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Stavros Hall

The Future of Nursing Education

OBU

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OBU | From the **President**



Greetings from Bison Hill! Another spring semester has arrived and excitement is in the air at OBU.

This semester we celebrate the opening of our newest facility on campus, Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall, the new home of the OBU College of Nursing. We have anticipated this grand opening for several years and look forward to the new opportunities this facility will bring.

OBU's nursing program has a long and impressive history, having offered the first four-year nursing degree in the state of Oklahoma. The future looks exceptionally bright as we eagerly anticipate what the years ahead hold for nursing education on Bison Hill.

In this edition of *OBU Magazine*, the dean of the College of Nursing shares about what makes an OBU nursing degree so special. Alumnus Taylor Dickinson, who earned not one but two nursing degrees from OBU, explains how his OBU nursing education has transformed him and how he, in turn, is impacting the next generation.

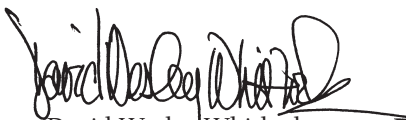
In the pages that follow, you will learn about our Promising Teacher Award recipient, Dr. Contessa Edgar, and how she awakens curiosity and a thirst for learning in her students.

You will read about great accomplishments in the University's Vision for a New Century Capital Campaign and the needs that are yet unrealized.

You will be blessed by the stories about three alumni Profile In Excellence recipients and how they are impacting the world in the fields of finance, construction and missions.

Great things are happening on Bison Hill as we welcome a new dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts and progress through our first year of NCAA Division II athletics competition.

There is much to celebrate at OBU. As we look to the accomplishments of the past, we celebrate the events of the present and anxiously await the future to see what opportunities the Lord has in store for our students and our University. May God bless you as He continues to bless OBU.


David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President



"I felt compelled to use my talents and efforts in a field that would allow me to directly serve others. Nursing met this goal, and I chose the OBU College of Nursing because of the appeal of rigorous academics and valuable focused interaction with professors that only a school of this size can provide."
—Travis DeWall, senior nursing major

In this Issue

ON THE COVER

Stavros Hall, the new home for the OBU College of Nursing.

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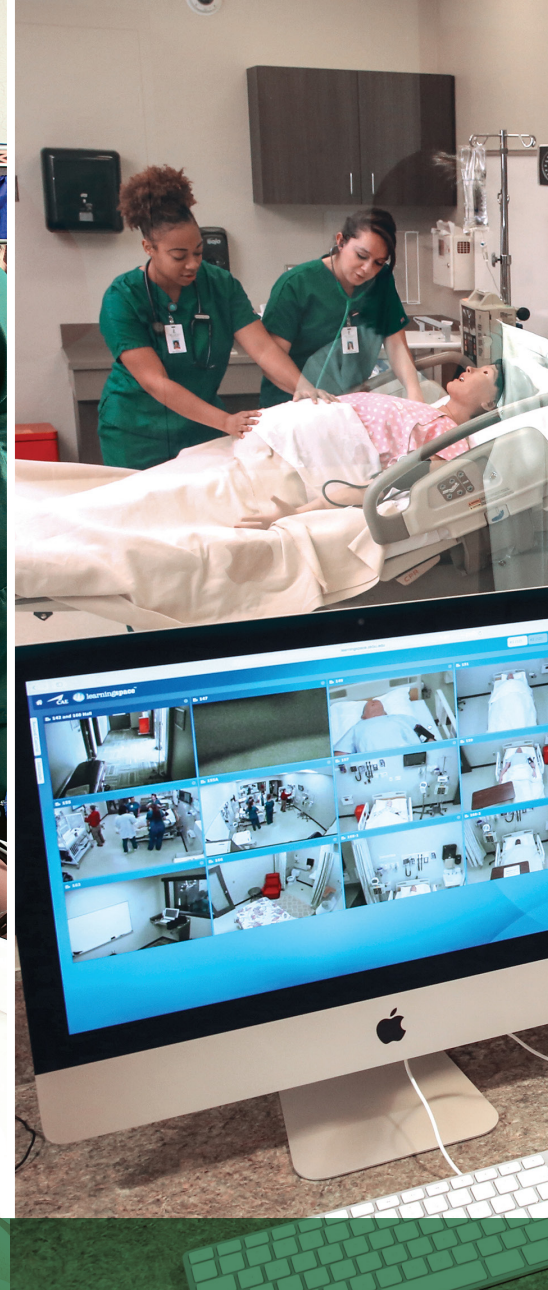
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Stavros Hall features six high-fidelity skills simulation labs.

ABOVE LEFT: The **birthing suite** includes a labor and delivery simulator and an infant simulator [pictured] that displays various newborn medical conditions and behaviors.

ABOVE CENTER: The high-fidelity skills simulation labs feature lifelike interactive simulation trainers that display various medical conditions the students will face in nursing practice. Each lab may be set up to function as an **ER** or **ICU**, and includes medical equipment such as EKG machines, working defibrillators, feeding pumps, syringe pumps for careful dosing in children, and a warming unit for newborns.

Leading Nursing Education into the Future ... Again

Known for being a trailblazer in Oklahoma nursing education, the OBU College of Nursing has developed a solid reputation for producing nursing graduates who are highly skilled and in-demand.



Alongside each high-fidelity lab is a **control room** with one-way glass where faculty may control the simulators and monitor students. Following simulation sessions, faculty meet with students in adjacent debriefing rooms to discuss the simulation scenario and review the session video.

OBU Blazed the Trail In 1952

In the fall of 1952, the Oklahoma State Board of Nursing granted approval to OBU for Oklahoma's first baccalaureate nursing program. This degree was the first four-year baccalaureate program for nursing in the state among all universities. OBU blazed the trail as numerous others have since followed.

The University's decision to add a four-year nursing degree met several needs. First, following World War II, OBU had a vision to increase career opportunities for female students and to recruit more women to the University. During that same

time, the board of directors of Wesley Hospital in Oklahoma City discontinued its diploma nursing program and offered the facilities of the hospital to a university interested in developing a baccalaureate program. In March 1952, a contractual agreement was drawn between OBU and Wesley Hospital and the state's first four-year nursing degree program was born.

The first class of 11 students graduated in 1956 and the OBU nursing program was accredited by the National League for Nursing in 1960. This accreditation continued without interruption until the School

of Nursing affiliated with American Association of Colleges of Nursing, its current accrediting body.

In 1964, Wesley Hospital affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and became Presbyterian Hospital. When a new Presbyterian Hospital was built in the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the nurses' residence, which had housed the OBU nursing program, was no longer available, ending the 25-year partnership in 1977. The clinical portion of the nursing program then moved to Baptist Medical Center.

In 1981, the Department of Nursing became the School of Nursing with a dean as the administrative officer. Classroom space was obtained at Olivet Baptist Church in Oklahoma City for the 1983-1985 academic years. In 1987, permanent space for the School of Nursing was provided with the remodeling of Thurmond Hall on campus in Shawnee.

In 2011, the School of Nursing became the College of Nursing. The College now offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, an RN to MSN degree with the option to exit with a BSN for nurses with an associate degree or diploma, an LPN to BSN degree, and a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a focus in either nursing education or global nursing.

OBU Leads the Way in 2016

As OBU's nursing graduates continue to be in demand and the reputation of the University's high quality nursing education continues to grow, the College is poised to take the next step.

Plans began to develop a few years ago for a new nursing facility, a stand-alone building for the College of Nursing. Nick Stavros, founder of Metro Appliances and More, provided the lead gift for the building in memory of his late wife Jane. Her father was Victor C. Hurt, legendary OBU athletic director and football,



Mid-Level Simulation Lab

This lab features eight patient simulators: six adults and two children. Professors use hand held touchscreen devices to control the simulators, changing their symptoms, actions, and sounds to simulate changes in real patients, challenging students to respond in real time to their patients' needs. This lab can simulate outpatient care, an ER, or surgery recovery and features a full headwall setup, just like a hospital.

basketball and track coach. With this gift, construction commenced in May 2014.

The facility is unrivaled in the state of Oklahoma. The attention to detail and inclusion of real-world medical technology will allow nursing students to be well prepared to enter the nursing workforce.

"The opening of Stavros Hall has been greatly anticipated by all of the senior nursing students," said Travis DeWall, senior nursing major. "Not only will nursing students now have a building for classes, but with the new simulation equipment and technology, students will feel like they are performing their skills in a real hospital setting."

Technology of the Future

The most impressive features are found in the Stavros Hall simulation labs. The technology, design and cutting-edge practices in use for training the next generation of nurses are second to none. The labs bridge the gap between learning and practice, placing students at the front lines of patient care, all while under the watchful eye of their professors.

The high-tech simulation labs are equipped with the industry's most advanced medical simulation solutions. The lifelike patient simulators provide training opportunities for students in various medical emergencies, allowing learners to acquire the clinical skills necessary to improve patient safety. Students acquire hands-on practice using a birthing simulator, infant and pediatric simulators and adult patient simulators.

All simulation scenarios are recorded so instructors can review the videos during debriefing sessions with students. These sessions provide unique opportunities for students to receive specific feedback that helps them improve their skills. The training curriculum consists of single- and multi-patient scenarios that include respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological, maternal-child, trauma, mass casualty and disaster situations.

Patient simulators significantly enhance realism, as they can breathe, bleed, speak and even give birth to a lifelike baby that cries upon delivery. The lifelike devices also simulate complications and various life-threatening scenarios while allowing students to monitor vital signs and administer treatment.

Dr. Nichole Jackson, assistant professor of nursing and simulation director, is thrilled with the level of training the simulation labs will provide.

“The lab space and simulation suites at OBU will improve the quality of education our students receive by allowing faculty to immerse students in realistic hospital situations where students can truly see the outcomes

of their nursing actions,” she said. “The state-of-the-art technology mingled with applicable simulated scenarios will help students connect classroom theory to professional nursing practice. In doing so, students will be better equipped to care for complex and diverse patient situations while being readily adaptable to the rapidly changing healthcare environment they will enter upon graduation.”

With this facility, OBU is poised to once again take the lead in nursing higher education in the state of Oklahoma, a position familiar to the College since its earliest days.

“Simulation is a part of the future of nursing education,” Jackson said. “With this facility, OBU is well positioned to be a leader in the simulation arena and beyond.”



Health Assessment Skills Lab

This lab features eight bays with exam tables, sinks and a full complement of medical equipment designed to simulate a clinic visit. Nursing students work with human patients in this lab, who portray prescribed symptoms to help train the students in assessment and treatment.

Dean McHenry answers ...

WHY

NURSING EDUCATION

MATTERS ON BISON HILL



Nursing education has experienced significant growth in recent years as demand for highly educated nurses has increased. Dr. Lepaine McHenry, dean of the OBU College of Nursing, discusses the College of Nursing, the benefits of an OBU nursing education, Stavros Hall, and the future of nursing education at OBU.

Q Why is the field of nursing important?

A As the American population ages, more people are living longer and are ill more often, increasing the demand for well-educated and highly skilled nurses who can provide the highest quality healthcare at the bed side. Due to that demand, nursing as a profession opens many doors in the United States and beyond. Nursing provides students the opportunity to touch people's lives like no other profession. Here at OBU, we help our students prepare to touch lives as they learn how to integrate the head, heart and hands to bring healing not only to the body but also to the soul of their patients.

Q Why should students come to OBU if they want to pursue a career in nursing?

A OBU has a tradition of excellence in nursing education and was the first approved baccalaureate program in the state of Oklahoma. We have a long history of dedication and commitment to nursing, and our program is known for producing quality nurses who are now providing care around the world. We teach our students not only about the art and science of nursing, but also how to incorporate their Christian worldview into their work. OBU nursing graduates truly learn how to love and serve their patients as Christ would have them serve.

Q What will students learn from an OBU College of Nursing education that they won't learn at other universities?

A In addition to the application of the Christian worldview, the OBU College of Nursing has a faculty that is truly dedicated and committed to the success of our students. Our professors are here because they have a heart to teach. As a liberal arts university, we develop students as people, focusing on how they fit into their communities and what their contributions will be in their communities. Not only do we help our students shape their Christian worldview in their profession, we also help develop them as people. Most universities focus only on the professional knowledge.



Stavros Hall At-A-Glance

Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall stands on the south side of MacArthur Street, just west of Kickapoo and north of Shawnee Hall, and opened for the Spring 2016 semester.

This 32,000-square-foot facility is designed to provide cutting-edge nursing education for both undergraduate and graduate-level students.

Stavros Hall includes five classrooms, a 109-seat lecture hall and a computer classroom, as well as spaces for students to study, meet and interact with faculty. The facility features six high-fidelity skills simulation labs, a medium skills lab, a health assessment skills lab, and a home health and bathing training room, totaling 24 beds. The high-tech simulation labs are equipped with the industry's most advanced medical simulation solutions.

Q What does the future of nursing education hold at OBU?

A Our goal is to continue educating nurses to meet the healthcare needs of our country, and also to work toward meeting the Institute of Medicine's recommendations for increasing the number of baccalaureate prepared nurses. In the "Futures of Nursing" report, the IOM recommended increasing the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree and doubling the number of nurses with a doctorate degree. We plan to continue our growth and to expand our programs to meet the needs of the healthcare industry and to enhance the careers of our students.

Q How will Stavros Hall impact the training our students receive and their preparation to enter the nursing profession?

A Stavros Hall will allow us to continue delivering a premier nursing education while both complementing and enhancing that education with the use of state-of-the-art technology. We're already doing a great job teaching our students. However, our 24-bed simulation lab and other tools will enhance our ability to prepare students. It will allow students to learn using high-fidelity simulation, mid-level simulation and interaction with real patients, giving them invaluable experience as they head into their careers.

Q Specifically, how will the simulation labs improve our students' readiness to serve upon graduation?

A Currently, no other nursing education program in the state of Oklahoma offers a facility of this caliber. Our labs will simulate scenarios in a realistic way that will mirror real-life experiences graduates will encounter in hospital, community and clinic settings. Providing these types of experiences better equips them to handle these scenarios once they are in the work environment. I want students to leave our nursing program feeling confident that they have been equipped with the needed knowledge and skill set and believing that they experienced the best education in the best facility.



Taylor Dickinson, '11 and '14, shares his perspective about the impact his OBU education had on his career and what led him to choose the OBU College of Nursing ... twice.

Taylor Dickinson is a busy man. He works 12-hour shifts as a house resource nurse at Oklahoma Heart Hospital South in Oklahoma City. He also serves as an adjunct professor of nursing for OBU, managing undergraduate students in clinical rotations at the hospital. He's married to an elementary music school teacher, Ashlynn Streck Dickinson, '13, and he's earned not one but two nursing degrees, with plans to pursue a third.

Less than five years into his nursing career, Dickinson understands the benefits and impact his OBU education has made on his career. He wants others to experience the OBU difference as well and is helping to spread the word.

Dickinson was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and spent time growing up in Amarillo, Oklahoma City, and Moore, before settling in Enid, Oklahoma, where he graduated high school. He journeyed to OBU and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing Education. He worked at St.

John Medical Center in Tulsa, then in the Critical Care Unit as a staff nurse at Oklahoma Heart Hospital South before transitioning in September 2015 to his current role as a house resource nurse.

"Nursing is a challenging but also very rewarding field," he said.

"My experience at OBU helped teach me how to care for the patient holistically."

"I've had the opportunity to work in step-down and critical care units, treating patients with skills and techniques that are constantly changing and improving, while also teaching patients about their condition and available treatments. I've been involved with assisting patients to heal psychologically, spiritually and physically. Assisting them during a stressful point in their life is such a rewarding thing. It's a blessing to see them progress

throughout their stay until they get to that point where it's time for them to go home."

Dickinson reflects fondly on his undergraduate nursing education on Bison Hill, crediting it with making a profound impact on his career and his worldview.

"OBU allowed me to take the experience I gained from a liberal arts university and broaden my horizon as a young professional," he said. "It's given me the ability to take little pieces of the arts, history and science, and relate them to everyday life. It truly has helped me become a well-rounded person, in ways I may not have experienced at another university."

He found success by plugging into study groups and collaborating with other nursing students.

"A lot of times we would meet at another student's apartment after everybody was assigned a different chapter of the book or a different subject to study. As we became



Left: Taylor Dickinson pictured in the Stavros Hall health assessment lab.

Above: OBU alumnus, Dickinson, receives his pin at the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Pinning Ceremony in 2011.

masters of that subject, we began to teach others. Not only did we learn for ourselves but having to teach it to others helped us to better understand the concept as a whole. Not only did we study together, but we lived life together. You don't find that at most universities."

He was drawn to Bison Hill by the reputation of the nursing program, the small student to faculty ratio, and the program's long history as the first baccalaureate program of nursing in the state of Oklahoma.

Dickinson said potential nursing students only need to consider the facilities and faculty to know OBU is the best choice for their education.

"Having Stavros Hall, a state-of-the-art nursing facility with some of the most up-to-date technology and simulation, will give you an opportunity you may not get elsewhere in Oklahoma," he said. "The faculty members are tremendous. With a low student to faculty ratio, your professors get to

know you as a person and not just as a number."

"The professors don't want you only to be successful while you're at OBU; they truly desire for you to succeed in your career and as a person, so they're going to challenge you."

When Dickinson was ready to pursue a graduate degree, he knew immediately it would be through his alma mater and he knew it would be in nursing education.

"Education has always been something that runs in my family," he said. "My wife, Ashlynn, is an elementary music teacher and my mom is a teacher, too. Being able to see that spark in a student when

they fully understand the material is something that always interested me."

He learned about the MSN through his instructors while completing his undergraduate degree and knew he wanted to continue studying his profession from a Christian worldview.

"I wanted to be with peers of like mind who truly desire to bring holistic care to the patient," he said.

He found the OBU graduate program to be challenging, but also flexible enough to work around his busy schedule as a working professional.

Just as he endorses the undergraduate program, Dickinson also strongly encourages fellow nurses to take advantage of the MSN degree at OBU.

"The OBU program gives you the ability to take what you have learned and expand on it," he said. "If you're at that point where you're deciding whether you should pursue a master's degree in nursing education, I encourage you to earn your degree at OBU."

Dr. Contessa Edgar

Promising Teacher



Dr. Contessa Edgar, assistant professor of biology, is no stranger to awards. Named the 2015 recipient of OBU's Promising Teacher Award, Edgar also received the 2014 Student Government Association's "Seven Who Care" award. In 2002-03, she was named a Barry M. Goldwater scholar. While she is humbled and grateful for the recognition, if it were up to her, these awards would go to others:

to those who have supported and encouraged her, to those who have mentored her, and to those who have impacted her first, so she may in turn impact her students.

Edgar was born in Minnesota and grew up in South Dakota, where she graduated high school in Watertown and met her husband, Jeremy. She attended the University of Sioux Falls, a Baptist university, where she earned

a Bachelor of Science in biology and chemistry, while he attended South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

She entered graduate school at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where she served as a lecturer and teaching assistant in immunology and molecular genetics at the graduate school and medical school. She ultimately earned a doctorate in

biomedical sciences with an emphasis in immunology.

“At the end of graduate school, we started looking for the next step,” she said. “We prayed a lot about it and then a series of events opened the door for a move to Oklahoma.”

Jeremy accepted a position as a metallurgical engineer at Tinker Air Force Base and Contessa took a position as an associate research scientist at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City. While there, she worked with Darise Farris, Ph.D., who was her mentor, and became acquainted with Dr. Judith James, an OBU alumna.

“I love science,” she said. “I love understanding a specific molecular system and how that works together.”

My position at OMRF intrigued me, but it wasn't a perfect fit for me. I didn't seem to relish the thrill of discovery like other researchers did. You need that to thrive in a research environment.”

While working at OMRF, Edgar took a “preparing future faculty” course at the University of Oklahoma, a suggestion made by Farris and James. Through that course, she had the opportunity to guest lecture at OBU, OU and Southern Nazarene University.

Her research at OMRF was funded for another year, but when a faculty position opened at OBU, she was drawn to Bison Hill. James reminded Edgar that faculty openings don't come along very often and encouraged her to pursue it. Her husband supported her and also encouraged her to pursue the opportunity.

Edgar began on Bison Hill as an assistant professor of biology in August 2012. She currently teaches human anatomy, human physiology, introduction to cell biology, and cornerstones of science. Many of her students are nursing majors, as well as kinesiology and science majors. She also mentors honors students.

“My students are some of the sweetest people I've ever met,” she said. “I love getting to know them, and I constantly feed off their passion for their careers and what God is calling them to do. They are my favorite part of the job.”

Edgar has a clear vision for what she wants her students to experience and learn.

“I want them to appreciate the beauty and complexity of the human body that God has given us,” she said. “I want to share with them my sense of awe about how God's design is apparent in science. I've met my goal for the day if I see a look of amazement on their faces when I explain some physiological process. I want them to be on fire for God and for physiology.”

She became a Christian as a child and was baptized at age 8. Raised in a Christian home, she learned from her parents' example how to serve Christ and follow Him. As an undergraduate student, she thrived in the Christian university environment and learned valuable lessons moving from that environment to a secular graduate school...lessons she passes on to her students.

“The challenge was learning to articulate my faith in a way that challenged people without offending them,” she said. “That's something I try to prepare my students for, especially the upperclassmen. I tell them that life is going to be different when they graduate, and I challenge

them to think about how they will deal with that. They have to rely on the foundation they've already built.”

She expressed gratitude to fellow faculty members Dr. Tony Yates, associate professor of science, and Dr. Brad Jett, James E. Hurley professor of biology, and to Dean Debbie Bosch, who befriended her and mentored her as a new teacher.

“Anything good I do in the classroom is because of the examples they set for me,” she said.

She has also found inspiration in her daughter, Gwendolyn, born in May 2014.

“Becoming a parent has been a good lesson in understanding unconditional love. Parenting teaches you how to be selfless, as well as many spiritual disciplines and why they are important,” she said.

Away from Bison Hill, she leads AWANAs at First Southern Baptist in Del City with a group of third through fifth grade girls each Wednesday night and has volunteered in Whiz Kids, a remedial reading program for underprivileged children in Oklahoma City. This summer, she plans to take her first GO Trip, to Belize, where she and science students will teach science classes to children, shadow in a clinic, and tour a medical school.

Hanging on her office wall is a print of a scientist and apprentice. As they experiment and explore, and struggle to learn and to solve, the joy is apparent on the mentor's face, as the pupil grows in wisdom and understanding. So it is with Edgar. A gifted researcher and accomplished biologist, she delights most in the learning and understanding of her pupils, not for her own benefit, but for their future success.

vision FOR A new century

Campaign Update



Dr. Will Smallwood
Vice President for
University Advancement

At this very moment, OBU nursing majors are enjoying their first taste of life in the new nursing education center – Stavros Hall. They are experiencing firsthand the investment you made in their education. More than 600 donors made gifts toward the new facility, technology and equipment. These gifts ranged from \$3.00 to \$3 million, a reminder to all of us on Bison Hill that EVERY gift, no matter the size, matters! As we celebrate the official opening and dedication of Stavros Hall, we pause to give thanks for God's blessing.

Just as gifts of all amounts made Stavros Hall a reality, the same is needed as OBU continues to push toward the completion of the second phase of the Vision for a New Century Capital Campaign. Having surpassed the original \$42 million goal more than a year early, the Board of Trustees challenged OBU to raise an additional \$18 million by December 2018. Since that time, alumni and friends have gifted \$2 million toward three significant projects.

Ford Music Hall will undergo a \$1.4 million renovation in order to faithfully serve the next generation of music students and faculty. Perhaps most important and the largest portion of the project cost will be the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system that will address both humidity and noise issues. A new roof, new windows,

interior updates and a keyless card access entry system will complete this renovation.

A rebuild of Wood Science Building will make room for students pouring into the fastest growing college on campus—the James E. Hurley College of Science and Mathematics. Classrooms and lab spaces will address overcrowding issues as well as set the stage for OBU to launch mechanical and electrical engineering in the near future. As a leader in the math and sciences, this investment will position OBU at the forefront of influence and excellence in STEM education.

The campus master plan calls for a Student Services Center to be constructed just north of Raley Chapel. This welcome center and campus hub will make room for other academic programs to be housed in Thurmond Hall on the Oval and will establish the intersection of Raley Drive and MacArthur as the main entrance to the campus.

Plans are also in place to replace the roof on Raley Chapel in Summer 2016. About 42,000 red clay tiles will be arriving in the next couple of months for this massive replacement project. Each tile costs \$20, with an estimated cost of more than \$800,000 for the entire project. Gifts of any size are welcome to “Revive the Roof” at okbu.edu/giving.

Beginning in 2016, the Office of University Advancement will launch an effort as part of OBU's *GREEN* initiatives to enhance stewardship and conservation by delivering all gift receipts via email. By going paperless, the reduction of costs for paper, printing and postage allows OBU to focus more dollars on students than operations. To help us achieve our goal, share your email at development@okbu.edu or 405.585.5412.

Finally, let me encourage you to be a part of OBU's Fourth Annual Green and Gold Gala featuring legendary coach Lou Holtz on March 1, 2016. By purchasing tickets or sponsoring a table, you provide funding to support OBU's General Endowed Scholarship Fund. To find out more about the evening and to buy tickets, please visit okbu.edu/gala.

Women of Vision

Est. 2015

Building a Legacy on Bison Hill

Successful Inaugural Year

During 2015, OBU's Office of University Advancement launched the Women of Vision giving circle to provide OBU affiliated women an opportunity to connect, join resources and select OBU projects to support.

Guided by an advisory council of 11 OBU alumnae and supporters, Women of Vision grew to a membership of 58 and united together to give nearly \$50,000 during the inaugural year.

Women of Vision members gathered in September for the first full membership meeting and luncheon to learn about possible projects for funding and to hear an inspirational address from fellow alumna and Women of Vision advisory council member **Ronda Mikles**, '75.

During the meeting, members voted to allocate resources to a campus lighting improvement plan endorsed by students, faculty and administration. As a result, new lighting will be installed around WMU, Kerr and Montgomery Hall, with additional street lights



Women of Vision advisory council member Alycia Frie, '99, listens as potential projects are presented to members for funding consideration.

added to University Drive and walkway lights installed between Sarkeys Telecommunication Center and Shawnee Hall.

"The inaugural year for Women of Vision far exceeded my expectations," said Gretchen Trimble, director of development and Women of Vision coordinator. "It has been encouraging and rewarding to see so many women rally together who desire to make a kingdom impact here on Bison Hill.

"As Women of Vision enters its second year, our goal is to find women who have a heart for OBU, who desire to help fulfill the mission of the University, and who understand the biggest impact will come through giving together," she said.

Women who would like to connect with others through the Women of Vision and make a meaningful impact on Bison Hill are encouraged to visit okbu.edu/magazine for more information about the organization.

OBU

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MSN

The OBU College of Graduate and Professional Studies offers
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multiple areas of study through classes provided in person and online.



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Areas of study include:

- Leadership
- Project Management
- Energy Management
- International Business



Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy

Offered on the OBU campus in
Shawnee

Meets requirements for
licensure as a marriage and
family therapist in Oklahoma



Master of Arts in Christian Studies

Offered online

Areas of study include:

- Leadership
- Apologetics

Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

Offered online

Areas of study include:

- Intercultural Studies
- Orality Studies

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2015 Faculty Hall of Fame Inductees

Three new members were inducted into the Faculty Hall of Fame at the annual Harvest Dinner during OBU's homecoming festivities. 2015 inductees include Dr. Claudine Dickey, Dr. Ronda Hall and Dr. Jimmie Russell.

The Faculty Hall of Fame recognition program honors legendary faculty members who were master teachers that made a significant impact on OBU students. The first class was inducted in November 2010 during the University's centennial homecoming. Any OBU community member may nominate potential Faculty Hall of Fame inductees.

Dr. Claudine Dickey

Dr. Claudine Dickey graduated from OBU with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1960. She then earned a Master of Education in guidance from Central State University, now the University of Central Oklahoma; a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma; and a Ph.D. in social sciences, also from OU. She is married to John Dickey, and has three children, Michael, Darla and Laura.

She has served OBU as a professor of nursing, as dean



of the College of Nursing, and as an adjunct professor in the Master of Science in Nursing program at OBU. She has also served in numerous roles outside OBU, including clinical assistant professor of nursing at the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing and assistant for career development at Presbyterian Hospital. She published "What is Career Mobility?" in the Oklahoma Nurse newspaper, and received the Outstanding Young Women of America award in 1973.

One of her nominators commented on her teaching expertise, by saying, "As a master teacher, Claudine made difficult concepts understandable. Dr. Dickey's expertise in the subject matter was demonstrated in the classroom and the clinical setting. In addition to nursing students, the nursing staff and physicians had great respect for her knowledge base and her clinical expertise."

Dr. Ronda Hall

Dr. Ronda Hall served as professor of Spanish at OBU from 1973-2011. Prior to her time at OBU, she served as a missionary journeyman for the Foreign Mission Board of the



Southern Baptist Convention. She is married to Joe Hall.

She has attended numerous universities and colleges to further her education, even attending universities in Spain and Mexico. She earned a bachelor's degree from Samford University, a Master of Arts from the University of Alabama and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. She was involved in the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and the Oklahoma Foreign Language Teacher's Association, among others. In 1980, she received OBU's Distinguished Teaching Award.

One of her nominators, a previous student, said, "Dr. Hall was influential in me choosing Spanish as a major. I loved Spanish before I attended OBU, but in her classes, I couldn't soak up enough of her stories about living in Spain and the food and the people and all the things she did and saw there. I was privileged to be a student worker for Dr. Hall and enjoyed the time I got to sit with her in her office and visit with her."

Dr. Jimmie Russell

Dr. Jimmie Russell served as professor of education at OBU from 1981-2002. She passed away in 2002 at the age of 52. She is survived by her

husband, Dr. Norris Russell, OBU professor and chair of the Division of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies, and two children, Jeremy and Meredith.



She graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in education. She then earned a Master of Education from East Texas State University and later went on to earn a Doctor of Education from Oklahoma State University. She was highly involved in the educational system of Oklahoma and was a member of numerous educational organizations such as the Oklahoma Teachers Applying Whole Language and the Oklahoma Reading Council. She loved to read and fostered this love for reading among her students. In the winter of 1990, she published an article titled "Underestimating Capable Readers."

One nominator, a colleague at OBU, said, "She [Dr. Russell] showed a huge interest in her students while they were at OBU, and after they graduated and moved on to new endeavors. She was always seeking ways to improve her teaching in an effort to improve the students she mentored at OBU."

OBU Celebrates Winter Graduates

OBU celebrated the graduation of 89 students during its 2015 Winter Commencement ceremony Dec. 11 in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium.

The University conferred degrees upon 68 undergraduate and 21 graduate students. Pastor Fred Luter Jr., senior pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered the address. Luter shared a message titled "What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do," teaching from Matthew 26:36-46. His message advised the graduates with practical advice on how to make difficult choices and decisions in their lives and careers.



Graduating students took their symbolic final walk across the campus as OBU students when they filed into Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium for the Winter Commencement ceremony. The students passed through rows of OBU faculty members before reaching the chapel's east steps.

To view photos or video from the 2015 Winter Commencement ceremony, visit okbu.edu/magazine.

Two New Degrees To be offered Fall 2016

Two new degrees will be offered this fall for students interested in law enforcement and criminology: a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice and a Bachelor of Arts in forensic psychology.

Criminal justice is a social science that attempts to explain patterns of criminal behavior and deviancy, in addition to analyzing society's ability to control crime and delinquency. With a bachelor's degree, students can pursue careers in law enforcement, corrections, the judicial system, homeland security as well as related fields in nonprofits or in community agencies. Students who choose to pursue graduate or law school degrees are well prepared for further education or training to make them competitive for positions in the intelligence community as well

as federal law enforcement such as the FBI, U.S. Marshals Service and the Secret Service.

"The need for informed and ethical leadership in the field of criminal justice has never been greater," said Paul Donnelly, assistant professor of sociology. "Many of those who have dedicated their lives to the world of justice are retiring. Thus, opportunities are arising for well-prepared Christian men and women to fill these vacancies and shape the course of the future for how we treat those acting in opposition to man's and God's laws."

Forensic psychology involves a blending of the fields of psychology and law. Forensic psychologists assess and evaluate the mental state of criminals and victims and often serve as expert

witnesses in criminal trials. Because forensic psychology licensure requires a graduate degree, the bachelor's degree functions to provide a strong foundation for specialized graduate work. With a graduate degree in forensic psychology, students may work with criminal and juvenile offenders, trial lawyers, crime victims and law enforcement agencies. A forensic psychologist may also function as a jury consultant, expert witness, victim advocate, counselor or criminal researcher.

OBU intends to go beyond a mere understanding of laws and processes and strives to ensure that graduates understand the reasoning behind the actions of individuals.

"We will equip our students to understand individual sins as well as structural correlates of crime and deviance," Donnelly said. "We will create a knowledge and skill set that sets OBU

students apart from the day they enter their professional callings."

Students involved in the criminal justice program will have the chance to be involved in practicums and internships, ranging from ride-along experiences with a variety of law enforcement agencies, to working in juvenile and adult correctional facilities. Students will also be exposed to careers in community based corrections programs as well as crime prevention and programs working with at-risk youth.

"Students will develop the ability to live out the parable of the Good Samaritan," Donnelly said. "In recognizing our Lord's command to love our neighbor as ourselves, students will move beyond a simplistic retributive model of justice and embrace a Gospel inspired approach to restoration and redemption."

OBU to Launch the Center for Faith and Public Life

OBU will launch the Center for Faith and Public Life (CFPL) in fall 2016 and has



ARBO

appointed Dr. Matthew Arbo, assistant professor of theological studies, as its director.

The CFPL will encourage integration of faith and learning, foster vocational discernment and inspire a hopeful and charitable Christian public witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Center for Faith and Public Life will provide enrichment and support for the OBU community on matters concerning faith and vocation by sponsoring a range of initiatives such as conferences, public lectures, themed panels, student and faculty workshops, book groups, funded research and writing projects for faculty, student internships, and other vocational discernment initiatives. The Center will also strive to connect the university community with others across the state and region who share common aims with the University, forging strategic partnerships for scholarly and pedagogical collaboration. In all its endeavors, the Center will aim to deepen and enrich the life of the university community.

“The realization of the Center is a result of many months and years of planning and consideration, leading us

to the point where we are ready to launch this initiative,” said Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life. “Dr. Arbo’s vision and leadership during the planning process have proven invaluable. I am confident that he will lead the Center in making a positive impact on our faculty and students, as well as the campus at large.”

“Serving as director means a great deal to me personally,” Arbo said. “I want to hear from those more experienced than I about how to refine my craft, about new lines of thought, about how others across a wide range of disciplines understand Christian pedagogy.”

The center’s activities will be guided by four key objectives. First, the center will seek to transform understanding of discipleship by stressing the integration of faith and learning. Next, it will seek to renew social institutions by chartering initiatives within the university that directly impact social life. Third, it will seek to unite Christians within the university and wider metro area. Lastly, it will seek to enliven the hearts and imaginations of the OBU community by furnishing venues for deeper reflection on vocational practice in an increasingly complex world.

“The center will offer a venue within the University for reflection and deliberation on

Christian pedagogy,” Arbo said. “It will also sponsor events to foster broader reflection of what it means to have a vocation and to serve within a civically enriching institution like a university.”

The center will seek to bolster within the University a richer understanding of vocation as an expressive application of discipleship, to see all of life, every place and moment, as part of one’s

similar centers devoted to pedagogical reflection and faith integration exist throughout North America. However, the center being established on Bison Hill will go about its mission in a way unique to OBU and to its mission. The center is a specific realization of some long-abiding aspirations and a manifestation of the University’s commitment to teaching and to intellectual exploration.

“The Center for Faith and Public Life will also sponsor events to foster broader reflection of what it means to have a vocation and to serve within a civically enriching institution like a university.”

ongoing journey with Christ Jesus.

“The center is important because it advances the mission of the University,” Arbo said. “More specifically, it is important because faculty deserve support in carrying out their vocations as teachers and scholars. This center is not externally oriented, but internally oriented. It seeks the flourishing of the University.”

According to Arbo, other

“If Christian discipleship assumes dwelling in two cities, one heavenly and one earthly, then we do not have a choice of whether we will live in public, but how we will so live,” he said. “The center will sponsor initiatives for the university community to consider together how to live faithfully and charitably towards our neighbor.”

OBU Earns Top 10 Ranking for Christian Counseling

OBU was ranked 10th nationally on a list of colleges and universities offering the best Christian counseling degrees. The ranking was part of a list of the “Top 20 Christian Colleges For A Counseling Degree 2015,” compiled by BestCounselingDegrees.net. OBU was the only school in Oklahoma to make the top ten.

According to BestCounselingDegrees.net, to develop the ranking of “Top 20 Christian Colleges for a Counseling Degree,” they began by using the Institute of Education Sciences’ College Navigator to gather a list of schools that offered a counseling program (or a major with a counseling emphasis) as a bachelor’s degree. From that list of 194 institutions, they cross-referenced with the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to keep only regionally accredited schools. These 160 schools were then ranked based on an intricate point system.

OBU’s “psychology: pre-counseling” degree earned this place in the rankings. The OBU degree is special in that it has been tailored specifically for students who know they want to pursue a career in counseling. The degree includes specialized courses in counseling theory and practice not typically found in most undergraduate psychology programs. Furthermore, the

degree contains some flexibility of courses to accommodate students with a wide range of counseling interests.

Dr. Canaan Crane, associate professor of psychology and director of the marriage and family therapy graduate program, is pleased with the ranking.

“We work diligently at OBU to equip our students to integrate faith and learning,” he said. “Many of our graduates continue on into the field of counseling and work in a wide variety of mission fields.”

“OBU has always been dedicated to equipping our students to know and understand the field of psychology, counseling and therapy,” he said. “Our students are challenged to test and discern how views about humankind and human nature can be understood from a biblical, Christian perspective.”

Crane also noted how OBU stands out from other schools.

“A pre-counseling degree is somewhat unusual, as many schools only offer a psychology degree. This allows our students to focus on the content and skills that are specific to counseling/psychotherapy and thereby serves as an excellent preparation for continuing on into graduate school, either to professional programs or to seminary. Our students also have the benefit of learning from faculty who are teaching

in our graduate program in marriage and family therapy and several who are also clinically active.”

According to BestCounselingDegrees.net, there are advantages for counseling and psychology students to attend a Christian university like OBU.

“Attending a Christian college can be particularly

relevant for students interested in working in the counseling profession,” the site says. “A faith-based program will support students in growing in their own religious and spiritual framework. Additionally, students will develop the skills to support clients in approaching life’s challenges from a biblical perspective.”

Lightsey Honored with NextGen Award

Marissa Lightsey, OBU director of career development, received the “30 Under 30 (30/30) NextGen Award” during a ceremony in Oklahoma City Oct. 15.



LIGHTSEY

Presented by ION Oklahoma, a digital and print news source covering the state, the 30/30 Next Gen Award began five years ago to recognize 30 individuals, all under the age of 30, in the state of Oklahoma. The honorees are selected to represent the next generation of innovative, creative and inspiring individuals who push the boundaries beyond their years in all areas: arts, entertainment, business, media, sports, technology and more. Nominations include young professionals from across the state of Oklahoma. A panel of business and civic leaders select winners who are profiled in IonOklahoma Online.

Lightsey joined the OBU staff in 2013. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in applied communications from OBU in 2010. She earned a Master of Science in human resources, with an emphasis in human resources administration, from East Central University in 2014.

After graduating from OBU, she served as a communications associate for the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy. She also served as the upward bound advisor for Seminole State College’s TRiO program. She then served as advisor for Seminole State’s GEAR UP program.

Hayt Named as Director of Student Success

Melissa Hayt joined OBU in September as director of student success to serve in the Milburn Center.

Hayt directs programs related to at-risk students, general academic support, student-athlete academic support, retention counseling and retention initiatives. The Milburn Center assists students of all majors, classifications and academic needs with comprehension of course material and development of study, research, analytical, reading, writing and critical thinking skills.



HAYT

Students visit the center for assistance with writing assignments and academic support in core subjects as well as mathematics, chemistry, physics, accounting and economics. The staff also provides academic advising to students who have not declared a major or who are in the process of changing majors.

Hayt completed a Bachelor of Arts in corporate communication from the University of Central Oklahoma. She then completed a Master of Education in adult education, training and development, also from UCO. She is currently working on a Doctor of Philosophy in higher education, educational leadership and policy studies from Oklahoma State University.

Prior to joining the staff at OBU, she served as the manager of transfer student support at UCO. She previously served in other positions at UCO, including coordinator of academic programs, coordinator for student leadership development and graduate assistant for student leadership programs.

Hayt says she was drawn to OBU because of the environment on campus. "I wanted to be a part of Christian higher education and to encourage students not only in academics but in their spiritual lives as well. Each student comes to the success center looking for something different and I look forward to helping them find the support they need, be it academic, social or spiritual."

"The most significant aspect of my job is working with the students who are employed by the success center as well as the students who visit the center. It is such a valuable resource to OBU and I feel that my primary role is to continually evaluate and improve the services provided here," she said.

Hayt grew up in Midwest City, Oklahoma, where she and her husband, Dusty, currently reside. He is a recent graduate of the OBU MBA program. Her hobbies include hanging out with students from the college and career Sunday School class that she and her husband teach. She also enjoys playing with her two dogs, working on her dissertation and attending Broadway musicals.

OBU Unveils Statue of Dr. John Wesley Raley



OBU unveiled a statue of former OBU President and Chancellor Dr. John Wesley Raley during Homecoming 2015. Raley served as the University's eighth president from 1934-61, and as chancellor from 1961-68. He led the University through the Great Depression, through World War II, and into a time of unprecedented growth. He personally designed the University seal, and was responsible for the construction of many buildings on campus, including the iconic Raley Chapel, which opened in 1961 and bears his name. Funds for the statue were provided by family and friends of the Raley family.

OBU Recognized as One of Nation's Most Beautiful



OBU was recently recognized as having one of the most beautiful campuses in the nation, ranking on a list of the “50 Most Beautiful Christian Colleges and Universities 2016.” The list was compiled by Christian Universities Online, an independent online resource for students and families researching Christian higher education. The website publishes rankings and reviews of the best Christian colleges and universities, information about Christian scholarships and financial aid, and many other resources for finding, getting into, and paying for a quality Christian education.

The methodology behind this ranking began with schools that are either members of or eligible for membership in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU). Each of these schools were then evaluated and scored on the continuity of campus, architectural style, presence and appearance of signature buildings, and their natural setting. The total score from these criteria was

then used to rank the schools. OBU ranked number 47 in the nation.

The description of OBU posted on Christian Universities Online reads, “Featuring classic-revival style architecture with its beautiful red brick and white pillars, OBU’s campus is well laid out and dotted with deciduous trees and three small ponds.”

Christian Universities Online ranks campuses knowing that students make their college choices based on a multitude of factors.

“The natural surroundings, layout and beauty of the campus have considerable weight in this decision,” the website reads. “With this understanding, we are pleased to offer up this ranking that focuses purely on location and aesthetics rather than the facts or figures normally used to evaluate schools. This list serves as an attempt to highlight what we consider to be the 50 most beautiful Christian college and university campuses in the nation.”

OBU Welcomes New College of Fine Arts Dean



MATHEWS

OBU is pleased to welcome Dr. Chris Mathews as dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts. Mathews will assume his duties effective June 1.

Mathews earned a Bachelor of Music in sacred music with a major in piano and a minor in organ from Union University, graduating summa cum laude. He then earned a Master of Music in choral conducting from Southwest Missouri State University. He later earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of Kentucky, receiving a graduate certificate in music theory pedagogy.

He is professor of music, chair for the department of music and director of choral activities at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. Prior to joining the faculty at Union in 2008, he served at Clemson University in South Carolina from 2004-08 as assistant professor and both assistant director and ultimately director of choral activities. From 2000-04, he was assistant conductor and staff instructor at the University of Kentucky. He has served in the music ministry in several churches in Tennessee, Missouri and Kentucky.

"I am pleased to welcome Dr. Chris Mathews as the

dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts," said Dr. Stan Norman, provost and executive vice president for campus life. "Dr. Mathews has demonstrated exemplary leadership and character in his service both in Christian higher education and in ministry. His knowledge and skillset, along with the vision the Lord has given to him, will be invaluable assets for the College of Fine Arts in the years to come. We have a tremendous faculty, and I'm anxious to see how they and Dean Mathews work together under his leadership to accomplish the College's goals."

Mathews says he was powerfully drawn to OBU. "From the mission statement to the strategic plan, OBU is clear about its focus to transform lives for the sake of the kingdom of Christ," he said. "There is simply no better avenue from which to pursue this calling than through Christian higher education. Moreover, from president to staff, the people of Bison Hill have demonstrated genuine kindness, compelling enthusiasm and a warm invitation to join them in their story.

"I have been asked to step into a timeline that includes a significant legacy of leaders and influence, a remarkable assembly of faculty, staff, students, and resources, and an exciting potential

for service and growth. I look forward with great optimism to contributing to the continued success and renown of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts as we serve our University, our community, our churches and our Lord."

Mathews plans to focus on three things as he begins his role as dean: relationships, collaboration and development.

"I want to take time getting to know the people of OBU, meeting the pastors, congregations, and leaders of the BGCO, and introducing myself to the community of Shawnee and the surrounding region," Mathews said. "I also hope to think creatively about how divisions within the College of Fine Arts can

benefit one another and the school through collaborative work and how this can expand to our common calling with the other colleges on campus and with churches and schools that share our mission. I likewise want to enhance our efforts to attract great students and generous support, positioning the College of Fine Arts as a national leader in its respective disciplines in Oklahoma, the nation and beyond."

Mathews and his wife, Leslie, have been married for 22 years. She currently serves as assistant professor of special education at Union and hopes to begin PhD work upon moving to Oklahoma. The couple has three daughters: Ellen, a college freshman; Becca, a high school junior; and Natalie, an eighth grader.

OBU Tops Rankings

The Washington Monthly recently ranked OBU as the top baccalaureate college in the state of Oklahoma for 2016.

Washington Monthly, an online and print news magazine in Washington, D.C., differs from other college ranking guides by focusing on what colleges and their alumni do for the country as a whole. The rankings give high marks to institutions that contribute to society, enroll low-income students, help them graduate and don't charge a fortune to attend.

Washington Monthly also ranked OBU as one of the "Best Bang for the Buck" universities for the Southern region of the United States. This ranking is based on the best educational value for the money based on 'net' price, how well universities do graduating the students they admit, and whether those students go on to earn at least enough to pay off their loans.

Trust and Obey

Kevin Avery, '97,
and
Dayna DeBorde Avery, '98,
each came to OBU in search of a quality education
and strong sense of community. Thanks to
enthusiastic and invested students and faculty
members, they found both ...
and so much more.



Having surrendered to foreign missions at 14, Kevin still didn't know what area of study to pursue when he stepped foot on OBU's campus as a freshman. He chose computer science, hoping to gain a marketable skill that could be used wherever God chose to send him in the future and did everything he could to immerse himself in campus life. In the spring, Kevin was able to participate in a mission exchange program and earn 15 hours of credit while gaining experience on the mission field.

"It was an opportunity I didn't expect as a freshman," Kevin said. "I was actually nervous to go to Poland because I imagined Eastern Europe would be cold and dreary, but I believed God wanted me to go. And wow, I'm glad I did. Poland was life changing for me. It was my first experience teaching English as a second language. When I got back

home, I changed my major to English with a minor in TESL."

Kevin's curriculum shift led to his meeting Dayna, who majored in English with plans to become a magazine editor.

"We studied together, hung out together, and were both really involved in the English department," Dayna said. "The students and professors were close and involved in each other's lives. As a matter of fact, we got engaged in class. It was the last session of Dr. Ledbetter's fiction class, and we were about to walk out. She asked if anyone had any more questions, and Kevin raised his hand and said he had a question. He got down on one knee and asked me to marry him right there in front of everybody."

The couple married two weeks after Kevin's graduation in 1997. While

Dayna finished her degree, Kevin taught English to international students at Oklahoma City University and began seminary extension classes at OBU through Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Upon Dayna's graduation in 1998, she began working for a small community magazine that was soon bought out by a larger company. She continued with that company, and the couple moved to Tulsa, where Kevin continued to teach English to international students, this time at Oral Roberts University. By the end of 1999, Dayna was managing editor of "Tulsa People" magazine.

"Being a preacher's daughter, I had thought about missions before," Dayna said. "But I never made any kind of commitment to it. I knew when I dated Kevin that he was headed into missions. He wanted to go immediately, but I wasn't in a hurry. He was patient with me as we talked

about the future. For a while, we thought we would go to South America, but every time we mentioned it, people told us that the need was in East Asia."

"One night," Kevin said, "I had a dream where five individuals came to me and said, in English, 'Please come to East Asia.' Then I was alone in blinding white light. I knew it was the presence of God, so I asked Him if He wanted us to go to East Asia. His answer was a booming 'Yes!'"

In 2001, Kevin and Dayna settled in East Asia, teaching English as a second language and looking for opportunities to minister. The couple enjoyed their time there a great deal, finding the people to be warm, friendly and extremely helpful.

By 2003, however, they decided to move to Waco, Texas, where Kevin could finish his master's degree and Dayna could help her grandparents.

Just before leaving for the U.S., Kevin met a man from Hawaii who provided classes for children with disabilities. The classroom was on the second floor, and buildings there are not built to be handicap accessible. Kevin's heart was touched as he watched parents of disabled children carry them up the stairs to class. The image would stay with him for years.

Upon returning to the U.S., Dayna became managing editor of "The Wacoan," Waco's city magazine. She held that position until 2009 when she chose to become a stay-at-home mom for the couple's two children, Molly and Hudson, born in 2007 and 2009 respectively. In 2006, Kevin graduated from George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco with a Master of Divinity degree and began working as a chaplain, first for Hillcrest Medical Center and then for Texas Home Health Hospice.

Kevin and Dayna had planned from the start to return to East Asia, but in 2009, Kevin was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. When Kevin's doctor explained they couldn't get the medicine Kevin needed there, the Averys began considering other countries. But God had other plans.

"He [God] made it very clear to me that I was worshipping fear instead of Him, which was a heartbreaking thing to hear," Kevin said.

"At that time, my concept
of worship included
going to church, serving
and singing. But God
helped me to see
worship differently."

"He showed me that we were making decisions based on what I thought I could or couldn't do instead of what He told us to do. He told me that if I really believed that He was the resurrection and the life, I wouldn't let a physical illness keep me from being obedient and I would trust him not only with my life, but with Dayna's and the kids' lives. He promised that my MS would not be a hindrance."

Although her misgivings were strong and she was reluctant to leave her family with a baby and toddler in tow, Dayna trusted the Lord, hoping that He would speak to her just as clearly as He had spoken to Kevin. But God confirmed this move in a different way for her.

"When we got there, I experienced so much joy," Dayna said. "I loved everything – the food, the people – and was so happy. The kids adjusted quickly, which helped, and I knew that we had done the right thing. Kevin

struggled when things didn't happen as quickly as he'd hoped, but he had that encounter with God to look back on when he had doubts. God gave us both what we needed to trust Him."

Kevin and Dayna have once again immersed themselves in the culture, opening up exciting opportunities for evangelism and discipleship. Their ministry to families affected by disabilities in East Asia is thriving.

"We give parents a chance to have their questions answered by medical professionals, connect with other parents, watch their children interact with other children, and just have fun," Kevin said. "The talent shows allow us to showcase for community leaders what these kids really can do. They are talented, just limited."

Thankfully, Kevin's MS has not progressed since the couple's move to East Asia. In fact, he hasn't taken any medication in five years. Still, God has used Kevin's diagnosis to help him identify with and minister to families.

"It's hard because those families haven't experienced relief from what they go through like I have," Kevin said. "But we let them know that they are valued and loved. You have to be sensitive and discerning in what you say, but I want them to understand that God is a God who heals. It's up to Him how He does it, but He does. In 2010, God healed me of my fear and continues to sustain me. I stand daily in the strength He provides."

Kevin and Dayna consider themselves blessed to have spent their equipping years as members of the OBU community, enveloped by the love and support of peers and faculty members with their best interests at heart. As they strive to foster the same sense of community in those they minister to in East Asia, God continues to bless and move in the hearts of people.

Building More Than Houses

For entrepreneur Greg McAlister, '00,
excellence is not only an achievement, but a passion that
drives his work and fuels his vision.

An expert builder of energy efficient homes, McAlister
has found success and fulfillment down a career path some
might consider atypical for a person with a degree in finance,
and it all began at Oklahoma Baptist University.

"I enjoyed my years at OBU," says McAlister, "but not for the same reasons that a lot of people do. For me, it wasn't so much about the social opportunities, but about the education. That, and athletic intramurals," he said with a grin.

He had a core group of close friends at OBU—a college roommate is Greg's current business partner—but what set him on his current career trajectory were his professors.

"Dr. Kelly, Dr. Roark, Mr. Brattin, Dr. Reeder, were all legends," he said. "But when I ran into them outside of the classroom, they seemed interested in me and made the effort to invest in me as an individual."

McAlister chose religion courses for most of his electives.

"When you have the chance to take classes from experts like Dr. Kelly and Dr. Roark while you earn your degree, you take it," he said.

Hermeneutics with Dr. Kelly, in particular, was challenging, but he learned a valuable process that he still uses today.

His business professors, Dr. Reeder and Mr. Brattin, were the first to suggest that McAlister would work for himself someday.

"Dr. Reeder looked at me one day and said, 'Greg, you will never work for a corporation. You will be an entrepreneur.'"

McAlister went to work at a bank following graduation and quickly realized Reeder was right.

"It wasn't for me," he said. "I had the skill set, but it wasn't really what I wanted."

A native of Moore, Oklahoma, McAlister and his family were impacted by the devastating tornado that hit their community in 1999. While still working at the bank, McAlister spent time after

hours building a home for sale on an empty lot left by the tornado. He built that first house with the help of his father who was also an entrepreneur. After it quickly sold, McAlister was hooked. He decided to leave the bank and start building houses full time.

"It takes some people a long time to find what they love to do," he said. "I'm glad it happened early for me. It would have been harder to switch paths later."

He founded McAlister Construction in 2001. After the initial house was complete, McAlister's father decided he would rather explore retirement, so McAlister worked alone until 2007 when his college roommate, Josh Kitchen, '00, came to work with him.

His junior year at OBU, McAlister met his wife Robin Parrish, '99, an English major and daughter of John and Mary Kay Parrish, long time OBU faculty and staff members. They married in 2005 and have two children, Vivian, 4, and

Leo, 2. In 2007, Robin attended a graduate program at Duke University so the couple moved to Durham, North Carolina. With Kitchen's help, McAlister ran the business long-distance for two years and volunteered for Habitat for Humanity when he was in Durham. Soon, he became the construction manager for Durham's Habitat and was impressed with its model of building energy efficient homes.

"More than just making the houses affordable, it made the bills affordable for the people who live in them," he said. "A light bulb went off in my head and I asked myself why we weren't doing the same kind of thing in Oklahoma."

The couple moved back to Oklahoma in 2009, and McAlister decided to raise the bar for his own business and start building more energy efficient houses. Since then, he has worked continually to increase the company's standard of excellence.

Recently, McAlister Construction broke ground on Avondale, a Moore community that is 100 percent geothermal. It is one of only a few such communities in the state. Geothermal heating and cooling systems, though extremely energy efficient, can be cost-prohibitive, but McAlister Construction managed to lower the cost by installing the system throughout the neighborhood. Homes in Avondale are about 60 percent more efficient than other new homes.

"We're building houses 10 years ahead of the curve right now," McAlister said, "and we look constantly for ways to improve. In the future, we hope to build 'net zero homes,' that would basically allow homeowners to go off the grid if they wanted."

In addition to growing his own business, McAlister has enjoyed



sharing his expertise with local nonprofit entities. He and his wife have lived in the historic areas of Oklahoma City, so it was a natural fit to begin a partnership with Positively Paseo, a local nonprofit group seeking to build attractive, affordable housing in urban Oklahoma City.

"When I saw that what they were building was affordable but not efficient, I told them I wanted to help out, and we've helped them build every house since," he said. "It makes us happy to see them succeed."

Valuing integrity as much as he values efficiency, McAlister leads his employees and subcontractors to embrace high standards of personal excellence by example, a fact that no doubt plays significantly into the success he has enjoyed.

"We really just operate off the basic

principle that you should treat others the way that you want to be treated," he said. "Set people up to succeed. Care about them. Make the effort." One of the first things he teaches new employees is to think of the person they are working with. He encourages them to show they care about other people by keeping things in order and leaving the job site the way they would want to find it if they were the owners or the next subcontractor coming in.

"It's just the way we were raised, and my years at OBU reinforced that,"
McAlister said.

"My professors always did more than they were required to do and took it on themselves to be responsive to us because they cared. That's the same legacy I want to leave."

Dedicated to Growth



Ben Stewart, '99,

is focused on growth. In his professional life, that growth is based on investments, returns, portfolio diversity and client success, with a focus on long-term results. In his personal life, that growth is based on faith, discipling others and leading his family to seek God's will at every turn, with a focus on the eternal.

When you meet Ben Stewart, you are immediately at ease. A kind word, a caring smile and a focus solely on you. Genuine. Authentic. Sincere. Qualities that seem to come naturally, yet, qualities that were refined through relationships forged on Bison Hill.

Stewart grew up in Hollis, Oklahoma, a small town in the far southwestern corner of the state. When it came time to consider college, his older sister, Melanie Stewart Maxwell, '98, was Bison Hill bound. He decided to give OBU a look.

"My sister was one year ahead of me, and her decision to come to OBU prompted me to consider the school for myself. A few campus visits later, I was hooked." His younger sister, Stephanie

Stewart Hill, '05, also followed her siblings to Bison Hill.

Stewart majored in business with a finance emphasis and minored in religion. He credits the impact of Drs. Warren McWilliams, Mack Roark and Bill Tanner in his religion courses, and Dr. Roger Flint in accounting. Yet, there was one professor whose impact stood out above all others.

"Dr. Dan Reeder was the best college professor I ever had. He showed interest in his students' lives and made it fun to learn. He peppered us with questions as a means of getting to know us, and there was hardly time for us to get to know him. So now when I talk to him, I try to open the conversation by prying into his life a little because I know he won't allow time if I don't."

Stewart built other lasting relationships on Bison Hill as well. He fondly recalls the bonds formed with friends and meeting the love of his life, his wife, Jeannie McMains, '02.

"I met many of my closest and lifelong friends at OBU, the ones who would be there for me in both the triumphs and the darkest hours of life."

He credits the unique combination of finance with a religion minor for opening doors that led his career where it is today. Following graduation, he worked as the investment analyst for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma, where he spent nearly a decade learning institutional investment management. He also earned an MBA from the

University of Oklahoma, and in 2008, began a six-year span as director of investments at the OU Foundation. In that role, he managed roughly \$1.5 billion in assets and helped build the investment office and portfolio from the ground up, and they saw the Foundation's investment returns climb to the top of annual peer rankings.

In January 2015, he transitioned into his current role as the managing director of investor relations at The Humphreys Fund in Oklahoma City, a private real estate investment fund founded by former Oklahoma City Mayor Kirk Humphreys. It is a diversified, income-producing, multi-sector real estate fund with approximately \$200 million in assets across 13 states.

"Institutional investors must have an incredibly long-term focus. Having the confidence, conviction, patience, and sometimes faith to make decisions from which you will not see fruit for several years is difficult. Working with people, earning their trust, and being shown grace when you are wrong is a challenging, humbling, and yet incredible opportunity."

Stewart credits the relationships with his professors and the small class sizes as two distinct advantages of his OBU education. "I remember once during my first semester of graduate school, I was working on a group project when we began discussing who would present to the class. No one else was willing and some were terrified at the thought of standing in front of 50 people to speak on behalf of the group. I soon realized most of them had never once stood to speak in front of a class or large group. On the contrary, I had spoken dozens of times at OBU, from one-minute speeches to senior capstone presentations."

This fall, Stewart returned to Bison Hill to deliver a business forum address, speaking to students who sat in the

same seats he occupied not that long ago. He challenged them to build their lives and careers on the right priorities with an eternal perspective. He told them to focus on four key areas in order to succeed in both their professional and personal lives: People, Process, Portfolio and Performance.

"Focus on the first three 'P's' and the Performance will take care of itself," he said.

"The relationships
you are building right
now are the ones that will
last a lifetime."

"Make sure your friends' eternal values are similar to yours, as they are the ones who are going to be your anchor when things aren't going well."

Stewart's advice was born from experience. In 2013, he lost his nearly three-month-old son, Toby, to a rare immune deficiency disease known as "bubble boy disease." He also lost his mother-in-law and his seven-year-old nephew, all three in a span of 85 emotionally draining days. It was during this time he leaned heavily on the friendships forged on Bison Hill.

"As incredibly difficult as that was and still is, we experienced the Holy Spirit's sustaining power and guidance while putting one foot in front of the other to return to life's activities, demands and even positions of leadership," he said.

Stewart recalled that in the days and weeks following Toby's death, they saw God work in many ways, with others coming to a saving faith in Christ and still others gaining the courage necessary to face trials in

their own lives, inspired by how God was working to heal and sustain his family.

"Losing a child causes you to have an eternal perspective in a way you didn't have before. You literally have to place your hope in the eternal hope found in Christ. That's the only thing you have to hold on to when you're in the middle of extreme grief for yourself, your spouse and your other children, while also trying to be a husband and parent."

Stewart values his family tremendously, and the grief process taught them all to value each day and to focus on the right things. It also increased his passion for discipleship.

"One of my highest priorities is discipling others. Jeannie and I lead a Sunday School class for young adults. I also enjoy and count it an honor to lead men through a discipleship study called One-on-One with God. I've had the privilege of leading groups at work, over the kitchen table, and at church. These small, accountable, transparent groups are where I benefit by seeing true spiritual growth happen day-in and day-out...in the hearts of the men I'm leading, and in mine as well."

Through it all, Stewart thinks fondly of his four years on Bison Hill. "OBU is such a special place. The opportunity to learn and grow, and be shaped and molded by Christian administrators and faculty, was an opportunity for which I will be eternally grateful. OBU is a tremendous steward of young peoples' futures and worldviews."

Ben and his wife Jeannie reside in Newcastle, Oklahoma, along with their children, Haley, Courtney and Brady. They are active at First Baptist Church, Newcastle, where he teaches Sunday School, serves as a deacon and on the finance team, and coaches Upward Basketball.



Zip! Bang! OBU

ABOVE: Jim Brown, '54, and Eddie Hurt, III, '63, peruse editions of *The Yahnseh* during the annual Friday morning 50-Year Club Fellowship.

RIGHT: Dr. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry visits with alumni and friends during a tour of Stavros Hall.

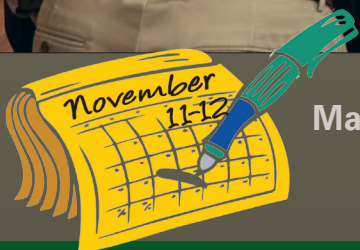
FAR RIGHT: The annual Homecoming Fine Arts Gala featured Dennis Jernigan, '81 (pictured) and Dr. Arnold Rawls, '82.



LEFT: Friday afternoon, alumni and friends gathered in Stubblefield Chapel for a time of worship. Walter Grady, '71, planned the program and Dr. Bill Green, '64, led worship.

L-R FACING PAGE:
The weekend begins with registration in the Geiger Center.

Alumni gathered in the alumni tent during the football game for a time of fellowship and snacks. Copies of *The Yahnseh* were available for viewing and for the taking. The event was sponsored by First United Bank, Shawnee.



Mark your calendar for
Homecoming 2016

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For more homecoming highlights, visit okbu.edu/alumni/homecoming-2015.

LEFT: All Choirs Reunion

The annual Children's Festival for children age 4 through 6th grade features art projects, games and a visit with Shaz. The event is sponsored by the OBU Education Department.

BELOW: Saturday morning Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences academic reunion.



recoming '15



No. 3 Charles Taylor III takes down the Harding University running back while no. 52 Brynden Pitzer pursues. The Bison opened Great American Conference play against Harding in September, their first NCAA Division II competition.

Bison Football Finishes First Season of NCAA Play

OBU finished 2-9 in its first NCAA football season, which included a few surprises.

A heavy underdog to a Top 25 opponent in the season opener, the Bison forced Harding into overtime, but some missed opportunities in the kicking game proved to be the team's undoing, with OBU falling 20-19.

OBU notched its first NCAA victory against Arkansas-Monticello. After falling behind 7-0, the Bison scored 36 unanswered points on their way to a 56-28 win. Jordan Barnes rushed for 170 yards and Stephane Turner added 116.

The Bison picked up their first road win in the NCAA with a

big comeback at Northwestern Oklahoma State in Alva. With Barnes and Isaiah Mallory benched with injuries, Jacob Ellis became the primary running back. OBU trailed Northwestern 24-0, before putting up a defensive touchdown by Devontae Young for a 24-7 halftime score.

Alva native and Northwestern transfer, Ellis torched his former team for a school-record 211 yards rushing on 25 carries. He and quarterback Dez Stegall scored two second-half touchdowns each and Brynden Pitzer added another touchdown interception return to lead the Bison to the 41-38 win.

Defensive lineman Kimes Gilbert became OBU's first College Sports

Information Directors Association Academic All-American in football.

Offensive lineman Brandon Garrett was named All-NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association) with Gilbert, linebackers Pitzer and Zach Bishop, defensive backs D'Ante Meeking and Jailen Garrett, and punter Cooper Koons all earning honorable mention status.

Fullback Connor Kinsey joined Pitzer and Bishop as honorable mention selections to the All-Great American Conference team. Pitzer also was twice named GAC Defensive Player of the Week.

Men's Golf Team Takes Fourth Place at NCCAA Golf Championship

Kyle Perdew tied for first before falling in a playoff to lead the men's golf team to a fourth-place finish in the NCCAA Men's Golf Championship Oct. 19-21 at The Hombre Golf Club in Panama City Beach, Florida.

Perdew shot a third-round 76 to finish at 223 (76-71-76) and tied with Colorado Christian's Nathaniel Goddard for low medalist, but Goddard took the playoff.

For his efforts, Perdew earned All-America honors. Hudson Hoover bumped up 11 spots in the final round to finish in a 15th place tie with teammate Alexander Hall. Hoover shot rounds of 77-82-75 while Hall tied him at 234 with rounds of 76-78-80. Drew Posada finished out with a round of 79 to place 31st at 246 with 83-84-79.



Bison golfer Drew Posada looks on as he pitches to the green.



obubison.com

Men's Soccer Takes Second Place in GAC

The men's soccer team played a tough non-conference schedule before placing second in the Great American Conference with a 3-3 league record. The Bison then went on to finish second in the GAC Tournament, winning the semifinal match against Harding 2-1, before losing in the finals to Ouachita Baptist, 2-0.

Vicente Castillo was named Offensive Player of the Year with David Estrada earning Defensive Player of the Year honors in the GAC. Andrew Thomsen was named to the Crafton Tull Distinguished Student-Athlete list.

Castillo and Estrada were joined on the First-Team All-Conference by midfielder Jacob Tunney. Goalkeeper Marcus Oliveira made the Second-Team.

Castillo also earned recognition as a College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District honoree.



Lady Bison volleyball teammates no. 12 Kynneddy Myers and no. 13 Cat Roth work the net against Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Volleyball Continues Winning Ways in NCAA Division II Premiere

OBU volleyball owned one of the smoother transitions to NCAA Division II.

Despite putting together a tough Division II schedule, the Lady Bison compiled a 27-13 record, a second-place finish in the Great American Conference and a spot in the National Christian College Athletic Association championship finals.

Additionally, senior libero Kaitlyn Lucy put OBU on the Division II radar, establishing a new NCAA Division II record with 978 digs on the season.

OBU went 5-9 in non-conference regular season matches against a field of tradition-rich Division II competition.

That toughness conditioned

the Lady Bison for a successful conference season in which the team, despite injuries to mainstays Cadyn Laing and Denise Coroiescu, went 14-2.

OBU was picked to finish fourth in the league, but lost only to Ouachita Baptist and eventual GAC regular season champion Arkansas Tech. The Lady Bison owned a season sweep of GAC Tournament champion Southwestern Oklahoma State. The Lady Bison were 7-0 in GAC road matches.

The NCCAA postseason saw OBU sweep through pool play at both the regional and the national tournament. At the Central Regional, OBU knocked off host Oklahoma Wesleyan in the semifinals and then fell to Colorado Christian in five sets in the championship match.

OBU took an at-large berth to the national tournament and went 3-0 against its pool, including a five-set win over top-seeded Indiana Wesleyan. The Lady Bison defeated Southern Wesleyan in the semifinals before Indiana Wesleyan got its revenge with a 3-0 win over the Lady Bison in the championship bout.

Records and awards stacked up for the squad.

Lucy finished with school records for career and single season digs and digs per set and the NCAA single season digs record. Freshman Nicole Fleitman set the single season OBU record with 136 blocks.

Lucy was named GAC Defensive Player of the Year and first-team All-Conference with Cat Roth and Kynneddy Myers earning second-team honors and Coroiescu and Fleitman listed as honorable mention.

Lucy also earned NCCAA Central Region Player of the Year honors and was joined on the All-Region First Team by Roth and Myers with Carey Strong making second team.

The NCCAA All-America squad was led by Lucy as well, with Roth and Myers making second-team.

Strong earned All-Tournament honors at the NCCAA championships.

OBU also had a record five players named College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District with Coroiescu, Strong, Roth, Lucy and Priscila Mendes making the list.

Lady Bison Cross Country Finishes Second at National Championships

The cross country teams gave OBU its first taste of success in the NCAA and NCCAA this fall as the Lady Bison finished second in the latter's national championship.

By less than four seconds, the Lady Bison finished runner-up to Cedarville in the program's first appearance at the National Christian College Athletic Association Cross Country National Championship in November.

Cedarville edged OBU 44 to 45 in the team standings. Five Lady Bison earned All-America honors. The OBU men finished fifth.

Although OBU was ineligible to run for the conference crown as a team, several Lady Bison and Bison earned All-Conference honors at the Great American Conference Championship.

Women's Golf Places Third at Nationals

Shannen Stewart and Emma Williams earned NCCAA All-America status and helped the Lady Bison to a third-place finish at the National Christian College Athletic Association Women's Golf Championship in Panama City Beach, Florida, Oct. 19-21.

Stewart placed eighth, shooting 91-79-83 for a three-round 253 and Williams had rounds of 84, 84 and 87 for 255 and 10th place.

Madison Herron shot 88 for the third round to finish at 263 and 15th place. Taylor Hildebrand had



The Lady Bison cross country, soccer and golf teams all wrapped up successful seasons this fall, their first in NCAA Division II competition. Pictured, Tori Rivera (cross country), Emmily Infante (soccer), and Shannen Stewart (golf).

rounds of 87-91-96 for 26th place at 274, while Kadrian Shelton was a stroke off that pace in 28th at 275 (97-88-90).

Lady Bison Soccer Wraps NCAA Debut Season

The Lady Bison completed its first NCAA women's soccer season with measured success.

The team finished the year at 6-11 overall and 3-9 in the Great American Conference. OBU had a season sweep over Northwestern Oklahoma State and split with East Central.

The Lady Bison also picked up wins over Newman and Jarvis Christian before ending the year with a 6-1 win over Southern Wesleyan. Five

of the team's losses came by 1-0 counts.

OBU's Maddie Windham was a First-Team All-Great American Conference selection with Shelby Shawn taking home honorable mention notice. Windham and Shawn also picked up GAC Player of the Week accolades during the season.

Defender Kenzi Bice and goalkeeper Emma Beck were recognized as College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District Selections. Beck finished the season with the record for career saves with 220.

➤➤➤Read more statistics and highlights online at obubison.com.

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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 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 or visit 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 or call **405.585.5413** to coordinate.

ONLINE COMMUNITY

Alumni can also connect online through the OBU Online Community. Visit okbu.edu/alumni to learn more.

We look forward to helping alumni and friends connect!

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The Green and Gold Gala is a semi-formal event.

Seating is based on purchase date and/or sponsorship level.

Proceeds from the event are placed in OBU's General Scholarship Endowment.

For ticket/sponsorship opportunities: okbu.edu/gala or 405.585.5427 or crystal.mckee@okbu.edu.