

# OBU

MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION OF OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

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



**One Family. One Purpose.**  
*– Generations of Legacy –*

## Stubblefield Chapel

Dr. Bill Green, '64, leads worship in Stubblefield Chapel during Homecoming 2014.



SPRING 2015

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It is hard to believe that 2015 is here. The holidays and J-Term are behind us and the spring semester is well underway. Many things have transpired since our last edition of the *OBU Magazine*.

Homecoming was a tremendous success, with hundreds of OBU family members converging on Bison Hill to celebrate the traditions of our great University while reminiscing together. Winter Commencement saw 92 students receive degrees.

Our football team completed an eight-win season in just their second year back in action. And for the first time, students moved into J.W. Jent Hall, our newest student residential facility.

While the fall semester saw many good things, this issue of the magazine takes a broader look at the impact of our University on our students and the world. As you turn the pages, you will note the theme of “legacy” throughout. We often hear that word and think only of the past; yet, in its very meaning, a legacy is established with future generations in mind.

As you explore the legacies established by numerous individuals on Bison Hill, I’m sure you will be impressed, as I am, by the depth of passion these individuals feel for our beloved University and by the way they live out our University’s great mission. May God bless you this year as He continues to bless OBU.

*David Wesley Whitlock*  
David Wesley Whitlock  
OBU President



# OBU magazine

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## From Bison Hill to Capitol Hill

A primary goal for most college students is to reach the end of the semester and pass their finals. Many also dream of someday landing a job in a new city. Yet, those goals are not reached overnight. For those who make that dream a reality, the path takes planning, focus and determination.

### A New Opportunity

“It’s a long story,” 2009 OBU finance and marketing graduate Sarah Corley said. “When I graduated, there was a lot of uncertainty with the economy, and many companies, including the one I’d interned with the summer before, were holding off on new hires.”

She was determined to branch out and find adventure. She eventually found herself involved in James Lankford’s congressional campaign, helping supporters host grassroots receptions and meetings through the primary, run-off and general elections.

“After the campaign ended, I was offered a job helping establish the new D.C. office,” Sarah said. “I started out in the front office managing constituent services like tour requests. I was the first person people would hear on the phone or meet when they came in.”

### Determination Pays Off

“I really enjoyed writing, and I had some great teachers who encouraged that gift in me, especially at OBU,” she said. “I decided that I wanted to be a press secretary, so I started thinking about what I needed to do to achieve that.”

Sarah took several steps to reach this goal, including offering her time in the office’s press shop.

“After months and months of hard work, God opened the right door at the right time,” Sarah said. “I am the Communications Director for Congressman Tom Cole, who represents the Fourth District of Oklahoma in the U.S. House of Representatives. I write all the press products, post on social media, update the

website, talk to reporters, schedule interviews and manage crises when they come.”

### A New Arrival

Sarah was surprised last year when her sister joined her in D.C.

“I had an itch to travel and live in a different part of the country,” 2013 OBU graphic design graduate Mary Corley said. “So I began looking outside of Oklahoma for opportunities. Washington D.C. was the first city on my list.”

Mary had worked for one year as a graphic designer before joining Congressman Markwayne Mullin’s office as a staff assistant, where she used her design skills for social media graphics and more. She recently accepted a position as Digital Strategist at the National Republican Congressional Committee, where she will fully utilize her design talents and education.

### It Began on Bison Hill

The OBU influence touched both girls’ lives long before they attended as students.

“When it came time for me to attend college, going to OBU was a family tradition,” Mary said.

Sarah agreed. “I grew up around the idea of OBU,” she said. “Both my parents went there, and I just loved the campus community, faith-based education and liberal arts focus. I was also drawn to the small class size, because I wanted to not only know my professors, but for them to know me, too. I still keep in touch with several to this day.” ■



Sisters Mary Corley, '13 (left), and Sarah Corley, '09, live out their dream of building careers in Washington, D.C.

»»» More of this story is available online at [okbu.edu/magazine](http://okbu.edu/magazine)



# LEGACY

LIVED OUT BY WORD AND DEED



## legacy

1. a gift of property
2. anything handed down from the past
3. an applicant to or student at a school that was attended by his or her parent

**Three distinct meanings.**

**One significant word.**

**Yet, despite these varying definitions, all three apply to one remarkable family, who lives out each of these, by word and deed.**

**IF YOU HAVE ATTENDED** any Bison football games the last two seasons, you have probably seen the McCabe family. Their tent, positioned along the road just north of the Recreation and Wellness Center, stands out. You might have noticed a banner that reads “The Legacy” and other small pennants surrounding the tent with what appear to be graduation years: '49, '71, '92, '94, '95, '96, '00, '14, '15 and '17.

At first glance, you think, “That’s nice. A pennant for each graduate.” Then you pause, realizing that cannot be right ... there are simply too many for one family.

Spend some time with the tent’s owners, though, and you soon realize your first instinct was correct. This family has four generations of OBU alumni, spanning from 1945 to 2014, with current OBU students awaiting graduation to earn their '15 and '17 pennants, and more on the way.

### **A Legacy is Born**

Virgle L. Chappell, '49, was one of the first. He and his wife, Lois Rolf Chappell, ex '48, took the knowledge gained on Bison Hill and entered a life of ministry and service to the Lord. Their daughter Rosemary (Chappell) McCabe, '71, remembers the impact of OBU on her family’s life even from a young age.

“My father planted a church in McHenry, Illinois, in 1961,” she said. “We’d come back to Oklahoma for visits and I remember seeing [Raley] Chapel while it was being built.”

The presence of Bison Hill was strong enough in her family that she journeyed back to Shawnee when it came time for college, graduating in 1971. Her husband, Verne McCabe, ’71, likewise had strong family ties to OBU.

“My family always supported the fine arts area of the University,” he said. “My family’s name is on a plaque downstairs in Raley Chapel. We knew this institution was rooted in the gospel, which is so important.”

Verne currently serves as senior pastor of Tulsa Hills Baptist Church and president of McCabe Industrial Minerals, Inc. After decades of serving in the ministry and finding success in the business world, it has been a blessing to see that legacy passed down to his children and grandchildren.

Verne and Rosemary’s daughter, Victoria “Tori” McCabe Peercy, ’94, reflected on the impact OBU has made on her life. “God brought me to OBU, even when I didn’t see it. He brought me to my spouse and to friends. I appreciate the legacy even more now. When we come for a visit, it’s like coming home.”

Tori’s husband Michael Peercy, ’92, currently serves as senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Duncan, Oklahoma. He also spoke of the OBU impact in his life. “For most of us, this is where our lives intersected, where we met our spouses,” he said. “I still get a little teary-eyed when we sing the “Alma Mater” at the end of the game. It means a lot when my kids choose

to come here and now it’s not ‘my’ University, it’s ‘ours.’”

### Paying it Forward

The McCabes took the heritage first taught by the previous generation and passed it down to their children and grandchildren, with a total of 21 alumni now spread across four generations. Yet, this family is not content to simply keep the idea of an OBU legacy to themselves. They have seen and experienced the value of a Bison Hill education first hand, so many times over, and feel a burning desire to share that with others. As proof of that desire, the family established the Legacy Scholarship Endowment Fund, which will pay more than \$1,000 per year beginning this spring, to a student who is a second generation or greater Bison.

“Given the McCabe family’s long history with Oklahoma Baptist University, it is fitting for Verne and Rosemary to provide resources to establish the Legacy Scholarship Fund,” said Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement. “In every way, this family represents the best of OBU and its mission to transform the lives of students through a Christian liberal arts education.”

Verne is flattered by the attention, but that is certainly not the reason for his family’s generosity. “It is not about us. It is about inspiring others to build a legacy from generation to generation.”

“I’m proud that OBU has more missionaries on the field than any other school. We’re also proud that OBU is distinctively Christian yet academically excellent at the same time. No matter where I go, I know I will always be connected to an institution that continues to impact the world.” ■



### LEGACY FAMILY ALUMNI

Esther Rolf Clapham, ’45  
 Lois Rolf Chappell, ex ’48  
 Dr. Evelyn Rolf Lewis, ’49  
 Virgle L. Chappell, ’49  
 Doris Rolf Kimbrough, ’55  
 Dr. Howard Rolf, ’51  
 V. Lee Chappell, Jr., ex ’66  
 Catherine “Cathy” Clapham, ’69  
 Rosemary Chappell McCabe, ’71  
 Verne McCabe, ’71  
 Leonard Morris ’71  
 Karen McCabe Burrows ’78  
 Robin Kimbrough, ’79  
 Michael Peercy, ’92  
 Victoria McCabe Peercy, ’94  
 Elizabeth McCabe Justice, ’95  
 Chris Justice, ex ’95  
 Karen Orr McCabe, ’96  
 H. Christopher McCabe, ’00  
 Margaret McCabe Smith, ex ’06  
 Michael Peercy, Jr., ’14

### Students / Future Graduates

Kari Peercy, ’15  
 Andrew Peercy, ’17

**Each year, OBU recognizes two outstanding faculty members during Spring Commencement.**

- 1) **The Distinguished Teaching Award** is the highest honor for OBU faculty and is presented to an outstanding faculty member who has taught at OBU for five consecutive years or more and who has exemplified those characteristics of superior instruction delineated in the “Commitment to Excellence.”
- 2) **The Promising Teacher Award** is presented to a junior faculty member who has taught at OBU less than six years and has demonstrated outstanding potential as a teacher.



## **Dr. Dan Reeder**

**Albert J. Geiger  
Professor of Finance**

**Recipient of OBU's 2014  
Distinguished Teaching Award**

Visit campus any time in early December and you will hear about it. Students and employees mark their calendars well in advance to make sure they do not miss it. They arrive early to get a good seat and to make sure they even have a seat at all.

Over the last 15 years, the tradition of the Fine Arts Christmas Chapel, or “Christmas Chapel” for short, has grown. It is a time for beautiful music performed by OBU’s choirs and ensembles from the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts. It is a time for holiday cheer. And

it is a time for Dr. Dan Reeder to resume his annual role as master of ceremonies for one of the most anticipated events on campus.

No, he does not want to be known only for Christmas Chapel. But he does not seem to mind it all that much, either. Reeder is so well known for the annual event, some students might be surprised to learn he is also an award winning professor of business, held in the highest regard by faculty and administration, or that he chairs the faculty council.

So it is for a man who is brilliant, yet personable, committed to academic excellence, yet passionate about building relationships, focused on student outcomes, yet able to make a standing-room-only crowd in Potter Auditorium roar with laughter.

### For the Love

Dan Reeder is passionate about students and life. He believes strongly in the God-given potential in everyone and works tirelessly to unlock that within each student who enters his classroom.

Reeder graduated high school in Depew, Oklahoma, then earned both his bachelor's degree and MBA from the University of Tulsa before earning his doctorate at Oklahoma State University. He joined the OBU faculty in the Paul Dickinson School of Business in 1991.

"I was a teaching assistant at Oklahoma State and had interviewed out of state, when I saw the opening at OBU," he said. "When I was offered the position, it was a great fit for me. The students here are fantastic and are truly going to make a difference in the world. The faculty here are tremendous as well. I was drawn to the collegiality on campus and the opportunity to discuss ideas openly, disagree with one another, yet still work together and respect each other."

Reeder wants his students to learn sound business principles and finance, yet he also has other goals in mind. "I want them to learn to think on their feet," he said. "They also need to learn the importance of how to treat people, especially those that are different from them. I want my students to know how to work with people, value people and treat people the right way."

### Recognition

Reeder received the University's Distinguished Teaching Award during the 2014 Spring Commencement, OBU's highest award for any employee. In presenting the award, OBU President David W. Whitlock said Reeder inspires and encourages students outside the classroom as well, being there to guide them along the way to academic, personal and spiritual growth.

"As a professor, he is committed to developing Christian business leaders," Whitlock said. "Former students laud his teaching and his ability to make a finance classroom fun."

The award follows other recognition received while at OBU including the Promising Teacher Award in 1995 and the Indian Fellowship Award from the United States Department of Education. In addition to these honors and awards, he has filled the role of both interim dean and dean for the Paul Dickinson College of Business.

"It's an honor to be mentioned in the same breath with previous award winners," Reeder said. "It's nice to be considered and recognized. I've had the opportunity to work with many OBU legends, such as Max Brattin, James Hurley, Carolyn Cole and Mary Kay Parrish, to name a few. They've inspired me and shown us all what true excellence really means. I'm humbled to walk in their footsteps."

When asked why he thinks he was selected for the award, he focused on the students. "I love what I do. I have a great job and great students. This award means so much, because it shows the value of how I interact with them and the importance I place on them."

### The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

A decade and a half has passed since Reeder was first asked by music faculty member Mary Kay Parrish to serve as the master of ceremonies for Christmas Chapel. "I love hosting the Christmas Chapel, because it allows me to draw on my creative side. I love the things I can talk people into doing for it. It's fun to show the hidden talents of our faculty and administration, which always surprises everyone."

Whether it is professors rapping, or a university president ringing a cowbell, Reeder has a way of bridging the gap between students, faculty and administration, bringing everyone together for that one glorious hour to live, laugh and celebrate.

Christmas Chapel has developed its own traditions over the years, such as corporately singing the famous Oklahoma jingle to B.C. Clark's anniversary sale; hilarious parody videos featuring students and faculty; and the biggest tradition of all, the annual host, Reeder himself.

While he may be best known for his Christmas Chapel duties, Reeder's impact is felt across campus in so many ways: through his passion for students, finance, and helping others enjoy themselves, whether sitting in class, working on a project or laughing together on the first Wednesday in December. ■





## Dr. Scott Pace

**Reverend A.E. and Dora Johnson  
Hughes Chair of Christian Ministry**

**Recipient of OBU's 2014  
Promising Teacher Award**

Dr. Scott Pace grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina. He spent his college years at North Carolina State University, beginning as a chemical engineering major then completing an accounting degree in 1997. He spent two years as an accountant at a large corporation, then managed a small business. He found success, but knew he was made to do something more.

“Ultimately, I just wasn’t fulfilled,” he said. “God had done a lot in my life my junior and senior years in college. I began to discern His call on my life to vocational ministry.”

He and his wife, Dana, soon traveled to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He served full time in a local church while completing a Master of Divinity in 2002 and continued into the Ph.D. program. God then moved him to First Baptist

Church, Daytona Beach, Florida, as teaching pastor and administrator. He served there for three years, completing his Ph.D. in Applied Theology in 2007.

### **A New Calling**

“I didn’t get my Ph.D. to teach,” he said. “I just wanted to be the best prepared pastor and Christian I could be.”

He soon received a call from Dr. Mark McClellan, dean of OBU’s Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry, and Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life, concerning an open position at OBU. They received his name from Dr. Danny Akin, president of Southeastern. Pace did not seek out the position or apply. God simply opened the door.

“When OBU called, my wife said ‘if it’s ever something you might

be interested in, you should see what's involved.' The position lined up with my experience, and it became obvious that God had this plan for us. I realized that working at a church, I could influence the people inside the church and in that community, but I now had a chance to impact students who could in turn impact hundreds of churches."

He made the move to Shawnee in December 2009, joining the faculty as assistant professor of applied ministry.

"God really spoke to me through three things. First, the vision of the administration really stood out to me. Second, the communal, collegial feel here was right, too. Third, seeing and meeting the students, and having the opportunity to pour into their lives, was so exciting to me."

Even after transitioning to the classroom, Pace continues to fill the pulpit. He has served interims at First Baptist Church in Edmond; Bethel Baptist Church in Norman; and First Southern Baptist Church in Del City. He has also served as camp pastor at Falls Creek, led many youth camps and "Disciple Now" weekends, and led prayer for the Oklahoma State Senate and at an Oklahoma City Thunder basketball game.

## The Impact

Pace says the most satisfying part of his job is "seeing the lives of students change and transform." To that end, he established The Preachers Guild on campus to allow students the opportunity to

preach to peer preachers, receiving evaluation and encouragement from one another.

"I want them [students] to really learn how to passionately and intimately walk with Jesus, because their personal walk will go beyond whatever arena of life or vocation they serve in. I want them to understand their education and vocation is a ministry opportunity for them as a believer and as a part of God's church. That gives purpose to what they're studying, why they're studying it and what they're going to do as a career, if they view it as part of God's mission."

Aaron Fullbright, a 2014 OBU graduate, was Pace's student and currently serves as Associate Youth Pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee. He credits Pace with making a tremendous impact on his life and ministry.

"No one else has impacted my life in regards to ministry more than Dr. Pace. He taught me what it means to do ministry and to love people. My prayer is that I will be able to relate to students and families the way he is able to relate to them. He helped me understand my calling to both the church and my family."

## Recognition

During OBU's 2014 Spring Commencement, Pace was honored with the University's Promising Teacher Award. In presenting the award, OBU President David W. Whitlock said Pace has earned the admiration of his peers, his students and the administration.

"Dr. Pace exemplifies Christ-like character, passionate service to the church, and innovation in scholarship," Whitlock said. "He has taken the applied ministry department to one of the fastest growing and healthiest programs on campus."

On being selected, Pace said, "It's definitely an honor. When you look at the names of previous winners, it's a humbling experience. Hopefully, it means I'm being faithful with the opportunity God has provided for me here at OBU."

Fullbright was not surprised at his mentor's recognition. "Over my four years at OBU, the number of ministry students exploded. Besides the Lord, I don't think anyone deserves more credit than Dr. Pace. People want to be a part of the vision the Lord has given him, and you see many of his students excelling in the ministry."

The award means a great deal to Pace. Yet, if you know him, then you know that the words of this former student and others like him, voicing the impact he is making in their lives and ministries, well, those words mean even more. ■



STUDENT CHAPEL PREACHER AARON FULLBRIGHT, MARCH 2014

Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 Distinguished Teaching, Promising Teacher and Meritorious Service awards.

To view criteria and to submit a nominee, visit [okbu.edu/alumni/faculty-staff-awards](http://okbu.edu/alumni/faculty-staff-awards).

**NOMINATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2015, AT 5 P.M.**

# vision FOR A new century

## Campaign Progress and Opportunities



Will Smallwood  
Vice President for  
University Advancement

In the foyer of Oklahoma Baptist University's most iconic building, Raley Chapel, hangs a plaque with some of the most memorable quotes from former OBU President Dr. John Wesley Raley. In 1949, OBU was in the midst of unprecedented enrollment growth. President Raley, keenly aware of the pressing need to look to the future, emphatically proposed a bold plan. "Institutions must grow or perish. In the drama of world storm, we propose to keep moving ... We have a program for tomorrow."

The idea of legacy was important to Dr. Raley. He knew then what we inherently know today – the legacy of a university is not only that it shapes and molds students of today, but it also transforms the lives of future generations of global leaders.

In this issue of the *OBU Magazine*, you will read about legacy. From OBU alumni to faculty to the individuals who continue to invest in our University, the story of OBU is in fact a story of legacy.

The cover story invites you to be a part of a family that knows about legacy. For four generations, the McCabe family has been represented on Bison Hill. Given that tradition, there is no doubt that the fifth and sixth generations of the family will find their way to Shawnee in the future. Grateful for the impact of OBU, the McCabe family has established a scholarship in order to help other families experience the heritage and impact of OBU. Verne and Rosemary McCabe are kind and supportive alumni and friends, and we are thankful to have the opportunity to honor their family's OBU legacy.

We also give thanks for the life of Max Brattin, whose teaching and service impacted countless students on Bison Hill. Professor Brattin understood the value of legacy by gifting more than \$1 million during his life and through his estate for endowment purposes at OBU. These resources leave an incredible legacy for the Paul Dickinson College of Business, Warren

### A Legacy of Giving

A ribbon cutting was held at the Cargill Center, the new home to University Advancement and the OBU Alumni Association. The facility is the former home of the OBU president and was renovated through a generous gift made by Dr. Robert L. and Mrs. Sara Lou Cargill. Pictured, left to right: Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement; Dr. David W. Whitlock, OBU president; Sara Lou Cargill; Dr. Robert L. Cargill; and Dr. David Lawrence, former chairman of the OBU board of trustees.



## A Legacy for the Future



Progress continues on Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall, future home of the College of Nursing.

M. Angell College of Fine Arts, and campus health and recreation initiatives.

As alumni, donors and friends of the University, you have invested in the ongoing legacy of OBU. At the beginning of December 2014, I was able to report to President Whitlock and the OBU community that the \$42 million goal for the Vision for a New Century Capital Campaign had been surpassed. We on Bison Hill have been overwhelmed by this incredible outpouring of financial support these past three years from those who love and cherish our wonderful University.

However, just as Dr. Raley recognized in 1949, we dare not rest on what has been accomplished. We continue to look to God for guidance and wisdom in our planning, decisions and actions. Three vital projects – the expansion and renovation of Wood Science Building, the renovation of Ford Music Hall and the construction of a new Student Services Center – remain unfunded. With two years remaining in this current campaign, we are confident we will see these projects through to completion through the generosity and support of alumni and supporters just like you. In addition to the VNC Campaign projects, the Revive the Roof Campaign continues to move ahead, with plans to continue the legacy of Raley Chapel by replacing its roof tiles this summer.

**LEGACY AT OBU** is more than adding buildings, hiring incredible faculty or having a championship athletic program. It is daring to boldly live our mission: transforming lives through academic excellence at this Christian liberal arts university, integrating every academic discipline with our faith, engaging a diverse world with our minds and hearts, and living worthy of the high calling of God in Christ. As Dr. Raley proposed 68 years ago, “Let us arise and build for the long future.” Thank you for standing with us as we continue to grow this incredible legacy.

### To Our Young Alumni

If you graduated from OBU in 2000 or later, you will want to take advantage of another legacy-building program. Generous donors have offered to match your gift to any project up to \$1,000 per year for the next three years. In a short time, more than \$12,000 has been provided through this Bison 4 Bison Challenge. By giving during this challenge period, you can double your giving, and expand the legacy and impact of your alma mater.

### Giving Online

I am pleased to announce the launch of a new giving platform. This updated feature makes giving an online gift to OBU simple and secure. Read about this new system on page 28 or visit [okbu.edu/giving](http://okbu.edu/giving).



## OBU Offering Two New MBA Degree Tracks

The OBU College of Graduate and Professional Studies now offers two new tracks in the Master of Business Administration degree, adding Leadership and Project Management to the existing tracks of International Business and Energy Management.

The program is tailored for working professionals, with classes meeting one night per week at the OBU Oklahoma City campus, and some courses available online. Each course is six weeks long. Students may start at any time and can finish in around 18 months or set their own pace of study.

“We are excited to add these new MBA degree tracks,” said Dr. Rhonda Richards, dean of the OBU College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS). “They give students the opportunity to earn their MBA on a flexible schedule while continuing their careers. That, combined with the high academic standards and core values of OBU, makes our MBA degree highly desired in the workplace.”

The leadership track covers the fundamentals of business and an interdisciplinary examination of the phenomenon of leadership. The interdisciplinary disciplines include systems theory, sociology, psychology and cultural anthropology. The fundamentals of business

include economics, information technology, management, marketing, financial accountability, ethics, business law and leadership, as well as a capstone experience.

The project management track is designed to meet the needs of businesses that focus primarily on research and development. These business types include construction firms, defense contractors, software development and aerospace corporations. The project management track focuses on project planning, project management, risk, communications, quality, procurement and work breakdown structures. This track is reinforced by the business core that includes management, marketing, accounting, finance, ethics,

business law, leadership in society and managerial economics.

OBU’s CGPS has designed the MBA program to help students become leaders in business, teaching students to engage and lead with wisdom and discernment. Courses are taught by professors with experience in their field, and students will interact with both academic and business professionals from different sectors of the business community.

The program is an application-based MBA, not just book-knowledge. Students may shape their studies to fit desired goals in their present position or for a desired future position, through customizable course projects and the capstone.

## OBU celebrates the graduation of 92 students during 2014 Winter Commencement



Above: Dr. Hance Dilbeck, '87, senior pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and president of the BGCO, delivers the commencement address. Right: OBU President David W. Whitlock congratulates Samantha Medlin, '14, on receiving her bachelor's degree in communication studies.



## OBU Announces Max Brattin Fine Arts Endowment Fund



OBU President David W. Whitlock (left) congratulates Max Brattin on his induction into the Faculty Hall of Fame in 2010.

The OBU Office of University Advancement recently announced the establishment of the Max Brattin Fine Arts Endowment Fund. Brattin, professor emeritus of economics at OBU, established the endowment as part of his estate. The endowment will fund guest musicians, conductors, theatre troops and other costs involved in advancing fine arts exhibits on campus.

Brattin was a member of the OBU faculty from 1966 until his retirement in 2000. He served on the faculty council for 15 years, including three terms as chair. He chaired the curriculum committee for two terms and was faculty athletic representative for 12 years. He received OBU's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1984 and the Phi Beta Lambda Teaching Award in 1989. He was inducted into the OBU Faculty Hall of Fame in 2010.

During his OBU tenure, he served as advisor for several student organizations, including Sigma Delta Phi, Delta Mu Delta, Phi Beta Lambda, Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board. He was also a member of the faculty advisory committee of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for two years.

He was born March 15, 1938, in El Reno, Oklahoma, the son of Merle A. and Mona Day Brattin. He graduated from Mulhall High School in 1956, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from OBU in 1960, and an MBA from Louisiana State University in 1962. Brattin taught at Howard Payne University from 1963-66 before joining the OBU faculty. He passed away in March 2013.

John Parrish, executive vice president emeritus, said Brattin always loved

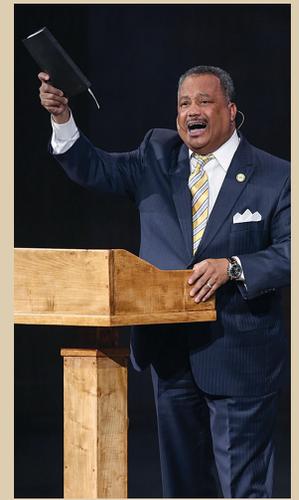
and supported the arts. "A significant part of his estate was distributed to arts organizations, including the gift to OBU to create an endowment fund which will provide income on a permanent basis for programs which will enrich the OBU community," Parrish said. "Max was an active and dedicated member of the OBU family for more than 40 years, and his desire was to do something which would benefit and enhance the community he loved for generations to come," he said.

Dr. Ken Gabrielse, dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, said that Brattin's gift will help the department plan culturally enriching activities for the campus and community.

"We are thrilled as we begin to explore all the possibilities provided through Max's love for OBU and the arts," he said. "This gift will also serve to enhance the strong support of so many generous contributors to OBU's Friends of the Arts."

Gabrielse said Brattin's gift will be utilized in many ways this year, including the annual Hanging of the Green, the concerto-aria and funding performances that were previously out of the department's price range.

For more information about planned giving, visit [okbu.edu/giving/planned-giving](http://okbu.edu/giving/planned-giving).



### Former SBC President Luter Addresses OBU Chapel Service

Dr. Fred Luter, Jr., senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, delivered the chapel message Wednesday, Nov. 19. He preached from Romans 7:15-25 and titled his message, "The Super Bowl for Your Soul."

In addition to being senior pastor of Franklin Avenue, he is the former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was unanimously elected in June 2012 and came into office as the first African-American president of the SBC. He also received an honorary doctorate from OBU in 2012.

In 1983, he preached his first sermon at the Law Street Baptist Church in New Orleans, and three years later, became the pastor of Franklin Avenue. By 1989, Franklin Avenue grew from 65 to over 300 members, growing to over 7,000 members by 2005.

# An OBU Degree: A Great Value



## OBU Ranked Oklahoma's Number One Private University in Affordability

OBU is one of three universities in Oklahoma and the only private Oklahoma university listed on Great Value College's rankings of 50 Great Affordable Colleges in the Midwest.

The list is based on eight quality indicators determined by Great Value Colleges to be a good measure of a student's

potential experience at an institution. Equal points were awarded for beneficial features, such as low faculty-to-student ratios, high percentages of freshmen retention, high rates of graduation and numbers of student organizations. Colleges that did well in a recent Forbes' ranking of top U.S. schools were given additional points.

Of the hundreds of accredited colleges and universities in the Midwest, only those with tuition and

fees below the national average were considered for the rankings. No college on the list has an annual net price (the total cost of attendance minus the average aid package) over \$22,000.

The rankings list the top 25 public and top 25 private colleges. OBU was the only private school in Oklahoma listed, with a net cost of \$16,617. Oklahoma State University ranked 10th on the list of public institutions with a net price of \$14,415 and

the University of Oklahoma finished 19th with a net price of \$16,780.

"Oftentimes, families assume an OBU education is out of reach for their pocketbooks," said Bruce Perkins, associate vice president for enrollment management. "However, OBU's place in the rankings demonstrates the affordability of attending our University even when compared to public universities within our state."

To read more about the 50 Great Affordable Colleges in the Midwest, visit [greatvaluecolleges.net/affordable/midwest-us/](http://greatvaluecolleges.net/affordable/midwest-us/).

## OBU Named Top 10 in Lowest Debt Burden

OBU recently ranked seventh nationally on a list of "50 Christian Colleges with the Lowest Debt Burden."

## Advancement Adds Directors



TRIMBLE



HIVELY

The Office of University Advancement recently welcomed Josh Trimble and Jim Hively as directors of development. They are responsible for leading and directing regional development within campaigns as well as prospecting, contacting, cultivating, soliciting and securing gifts and pledges from the University's external constituency.

Trimble earned his MBA from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, and previously worked as a senior admissions counselor at OBU, joining the admissions staff in February 2010. He has experience as a paraeducator in the department of special education for Bolivar High School in Missouri from 2009-10. In that capacity, he was responsible for the educational and social development of students in the program.

Hively earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from California Baptist University in Riverside, California. He has worked several sales and development jobs, including major donor development for Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs and vice president of development and community relations for Life Stream Complete Senior Living.

Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement, said Trimble and Hively are wonderful additions to the university advancement team.

"Trimble's education and work experience as one of the top student recruiters for OBU have prepared him to take this next step in representing the University," Smallwood said. "Likewise, Hively's wealth of experience in development and sales make him a valuable addition to the development team."

In an article published on [christianuniversitiesonline.org](http://christianuniversitiesonline.org), an independent resource informing prospective students and their families about Christian education, editor Michael Templeton named OBU alongside other prominent Christian universities.

“This list attempts to present a ranking of Christian colleges and universities whose class of 2013 graduated with the lightest debt burden,” Templeton said in the article. “With this ranking, we want to highlight schools that are excelling in keeping the debt burden of their graduates as low as possible because we understand the long term impact that excessive student loan debt has on today’s graduates.”

The ranking was created via data points retrieved from U.S. News & World Report. The list focuses on two specific

factors, the average amount of money each school’s graduating class of 2013 borrowed and the percent of graduating students who borrowed.

OBU ranked seventh nationally and was ranked higher than any other Christian university in the state with an average total indebtedness of \$26,557 and a borrowing percentage of 61.8 percent.

### OBU Offers Guaranteed Financial Award for All Incoming Freshmen

OBU is offering all incoming freshman a guaranteed financial award. This new initiative will guarantee all entering freshman, beginning fall 2015, a minimum financial award, making an already affordable OBU degree within reach for even more students.

Students and parents are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before making any decisions on affordability. The FAFSA must be completed before the University may show a student the full amount of financial award they are eligible to receive. Students who do not complete the FAFSA leave money on the table and make their college choice without seeing a true net price.

Currently, 97 percent of OBU students receive scholarship money, with 98 percent of those receiving at least \$2,000. This initiative will guarantee 100 percent of students will receive a financial award. The financial award is renewable each year, as long as students meet the academic requirements. Visit [okbu.edu/fafsa](http://okbu.edu/fafsa) for information on completing the FAFSA and financial aid at OBU.



Dr. Scott Pace

### Winter Bible Study Clinic Welcomes 65 Pastors to OBU

OBU hosted the annual Winter Bible Study Clinic Friday, Oct. 24. Sixty-five pastors attended the free event. OBU’s Dr. Ish Mudliar, Dr. Scott Pace and Dr. Stan Norman taught the sessions. The clinic used the Lifeway material, “Deuteronomy: A Challenge to a New Generation.”

“Each of the clinicians provided excellent guidance that unpacked the passages of scripture in powerful ways for both the seasoned minister and for those teaching scripture for the first time,” said Dale Griffin, dean of spiritual life.

OBU hosts this event annually as a way to serve and empower local and statewide church leaders to enrich their congregations by taking the material home and teaching it in their own churches.

### Theatre Season Continues in March and April

OBU Theatre kicked off “A Season of Fragile Innocence” with “Much Ado About Nothing” this fall (pictured right with Trevor Rodman and Bethany McWilliams).

The season continues March 27-29 with “Radium Girls” and concludes April 30-May 2 with “The Glass Menagerie.”

For more information on this season’s productions or to purchase tickets, visit [okbu.edu](http://okbu.edu) or call 405.585.4350.



Homecoming '14

# Zip! Bang! OBU



»» For more photos and videos, visit [okbu.edu/homecoming](http://okbu.edu/homecoming).



## Homecoming Highlights

### Left column:

Friends reunite and reminisce at Homecoming.

OBU President David W. Whitlock congratulates Professor Emerita of Music Kathryn O'Bryan Timberlake on receiving an Honorary Doctor of Music during the annual Fine Arts Musical Gala.

Bison football defeated Bacone College 26-7 in Homecoming action.

### Center column:

Alumni rehearse for the Homecoming worship celebration at Stubblefield Chapel. The event was held Friday afternoon.

Photos and fun take place in the GC; students cheer on the football team.

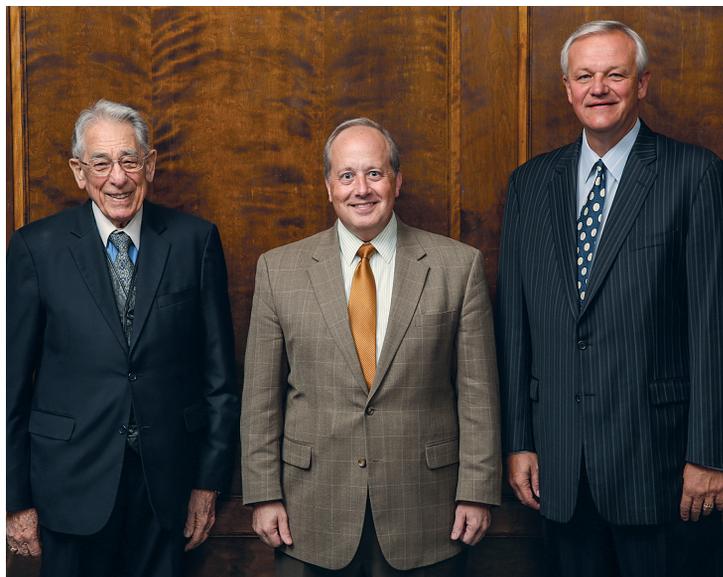
The 2014 Harvest Court was announced during halftime of the football game. Pictured left to right: Zach Cramer, Most Servant-Like Man; Katlin Medlin, Most Servant-Like Woman; Cullen Swearingen, Best All-Around Man; Karleigh Schrick, Best All-Around Woman; Sammy Andrews, Harvest King; and Hannah Burnett, Harvest Queen.

### Right column:

Shaz hangs out with the kids during the Children's Festival.

OBU President David W. Whitlock (center) joins the 2014 recipients of the OBU Alumni Association's Alumni Achievement Award: George Wilson, '50 (left), and Bob Hoffman, '79 (right).

The Bisonettes perform during their 60th Anniversary Reunion Concert with a 140-voice choir. Current director Dr. Jim Vernon was joined by former directors Jack Pearson and Dr. Darla Eshelman in conducting the performance.





◀ 1960s | ▲ 1970s with students

▶ Dr. Bob Agee, Dr. C. Pat Taylor and Dr. John Parrish  
Voices of Basketball Marty O’Gwynn and John Parrish  
Interim President John Parrish

# John W. Parrish

## A LEGACY OF SERVICE ON BISON HILL

Dr. John W. Parrish, executive vice president emeritus, was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame Oct. 14, 2014. We trace the span of his career and the remarks he made reflecting on a life of service to his beloved University.

**THE FINGERPRINTS** of John W. Parrish are everywhere on Bison Hill. That tends to happen when someone invests more than 38 years of full-time work and 12 more years of continued service to an institution. Most with that longevity have a niche or a corner of the world where they plant their flag. But Parrish has served with excellence in diverse and varied segments of the University, truly touching the entire campus and leaving an indelible mark on the institution he loves.

It is hard to imagine OBU without his legacy. In fact, he quipped that he has officed in 14 different locations on Bison Hill. He has served as sports information director, director of public relations and interim president of the University among many other positions. He has written books about OBU history, having experienced so much of it firsthand. He has served

as the voice of Bison basketball and football, continuing in those roles today.

He has received numerous honors and awards from OBU, including the naming of the University’s public relations office suite in his honor in 2002, and the conferring of an honorary doctorate in 2010.

### A Commitment to Excellence

Parrish excelled in each area he worked, leading to new opportunities and promotions. Yet, his exemplary career began humbly, awaiting the opportunity to thrive.

Parrish was born and raised in Drumright, Oklahoma, where he attended school through the 10th grade, then finished high school in Eureka, Kansas. After earning a Bachelor of Science in General Business from Oklahoma State

University in 1961, serving in the Air Force Reserve from 1961-62, and earning a Master of Science in Journalism from OSU in 1964, Parrish found himself working as editor of the “Southside Times” newspaper in Tulsa. A college friend who was teaching math at OBU told him about an opening for a journalism instructor. “I’d never thought about teaching before that, but the idea was intriguing to me.”

Parrish applied and was hired after interviewing with OBU President William Neptune. He began his OBU career in 1964.

In addition to his teaching duties, he also served as director of university public relations and sports information during this time, a role he held exclusively from 1966 to 1979. Among the many roles Parrish filled on campus, he identifies most



with being a communicator of the University's message. "The heart of my career has been based on communications with internal and external audiences," he said. "At the same time I served as executive vice president, I still continued to supervise external communications."

After serving 15 years in university communications, Parrish assumed the role of director of alumni and annual giving in 1979, directing the annual fund as well as the alumni association for the next seven years, including a promotion to assistant vice president for development and director of alumni and annual giving in 1983.

In 1986, Parrish was named vice president for institutional advancement. In 1991, he took on

the role of senior vice president for business and external affairs before moving up to the executive vice president and chief financial officer position in 1995, where he served until his retirement in 2002.

"OBU offered me a variety of professional opportunities and challenges throughout my career," he said. "Each leadership position I held served to build a solid foundation for the next level of responsibility."

### **The Commitment Continues**

Even in the face of full-time retirement, Parrish did not end his service to OBU. He served as interim president from 2007-08, chaired the OBU Centennial Committee for the 2010 Centennial Celebration, authored a book series on OBU history, and continues on as university sports historian and radio voice of Bison sports teams.

Parrish has completed his 50th year of service to this institution, where he journeyed for a job interview all those years ago. It is no wonder the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame came calling.

"I'm very honored by it," Parrish said. "I'm joining a list of excellent faculty and administrators around the state and at OBU. To be listed with them is a great honor. It shows that they are reaffirming my commitment to OBU and OBU's commitment to me."

As Parrish looks back on his career, a few key things stand out above the rest – being present for the 1966 national basketball championship and broadcasting the 2010 national basketball championship; meeting and marrying his wife, Mary Kay; and serving on OBU President Bob Agee's executive cabinet from 1986-98. He recalls that span as the highlight of his career, serving alongside Dr. C. Pat Taylor, Tom Terry, Dr. David Sallee, Dr. Dick Rader and Dr. Mack Roark.

Parrish has not set a date when his service to OBU will come to an end, but he has plenty to occupy his time away from Bison Hill before and after that time comes – grandchildren, yard work, sports, exercise, family time and traveling. Yet wherever he goes and however he spends his time, Bison Hill is always with him and he will continue to impact his beloved institution.

Dr. John W. Parrish was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame Oct. 14, 2014. To read a copy of his full remarks, visit [okbu.edu/magazine](http://okbu.edu/magazine).



obubison.com

# Bison and Lady Bison Teams End Seasons on High Note

Volleyball, cross country, football and soccer capped strong seasons once again. The Bison and Lady Bison found success at both the conference and national levels, making 2014 another winning season on Bison Hill.



## Lady Bison Soccer Qualifies for Tournament

Lady Bison had a historic season for the program, making the NAIA postseason for the first time. The team finished 15-6-1, qualifying for the NAIA Opening Round after winning the only Sooner Athletic Conference championship in program history.

The team traveled to No. 13 Martin Methodist in Pulaski, Tennessee, where their season ended with a 1-0 defeat. "I couldn't be more proud of the girls," said OBU head coach Mike White. "I feel like we played well enough to win. Martin Methodist is a very talented team and they made it very difficult on us."

The men's soccer team started off strong this season but struggled to

finish. OBU finished 7-11 on the season after dropping the final five matches of the year. The Bison fell to four ranked opponents on the year, including a loss to USAO in the first round of the SAC Tournament to end their season.

Freshman Pablo Garcia was named All-SAC second team after adding four goals and four assists.

## Bison Football Caps Off Eight Win Season

The Bison football team finished their second season back on the field with an 8-3 record and a third-place finish in the Central States Football League. The team just missed the NAIA Top 25, finishing 26th in the final regular season poll after matching the school record for wins. Thirty-six players



Junior Cat Roth was the Sooner Athletic Conference Volleyball Hitter of the Week for the week ending Nov. 9, 2014.

knocking off Southwestern College (Kansas), University of St. Mary and Bacone College.

### Cross Country Finishes Top Ten

The cross country team finished the season ranked seventh nationally and placed sixth in the NAIA Cross Country National Championships in Lawrence, Kansas. OBU improved on last year's seventh-place finish and bettered its team time

from the NAIA preview on the same course earlier this season.

Hannah Fields earned a second consecutive national runner-up finish, covering the five kilometer course in 17:34.40. She earned a third All-America honor, becoming the second Lady Bison to do so, joining four-time All-American Brandy Bratton.

"In this sport, everyone judges you on one race," said OBU assistant track and field coach Matt Kennedy. "I had the privilege of being with this team all season. I know their heart and how hard they worked. I'm proud of the effort they put into this."

### Volleyball Captures Second Place in SAC

The volleyball team once again enjoyed a successful season under

the direction of head coach Anna Howle, finishing 24-12, placing second in both the regular season and the Sooner Athletic Conference Tournament.

The Lady Bison saw their historic streak of 53 straight regular season SAC victories come to an end this year, finishing 13-3 in conference matches.

Three different players earned awards at the conference level. Valerie Stetzer was named Libero of the Year, Ezgi Guney won her second straight Setter of the Year award and Cadyn Laing was named SAC Newcomer of the Year. All three players were also named to the All-SAC first team.

Priscila Mendes was selected for the All-SAC second team. Kate Decker, Lacey Herbert, Kaitlyn Lucy and Cat Roth were each named All-SAC honorable mention.

Mendes led the team with 2.6 kills per set, Guney finished with 8.2 assists per set and Stetzer finished with 4.5 digs per set. Laing had 95 blocks on the year to lead the team, and Lucy finished with 44 service aces for the season.

were honored by the league on varying levels.

OBU finished third nationally in scoring offense, averaging 43.5 points per game, using an offensive line that led the NAIA in fewest sacks allowed with only six all season. Jordan Barnes led the CSFL with 93.5 yards rushing per game and became OBU's first 1,000-yard rusher, finishing with 1,028 yards.

The Bison also finished strong on defense, ranking 14th nationally in scoring defense. OBU defenders limited opponents to 28 percent on third-down conversions, the fifth lowest percentage in the NAIA.

The Bison defeated three teams that they lost to the previous season,

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

# Patricia Baker Prescott '70

## Holding the Bar High

It was with great sadness that the students and faculty of Arlington Middle School in Arlington, Tennessee, said goodbye to their beloved principal four years ago. Forty years after graduating from OBU and beginning her successful career in education at Sequoyah Elementary in Shawnee, Pat Prescott was retiring and returning home to Oklahoma to be near family and give back to the school that had given her so much.

It is no wonder that the AMS family was sad to see her go, as Prescott is a gifted educator, administrator and advocate of children with an uncanny gift of making everyone she meets feel like a cherished friend. Enthusiastic about learning and the cultivation of true community, she inspires excellence in everyone who works with her.

AMS parent Deauna Wayson wrote, "Patricia Prescott is the kind of principal that every child wishes they could have, every parent wants for their child, every teacher wants to work for, and every superintendent wants running one of his or her schools."

"Her sense of fairness and adventure made everyone enthusiastic about trying new things. There wasn't a fear of failure or disappointment, but a feeling of excitement," AMS teacher Bonnie Meadows wrote.

AMS librarian Karen Haggard added, "She never had to yell or scold to get her point across; she just made her expectations for conduct clear. Nobody booed in our gym, bullying was not tolerated, and good character was recognized and celebrated."

"It was obvious to everyone who worked with her that being a principal was a ministry to her," said AMS Assistant Principal Melissa Lukas.

Prescott's philosophies and methodologies were greatly influenced by her undergraduate experience at OBU.

Humbled by the praise of her colleagues, Prescott did not know what to say in response to these accolades, but was quick to agree on the last point. "It wasn't about me," she smiled

through tears. "From the very beginning of that school, it was God's. It was a ministry from day one."

Arlington Middle School opened in 2000 with just 500 students. Prescott, a first-year principal, was given the





TELL ME AND I FORGET;  
TEACH ME AND I MAY REMEMBER.  
**INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN.**  
ALBERT EINSTEIN

helm. Believing that when children feel safe and loved, they will learn and grow, she treated students and faculty with the same respect that she hoped to receive from them, extending grace and mercy to all while holding the bar high both educationally and professionally.

“I saw my job as being a facilitator,” Prescott explained, eyes wide with passion. “You know, ‘Tell me what you need, and I’ll get out of the way.’ Teachers have to have that freedom and support to perform at their best. A successful school is a community effort, everyone pulling for everyone else, me pulling for teachers, teachers pulling for kids.”

A cheerleader by nature, Prescott did everything she could to keep spirits high at AMS, holding impromptu staff meetings to boost teacher morale when necessary and routinely leading her faculty in light-hearted chants to refocus and energize the group as a whole. To encourage compassion, Prescott asked her teachers to keep pictures of themselves in middle school on their desks and to look at them when their patience wore thin. “It’s about mutual respect,” she said. “You have to give a child room to be a child.”

Under her dedicated and prayerful leadership, AMS enrollment grew from 500 to 1,300 students.

“It was just the most unbelievable thing,” she marveled. “Time after time, people would come into our building, and say, ‘Something is different here. You can feel it when you walk in the building.’ Of course, there are some things I couldn’t legally say, but I would always respond with, ‘Well, I know this school is prayed over. Perchance, that is what you feel.’”

By her own admission, Prescott’s philosophies and methodologies were greatly influenced by her undergraduate experience at OBU. “It’s about your people,” she explained. “That’s where it all has to start, not buildings or facilities. I was nurtured, cheered, and loved all the way through my time at OBU. Grady Cothen was OBU president then. He created such a community of caring and concern that I always felt safe there. I always felt like if I had a bump in my road, there would be a faculty member that I could go to that would stand in the gap not for me, but with me.

“At OBU, I learned that you should surround yourself with people that can help you find the answers and can make you better. At AMS, I hung a sign that said, ‘A friend is someone who makes you a better person.’ That came from my experience at OBU because that is what happened to me there.”

Prescott, a social person by nature, struggled a bit to focus during her freshman year at OBU. Her close friend Katherine and Katherine’s mother OBU Professor Kathyne Timberlake stepped in to help. “They put me on study schedules,” Prescott remembered, “nothing punitive, but it was like having a cheering squad. Dr. Timberlake told me, ‘God is going to use you in a big way, Pat, and you must be prepared.’ That was OBU. It was funny, and it was fun, and it was real.”

Prescott and her husband Charles, also retired, are grateful for the time and opportunity they have to pour back into their alma mater in any way possible so that they might influence the next generation. She currently serves on the OBU Alumni Board as vice president, and she and Charles attend OBU events and act as host family to one of OBU’s international athletes. In her free time, she tutors at a local school. Prescott laughed, “We teachers never really retire, do we?” ■

# Jim Tye '62, Shirley Tye '87

## Still Going Strong

It is one thing to impress acquaintances and strangers, another entirely to impress your own children, those who see you at your weakest moments as well as at your best. Yet, that is exactly what retired missionaries Jim and Shirley Tye seem to have done. Of his hardworking parents, their son Mark wrote, "They have the most unselfish, servant hearts of anyone I have ever known." Of his father, in particular, Mark said, "In my life, I have never heard my father complain or say something derogatory about another person." High praise indeed considering the rigor and challenge of the work Jim and Shirley performed on the mission field and continue to be involved in today.

Jim and Shirley met in high school when Jim served as interim music director at Shirley's church. They were married in 1956. As both had surrendered to missions at an early age, the happy couple immediately set their sights on the mission field and began working toward that end. With the support and help of church members, Jim graduated from OBU in 1962 and continued his studies at Southern and Southwestern seminaries earning his degree in music from Southwestern. Shirley also picked up as many additional undergraduate hours as possible eventually earning her degree from OBU in 1987.

In 1970, eight years and three children after Jim's OBU graduation, Jim and Shirley were ecstatic to be appointed to the mission field through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The only hurdle left to jump was language school. They took it in stride and cleared it with ease, unwilling to be slowed down by anything. Their youngest child, Timothy, was actually born on graduation day. "I wasn't able to make it to the ceremony," Shirley laughed. Five weeks later, the Tye family was on the mission field in Ecuador.

"I was appointed as music teacher in the seminary there," Jim explained with enthusiasm. "We spent most of our time in Quito, the capital city. I worked with churches, helping them develop music ministries. We worked with the indigenous people in the Baptist churches there and had music festivals, and people came to know the Lord. They required more in discipleship, maybe, than people do here, so I didn't just do music, but began working in church development and church planting. Eventually, the Lord opened the door for us to start a new church, Eternal Life, and we began to reach other members of the community."

Jim and Shirley had the joy and privilege of serving as missionaries-in-residence at OBU twice during their missionary career. During one of those residencies, Jim

received EMT/First Responder training that served him well upon returning to Ecuador, and Shirley picked up the 40 remaining hours of her undergraduate coursework and became an OBU graduate like her husband.

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... the time they spent as students and then as missionaries-in-residence at OBU helped them on the mission field.

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In the 1980s, an earthquake rocked Ecuador, and Jim was given the opportunity to serve on the Disaster Response Committee. "We wanted to meet some of the needs of the people," he explained. "Through Hunger Relief Funds, we were able to establish the Abundant Life Human Needs Center. We were able to put together medical and dental caravans to reach rural parts of Ecuador."

Over the years, Jim and Shirley hosted many evangelistic partnership teams made up of first- and second-year medical students, serving as translators for the teams. Jim was able to use his EMT training as well.

"We always felt that Ecuador was an open and easy place to minister and spread the Gospel," Shirley said. "I know I just wanted to reach the end with no regrets, so



I did everything I could every day. I remember getting up in the morning and thinking that I wanted to use every minute of that day for the people of Ecuador. One thing I did was teach sewing to young women to help them get employment. They were able to get on at the factories that way. Many of those women have now gone on to finish high school and college. At first, the locals didn't send their kids to high school, but we began to encourage them to let them go. Some have college graduates now, and some of those graduates are called to missions. We did a lot of things in Ecuador, but in everything we did, we talked about missions. I believe it will bear fruit ... ”

Jim jumped in joyfully saying, “ ... It IS bearing fruit!”

Jim and Shirley agree that the time they spent as students and then as missionaries-in-residence at OBU helped them on the mission field. “I was in the music program,” Jim recalled, “so I didn't have some of the classes that most people who are headed into missions have, but I think that all of the classes at OBU are strong on missions in different ways. No matter what they train you to do, they train you to do it for the Lord. I remember the chapel speakers being powerful. They told us not to ask ‘Why should I go?,’ but ask ‘Why shouldn't I go?’ Of course, no matter how prepared you are, it's never enough. There were things that we were called upon to do in Ecuador that we didn't feel prepared to do, but the Lord helps you do it.”

All four of the Tye children, Jeana Tye Dickson, '84, Mark, '86, Scott, ex '89, and Timothy, served willingly

alongside their parents during their time in Ecuador, playing piano, translating, teaching Sunday school, and leading Vacation Bible School, among other things. Today, they continue the Tye family tradition of service in their local churches, raising their children to love the Lord and share the gospel as their grandparents have done and continue to do.

These days, you will find Jim and Shirley serving in their local church, leading mission trips, taking part in various choral performances, and raising awareness for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. In addition, Jim is a member of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma, a chaplain with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Disaster Relief program, and a volunteer firefighter. He teaches OBU extension classes and works with the Robert Haskins School of Leadership, a ministry of the BGCO in the area of contextualized leadership development.

“I guess we are still doing here what we did there,” Shirley chuckled. “There's no retirement in ministry, that's part of the deal.”

Jim added, “As long as the Lord blesses us with good health, we just keep going.” ■



## **Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. Honored for Accomplishments**

Rev. Dr. Eric A. Mayes, Jr., '63, died Sept. 10, 2014. He was 90. He was born May 30, 1924, in Arthur City, Texas, to Eric A. Mayes, Sr., and Gurtha Lee Wortham Mayes. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in his junior year at Boley High School, and served in France, Austria and Germany.

After his military discharge, he became a deacon at the New Hope Baptist Church of Oklahoma City and was later ordained as a Baptist minister. He began preaching in 1956. He graduated from OBU in 1963, the first African-American graduate of the University. He earned a Master of Arts from Oklahoma City University, a Master of Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a Doctor of Ministry from International Seminary.

He founded Unity Baptist in Oklahoma City in 1957 and retired as pastor emeritus in 2004. He became the first chairman of the Project Area Committee of the John F. Kennedy Neighborhood Urban Renewal Area and was one of the organizers of the One Church, One Child Adoption Program. He was previously a member of the board of directors of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., and was a member of the Baptist Ministers Association of Oklahoma City.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mary Anderson Mayes; four daughters, Joyce Mayes Morrison, Shirley Mayes Daniel, Kay Mayes Brown and Carol Mayes Chisolm; two sons, Eric A. Mayes, III, and Floyd Mayes; as well as 17 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

The University issued the following resolution this fall, honoring Dr. Mayes for his accomplishments and service to the Lord.

### **RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR DR. E.A. MAYES, JR.**

Whereas Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. was the first African American graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University,

Whereas Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1963,

Whereas Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. proved to be a lifelong learner by completing a master of secondary education degree from OCU, a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and an earned doctor of ministry degree from International Seminary in 1990,

Whereas Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. returned to his alma mater in 2000 to serve as a distinguished guest lecturer for the 2000 Gaskin Lecture to explore the history of the educational endeavor of Black Baptists in Oklahoma, eloquently outlining the life of Dr. E.W. Perry, pastor of Oklahoma City's historic Tabernacle Baptist Church (1915-1969) in his lecture,

Whereas Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. proved to be a lifelong minister serving as pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Oklahoma City for 48 years, and by serving as Pastor Emeritus until the time of his death,

Whereas Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. proved to be an educator of God's people by emphasizing the importance of training lay people in the church throughout his ministry,

Whereas Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. was co-founder and treasurer of One Church, One Child Adoption of Oklahoma and served as executive-treasurer of the Oklahoma Baptist State Convention for more than two decades,

Be it resolved that Oklahoma Baptist University is pleased and honored to celebrate the life of Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr. as one of her favored sons,

Be it further resolved that Oklahoma Baptist University extends sincere love and condolences to Dr. E.A. Mayes, Jr.'s family and his congregation with gratitude in our hearts for his life,

Humbly submitted this 20th Day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen.



## New Online Giving System

The Office of University Advancement is pleased to announce the launch of a new online giving tool. OBU's online giving system provides donors a convenient, one-stop way to make numerous types of gifts online.

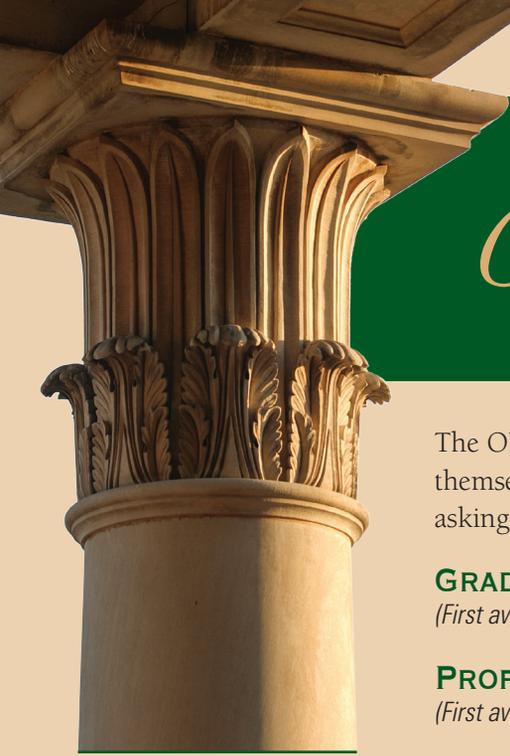
The tool accepts monetary contributions by debit card, e-check and credit card, as well as the donation of tangible goods including vehicles, assets, electronics, gift cards, and many other items. It also includes frequently asked questions regarding the donation of larger items such as real estate and business interests.

"The implementation of a new online giving platform accomplishes our goal of providing a speedy, efficient, and secure way for alumni and friends to make gifts to OBU," said Will Smallwood, vice president for university advancement.

"Through this online giving tool, donors will be able to quickly impact OBU through a multitude of giving options."

The site, found at [okbu.edu/giving](http://okbu.edu/giving), makes both cash and non-cash contributions a much simpler process. The giving platform unifies all donation options into a single giving system, handling any type of gift a donor should desire to bestow upon the University.

To make a gift or for more information, visit [okbu.edu/giving](http://okbu.edu/giving) or call 405.585.5412.



# Alumni Awards

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The OBU Alumni Association seeks to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves in such a way as to bring pride and honor to the University. We are asking our alumni to nominate fellow alumni deserving these distinctions.

### GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE

*(First awarded in 2000)*

### PROFILE IN EXCELLENCE

*(First awarded in 1978)*

### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is the highest form of recognition given by the OBU Alumni Association.

*(First awarded in 1949)*

*Please visit [okbu.edu/alumni](http://okbu.edu/alumni) to learn more about the awards, nomination instructions, and other award possibilities.*

### ✂ Send Us Your News

Alumni Notes in *OBU Magazine* offer a convenient way to stay informed about fellow alumni and friends. Send your news to [alumni@okbu.edu](mailto:alumni@okbu.edu) or visit [okbu.edu/alumni/stay-connected](http://okbu.edu/alumni/stay-connected) to complete the brief update form.

### ✂ Alumni Encouraged to Connect

#### ALUMNI AND FRIENDS EVENTS

The Alumni Office welcomes volunteers who would like to help host an OBU alumni and friends event in their area. Email [alumni@okbu.edu](mailto:alumni@okbu.edu) or call **405.585.5413** to coordinate.

#### ONLINE COMMUNITY

Alumni can also connect online through the OBU Online Community. Visit [okbu.edu/alumni](http://okbu.edu/alumni) to learn more.

*We look forward to helping alumni and friends connect!*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE

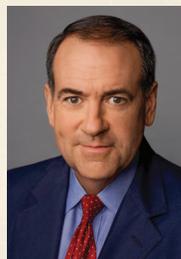
3rd Annual  
**Green & Gold**

*gala*

featuring

**MIKE HUCKABEE**

Former Arkansas governor, former  
host of the top-rated weekend show  
on Fox News, and New York Times  
bestselling author



**Tuesday, March 3, 2015 | 7 p.m.**

**National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**

1700 NE 63rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111

The Green & Gold Gala is OBU's premier event for raising funds for student scholarships. For additional information and to purchase tickets, go to [okbu.edu/gala](http://okbu.edu/gala). If you are interested in sponsoring a table, contact Crystal McKee, 405.585.5427 or [crystal.mckee@okbu.edu](mailto:crystal.mckee@okbu.edu).