the-art technology.

Over a century ago, Shawnee Hall opened its doors to the pioneers of this great University. Since then, she has welcomed a host of educators, thousands of students, our country's military and the local community into her hallways, classrooms, offices and theatre.

Shawnee Hall remains the center of campus. It serves as a primary classroom building, and houses the division of teacher education, the psychology department, Craig-Dorland Theatre, photography and news and information laboratories.

Special thanks to J. Thomas Terry, vice president emeritus for business affairs, and John W. Parrish, executive vice president emeritus, for sharing their writings and expertise, and to Rachel Hawkins, special collections librarian, for providing archived materials.

# THE RISE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

## AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



**IT WAS THE 1960s.** Times were changing. Social norms were shifting. Popular culture was adrift in questions of ‘why’ and ‘how.’ The Vietnam War was raging, the civil rights movement was underway and college students throughout the nation were realizing a deep longing to connect fields of learning to one another. Science, math, history, literature, music, faith ... how did it all connect? Or did it connect at all?

From this swirling of questions and curiosity came a new idea. An idea to remake the curriculum at OBU to ensure a diverse and broad knowledge base, allowing students to connect the dots between fields of knowledge, forever shaping their worldview. An idea that would lead to the singularly definable academic experience for all Bison ... western civ.

### The Unified Studies Curriculum of 1970

Dr. William (Bill) Mitchell, professor emeritus of English (1958-1997), sat down with OBU Magazine to discuss the origins of the curriculum change at OBU and the commensurate birth of the western civilization courses. His comments are drawn both from that interview, as well as a 2003 video produced by the University on the development of the unified studies curriculum of 1970.

“The world was changing and education was changing,” Mitchell said. “We didn’t want to abandon what we had done so well, but I think there was a little bit of fear in the hearts of many people that unless we came around to the times a little bit, we might very well be left as a dinosaur.”

During the spring of 1966, the University’s academic committee approved an initiative to study the curriculum. In the fall of 1966, under the direction of new OBU President Dr. Grady C. Cothen, the faculty began to work on the development of a new unified studies program.

“Dr. Cothen’s continued focus on the purpose of the University required us to look at the entire product of the student that was coming out of the University,” Mitchell said. “What should they be able to do? What should they know? What kind of person are we trying to develop through this process?”

Students were the driving force behind the entire process of the curriculum revision.

“The genesis of the unified studies idea was with the students,” Mitchell said. “Students were alert and very interested in what was happening [in the world]. They were trying to make sense of it all. The problem was trying to reconcile what they had come to believe about their faith and what they were learning.”

Susan (Baker) Wooten, ’74, vice provost and professor of art at Anderson University in South Carolina, was a freshman during the first year of the new curriculum’s implementation.

“We had no concept of how forward-thinking the OBU faculty had been nor how much work had been expended to develop the unified studies general education program,” she said. “We were the recipients of that great effort, and it was an intellectual gift. It was very progressive for the



Dr. Bill Mitchell leads discussion with his civ class in the early 1970s.

time, and the habits of mind it cultivated in me have persisted to this day.”

### The Birth of “Civ”

Coinciding with the movement toward the unified studies curriculum was another transition already in progress to integrate history and literature courses into what would become known as western civ.

Mitchell and Dr. Jim Farthing taught western civilization pilot courses in the fall of 1969 and spring of 1970 in Shawnee Hall Room 301 with a class of 30 students.

“It was a very exciting and a very strenuous experience,” Mitchell said. “We did what seemed to be the next thing to do, whether it was history or literature, and of course we had to reach into economics, philosophy and religion to explain what was happening in the literature. So it began to be more than a history and literature course, it was sort of a history of thought and a history of practice.”

Shawnee Hall was being remodeled at the time, so they took that opportunity to create U-shaped classrooms to encourage discussion.

Following the pilot course, and as the new curriculum was preparing to launch in full, Mitchell and Farthing shared their experience with the other faculty members. They gathered the English and history faculty and went through the year’s work, duplicating their notes for the other faculty members.

### The Legacy of Civ

Dr. Debbie Bosch, dean of the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics, was a student in the first unified studies western civilization classes during the 1970-71 academic year.

“Going into the experience, I would have told you that I hated history, but I soon realized that what I hated was the way I had been taught history up to that point,” she said. “Having the experience of reading the literature of the period of history we were studying, presented by a

team of professors challenging us with ‘the BIG questions of life,’ was THE watershed experience of my college experience. It changed my life. It changed the way I thought, the way I wrote and the way I expressed myself. It changed my whole worldview.”

Wooten noted how western civ was a unifying force on campus for the entire sophomore class as all of them were reading and discussing the same text.

“We became acquainted with many of the best minds in the history of western civilization, and we were introduced to a dialogue where faculty from different disciplines and perspectives guided the conversation,” Wooten said. “Even the design of the U-shaped tiered classrooms in Shawnee Hall supported the spirit of discourse in the classes. Sixty people could be fully engaged and see one another’s faces as the discussion developed.”

### Lasting Effects

Mitchell credits the western civ course and the new curriculum with making a long-term impact on campus.

“Many times I would get a call at home that students were talking through something and wanted me to talk with them,” he said. “That didn’t happen before. I certainly grew by leaps and bounds from the time I started teaching civ.”

Wooten credits her civ experience with changing her worldview entirely.

“The foundation created by exploring history and ideas, religion and culture, the appreciation of art and science, the capacity to question and understand, this combination of educational experiences significantly framed how I viewed myself and world events over the following decades,” she said.

For Mitchell, the integration of faith with all areas of knowledge has never been so apparent as it is in the thousands of students who enter a U-shaped classroom in Shawnee Hall as sophomores, but leave as world-changers.

To read more about the rise of western civ, visit [okbu.edu/magazine](http://okbu.edu/magazine).





PHOTO BY OBU STUDENT LAUREN LEDBETTER

# European Adventure

Bison Journey to Alps to Serve Youth

Pictured above at the foot of the Alps in Grindelwald, Switzerland: (standing L-R) Scott Pfister, Rhonda Jones, Zach Romoser, Dr. Joy Turner, Trey 'Jack' Tully, Michaela Smith, Kirsty Green, Roger Turner and Nikki Kennemer; (seated) Parker Hunt, Bekki Briggs, Kate Dodgen, Lauren Ledbetter and Hannah Wilson.

As many of their friends and family members were buying fireworks and grilling hot dogs to celebrate the Fourth of July back home, 11 OBU students and three mentors were celebrating our national holiday in Europe, preparing to share the gospel in Grindelwald, Switzerland, and Frankfurt, Germany.

Although some members of the trip knew they wanted to use their summers for GO Trips, that wasn't necessarily true for Lauren Ledbetter, a junior from Ardmore, Oklahoma.

"Leading up to summer, I wasn't sure what I was going to do. I prayed for something that didn't have so much to do with me and my wants. I wanted to go somewhere that needed workers who love the Lord," she said.

During their time in Switzerland, the team worked at Euroventure, an international youth camp.

"Our team acted primarily as small group leaders," Ledbetter said. "We taught Bible studies, led small group

discussions and invested in the students as much as possible.”

Junior biblical studies major Nikki Kennemer from Oklahoma City said they stayed busy at the camp.

“Most of us had a partner from Hannibal-Legrange University, and some had European sponsors in their group. With them as our partners, we directed the small group time, were in charge of energizing our kids, helped with kitchen duty when it was our turn and helped the kids come up with a team chant and dance. We were also there as mentors for the campers, and also got to be ‘cabin moms and dads’ in each of our rooms. We wore a lot of hats, but we were really able to minister to the kids,” she said.

Some members of the group, including Bekki Briggs, a sophomore international business major from Blackwell, Oklahoma, had never experienced Europe before.

“It was very exciting for me to see everything and meet the people. Switzerland looked like the Alps in the ‘Sound of Music.’ We also found a patch of snow in July,” she said.

Even though the team was far away from home, Briggs said they were comforted by Germany’s somewhat familiar terrain.

“Germany reminded me of Oklahoma a bit because there was a lot of farmland growing wheat and corn, but there were also mountains and huge trees that we don’t have here,” she said. “Both places were absolutely stunning and breathtaking.”

“We were blessed with the opportunity to get to know and invest in students from all over the world,” Ledbetter said. “We saw students come to know the Lord, make life-changing decisions for their faith, and saw so many growing closer to God and learning how to serve and love Him more. The best part is that we are now able to pray specifically for the churches and students we encountered and now call friends.”

Kennemer said it is important for OBU students and employees to participate in GO Trips.



PHOTO BY OBU STUDENT NIKKI KENNER

As part of a music-free worship night in Oberursel, Germany, worshipers wrote testimonies of God’s faithfulness on paper and attached them to rocks creating monuments to the Lord, a similar to practices in ancient Israel.

“Not everyone is meant to leave the country or even the state to reach people,” Kennemer said. “Some people are just meant to go next door. Jesus commands us to ‘make disciples’ as we are going, so if that means going around the world or across the street, it’s still necessary. I definitely think trips change your life. This is my second GO Trip, and I know both have forever changed me.”

Each year, dozens of students, faculty and staff take Global Outreach (GO) Trips which affirm OBU’s mission to transform lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world and live worthy of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. OBU’s Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach mobilizes, trains and oversees participants for GO Trips.

**For more information about Global Outreach, visit [okbu.edu/global-outreach](http://okbu.edu/global-outreach).**

# vision FOR A new century

## Campaign Update



Dr. Will Smallwood  
Vice President for  
University Advancement

Oklahoma Baptist University has a rich and storied 105-year history. Even though the early days were filled with setbacks and difficulties, classes began in Shawnee Hall in September 1915 as a result of two influences – the providence of God and the dedication, prayers and financial sacrifice of the citizens of Shawnee. Today, the city of Shawnee continues to be a partner with OBU. To honor this relationship, OBU celebrated the centennial anniversary of its oldest campus building – Shawnee Hall – at the fall meeting of the Board of Trustees in early October.

In December 2014, OBU reached the \$42 million financial goal of the Vision for a New Century Capital Campaign. Even so, three major projects – Ford Music Hall update, Wood Science Building rebuild and construction of a Student Services Center – were not fully funded during the first phase of the campaign. As a result, the Board of

Trustees voted to extend the financial goal by \$18 million and the timeline by two years. Because of OBU's outstanding alumni and friends, I am confident we will meet and exceed these second phase goals.

These facilities will enable OBU to carry on the mission and vision of Christian liberal arts education established fully in 1910. Outstanding math, science and music programs will continue to demonstrate excellence with your investment in these facilities. Buildings are exciting recruitment and education tools that propel OBU forward by transforming future generations of students on Bison Hill.

In recent weeks, many OBU alumni and friends have shared with me their amazement at the changing landscape of the OBU campus. Since 1910, OBU has been a thriving, vibrant, and most assuredly, a changing campus. In the coming years and

## Save the Date

**Dedication of  
Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall**

*New Home to the OBU College of Nursing*

**February 5, 2016**

Watch **okbu.edu** for details.



days, OBU will continue to change. Even so, one thing remains constant: OBU transforms lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.

If you have not been back to campus in the last few years, let me encourage you to come see us at the Robert and Sara Lou Cargill Alumni and Advancement Center. We would love to personally welcome you back to campus and to show you all God has been doing on Bison Hill.

## Ford Music Hall

Ford Music Hall has been an icon on the campus since its construction in 1951, and a planned \$1.4 million update will allow our students to benefit from this storied building for many more generations. Serving as the primary practice facility for students in the division of music and home to the OBU preparatory department, countless numbers of students have practiced their craft and prepared for their vocations in this building. After years of continuous use, the three-story Ford Music Hall needs a fresh look and updates for today's modern music student. Renovations include a new heating and cooling system to alleviate humidity issues that impact the tuning and sound of instruments, significant interior updates and a new roof. To address student safety, OBU will install a card-access entry system to the building.

## Wood Science Building

To date, OBU has raised a little more than \$300,000 toward the \$6.5 million cost of the W.P. Wood Science Building rebuild project. Construction is not expected to begin until all monies have been raised for the project.

The University plans to expand the building by another 15,000 square feet to the south of the current structure and make significant updates to the current facility.

This rebuild adds critically needed laboratories for organic and physical chemistry and biology along with the opportunity to reconfigure and enhance existing classrooms and faculty offices.



An artist rendering depicts the new Student Services Center which will be located just north of Raley Chapel offering a new grand entrance to campus.

## Student Services Center

A major element in the campus master plan is the new Student Services Center, which combines key student services in one modern and convenient location. Planned for the space just north of Raley Chapel, this structure in the heart of campus also will accommodate a wide range of administrative areas. Linking one enduring campus landmark with a new major resource for Bison Hill, this 28,000-square-foot facility will serve as the grand entrance to campus and an inviting welcome center for guests, prospective students and their families. The first floor will house the office of admissions, student financial services, registrar, academic center and bursar. Executive offices will be located on the second floor.

Not only will this stately, high-use structure serve the needs of the campus community, it will also accomplish another goal of the campus master plan: to convert Thurmond Hall into the home of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

## OBU Celebrates Second Largest Freshman Class

OBU welcomed 556 new freshmen to campus this fall, the second largest freshman class in school history, second only to the record-setting freshman class of 580 two years ago. Coupled with 81 transfer students, the campus is teeming with new students.

"Few things are more exciting than the beginning of the fall semester, and it is a blessing to welcome the second largest freshman class in

OBU history," OBU President David W. Whitlock said. "We are excited to see how these students will be transformed, and in turn, how they will impact the world as alumni."

Bruce A. Perkins, associate vice president for enrollment management, is pleased with the new class of students.

"God has blessed us with another strong freshman class this year. Our admissions counselors worked with



New students gather on the south steps of Raley Chapel at the end of "The Walk," as the crowd gathers to officially welcome them into the OBU family. After a silent beginning, the crowd erupts into cheers for the new Bison and ultimately joins them in "Ka-rip."

literally thousands of students throughout the year, telling the OBU story, answering questions, and connecting students with members of the OBU family," Perkins said.

"These new freshmen comprise not only the second largest freshman class in University history, but also the most ethnically diverse class to ever enter our classrooms."

## Consecutive National Rankings Continue



### Princeton Review Names OBU 'Best in the West'

For the 11th consecutive year, The Princeton Review named OBU one of the best colleges and universities in the western United States. OBU was one of 126 institutions listed in the "Best in the West" section on the educational research firm's website feature, "2016 Best Colleges: Region by Region."

Colleges selected each year must meet criteria based on academic assessments and student opinions. Princeton Review makes the academic assessments based on data collected through surveys of administrators, staff and counselor advisors. Second, 136,000 students at 380 colleges and universities are independently surveyed through a secure online survey about their school's academics,

administration, student body and themselves. Comments from surveyed students are quoted in the school profiles on The Princeton Review website.

An OBU Spanish major said, "OBU is a Christian university that focuses on the liberal arts so that students are exposed to many different areas of study in order to succeed in a diverse world."

OBU students described their professors as "passionate" and "inspiring," and one student said, "Professors are engaging, encouraging and happy to help students."

OBU is one of seven Oklahoma schools to make the list. The "Best in the West" colleges are located in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon,

Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

### OBU Earns Top Rankings by U.S. News

For the 22nd consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report named OBU as Oklahoma's highest ranked college on the "Best Regional Colleges of the West" list for 2016. OBU is also ranked in the top ten "Great Schools, Great Prices" regional colleges list and is the only Oklahoma college listed on the "A-Plus Schools for B Students" list for regional colleges.

The exclusive rankings, which include more than 1,400 schools, are published in the U.S. News publication of the "Best Colleges 2016."

OBU is ranked fourth on the list of "Best Regional Colleges of the West," retaining its same ranking as 2015. This

is the 24th consecutive year OBU has been ranked in the top 10. The rankings system rests on two pillars. It relies on quantitative measures which education experts have proposed as reliable indicators of academic quality, and on the magazine's nonpartisan view of "what matters in education."

OBU ranked ninth on the "Regional Colleges of the West" list for the "Great Schools, Great Prices" rankings, underscoring the affordability and value of an education at OBU. The University moved up one spot from last year's ranking of 10th. The calculations consider a school's academic quality,

based on its U.S. News "Best Colleges" ranking, and the 2014-15 net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid.

OBU is one of only two institutions to qualify on the Regional Colleges of the West list for "A-Plus Schools for B Students." These rankings are based on two variables, the school's performance in the "Best Colleges" rankings and the average freshman retention rate. The list includes exceptional colleges and universities which provide resources for academically average students to achieve success.

## OBU MBA Ranks Third as Best Value

OBU's College of Graduate and Professional Studies recently ranked third nationally on a list of "50 Best Value Christian MBA Programs 2015." In an article published on [www.ChristianUniversitiesOnline.org](http://www.ChristianUniversitiesOnline.org), an independent resource informing prospective students and their families about Christian education, editor Michael Templeton named OBU alongside other prominent Christian universities.

The ranking was developed by first focusing on schools with residential MBA programs. Several criteria were then

used to rank the schools, including the number of MBA concentrations offered, tuition costs and whether or not the program has a special business school accreditation.

OBU's MBA program features four areas of specialization, in addition to a general MBA. Students may complete tracks in International Business, Leadership, Project Management or Energy Management. OBU's MBA tuition costs fall into the low range for degrees of this type, and 100 percent of OBU's MBA graduates are employed at graduation, experiencing an overall 20 to 30 percent increase in salary after graduating.

# College of Nursing Accredited Through 2025

OBU's College of Nursing received accreditation for both its bachelor's and master's degree programs through 2025 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The CCNE Board of Commissioners approved the accreditation based on four standards: mission and governance, institutional commitment and resources, curriculum and teaching-learning practices, and assessment and achievement of program outcomes. Numerous criteria are used within each standard to verify institutions are in compliance and also to assess when institutions have areas needing improvement.

The OBU nursing program was the first baccalaureate nursing program in Oklahoma and the first

baccalaureate program in Oklahoma accredited by the National League of Nursing. It has maintained continuous accreditation throughout its

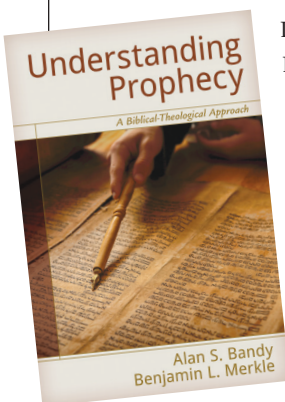
history. Founded in 1952, the OBU College of Nursing has graduated more than 1,000 nurses with nursing degrees. OBU also offers a Master of

Science in Nursing, with specializations in Nursing Education or Global Nursing, as well as an RN-to-MSN path.



The College of Nursing will move into the newly constructed Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall in time for the spring 2016 semester. The freestanding, cutting-edge education facility is located immediately north of OBU's Shawnee Hall, on the southwest corner of MacArthur Street and Kickapoo Avenue.

## Dr. Bandy Co-Authors Book with SEBTS Professor



Dr. Alan Bandy, Rowena R. Strickland associate professor of New Testament, co-authored the book,

“Understanding Prophecy: A Biblical-Theological Approach.”

Bandy was inspired to write

the book while having a conversation over lunch with co-author, Dr. Benjamin Merkle, professor of New Testament and Greek at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

“We were talking about how there is an abundance of books on prophecy, but most of them take scripture out of context,” he said.

Both professors have written essays on New Testament prophecy and decided to

develop a book to address some issues more extensively.

“We wanted to write a book about the nature and interpretation of biblical prophecy that is accurate, contextual and Christocentric, yet theologically robust,” he said.

Bandy hopes the book will help readers learn to read prophecy in its proper place within the story of the Bible.

“Most books about prophecy tend to focus on reading prophecy in light of current

events,” he said. “Many of them, in my opinion, take scriptures out of context to apply them as proof-texts to prove a point or eschatological system. We believe that prophecy should be read in light of the entire message of the Bible. Prophecy, when read with historical, literary and theological sensitivity, will point to Jesus, the Messiah, in terms of his first advent in humility and to his glorious return in power and authority over all creation.”

## Whitlock Inspires OBU Community at Convocation

OBU President David W. Whitlock inspired a gathering of students, faculty, administration and staff during OBU’s annual Convocation Wednesday, Aug. 26. The event was held in Raley Chapel’s Potter Auditorium. The annual event kicks off the new academic year by bringing together all members of the OBU faculty and student body. Whitlock’s speech may be read or heard in its entirety at [okbu.edu/president/convocation-2015](http://okbu.edu/president/convocation-2015).



Dr. Matthew Emerson, center, was installed as the Dickinson Chair of Religion. OBU President David W. Whitlock, left, and OBU Provost and Executive Vice President for Campus Life Stan Norman, right, presented Emerson with a certificate in recognition of exemplary scholarship and excellence in teaching.



Dr. Matthew Arbo, right, was installed to the Jewell and Joe Huitt Professorship in Religious Education during OBU Convocation in August. OBU President David W. Whitlock presented Arbo with a medallion representing the professorship.



## Students 'Serve Shawnee'

A group of 425 OBU students took to the streets of Shawnee during Welcome Week to serve the community through numerous projects as part of OBU's annual "Serve Shawnee" event. Locations included Cargo Ranch, Project Safe, Jefferson Elementary School, Shawnee Middle School, Primose Retirement Center, Mission Shawnee, Japanese Peace Garden, the Shawnee Depot and more.

Serve Shawnee began in 2001

to show OBU students they can make an important difference in their community. Each new class of students, including both freshman and transfer students, goes out for three hours to different locations around Shawnee. They are led by upperclassmen and staff members, as they participate in a variety of projects including picking up trash, painting, cleaning, pulling weeds at local care facilities and schools, and much more.

Alissa Meadows, an OBU nursing major from Edmond, Oklahoma, works on landscaping at the Centennial Clock Tower, as other students work in the background during Serve Shawnee.

## New Faces On Bison Hill

### FACULTY

#### Rebecca Ballinger

Assistant Professor of Voice

#### Dr. Hyunju Ban

Associate Professor of Mathematics

#### Dr. Jonathan Callis

Assistant Professor of English

#### Dr. Tom Darling

Associate Professor of Kinesiology

#### Dr. Mary Dickey

Asst. Professor of Nursing, Community Health Nursing

#### Dr. Matthew Emerson

Asst. Professor of Religion/Dickinson Chair of Religion

#### Dr. Nichole Jackson

Asst. Professor of Nursing, Simulation Director

#### Elizabeth Justice

Asst. Professor of Special Education

#### Dr. Heath Thomas

Dean of the Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry and Assoc. Vice President for Church Relations

#### Skyler Thomas

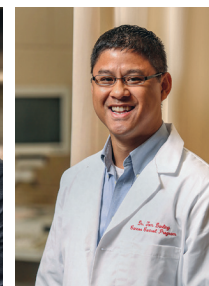
Instructor of Video / Motion Graphics and Animation

### STAFF Will Brantley

Director of Admissions

#### Andrew "Spence" Spencer

Director of Assessment and Institutional Research



# HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS



## Worship in Stubblefield Chapel

The second annual Homecoming Worship service will be offered twice during the weekend, once on Friday afternoon, and once on Saturday morning. The Gaither style time of praise will be led by Walter Grady, '71, and will feature a number of alumni. Make plans to join us!

## Poet Laureate Reading

OBU's own Crouch-Mathis Professor of Literature, Dr. Ben Myers, is the 2015-16 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate. Myers is an award-winning and widely published author and scholar. After taking a campus tour, stop by the Cargill Center to listen to him read his work.

## Fine Arts Gala

This year's Gala will spotlight Dennis Jernigan, '81, and Arnold Rawls, '82, accompanied by OBU's Bison Glee Club, Bisonettes, University Chorale and OBU

instrumentalists. A special tribute will be made to the late OBU Professor Max Brattin in recognition of the fine arts endowment established through his estate.



## Class Reunions

Reunite, reminisce and share memories with your former classmates. This year we are celebrating the 50-Year Club and the classes of '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05 and '10. Didn't graduate with

one of these classes, but have friends who did? Don't miss the opportunity to reconnect. All alumni are invited to attend.

## Academic Reunions

Take time to reunite with former professors and classmates from your academic college. Students and current faculty will be present to share the latest news from their programs. Check online or in the Homecoming program for more details including locations.

## Bison Sporting Events

Get ready to "Go with Ka-Rip" as the Bison take on Henderson State University in this year's Homecoming football game. During halftime, Harvest Court winners will be announced and members of the Men's 1990 Championship Track Team will be recognized. You can also take part in the action by signing up for the Bison Stampede or the Golf Tournament.

Visit [okbu.edu/events](http://okbu.edu/events) to register for Homecoming 2015 today!

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

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

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



## Bison Stampede

Join us Nov. 7, 2015, for the fourth annual Bison Stampede. The 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk, 5K, and 10K races start at 7 a.m. on the OBU campus. Proceeds from this year's race will benefit students who participate in Global Outreach trips. These trips provide opportunities for students to reach out to people locally, nationally and internationally. Join us and help our students minister to the nations.

Our only question is,  
"Where are you **GO**ing?"

**Register TODAY!**

[okbu.edu/wellness/bison-stampede](http://okbu.edu/wellness/bison-stampede)

## Dine In Shawnee

Visit your favorite Shawnee establishments and enjoy alumni discounts and specials. Participating restaurants will be listed in the Homecoming program.

## Arts on The Hill

Don't miss this! Enjoy an evening of alumni artists and their work. The night will feature musical acts, Judith and The Atom Ray Trio; a reading by Dr. Brent Newsom, '03; culinary delights courtesy of Cuppies & Joe; and a wide array of visual art pieces from alumni through the years.

## Guest Registration

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

For a full schedule of  
events and  
more details, visit  
[okbu.edu/alumni](http://okbu.edu/alumni).

# Profile in Excellence Recipients

## Kelly (Kennedy) King, '84

*Women's Missions and Ministries Specialist*  
Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma | Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## Pat (Baker) Prescott, '70

*Retired Middle School Principal*  
Arlington Middle School | Shawnee, Oklahoma

## Kris Steele, '97

*Executive Director*  
The Education and Employment Ministry | Shawnee, Oklahoma

## Jim Tye, '62

*Retired Missionary*  
International Mission Board | Burneyville, Oklahoma

## Shirley (Bynum) Tye, '87

*Retired Missionary*  
International Mission Board | Burneyville, Oklahoma

## Joe Wilkins, '87

*Investment Relations Officer*  
United Parcel Service | Atlanta, Georgia

# Homecoming Theatre Production



**Nov. 5 & 7 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Nov. 8 @ 2:30 p.m.**

CRAIG-DORLAND THEATRE

Directed by **Jeffrey Wells**

Musical Direction by **Peter Purin**

The Music Man is funny, warm, romantic and touching family entertainment at its best. Meredith Willson's six-time Tony Award winning musical comedy has amused audiences since 1957. The family-friendly story is for all generations.

## ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

Oct. 29 and 30 @ 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 @ 2:30 p.m.

## SPRING 2016 OBU THEATRE PRODUCTIONS



## OEDIPUS THE KING

*by Sophocles*  
MARCH 4, 5 & 6

*An adaptation of  
Jane Austen's*

## EMMA

APRIL 21, 22, 23 & 24



## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

# Ronda Mikles '75

## Other Plans



As an OBU student, witty and warm Ronda Mikles sat on the east side of Raley Chapel near the back, listening to a guest speaker.

“I remember thinking, ‘You know what? I would consider my life a success if I were ever invited back to speak at chapel.’ It went on my bucket list right then and there,” she said.

Of course, she assumed at the time that if that happened, it would be because of her successful career as a school teacher.

“I always thought I would be an English teacher,” she said. “No doubt. When I was little, I loved lining up chairs in the living room and pretending to have class. In the third grade, I loved reading. I would sit in class and listen to the sound of pages turning all around me. It was wonderful!”

God had other plans in mind. Following her OBU graduation in 1975, she spent just one year in the classroom. It was enough. Eager to see what else God might have for her, she began an award-winning, 16-year career in radio sales and marketing. She gained confidence in her ability to not only maintain her Christian witness in the secular workplace but to be a light in the darkness.

During those years, God gave her a vision and desire to launch her own company. She founded Mikles

Marketing and Management, Inc., 15 years ago and quickly became a sought-after corporate trainer for entities such as OG&E, Devon Energy, and

Tinker and Altus Air Force Bases. Today, she marvels at God's wisdom and ability to work all things together according to His plan.

"I've come full circle," she said. "What am I doing? I'm teaching again, exactly what God told me to do in the first place, but not in the way I originally pictured. This is my calling, and it's the Lord's company. If I ever stop giving Him credit, I believe the opportunities are going to stop."

Mikles' company offers training on more than 30 topics such as time management, stress management, team building and the discipline of listening well.

"Some of the people I meet may never go to a church, and this is my opportunity to show them that someone can live an interesting life and be a Christian. I challenge them to become better people, and, of course, being a Christian is a big part of that. I always end my conferences with a challenge to go make a difference."

Mikles gleaned much of the methodology she uses from her personal experience as an OBU student, an experience she almost missed out on.

"When I was in grade school, we would go to the choir festival at OBU. It was a big adventure. The beauty of the campus, the oval. I fell in love with all of it. But when it came time to decide about college, I didn't ever consider OBU."

Once again, God had other plans for her. With high scores on her ACT, she was offered a four-year scholarship to OBU and enrolled.

"I thought I knew the Bible pretty well before I went to college. It turns out I didn't know the Bible as well as I thought. I had Dr. Dan Holcomb for Old and New

Testament. I remember he went through the Bible scripture by scripture. It enhanced my desire to learn God's Word, and not just for that class. Before that, I could memorize scripture and spit it back out. But this class created a deep love in my heart for truly studying God's Word and seeing what it has to do with life.

"Even in secular subjects, the professors at OBU didn't hesitate to throw out their Christian perspective on a topic and then ask us not only what we thought, but why we thought it. They pushed us to apply it, to live it. Now, I do the same thing in my trainings. When I go to these corporations, we always start with the basics, you know, how to communicate, etc. Then I ask a lot

of questions like 'How can you take this material and put it into practice, not just at work, but in your home and social life?'"

Mikles and her husband Jody live in Elk City, Oklahoma, where they are heavily involved with the ministry of First

Baptist Church. Mikles' experience at OBU informs her interaction with the high school girls Sunday School class she teaches.

"These girls, especially the junior girls in my Sunday school class, have literally become my spiritual daughters. I feel compelled to equip them the way I was equipped. I tell them that they are going out into the real world soon and need to know not only what they have learned in church or what their parents have taught them, but also why they believe what they believe, so they can stand strong as adults and influence the world."

In 2001, Mikles' dream as a young OBU student was realized and she was invited back to OBU to speak during a chapel service. Although He didn't bring it about quite the way she had originally imagined, God made her dream a reality.

Mikles gleaned much of the methodology she uses from her personal experience as an OBU student, an experience she almost missed out on.

# Dr. Hildegard Stanley '59

## A Common Thread

Exceptional musical talent, an intense love for people and music, and OBU-influenced training. These three ingredients led to one extraordinary life, a life built around a commitment to serving God by serving others.

Dr. Hildegard Stanley recalls the invaluable OBU education and mentoring she received that formed a common thread woven throughout her life. Growing up in Immanuel Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, she was inspired musically from a very young age by Dr. R. Paul Green, OBU graduate and IBC minister of music.

“From the time I was four or five years old and a member of the rhythm band at my church, Dr. Green was my teacher, my mentor. He was my role model. I am who I am today because of his influence on me,” Stanley said.

Following her junior year of high school, Stanley was awarded a vocal music scholarship to OBU. Having recently surrendered her life to ministry, she considered this scholarship confirmation of her decision to become a Bison, a decision she has never regretted.

At OBU, Stanley learned the importance of encouraging all performers, trained or untrained, to grow as musicians. Her Bison Hill experience shaped her professional life in ways she could never have anticipated.

In 1959, she graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education and moved to Texas to continue her education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. There, her childhood mentor, Dr. Green,

became her professor, teaching her everything she knows about choral conducting.

Stanley graduated from SWBTS with a Master of Church Music in 1962, and over the next four years, she served as full-time minister of music in two North Carolina churches. She then taught middle school music for one year before accepting an invitation to teach at Brewton-Parker College in 1966. The only professor of music in the college at that time, Stanley found herself building the program.

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At OBU, Stanley learned the importance of encouraging all performers, trained or untrained, to grow as musicians.

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“I was a neophyte,” she said. “I patterned my entire program after OBU. Each fall, my students came back to campus a week before the other students. By the time the other freshmen arrived each year, my students had bonded and blended and formed a family, and they were

able to help the other freshmen acclimate. They were welcoming and confident.”

Over the coming years, Stanley grew the music program of Brewton-Parker College into something impressive, adding and assimilating six more full-time professors, conducting the Brewton-Parker College Choir for 35 years, and investing in her students and their families in a personal, one-on-one level.

“It’s all about being there for them and watching them change, watching them realize who they are and what they are meant to be, and then helping them become that,” she said.

Stanley takes great joy in passing the benefits of her unique training on to others.

“OBU gave me a chance to learn good choral literature,” she said. “I got that in my home church from a music minister that was trained at OBU, then at OBU as a student, and then in seminary, again, from an OBU-trained professor. There’s a thread there. Naturally, I passed that along to my students, starting with my very first choir at Brewton-Parker. I gave them literature that was way above their heads. When those students went on to graduate college, they realized that what they were learning in graduate school was what they had already learned as freshmen with me. They told me about it, and that was the first time I realized just how blessed I’d been.”



In addition to performing in prestigious venues in the United States such as the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, Stanley and her students performed multiple concerts in other countries such as Germany, Israel, Jordan and Greece. The highlight of one of their tours to the Middle East was performing Handel’s “Messiah” in Amman, Jordan, for King Hussein.

“If you ask my students what their favorite memories of Brewton-Parker College are, they would probably name one of the many trips we took,” Stanley said, “but I would have to say that my favorite memory was Alumni Weekend in 2011. There they were, 350 of my students singing together, and it stirred my heart to see them like that. During the concert, I asked all

of those who were serving in ministry of some kind to stand. Then I asked those who were still involved in church music to stand. There were so many! Seventy-five percent or more! I just thought to myself that those were the most wonderful adults, and they had continued in their spiritual molding as well as their musical training. To see that illustrated visually was really something to me.”

Stanley has received numerous academic and professional awards over the years, two of the most notable being the honorary doctorate she received

from Brewton-Parker College in 1981 and Brewton-Parker naming their new music facility after her.

Since her “retirement” from Brewton-Parker in 2001, Stanley has continued to serve the school as consultant to the president for external relations, a position she thoroughly enjoys. In her free time, she travels and sings with the Jubalheirs, a women’s choral group sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Convention of which she was a charter member; serves as interim music minister in local churches as the need arises; and conducts various workshops and concerts.

Stanley’s story is far from over, as Brewton-Parker College, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and her devoted alumni are reluctant to renounce their claim on her time and affection. And she wouldn’t have it any other way.

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

## GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE

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

# Michael Ware '06

## The Language of Music

Music minister and composer Michael Ware doesn't remember a time when he didn't love music.

"The love of music has always been with me," he said. "However, I do remember singing in children's choir and developing a real interest in it."

Over the years, his interest grew as he became friends with music minister Jerry Brown at his home church, Quail Springs Baptist Church, in Oklahoma City. It was there that he felt God's call to the ministry and began composing music. The first choral piece that Ware composed was an arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress," which his high school choir performed.

"That was an incredible thing," Ware said. "As a composer, you do a lot on the computer. You shut yourself away to work, and when you listen to what you've composed, it sounds mechanical. But when a choir sings your music, it comes to life and becomes something new. It's very gratifying."

Ware enjoys composing new arrangements for lyrics from old hymns and words of Scripture, so people will think about the words and reflect on them in a new way.

Ware said his decision to attend OBU was an easy one. After determining God's call to the music ministry, he never considered going anywhere else.

"The choice seemed obvious," he said. "Also, my dad was an OBU grad, so I grew up hearing good things about OBU."

Life on Bison Hill did not disappoint, and Ware became an integral part of the OBU community, joining University Chorale, Symphonic Band and OBU Ringers.

"I very much enjoyed my whole OBU experience," he said. "Because it is a Christian university, they not only invested in me academically, but encouraged me

me in my calling. The professors weren't just teachers, but mentors, who got involved in our lives. The quality of the music education was top notch, but the personal and spiritual aspects of my experience there push OBU over the top, in my opinion."

"Because it is a Christian university, they not only invested in me academically, but encouraged me in my calling."

"I remember, in particular, appreciating Dr. Carol Bell, my

piano professor, the encouragement she gave me and the musicianship she taught me. Dr. Jim Vernon, my composition professor, of course, had a great influence on me for sure."

Ware believes the high level of achievement expected of him by his professors has served him well in the professional world.

"They always pushed me to do better," Ware said. "The excellence they encouraged is the very thing that I now work toward on a weekly basis in what I do."

While still in school at OBU, Ware served as minister of music of Kelham Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. After graduating, he continued his music education training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary using the President's Award Scholarship awarded him by OBU.

Following graduation from SWBTS, Ware began serving as minister of music at Wilmont Place Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, a position he continues to find rewarding and full of opportunities to put his education and experience to work.

"I use the composing and arranging skills I developed at OBU on a weekly basis," he said. "I also learned how to interact with a wide variety of people in a good and loving way."

Ware served on the student worship team at OBU, and the student body made an impression on him. He was impressed with how the student body came together to worship in chapel.

"It stands out to me as being what OBU was all about. It's the same thing that I strive for in my church. I tell my choir at church all the time that they are an example to the congregation of what it means to be the Body of Christ in all things, the way they sing together, fellowship together, all of it."

When asked what the future holds, Ware said he feels a strong calling to the local church and loves serving at Wilmont Place.

"I have a feeling I will always be involved in church music ministry on some level and on this level for a long time. But I could see myself, at some point, being an editor for a music publishing company or recording company."

Ware has been published by Hal Leonard Publishing, Shawnee Press and Lifeway. He recently launched his own online publishing company, [musicwarepress.com](http://musicwarepress.com), to expedite the process by which churches can gain access to his work. Currently, his compositions and arrangements are being sung by congregations throughout the United States. They have also been performed by the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma,



of which he has been a member, the Singing Churchwomen of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma City Community College Choir. One of Ware's pieces, "Not I, But Christ," has been translated into Korean.

"Music is something that brings all of us together. It has the ability to reach people in a different way than words do, almost like it speaks a different language all its own. When I traveled to Armenia with the Churchmen, we didn't speak Armenian and they didn't speak English, but we were able to connect with the people in a real way. There's just something about singing the deep truth about God and who He is that communicates on an emotional and spiritual level."

Ware plans to continue communicating God's truth for many years to come, through his calling ... the language of music.



As OBU transitions from a legacy of NAIA success to new competition in NCAA Division II, OBU Magazine sat down with Robert Davenport, director of athletics, to discuss what the move means for the University, student athletes and fans. Excerpts from the interview are found below. To watch a video of the full comments, visit [okbu.edu/magazine](http://okbu.edu/magazine).

### **How would you sum up OBU's time in the NAIA?**

We've had great success and it's been a great fit for us institutionally over the years, but like a lot of things, times change and we have to roll with those changes and keep up with what's going on. A lot of the institutions we would call peer institutions have made the transition to NCAA Division II. That has changed the competition level, the landscape, recruiting ... it's changed everything.

### **What is our current "status" in our move to NCAA Division II?**

We just finished year one in a three-year process. Year one

consists of developing processes and procedures, writing manuals, and establishing strategic plans and goals for the three-year process and beyond. We were accepted into year two of the Division II candidacy process, which involves implementation of those things. Year three is "act like a Division II school and don't mess up." That's the best way to put it.

### **How do you see OBU fitting into the Great American Conference?**

The teams we're going to compete against are the teams we competed against in the past, as recently as the 1980s and '90s. I think it's going to be a fun time competitively, and

we'll put a good product on the field and on the court. We're going to be challenged and we're going to have to make some adjustments, but we have great coaches and they know what they are doing. I don't have any doubt that we're going to be competitive.

### **What other changes will we see on the field/court for our teams?**

This year, we are not eligible for NCAA championship competition. We are, however, eligible to compete in the Great American Conference regular season championships, all-conference honors, and those kind of things. For post-season play, we've been accepted to



## Bison Step Up to the Challenge of NCAA Division II Competition

the National Christian College Athletic Association for national championship competition. We will also have media timeouts in football and basketball. Another thing fans will see right away is the level of competition will change drastically. Almost all of the teams we play will be another Division II school.

### Why should alumni and students be excited about this move?

I think it legitimizes not only the athletic department but also the institution. The little blue NCAA dot goes a long way when it comes to recruiting athletes as well as general students. Having the blue dot on our admissions material legitimizes the University in some people's minds. It doesn't change the educational side of what we're doing at all, but it changes some of the eligibility standards and entrance requirements for our athletes.

### What are you personally most excited about with the transition to NCAA competition?

I believe Dr. Whitlock and the administration are taking us to new levels in athletics. The move to NCAA is just a part of that. I think it makes athletics more visible within in the state and on campus.

Being NCAA, we're a recognizable piece and part of everyday life in the University.

### What about future plans for facilities?

We have great facilities, but from a recruiting perspective, our facilities have got to be at least at the level of the top high schools in our region if not better.

We've just begun to look at ways to renovate the Noble Complex with video boards, new lighting, new bleachers and more. We're also beginning to look into additional facilities for football, lacrosse and soccer. We need a complex for offices, locker rooms and training rooms. In the long run, our facilities need to be a cut above others in NCAA Division II and that will really set us apart from a recruiting standpoint.

I think if we can make those moves, along with some other maintenance and updates, that will really set us apart. I think recruiting and facilities would not be an issue at all. We'll be turning kids away.



### Third Consecutive Learfield Cup

OBU received its third consecutive Learfield Sports Directors' Cup as the best overall athletics program in the NAIA this summer during the 2015 National Association of College Directors of Athletics Convention.

The Learfield Sports Directors' Cup was developed as a joint effort between the NACDA and USA Today.

"It's very gratifying to get this third Learfield Sports Directors' Cup in our final year of the NAIA," said OBU Director of Athletics Robert Davenport. "Our coaches overcame a lot of new wrinkles in this year of transition and our student-athletes again posted successful seasons while carrying a grade point average over 3.0 as a department. That determination will serve us well in NCAA Division II and the Great American Conference."

# Athletic Hall of Fame Welcomes Four New Members



**HUTCHCRAFT**



**BRUMFIELD**



**LIGHTSEY**



**HUDSON**

OBU will welcome four new members into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame during the annual induction ceremony Friday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Geiger Center.

2015 inductees include Jayme (Boyer) Hutchcraft, softball; Nate Brumfield, men's basketball; Marissa (Moseley) Lightsey, women's track; and John Hudson, men's basketball.

Former student-athletes are invited to attend the induction ceremony, reminisce with one another and congratulate the new inductees of the Athletic Hall of Fame. The event is free and will include hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction, preceding the inductions.

The inductees will join a long line of outstanding athletes, coaches and administrators in the Hall of Fame. For a full list of current members, visit [obubison.com](http://obubison.com) and click on "Fan Zone."

Hutchcraft is the all-time OBU softball record holder for home runs. She was a 2007 First-Team All-American and Diamond Sports

NAIA Catcher of the Year. She was a two-time NAIA Scholar Athlete, four-time All-Sooner Athletic Conference selection and 2007 SAC Co-Player of the Year. Her school records include 17 home runs and 36 walks in a season, 163 career runs, 119 career walks, 46 career home runs and three home runs in a game (tying the NAIA record).

Brumfield was the 2010 NAIA Player of the Year and MVP of the 2010 NAIA national championship team. He was 2010 SAC Player of the Year, First-Team All-American, NABC All-American, All-NAIA Tournament, 2009 SAC Newcomer of the Year and Second-Team All-American. He had a school record 67.0 field goal percentage in 2010, finished his career with 1,261 points (No. 22 career) and had 777 points in 2010 (seventh best single season in school history). In 2012, he was named to the NAIA Diamond Anniversary Team.

Lightsey was a 20-time All-American (third highest total in OBU women's track history) and a 12-time NAIA national champion

to go along with a 2010 indoor team national championship. In 2008 and 2009, she won the indoor and outdoor 400 meters and indoor and outdoor 4x400 relays. In 2010, she won the outdoor 400, both 4x400 relays and the outdoor 4x100 relay.

For 36 years, Hudson has served the NAIA as the only commissioner in the history of the Sooner Athletic Conference. He has been instrumental in guiding the SAC to its level of national prominence, winning more national championship trophies than any other conference. He played and coached basketball at OBU where he graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma's School of Law in 1973, then served as the men's basketball coach and athletic director for two years at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He is a member of the NAIA and USAO Halls of Fame.

For more information about the induction ceremony or to RSVP, email [stampede@okbu.edu](mailto:stampede@okbu.edu).



## Bison Football Takes on New Competition

The Bison kicked off their first season against NCAA Division II competition this fall, returning an experienced team from their 8-3 season in 2014. OBU joined the Great American Conference while entering year two of NCAA Division II candidacy.

A senior cast includes 16 players who were part of the original leadership class that enrolled at OBU a year before the team's first season. That leadership and maturity will be key in the transition.

"I'm asked often if this is good timing for OBU, and I think it is," said OBU Head Coach Chris Jensen. "I think we have players on campus that are used to the transition of starting the program and now we go through another process of transitioning to another level of play."

Last year, the Bison featured a high-octane offense that averaged 479 yards per game. The team is deep at quarterback, with Blake Woodard returning and coming off an All-Conference season, Northeastern Oklahoma transfer Dez Stegall and returning player Cooper Koons.

The backfield looks to be a strong point with All-Conference tandem Jordan Barnes and Dawson Myers joined by Jaelen Barlow. Barnes became OBU's first 1,000-yard rusher last season, finishing the season with 1,087, while Myers added 830. A great deal of those big rushing numbers can be credited to an offensive line that returns six players with starting experience.

Defensively, the Bison return a great deal of talent, led by 2013 All-American defensive end Kimes Gilbert. Gilbert is joined on the defensive line by returning starters Ed Morgan Jr. and Gage Wimer. Returning linebackers Zack Bishop and Brynden Pitzer spearhead the linebacker group. Pitzer led the Bison with 59 tackles last season.



## Lady Bison Volleyball Primed for a Great Season

With a tradition of excellence in the Sooner Athletic Conference, the Lady Bison volleyball team transitions to NCAA Division II and the Great American Conference this season. The squad is ranked fourth in the GAC preseason poll and that suits coach Anna Howle just fine.

"I think our ranking is great for us at this stage, because I think it will fuel a fire in our team to prove they can do better than that," Howle said. "Going into the GAC, the biggest challenge for us is playing good volleyball every single night and being able to step up to that challenge. There are no breaks in preparation and competing, and we will be trying to win in different gyms than we've ever been in before."

The change is both welcome and challenging for a Lady Bison squad that consists of newcomers and veterans. The veteran group cut its teeth on some GAC competition during the spring and became a solidified unit of leaders.

"We are coming off a great spring, probably the best spring we've ever had," Howle said. "We improved as a team and individually, but the thing we developed the most was identity of who we are going to be, what we work for, what we play for."

➤➤➤ Read more statistics and highlights online at [obubison.com](http://obubison.com).



## OBU Men's Soccer Tops GAC Preseason Poll

Three weeks before the opening of the inaugural Great American Conference men's soccer season, the league's head coaches voted new member Oklahoma Baptist as the preseason favorite.

The Bison join the GAC after 11 years in the NAIA's Sooner Athletic Conference.

The 2015 season opened during the first week of September. This year, the Bison take on Harding, Ouachita Baptist, Southern

Nazarene, Oklahoma City, Dallas Baptist, Northeastern State and Rogers State among others.

### Lady Bison Picked Fifth in GAC Preseason Soccer Poll

Women's soccer coaches in the Great American Conference selected Oklahoma Baptist fifth in the preseason poll.

Oklahoma Baptist will enter its first season in the GAC following a championship in the Sooner

Athletic Conference in its final season in the NAIA. Mikayla Lowery won SAC Freshman of the Year honors as she placed in the top six in both categories and Emma Beck led the league in saves.

The 2015 season opened the weekend of Sept. 3. The Lady Bison face East Central, Northwestern Oklahoma State, Southwestern Oklahoma State, Harding, Ouachita Baptist, Southern Nazarene and Harding among others.





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# OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

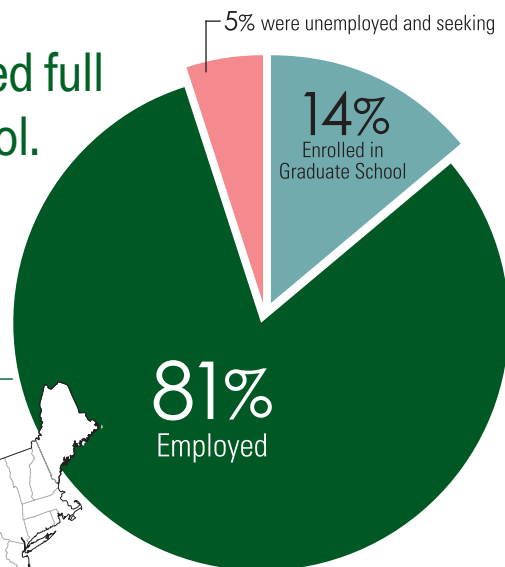
## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

OBU's office of career development helps current and former students launch their careers by providing career planning, job searches, resumé building, interviewing skills and more. We connect students and graduates to prospective employers through face-to-face opportunities and networking events. We also offer multiple discipline-specific career fairs for fields such as ministry, business, nursing and pre-allied health, government and non-profit, and teacher education. We are excited to announce the launch of a new career portal. Built from the ground up by career services professionals, the career portal offers resumé building and letter writing tools, information about career and job fairs, links to jobs and employers, and a bridge to help employers hire OBU students and alumni.

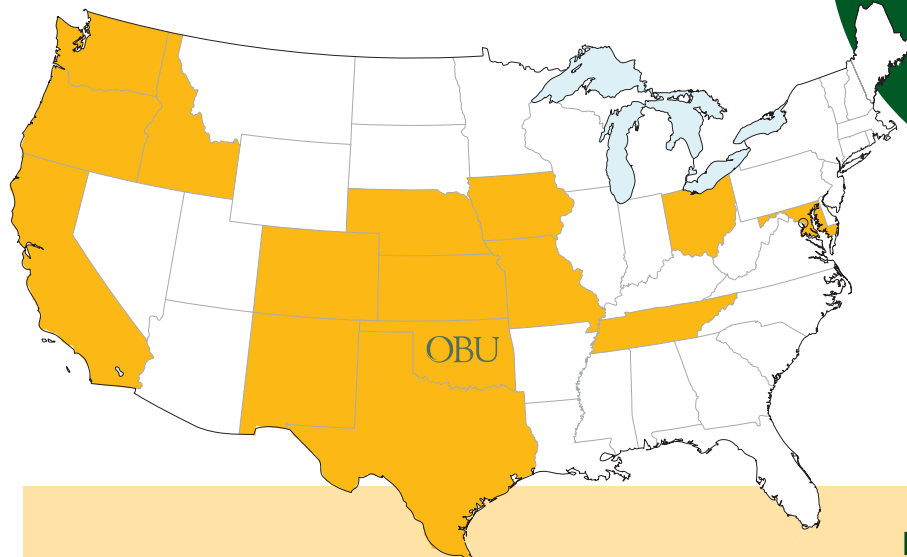
**Below are some of the outcomes of the graduates from the 2013-14 academic year.**

**95% of the Class of 2014\* are employed full time or enrolled in graduate school.**

\*Based on a 70% response rate from 2013-14 graduates six months post-graduation.



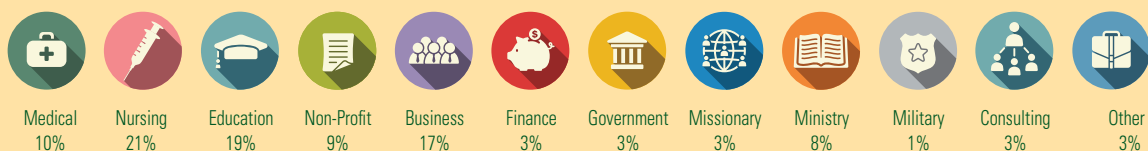
### EMPLOYMENT BY LOCATION



Visit  
[okbu.edu/career-development](http://okbu.edu/career-development)  
for more information.

### EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

81% Employed Full-Time Six Months Post-Graduation





Pictured above, The Lodge is the most recently completed building on campus and the fourth building in the new residential village. It was ready for the arrival of 162 male students on move-in day this fall.

OBU's main campus has grown to include 39 major buildings on 210 acres in Shawnee.

OBU's curriculum offers 86 areas of study through six undergraduate colleges on the Shawnee campus and five graduate degrees through the College of Graduate and Professional Studies located in Oklahoma City.

OBU's fall enrollment is 1,986 students, including students from 40 states and 35 countries.



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### **ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

The administration building is a fire-proof, three-story building, modern in its appointments, constructed of pressed brick and trimmed with Carthage stone. In it are twenty large classrooms, each accommodating fifty students. On the first floor are two very large rooms for physical culture, one for women, the other for men. On the second floor, over the main entrance, is the college library. The building is used for all the regular class and office work of the institution.

### **THE CAMPUS**

The campus consists of sixty acres situated on an elevation one and one-half miles north from the business section of the city. Shawnee, being surrounded on the east, west, and south by the North Canadian river, affords, from the heights of the campus, a panoramic view of the valley.

*Excerpts from the Oklahoma Baptist University Bulletin, c.1915*