

OBU

FALL 2017

MAGAZINE

“Excellence Driven”

Business Major/Athlete
embodies OBU’s core values

OBU

PAUL DICKINSON
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

OBU's business degree programs are nationally accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

The OBU accounting program is

10th

in the nation

on CPA exam pass rates for programs of like size.

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Seeking Shalom: The Christian University and Racial Reconciliation

The beginning of a new academic year is an exciting time at OBU. Students move in, settle into classes, make new friends and enjoy community on Bison Hill. I often become nostalgic at this time of year, reflecting on my own experiences while a student and contrasting them to the events of today.

At the beginning of the semester, I was privileged to share the message at Convocation, an annual tradition for OBU presidents. As I prepared the message, God placed a charge in my heart to speak on racial reconciliation and the need, in our country, in our churches, in our homes, and in our University, for shalom. Completeness, contentment, wholeness, peace.

I challenged our University community to address this because reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, and as believers, we are called to be ministers of reconciliation. I am convinced that we must use the creative skills, talents, and intellectual gifts that God has granted us as a community of scholars, to work together toward solutions that foster shalom.

Academically, we must become more diverse among our faculty, staff and students. We must insure the inclusion of minority scholarship within our fields of study.

Socially, we must engage one another as brothers and sisters in Christ to develop meaningful relationships with one another without allowing skin tones and ethnic backgrounds to limit our friendships.

Culturally, we have a mandate in our mission statement to engage a diverse world. We must provide opportunities for our students to participate in international study programs to become better informed and more mature believers and citizens.

At OBU, we seek shalom. It is at the root of who we are. OBU is a distinctively Christian university that transforms lives by equipping students to pursue academic excellence, integrate faith with all areas of knowledge, engage a diverse world, and live worthy of the high calling of God in Christ.

May we have the courage to forge ahead boldly in tearing down old walls that separate us, and build new structures that unite us. May we do so with great love for one another. May we seek, and may God grant that we should find, shalom.



David Wesley Whitlock
OBU President



EMILY DICUS @dp_life_115

This brought me to tears yesterday. So proud of our president for speaking boldly.

CLAY SHEPPERSON @SheppBoyardee

Just heard @davidwwhitlock speech from chapel and I've never been happier to say that he's the president at my alma mater. Proud Bison.

TANNER LEWIS @Tanner_Lewis

Today, Dr. Whitlock delivered one of the most powerfully compelling sermons I have ever heard. I encourage you to listen to this!

TY GILMORE @T_J_Gilmore

Amen. Thankful to be a Bison.

MATT SANDERS @MattSanders21

If you have a moment, please watch this message. extremely proud to go to a university that Biblically addresses this ongoing issue.

DYLAN CRAWLEY @dcrawley10

Grateful for the leadership of @davidwwhitlock and his biblical stance on these important issues. Crucial message.

RANDY RIDENOUR @randyridenour

Prophetic words on race and racism from @davidwwhitlock today in his @obunews convocation address. Proud to be at OBU.

ASHLEY BERKEY @ashley_berkey

Thankful to attend a university where the president is willing and wanting to discuss tough issues and condemn racism.

MATTHEW ARBO @MatthewBArbo

This evocative convocation address from @davidwwhitlock was superb. Certainly the best I've ever witnessed.

ALAN NOBLE @TheAlanNoble

Every commencement address, @davidwwhitlock makes me proud and grateful to be at @obunews. Bold, godly, challenging leadership.

ALYSSA SPERRAZZA @sperrazzaa

Thank you @davidwwhitlock for speaking truth over our campus, state, country, and world, that as a Body of Christ, we stand together united.

OBU PHOTO BY ALYSSA SPERRAZZA ▶



OBU

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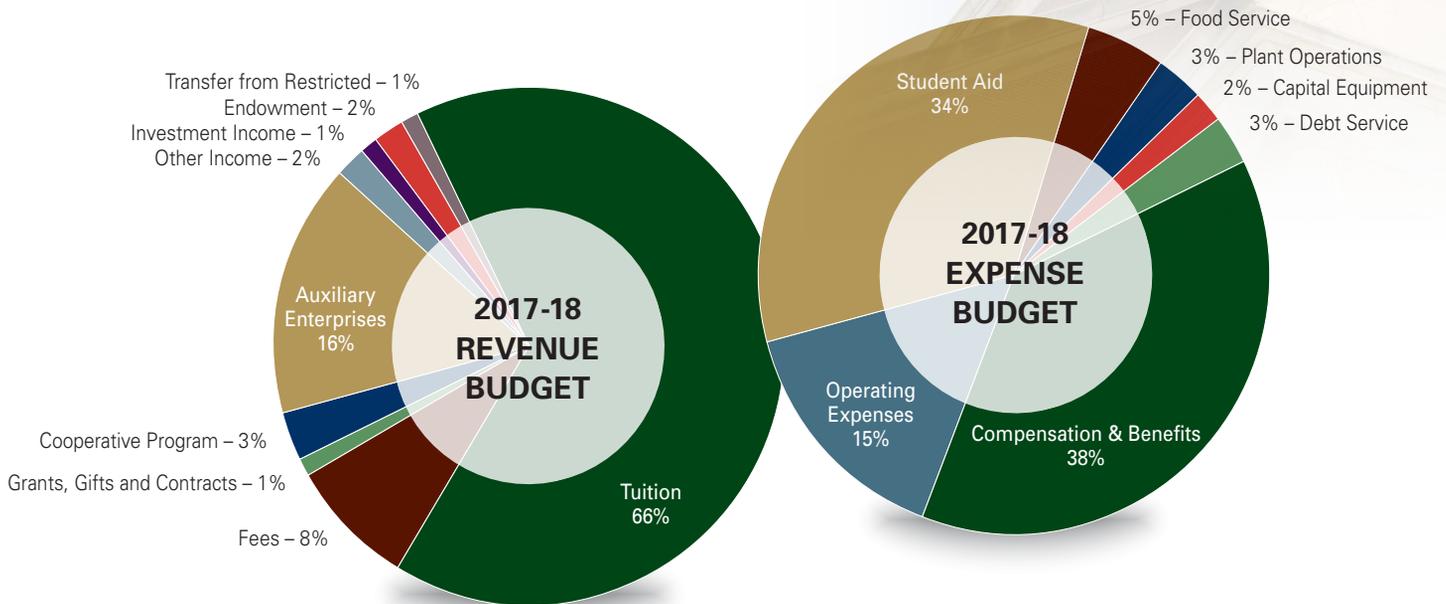


PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017



Financial Data

REVENUE AND EXPENSE BUDGETS – \$76,978,000



Global Engagement

The Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach provides support, training and opportunities for students and mentors to participate in GO Trips. Every year, OBU sends hundreds of students, faculty and staff to various places in the United States and around the world to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of those locations visited in the last year are indicated on the map below.



Rankings and Affordability

13

Consecutive Years
named a Best in the West university by **The Princeton Review**

10

Consecutive Years
ranked on the **Forbes** list of America's Top Colleges.

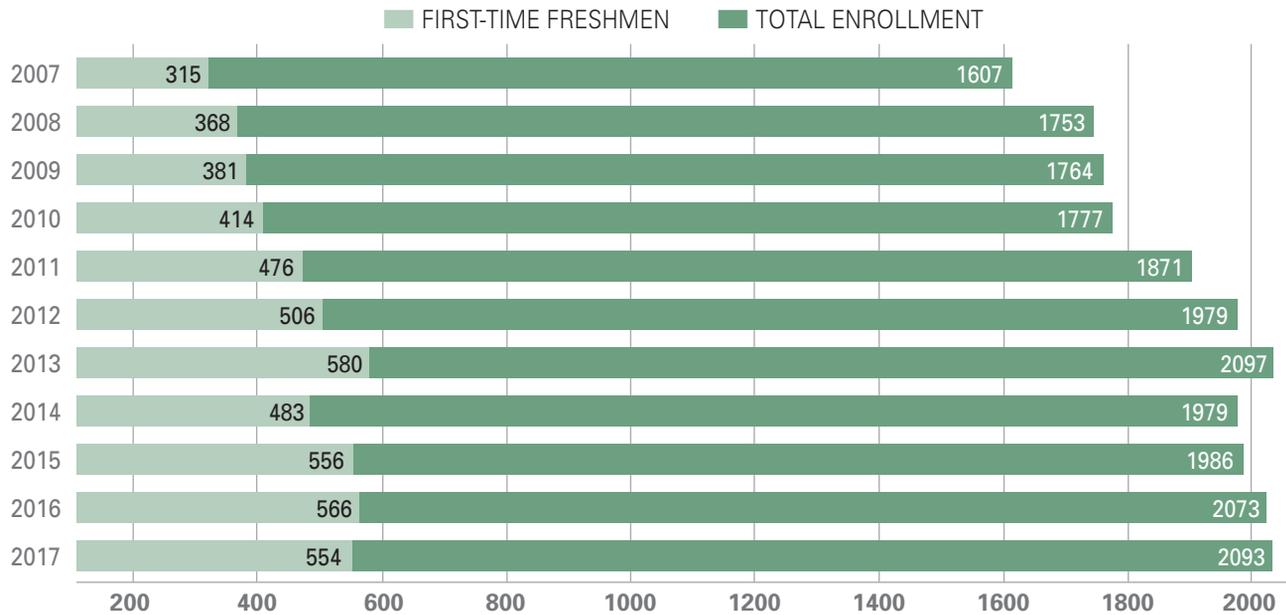
26

Consecutive Years
Best Regional College by **U.S. News & World Report**

The only private university in Oklahoma listed in the **50 Great Affordable Colleges in the Midwest** by **Great Value Colleges**.



Enrollment 2007-17



Student Body Profile

Geographic Distribution

37 states
40 countries

Average Class size

25

Average ACT of incoming class

22.8

Student Diversity

25.2%
self-report as a member of a minority/ethnic group



100%
of all 2017 freshmen received at least \$5,000 in financial aid.

Athletics Report



31

National Championships
within the past 12 years

125

All-America
recognitions in 2016-17

2017
NCAA Presidential Award



Division II

Approved for full NCAA Division II membership effective September 1, 2017.

Outcomes

Class of 2016 reported
98% employed or **continuing education.**

Dean David Houghton answers ...

WHY THE College of Business

MATTERS ON BISON HILL



Dean of the Paul Dickinson College of Business since 2010, Dr. David Houghton shares about the significance of the College and how its students are empowered to change the world through the marketplace.

Q Why is it important to study business? How does that fit into the University's mission?

A The OBU mission calls us to engage a diverse world, and I don't know of a better way of doing that than through business. The entire world desires a better standard of living. When business is at its best, it creates products and services that meet people's needs. Of equal importance, it also creates jobs. The world is increasingly hostile to missionaries, and our own culture is increasingly hostile to Bible-believing Christians. But, borders are open to job-creating businesses and Americans are open to business people that deliver on their promises. Business men and women should be and are on the front lines of Gospel proclamation through their work.

Q Why should students come to OBU if they want to pursue a degree in business, accounting, computer science, finance, international business, management, marketing or social entrepreneurship?

A In the Paul Dickinson College of Business, we aren't just educating. We are preparing leaders to transform the culture in which they work and live. To that end, each of our majors is leading in its field. The OBU accounting program is 10th in the nation on CPA exam pass rates for programs of our size. Thanks to some generous donations from First United Bank, Vision Bank and private donors, our finance majors have more than \$50,000 they are managing in the stock market. Our marketing majors are consulting with businesses and nonprofits helping them with their social media campaigns. The social entrepreneurship majors are winning business plan competitions and applying their skills through Enactus, an international entrepreneurial action organization for students. Computer science majors are developing apps for clients. Management and international business students receive experience through internships.

Q When students graduate with business degrees from the College, what careers are they prepared to enter? In what types of positions might they work?

A Because business principles intersect nearly every job, our graduates are prepared to do almost anything. OBU business alumni are on the mission field, in banking, serving as CPAs or forensic accountants. They are successful sales people, marketing researchers, retailers and managers. Some have started their own businesses. Graduates can be found at Boeing, Charles Schwab, Dell, Paycom, Sandridge, UPS and a host of other institutions.

Q What does the future hold for the Dickinson College of Business? What are some long-term goals?

A As our MBA approaches its 10th year, we are exploring ways that we can reach more students and have a greater Kingdom impact with the program. Initially, the MBA degree was only offered in our location in Oklahoma City. Students can still pursue the MBA at our Oklahoma City site, but today they can also pursue it fully online. We are exploring the possibility of an MBA residential program to be offered in Shawnee. It would be open to all qualified students, but we are especially hoping it will be attractive to international students or athletes who have a fifth year of eligibility and would like to continue their education, regardless of their undergraduate major. We are also in the process of reimagining our core courses in the MBA such that our MBA graduates will be uniquely qualified to become change agents in the companies they serve and the communities in which they live.

In our undergraduate program, our business majors will begin to cooperate more strategically with our STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) students. Our plan is that in their senior year, the STEM students will develop products, processes and services for which our business students can develop business plans and help bring them to market. Of course, some of that can already be done as our computer science and business students work together. But, increasingly you will find our business faculty and students working with faculty and students from our other colleges at OBU.

Q What are some things that people may not know about the College of Business?

A In their very first semester at OBU, business majors create their own small business as part of Dr. Rich Rudebock's introduction to business course. Rudebock is the Robert L. and Sara Lou Cargill professor of business. The businesses only last one semester, but it is a great way for them to immediately apply what they are learning. Fifty percent of the profits from the teams' projects are given to charities selected by each team. The other fifty percent is used to fund business college scholarships.



Dr. Craig Walker, Wheeler Professor of Economics, teaches exchange rates and arbitrage to his international finance class. He teaches his students to use their God-given creative abilities through their business activities not only to provide for themselves but also to help others meet their own needs.

meet our BUSINESS FACULTY

Dr. Richard Rudebock

*Robert L. and Sara Lou Cargill Chair of Business
Professor of Business*
B.B.A., Kent State University, 1974
M.Ed., Texas Tech University, 1978
Ed.D., Oklahoma State University, 1999
Joined the OBU faculty in 2001.

Dr. Keith Harman

*Ernest C. Wheeler Chair of Business
Professor of Business*
B.S., University of Oklahoma, 1977
M.S., University of Oklahoma, 1979
Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, 1982
M.A., Webster University, 1996
Joined the OBU faculty in 2006.

DEAN

Dr. David C. Houghton

*Dean, Paul Dickinson College of Business
Lloyd G. and Betty E. Minter Chair of Business*
B.A., University of Kansas, 1992
M.B.A., University of Cincinnati, 1994
Ph.D., University of Cincinnati, 1997
Joined the OBU faculty in 2010.

Dr. Roger D. Flint

Professor of Accounting
B.S., Southwest Baptist College
M.B.A., Southwest Missouri State University
Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 2009
CPA
Joined the OBU faculty in 1980.

Jacqueline J. Corley

Assistant Professor of Computer Science
B.S., Oklahoma Baptist University, 2012
M.S., Oklahoma City University, 2014
Joined the OBU faculty in 2017.

Dr. Daryl D. Green

*Dickinson Chair of Business
Assistant Professor of Business*
B.S., Southern University A&M, 1989
M.A., Tusculum College, 1997
D.B.A., Regent University, 2009
Joined the OBU faculty in 2016.



Dr. Richard J. Martinez

Professor of Business

B.S., Arizona State University, 1990
M.B.A., Baylor University, 1992
Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2001
Joined the OBU faculty in 2016.

Dr. John Cragin

*Professor of International Business and
Social Entrepreneurship*

B.A., Oklahoma Baptist University, 1969
Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, 1980
Joined the OBU faculty in 1990.

Dr. Dan B. Reeder

*Albert J. Geiger Chair of Business
Professor of Finance*

B.S., University of Tulsa, 1983
M.B.A., University of Tulsa, 1984
Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 1994
C.F.A.
Joined the OBU faculty in 1991

Dr. Craig Walker

Wheeler Professor of Economics

B.B.A., Baylor University, 1983
M.B.A., Baylor University, 1984
M.A., Southern Methodist University, 1994
Ph.D., Southern Methodist University, 1996
Joined the OBU faculty in 2000.

Dr. Renita Murimi

*Assistant Professor of
Computer Information Science*

B.E., Manipal University, 2004
M.Ed., New Jersey Institute of Technology, 2005
Ph.D., New Jersey Institute of Technology, 2009
Joined the OBU faculty in 2011.

Gerald Nixon, CPA

Associate Professor of Accounting

A.A., York College, 1972
B.S., Oklahoma Christian University, 1975
M.B.A., University of Central Oklahoma, 1985
Joined the OBU faculty in 2009.



SOCIAL entrepreneurship



**BUSINESS
PIONEER**

+



**CHRISTIAN
PERSPECTIVE**

+



**SOCIAL
MISSION**

=



**IMPACT FOR THE
KINGDOM OF GOD**

A business built around the idea of making an impact for the Kingdom of God – this is the main goal of OBU’s Social Entrepreneurship degree.

“**S**ocial Entrepreneurship is a movement that has gained remarkable momentum over the last few years,” said Dr. John Cragin, professor of social entrepreneurship and international business. “It is fundamentally the idea that business thinking and methods can be harnessed to help address social problems in ways that foundations, non-profits and government cannot.”

Dr. David Houghton, dean of the Paul Dickinson College of Business and professor of business, explains how this idea of social

entrepreneurship in a Christian context can go beyond business models and permeate the spiritual realm.

“When you have the Christian overlay,” Houghton said, “the Christian social entrepreneur is also likely to think about how their business is impacting the Kingdom, from an evangelical perspective or from a discipleship perspective.”

Houghton explains that OBU’s kingdom-minded mentality is what sets the degree apart from other schools.

Cragin Brings Decades of International Business Expertise to the Classroom

“We want our students, whether they are doing business domestically or internationally, to think of that business as their mission field,” he said. “I don’t think you can get that at very many other places.”

Social entrepreneurship draws a select crowd of enthusiastic business professionals who are not motivated by the bottom line and larger profits but by bigger than life, eternal outcomes.

“Social entrepreneurs are a very special breed and there are not many on any campus,” Cragin said. “They are not looking for ‘jobs,’ they are looking to change the world. They tend to be bold, willing to fail, dreaming big dreams. Social entrepreneurs are a special breed of entrepreneurs because their big dreams are not about making money, but making an impact for the King.”

Because social entrepreneurship is a business degree, it has many of the same courses as other business degrees offered at OBU.

“Business is fundamentally the same,” Cragin said. “You have to have a good grasp of economics, accounting, marketing, finance, working with people, developing plans and strategies, and information technology. We have a very big business degree core, but what differentiates the different majors are the specialty courses that you take.”

The degree plan has five highly specialized courses designed to answer the questions a social entrepreneur is likely to encounter when starting their business. These courses include introduction to

social entrepreneurship, funding the entrepreneurial venture, social entrepreneurship field experience, new venture development and small business marketing.

Introduction to social entrepreneurship is the first class students take to learn more about the field and determine if social entrepreneurship is the right career option. Cragin teaches this course and explains the main idea for the class.

“The students who take introduction to social entrepreneurship usually don’t have any idea what social entrepreneurship is,” Cragin said. “They think they have an idea, but they don’t really know because it’s so new.”

Even if they enter the class thinking it is something it isn’t, Cragin said they usually enjoy it anyway. It gives them the opportunity to determine if they want to pursue this career or select another.

Once a student has determined that he or she wants to be a social entrepreneur, OBU has more classes to help guide that student toward success.

Most social entrepreneurs will end up owning a small business, so one of the required courses is a class on small-business marketing.

“They’re going to have to find ways of doing marketing cheaper or free, so they are going to have to find innovative ways to use social media for instance or some other guerilla-marketing techniques,” Houghton explained. “They’re going to have



Dr. John Cragin earned a Bachelor of Arts in social psychology with a minor in Bible in 1969. A few years following graduation, he and his wife moved to Asia to pursue business opportunities there.

“While we were there, I realized where my skill sets were and we decided we wanted to do some things in a part of the world that was, at that point, unreached with the Gospel,” Cragin said.

In order to achieve that goal, Cragin decided to pursue another degree and returned to Oklahoma to earn his Ph.D. in Management with an emphasis on international business and China-U.S. relations at the University of Oklahoma.

to raise capital for their businesses, so we provide a new venture development class that helps them understand how to raise money, whether that's equity or debt or both. Then they have a class that ties everything together they learned in other classes, helping them develop and implement a business plan."

The social entrepreneurship field experience class is designed to give the student some real-world experience in the field and interaction with other like-minded business professionals.

"This class is like an internship, but it's a little different because they don't necessarily want to work for a company, they want to start their own business. This class is designed to give students some time to explore their own idea while they learn from business people in the community to help them realize their dream," Houghton said.

Not every student will start his or her own company immediately after graduation, but a degree in social entrepreneurship will start him or her in the right direction.

"We do have people who go through the program that are entrepreneurial in mind, but aren't ready yet to make that leap into starting their own business," Houghton said. "For some it's due to a comfort level that they have and for others it might be due to needing funding at a certain level. So, some of these students will go to work for a corporation or a business for a period of time, but their end-goal, eventually five or 10 years down the line, will be to start their own business. They might want to get some training in that industry before they make that leap."

"I started my business in Hong Kong and then in 25 other countries," he said. "After about ten years, an opportunity arose for me to come back to the states and pass some of that knowledge and experience along."

Back in the United States, Cragin returned to OBU in 1990 to teach in the Paul Dickinson College of Business. Since that time, he went from teaching to business and back again two times, once to head the international department for a manufacturing firm and once to start a company specializing in virtual reality training and education.

The transitions were seamless for Cragin because he always focuses on helping the people around him.

"All along you are trying to develop other people. Whether

you are in business and you have employees that report to you or you are at a university and have students in classes, you are basically discipling them and teaching them to make an impact," Cragin said. "It's not that big of a change. The difference is university students at the undergraduate level generally don't have much experience, and they don't have much on the line yet. But the goal is still the same, so it was a natural transition."

Because of Cragin's first-hand experience starting and running businesses with a kingdom mindset, Dr. David Houghton, dean of the Paul Dickinson College of Business and professor of business, asked Cragin to return in 2014 to teach some of the social entrepreneurship classes. In those classes, Cragin looks for students who have enough passion and commitment to

impact others for a higher purpose while conducting business in the marketplace.

"What I look for in the very first social entrepreneurship class are students who have a real heart-felt compulsion for this path along with enough talent to accomplish the degree," Cragin said. "If I find students like that, then I challenge them to do it. Not to study it, but to do it. I like to see them develop a social enterprise that they put into practice when they leave here. Not three or five years later, but when they leave here. That's what I really like to challenge them to do. But not everyone is able to do that."

There are many challenges that a social entrepreneur will face along the road, but Cragin does his best to prepare his students to overcome such obstacles.

First offered in 2013, the social entrepreneurship degree is designed to provide an opportunity to bridge business and missions.

“What I really want is the student who is thinking in an integrated way about their career,” Houghton said. “They’re thinking holistically. They really want to go into a business career and see that as a calling but also can be trained, in the context of that calling, to think about how they can do that as a mission. That’s always my ultimate goal, to advance the Kingdom. I thought this major

could be a very purposeful and strategic way of doing that.”

While the program will fundamentally remain the same, there will be a few changes to look forward to in the future. Some of those changes will include a partnership with OBU’s Enactus team and integration with the future engineering program.

“From the very beginning, my intention was to connect business majors who are entrepreneurial in their mind-set with an engineering

student, so in their final year, they are working on a joint project,” Houghton said. “The engineer has come up with the product or the process and the entrepreneur is thinking about the business plan for it. Once we launch an engineering program in the next few years, we will be able to implement this kind of partnership between programs.”

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS WEBSITE:
okbu.edu/business

“It is extremely challenging to do social entrepreneurship right,” he said. “Many businesses fail very quickly. Others end up doing more harm than good. We put it this way: do as much good as possible with the least harm possible for the most stakeholders possible for as long as possible.”

Cragin views failure as a natural part of the process of starting a business because it’s an opportunity to learn. To him, the acceptance of failure is what sets social entrepreneurs apart from other business professionals.

“It’s a different deal to go out on your own and do your own thing,” he said. “It’s a very small percentage of people who have the capability and fortitude that it takes to fail and fail and fail. But this is the nature of starting a business. A vast majority of them fail and that’s okay. You

learn as you go. If you are an entrepreneur, failure doesn’t bother you a bit. You just get up and keep going. But most people can’t do that. Most people look around for something that’s less likely to result in failure. It’s a challenging major.”

Cragin believes there are certain skills and traits necessary to become a successful entrepreneur.

“It takes confidence in yourself and a belief that what you are doing will work. Although you know it might not work, you need to believe that it will. It takes an absolute unwillingness to give up,” he said.

“Many say that entrepreneurs are supposed to be risk takers and risk seekers, but I don’t think that’s the case. I think entrepreneurs tend to be very willing to evaluate

risk, to understand risk and to recognize risk. They don’t ignore risk and they don’t pursue it willy-nilly. They say, ‘That mountain looks tough to climb, but I think I can climb it.’ And they go out and do it.”

For Cragin, the reason he teaches is because of the students he impacts and the results of their efforts, not because of the subject matter, the research or the publishing.

“To watch my students and others I become attached to on campus make an impact for the kingdom around the world, that’s what keeps me going and encourages me,” he said. “It makes me want to do a better job, empowered by God. It’s always about the students. It’s not about something I wrote or some class I taught, it’s always about the students.”

Motivated by a Passion to Excel



Institutional mission statements are often written and put aside, hanging on a wall or sitting on a shelf, never seeing the embodiment of their purpose. Sometimes, core values are forgotten completely, never impacting those for whom they were written. Not so at OBU. The University's mission and values are constantly at work in the lives of those on Bison Hill. Since the time of their development, they have guided the plans, major initiatives and activities of the University.

Not only do they influence those employed by the University, but they also permeate the lives and activities of students and alumni who are forever transformed by their experiences on Bison Hill. One such student is junior Caroline Abbe, who lives out the University's core value of an excellence driven life in the classroom and on the court.

Caroline Abbe is a junior finance major in OBU's Paul Dickinson College of Business, as well as an accomplished tennis player, who manages her time wisely to succeed as both a student and an athlete.

For most university students, balancing coursework, a social life, a job and adequate sleep is already an overwhelming

and daunting task. For student athletes, however, that goal gains a whole new set of challenges and obstacles to overcome. With some serious time-management skills and clear goals in mind, Abbe has learned to make the most of her time on Bison Hill. Though she has less free time than most, she has found a way to excel both academically and competitively.

"Caroline is a well-rounded, gifted student," said Dr. David Houghton, dean of the Paul Dickinson College of Business and professor of business. "She enthusiastically accepts responsibility, has a very strong work ethic, has superior time management skills and can be counted on to perform tasks without supervision. However, among her many excellent talents, probably her greatest strength is her ability to connect with those with whom she comes into contact with on a personal level and to express genuine love and concern in practical ways."

Originally from McKinney, Texas, Abbe remembers being taught the basics of tennis by her grandparents. She began her training at age six and was competing in tournaments by the time she was eight years old. Abbe recalls the importance of her family's role in becoming the person she is today and the impact they had on her athletic achievements.

"My initial love for the sport stemmed from my family," she said. "My parents fully supported my love for tennis and encouraged me at a young age. My family is so important to who I am today."

Abbe's father, Chris, often accompanied her to tournaments acting as her "coach on the road." She recalls that he would intentionally wear shirts to match whatever outfit she was competing in that day, which led to Abbe labeling him as her "biggest fan." Her older sister, Ashlynn, was also an OBU tennis player. The two sisters grew up playing tennis together and eventually shared a year playing on the same Bison team.

Though her family was instrumental in Abbe's decision to pursue tennis, her love for the sport was fueled by an enjoyment of independence and competition.

"From the beginning, I knew tennis was my sport," she said. "I played a couple seasons of soccer growing up, but I loved the challenge that came with being your own team out on the court. I love to compete."

Before journeying to Bison Hill, Abbe was already an accomplished tennis player. In 2011, she was a 5A regional semifinalist, and the following year she ranked as a semifinalist in the state competition. Abbe was ranked among the top 250 players within the nation and as one of the top 25 players within the state of Texas.

Abbe did not stop achieving success once she arrived on Bison Hill. In 2016, she was named a Great American Conference undefeated regular season champion. This year, she was a National Christian College Athletic Association national champion, GAC academic honor roll recipient and GAC flight five individual champion.

Nick Papac, head coach of men's and women's tennis, is impressed by the display of excellence he has seen from Abbe.

"I think Caroline is an exemplary student athlete," he said. "It comes as no surprise that she is on track to graduate in three years. I have only known her for a short time, but it is apparent that success is habitual for Caroline. This is displayed in her organizational prowess, her maturity and her keen ability to listen and apply what she has learned. Her faith in Christ is visible in the way she piously pursues her academics and tennis."

Abbe spends many hours working toward her accomplishments. Along with keeping up with her coursework, she spends two hours every day but Sunday in team practices and fitness training. In a typical week, she visits the RAWC five to six times to work on her strength, cardio and core.

Traveling for competition often pulls her away for days at a time, and Abbe is challenged to maintain a healthy equilibrium.

"Balancing classes, work, tennis and life takes serious time management," she



Though she has less free time than most, Caroline Abbe has found a way to excel both academically and competitively.

said. "I don't have a lot of free time, and that can be hard. But I have an amazing fiancé, friends and roommates, who are all understanding and enjoy the time we do spend together."

After graduation, Abbe has a plan to pursue a position in banking, but her dream is to own a small business one day. She has a passion for home décor and bringing families and friends together. She would love to own a business that unites people through good conversations, creative atmospheres and community.

More than anything else, she says she cherishes the friendly faces she's grown to love at OBU, especially her teammates and coaches that have been with her along the journey. She is thankful to be on a team of superb athletes she can also call friends. The friendships and mentorships developed from her time on Bison Hill have led Abbe to consider the team her "family away from home."

"I am so blessed by the opportunity to receive an education and play tennis for OBU," she said. "It has been such a sweet time of growth where God has allowed many of the University's leaders and my peers to transform me. The friends and memories I have made on Bison Hill are irreplaceable."



A Life Defined by Commitment and Obedience

Dr. Hance Dilbeck, '87, came to Bison Hill with a clear calling to preach, but never imagined the doors this journey would open.

When an individual submits to the calling of Christ upon his or her life, there is no limit to what can be achieved. For one man, submitting to that call led to an extraordinary life defined by a deep commitment to God's plan.

Dr. Hance Dilbeck recalls a time when he had a specific plan in mind, only for God to guide him in another direction.

"The Lord called me to be a minister of the Gospel at Falls Creek in 1983," Dilbeck said. "I had just graduated from high school and had already enrolled at another school to study engineering. I had even paid the deposit for the fraternity house."

That night, Dilbeck experienced a "clear and certain" call to preach. The late Dr. Dick Rader, vice president for religious life and dean of the School of Christian Service at OBU, happened to be at the Falls Creek service that night.

"He came into the 'call to special service' room to help counsel, and he spent time with me," Dilbeck said. "By the end of our time together, I had decided to enroll at OBU."

Dilbeck understood that his journey on Bison Hill was part of God's plan and not his own. This portion of his life helped him to better understand the magnitude and perfection of God's will upon his life.

"The Lord knew I needed to be at OBU so he sent Dr. Rader to make it clear to me," he said.

Dilbeck's relationship with Rader continued to have a tremendous impact on his spiritual development, influencing Dilbeck's life decisions as he continued along his OBU journey and throughout the rest of his life. Rader would go on to recommend Dilbeck for his first church staff position as the youth minister of First Baptist Church in Shawnee, and to help him into his first pastorate at Little City Baptist Church, where Rader

previously served. Years later, Dilbeck was privileged to preach Dr. Rader's funeral in Raley Chapel.

As the first in his family to earn a bachelor's degree, Dilbeck found himself largely influenced by many of the faculty and staff along the way. Along with Rader, many of Dilbeck's professors made a tremendous impact on his spiritual life and education. The liberal arts education he received from OBU proved to be a solid foundation for his future theological education, and the discipleship he received changed the course of his life.

"I thank the Lord for my education," Dilbeck said. "He allowed me to study at OBU and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. With each passing year, I value my education more."

During his first two years of study, Dilbeck was disciplined by David James, who was the campus minister at the time. The two

met weekly to study the Bible, memorize scripture and develop relationships. James encouraged Dilbeck to take leadership roles, pursue preaching opportunities and move out of his comfort zone.

Dilbeck recalls one early Sunday morning when James took him to Woodward, Oklahoma, to listen to OBU President Emeritus Dr. Bob R. Agee speak.

“After church, at an OBU reception, Dr. Agee approached me,” he said. “This was the first time he had ever spoken to me. He introduced me to the pastor of FBC Moreland and declared ‘Hance, you are going to preach tonight at FBC Moreland.’ I broke out in a cold sweat. That was the second time I ever stood in a pulpit to open God’s Word and I had 90 minutes to prepare.”

However, preaching opportunities were not the only doors opening to Dilbeck during this time. While James was discipling Dilbeck, James’ wife, Peggy, was spending time with student Julie Schock, ’88, Dilbeck’s future wife. The two were married between their sophomore and junior years at OBU,

excellent wife,” Dilbeck said. “We have, in many ways, grown up together. She is a wonderful mother and has embraced the role of preacher’s wife for almost 30 of our 32 years of marriage.”

In 1987, Dilbeck graduated with a bachelor’s degree in religion and began his graduate education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. While in seminary, he served in Marshall County at Little City Baptist Church. He graduated from Southwestern with his Master of Divinity in 1992 and his Doctor of Ministry in 2002.

Dilbeck has served in the pastorate for more than 29 years, with half of that at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, where he has served since 2003. During that span, the church has tripled in size to more than 2,000 active members, led the Southern Baptist Convention in Cooperative Program giving, and has played an active role in more than 30 church planting efforts.

“The focus and joy of my life is to shepherd the flock of God, which is Quail Springs Baptist Church,” Dilbeck said. “I love to

church allows me to study and deliver week by week. When I am preaching I feel God’s pleasure in me.”

In addition to the pastorate, Dilbeck has served as adjunct professor of preaching at both OBU and Southwestern Seminary. He has served in many impressive roles within the denomination, having been the featured preacher for Falls Creek, chairman of the OBU Board of Trustees, chairman of the board of trustees at Southwestern Seminary, second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and a member of the board of trustees for the International Mission Board.

Hance and Julie have three grown sons, D. H., ’10; Dax, ’13; and Leighton. D.H. and his wife, Mackenzie, ’09, have two children. Dax and his wife, Mollie, ’13, have one child, and Leighton is married to Carley, ’13.

Whenever Dilbeck finds time to rest, he enjoys reading Wendell Berry books, golfing and drinking coffee on his back porch with his wife.

Dilbeck’s story continues as he follows the calling of Christ at Quail Springs Baptist Church. Submitting to God’s call led Dilbeck to many great achievements, opportunities and experiences, and he will always thank the Lord for that fateful night in 1983 where his path was directed to Bison Hill.

“I am a shepherd,” Dilbeck said. “God called me to be a pastor when I was 18 years old. I have been the pastor of a local church all my adult life. For years I resisted this role, but I have come to embrace it. God’s will is good, perfect and pleasing.” ■

“
[The Lord] allowed me
to study at OBU... With each passing year,
I value my education more.

and James was able to perform their premarital counseling.

“The best thing that happened to me at OBU was finding this godly, capable and

feed, lead and care for this congregation. They are a blessing to me. I rejoice each day in the Lord’s service with these people. God has given me gifts, experiences, training and the ability to preach His Word. This great

Investing in Students Yields Longterm Benefits

DR. JONATHAN WILSON, '08
2017 PROMISING TEACHER AWARD WINNER

Dr. Jonathan Wilson personally invests in the success of his students, giving them the same individual attention and interest that originally drew him to transfer to OBU.

Wilson grew up in Orange, Texas, a small town deep in southeast Texas near the Gulf of Mexico. He knew from a young age that he wanted to be a therapist in some capacity. He chose to study psychology his freshman year in college at Baylor University in Waco. But before his sophomore year, Wilson transferred to OBU.

“I decided to transfer from Baylor to OBU for two reasons,” he said. “First, I was dating an OBU student named Grace Pratt (now Dr. Grace Wilson, '08) who would become my wife the following summer. Second, the moment I decided to come to OBU was when I met an OBU professor, Dr. Bret Roark [professor of psychology], at an OBU theater production while visiting Grace on Bison Hill. Dr. Roark took more of an interest in me, as a psychology major from another school, than any of my professors at Baylor had. I wanted that kind of relationship with my professors and filled out my admissions application the next week.”

Wilson graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology with a minor in family relations. He then earned a Master of Science in human development and family science from Oklahoma State University in 2010. He joined the OBU faculty in the fall of 2013 and completed a Ph.D. in Medical Family Therapy from East Carolina University in 2014.

During his second year of doctoral work at East Carolina University, Dr. Canaan Crane, associate professor of psychology and director of the marriage and family therapy graduate program, called him to let him know that a position had opened for the new marriage and family therapy (MFT) program that would be opening in the fall 2013 semester.

“It was an easy decision for me to apply. I stay here because I love college students and investing in their lives. This is my dream job,” Wilson said.

In his role as assistant professor of psychology/marriage and family therapy, Wilson teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He also provides clinical supervision to MFT interns, serves in the university counseling center, regularly publishes research, presents research at national and local conferences, and serves on the faculty council and curriculum committee.

One of his proudest achievements at OBU is co-founding Oklahoma's first advanced clinical certificate program in medical family therapy, which focuses on bridging the gap between medical and behavioral healthcare.

He believes strongly that in addition to knowledge and experience, he must teach his students empathy, dedication and servitude.

“My hope is that my students will show empathy and compassion to anyone who comes to them, especially those who are marginalized or disadvantaged,” he said.

“I also want them to set and achieve high goals, dedicating themselves to use their God-given talents to succeed. Finally, I want my students to serve others as Jesus calls them to, being willing to give of themselves so that others may have a better quality of life.”

Wilson works tirelessly to see those goals realized, going above and beyond to make sure his students are equipped with everything they need to become successful therapists.

“I do my best to personally invest into each one of my students on an individual level both during their time at OBU and after they leave,” he said.

“It’s important to me that my students know that I care about them as individuals, and I sincerely pray that God uses them massively as they serve others with their career paths. Watching my students achieve their career goals brings me immense satisfaction.”

It was that devotion to his students’ success and his concern for doing everything possible to give them the best training and education available that led to Wilson receiving the Promising Teacher Award during OBU’s 2017 Spring Commencement. This award is presented to a junior faculty member who has taught at OBU less than six years, has demonstrated outstanding potential as a teacher and has exhibited the characteristics of one who may be a future recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award.



Upon presenting the award to Wilson, Dr. David W. Whitlock, OBU president, referred to a nomination letter from an OBU alumnus.

“Of all of the outstanding professors that I came to know at OBU,” the alumnus wrote, “he [Wilson] stands apart as one who had both the opportunity and compassion to care about me personally and to help me through a difficult time in my professional development. To this day, he remains in contact with me and a number of people from my graduating cohort, providing both professional guidance and a friendship that we all value. I have been able to share significant events in my life with him and he has consistently offered support and encouragement to me.”

In addition to his duties in the classroom and as an MFT, Wilson stays extremely busy at home with a two-year-old son, Henry, and ten-month-old identical triplet boys, Alex, James and Luke.

The triplets have become celebrities of sorts around campus and even landed the Wilson family on a TV news report back in the spring.

When not in the classroom or changing diapers, Wilson enjoys running and several other pastimes.

“Until our triplets were born earlier this year, I ran nearly every day. In 2016, I ran four marathons, including the New York City marathon in November 2016, one of the highlights of my life so far. Grace and I are also avid fantasy football players, and enjoy watching NFL games on Sundays in between bottle-feedings.”

Choosing to “Make a Difference”

Even after moving away from her home on Bison Hill to Tennessee to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice, Dr. Worthy Walker continues to heed her father’s advice to make a difference.

Currently a family nurse practitioner in hematology and oncology with West Tennessee Oncology Consultants at Kirkland Cancer Center in Jackson, Dr. Worthy Walker, '10, remembers one thing in particular that stands out clearly from her childhood.

“Every day when my dad used to drop my sister [Amity, '12] and me off at school, he always told us that he loved us, but he also told us to ‘make a difference.’”

Little did she know at such a young age that for her, making a difference would mean helping people through some of their most difficult and trying times.

For Walker, OBU had always felt like home. With both of her parents, Larry, '73 and '96, and Teri, working at OBU, she always thought she would attend the university, as she had grown up in the OBU community.

Walker initially attended OBU on a basketball scholarship, but after her freshman year decided to focus on her studies as a nursing major. She recalls visiting her parents’ offices in Thurmond Hall often during her junior and senior years as most of her nursing classes took place in that building.

“On good days and on bad days, it was always nice to pop in my parents’ offices to

hear them say ‘good job’ or to console me and tell me that they still believed in me,” she said. “Now living eight hours away from them, I sometimes miss those days the most.”

She credits her experience on Bison Hill with preparing her well for her nursing career while providing her with the strong Christian foundation needed to positively impact her sphere of influence for Christ.

“I believe OBU prepared me to be a well-rounded nurse, further enabling me to make a difference in the lives of those I come in contact with each day,” Walker said. “I feel as though I have been greatly blessed with many opportunities in my short lifetime thus far. I believe all of these have been ordained by a sovereign God, and I would not be where I am today without Him. I aim to use the talents and the gifts He has given me in order to ‘make a difference’ in other people’s lives on a daily basis.”

Walker credits many OBU professors for impacting her life, yet recalls three specific faculty in particular.



“Dr. Carolyn Cole [retired Crouch-Mathis professor of literature] helped me to further develop my abilities to create papers that were coherent and meaningful. I believe her teaching helped me to succeed during my post-graduate work, as I never worried about the quality of the papers I turned in to my professors. She also had a genuine compassion for her students, especially in times of need.

“Dr. Ronda Hall [professor emerita of Spanish] helped me to complete a Spanish minor by working with me through several semesters of coursework that I completed outside of the classroom. During my junior and senior years, there were several classes I missed due to my nursing clinical rotations. She took extra time with me to give me one-on-one sessions in her office to help me attain this goal.

“Dr. Karen Cotter [former assistant professor of nursing] is one of the most influential nursing professors I have had the chance to study under. While she was tough in the classroom and in the clinical setting, I understood that when I received praise from her, that I had met the mark she had set for me as her student. I am thankful for her investment in my life, not only as an OBU nursing student, but as a young professional.”

Walker recognized early in her career that the training she received on Bison Hill was second to none preparing her for additional education and creating confidence in her clinical skills as she began work as a nurse.

“Moving forward, as I was working on both my master’s and doctoral degrees, I felt as though the core foundational work I had studied at OBU helped me to excel within the classroom,” Walker said. “Having a well-rounded education from a liberal arts university, I felt as though I was well prepared

in the hard conversations when patients ask me what happens after this life. I am thankful that faith was a large part of my education, as I believe it makes me better equipped to care for and serve the patients that walk through the doors of our clinic every day.”

After earning her Bachelor of Science in nursing from OBU, Walker continued her education at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, where she earned a Master of Science in nursing, family nurse practitioner track, in 2013. She then completed a Doctor of Nursing Practice, also at Union, in May 2017. She has been a guest lecturer for the nurse practitioner program at Union, speaking on breast cancer prevention and screening, as well as hospice and palliative care.

Prior to working at Kirkland Cancer Center in Jackson, she worked as a Registered Nurse at both Mercy Medical Center in Oklahoma City and at the Jackson-Madison County

their cancer treatments and educate them on what to expect following a cancer diagnosis.

“Everybody always asks me, ‘How do you work with cancer patients every day? Is it not depressing?’ And my answer is that it is not depressing at all, because I get to work with some of the happiest, most grateful people you will ever meet,” she said. “There are hard days, and there are some sad and very emotional days, as we are dealing with people as they face some of the hardest days of their lives.”

Although the job is challenging, Walker finds the most rewarding part is developing relationships with the patients she is helping on their journey through the cancer continuum. Oftentimes she finds that her patients end up helping her as well.

“While I may be attending to their physical and emotional needs, they have changed my life as well. Until you have worked with a patient facing a cancer diagnosis, and until you stand beside them in that fight, you cannot comprehend the strength, tenacity and the will to live that exists within the human heart,” she said. “In the face of death and dying, these patients have shown me what a strong faith brings, as they have fully realized peace that surpasses all understanding. Getting to walk alongside many of these patients and their families throughout their journeys has helped to shape me into a more compassionate person and has strengthened my own walk with God.”

Walker is an active member of First Baptist Church in Bradford, Tennessee, where she sings in the choir, shares special music on occasion, has taught a children’s Sunday School class and has also helped to direct the children’s Christmas musical in previous years. She enjoys running, cooking, working in the garden and canning, using recipes handed down from her great-grandmother. ■



I believe OBU prepared me to be a well-rounded nurse, further enabling me to make a difference in the lives of those I come in contact with each day.



to handle different scenarios in the real world and was able to grow during times of adversity.

“Not only did I gain the foundational skills I needed to succeed as a nurse, but I also received a Christ-centered education that incorporated faith into every aspect of our studies. We were taught to holistically care for the patient, not just their physical needs. Because of my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I am able to share the love God has for His people, not only through my interactions with people on a daily basis, but

General Hospital, before moving to the Kirkland Cancer Center in 2014.

As a nurse practitioner at The Kirkland Cancer Center, Walker works in the medical oncology department, where she helps develop chemotherapy treatment plans for her patients’ specific cancer diagnoses. She works with patients throughout their chemotherapy treatments, as well as during the follow-up phase once their treatments have concluded. She also works in the survivorship clinic, where they develop long-term follow-up plans for patients completing

vision *for a* new century

The Campaign for Oklahoma Baptist University 2.0

A Message of Gratitude



Dr. Will Smallwood
Senior Vice President
for Advancement and
University Relations

Even as I type these words, there is a deep sense of gratefulness to God for an incredible start to the 2017-18 academic year at OBU. We began this semester with another increase in students from the previous year with 2,093 receiving the world-class education found on Bison Hill. If you are keeping track, this number represents a 15.7 percent increase since 2009. OBU continues to garner attention and awards for excellence by U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Forbes.com, Washington Monthly and many other publications.

The renovation of Ford Hall, an undertaking 66 years in the making, kicked off Aug. 30 with an expected completion by January 2018. Dr. Chris Mathews, dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, has developed and communicated an extraordinary vision for Ford Hall which will be used by to every department of the college. Space for music, art, drama, theater, debate, digital animation, graphic design and communications will be included in the renovated facility.

Thanks to a significant grant from the Shawnee-based Avedis Foundation, the former pizza restaurant building on Kickapoo is being transformed into the Marriage and Family Therapy Clinic. This clinic, which will be managed and operated by faculty and students in the Marriage and Family Therapy program, will serve the campus and community of Shawnee with counseling and mental health services.

At the end of September, a five-member team from the Higher Learning Commission visited campus for OBU's 10-year comprehensive review. OBU was ready, and I was more than impressed by the engagement and interaction of the entire campus – students, faculty, staff, Trustees, alumni, donors, and community members – with the team. While official word from HLC will not come for another month or so, the team left us feeling confident that OBU will be granted accreditation for another 10 years.

As we prepared for the arrival of the team over the last few years, we returned over and over again to OBU 2020: Mission, Vision, and Values. While God has guided our steps, OBU 2020 has informed our decision-making, campus master planning and strategic thinking. Our kind and gracious God has allowed us to accomplish many of the objectives found within its pages.

We look forward to continuing the work toward achieving our goals to increase enrollment and scholarships; add endowed faculty positions; launch new programs; build new academic and residential facilities; grow and expand academic programs; send more students on international mission and study trips; establish centers of excellence; improve quality of life for the campus community including enhanced services for students faculty, and staff; incorporate advanced technologies and instructional tools in



the classroom and campus-wide; enhance campus safety features; recruit and employ outstanding Christian faculty who are top scholars in their disciplines; and develop and foster deeper relationships with Oklahoma Baptists and their churches.

Without a doubt, none of this would have been possible without the faithful support of OBU alumni and friends. Words really do fail to express our appreciation for all you do to make OBU a special place. Because of you, we have the incredible privilege of educating and impacting the lives

of outstanding young people. For all the crazy things happening in our world, I have great hope as I watch OBU students walk the grounds of Bison Hill. Your giving, your prayers, your sending of students and your encouragement make the difference. God bless you and God bless OBU!

Ford Hall Undergoing Major Renovation

Since the 1950s, generations of students on Bison Hill have honed their musical talents inside Ford Music Hall, the primary practice facility for OBU's Division of Music and home to the OBU Music Preparatory Department. Originally constructed in 1951 after a generous donation from the Ford family, the iconic building is undergoing a major renovation in fulfillment of part of the Vision for a New Century Campaign.

With the building in need of update and repairs for today's students, a new vision has emerged for the future of this iconic OBU landmark to become Ford Hall, a space for all areas of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts to come together.

Renovations include a new foyer, modernized practice rooms, large recording spaces, new offices, labs and studios, while the top floor retains much of its classic look. To further student safety, the building will feature keyless card access. A new heating and cooling system will combat the humidity issues that impact the tuning and sound of the various instruments.

From a construction standpoint, the renovation costs \$1.5 million. Friends of the university have provided resources for the initial construction, but the university is still seeking support for furnishing the building, including audio equipment, instruments and furniture.



Additional support will help make it possible for students of the College of Fine Arts to perfect their craft as they learn to use their talents while collaborating together in this

re-imagined space. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the legacy of Ford Hall will continue to touch the lives of future Bison and impact students in all Fine Arts disciplines.

2018 Women of Vision Project Selection

OBU's Women of Vision is a giving circle working to support, promote, sustain and enhance the mission of the University. Each fall, the group meets to discuss their philanthropic project for the year. Over the past two years, the Women of Vision have provided funds for the installation of various lighting across campus and for the installation of keyless card entry technology on additional buildings on campus.

This year, the Women of Vision selected their 2018 project as the revitalization of the campus ministry center. This project will provide an updated, welcoming environment for OBU students participating in spiritual growth opportunities. The \$80,000 gift will fund the purchase and installation of a sound system and video presentation equipment, carpet, paint, furniture and the minor remodeling of the space.



New Perspectives and Unexpected Blessings

Tony Capucille, '02, president, U.S. Payment and Payroll, of Heartland Payment Systems, leads a nationwide team of employees to record levels of achievement.

A highly successful businessman, Tony Capucille remembers his time at OBU for building relationships and gaining valuable new insights.

"It gave me perspective on what is of ultimate value in the world," Capucille said. "This came from my four years at OBU, but also from the relationships I developed there. I am still cultivating those relationships some 15 years later."

Capucille originally came to OBU at the request of his girlfriend, Christy (Knol) Capucille, '02. The two were married between their junior and senior years. Although his choice to attend was based on the relationship he had with Christy, he had no idea at the time how new relationships he made on campus would affect him for so many years ahead.

A double major in finance and biblical languages, Capucille discovered his professors would considerably influence his life beyond the classroom.

"The most significant impact OBU had on my life came from the investment of each individual professor in my well-being, as well as the wonderful lifelong friendships I made," he said.

One such professor was Dr. Bret Roark, Ralph and Marie Barby chair/professor of psychology.

"Dr. Roark had a formidable impact on me," he said. "His love for scripture was infectious, and that love has cut to the quick and changed my life for the better."

He also had no idea how greatly he would be affected by the type of education he received.

"What I didn't expect is the way the liberal arts education expanded my thinking," he said. "For that, I am grateful."

After graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in finance and a Bachelor of Arts in biblical languages, Capucille and his wife moved to Oklahoma City where he began a position as a sales representative for Heartland Payment Systems.

The fifth largest payment processor in the United States, Heartland Payment Systems, Inc. delivers credit, debit and prepaid card processing, mobile commerce, e-commerce, marketing solutions, security technology, payroll solutions and related business solutions to more than 250,000 business and educational locations nationwide.

Before becoming president of U.S. Payment and Payroll, Capucille served as the chief sales officer, where he oversaw the development of sales strategies and their evaluations. He was instrumental in driving sales force productivity to record levels and in spearheading the creation and development of a CRM tool which enabled Heartland's sales force to realize significant efficiencies.

In 2012, he was named the "Youngest Chief Sales Officer" in the Fortune 1000.

"Leadership has its distinct challenges, especially in a Wall Street dominated business with thousands of employees in every state," he said. "Staying consistent with my team and ensuring my decisions give them the best chance to flourish takes much of my energy."

Though Capucille's work has its difficulties, he finds joy in seeing the relationships that have developed throughout his years with Heartland.

"I have grown up with Heartland, starting as a sales representative and now managing the U.S. business," he said. "It is rewarding to see how strongly culture can impact lives. I value the redemption found in work, and when I can deliver glimpses of that through my teams' interactions with one another, our clients and our partners, it is wonderful."

Shortly after moving to Oklahoma City, Capucille joined Henderson Hills Baptist Church. He serves as vice-chair on the board of governors for The Academy of Classical Christian Studies. Throughout Capucille's years following his time at OBU, his family, church, career and the academy have remained among his most passionate pursuits. He reflects fondly upon his time on Bison Hill, humbled by the difference it made on his life and grateful to those who impacted him along the way. ■

Teaching Minds, Touching Hearts

Mary Alice Chapman, '62, had a dream to change lives. Through the influence of professors and friends on Bison Hill, that dream became a reality, leading to decades of impact in Texas classrooms.



Mary Alice (Leach) Chapman was born in Ada, Oklahoma, in May 1940. Coming of age in the post-World War II era, she dreamed of earning a college degree and living the American dream. She still remembers the day when, as a teenager, her mother told her she would be able to attend OBU.

Excited by the future in front of her, Mary Alice felt blessed to be on her way to Bison Hill.

“The main reason I wanted to attend OBU was the high standards and its high academics,” she said. “That decision has influenced my life since college and has given me a basis for life.”

She recalls one special professor in particular that made a tremendous impact on her time on campus, both inside and outside of the classroom.

“Opal Craig [associate professor of speech] was such a wonderful Christian who had a big influence on my life. She was a great teacher and leader. In her speech classes, she would inspire us to do our best in the classroom and in our lives. One day, she asked me if I would be her secretary. I was so thrilled. I worked for her for three or four years, and she was a fantastic person to work with. I had great respect for her and for her teaching.”

Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science

in education in 1962, Chapman began teaching fifth grade language arts at Martin Weiss Elementary in the Dallas Independent School District. She taught at Weiss until 1966, when she served as counselor at Boude Story Middle School, also in Dallas.

During the fall of 1968, while her husband, Joe, was stationed at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Georgia, she taught seventh and eighth grade English and science at Hinesville Independent School District. In the spring, she returned to Texas and taught fourth grade in the Richardson Independent School District.

The following year, Chapman truly put down her teaching roots, returning to the classroom in the Dallas school district, where she taught fifth grade language arts from 1969 until her retirement in 2004.

“When I was in education, I worked as a teacher and a counselor. My work kept my mind in focus. As a teacher, I was challenged to keep my students interested in learning and to help them follow their dreams. My most rewarding experience was seeing one of my former students grow up to become a teacher. As a counselor, I was ready to aid students at any time with anything from personal and academic problems to scheduling.”

Chapman did indeed make a tremendous impact on her students through the years. She was recognized as the 1988-89 Teacher

of the Year for Martin Weiss Elementary School.

One Profile in Excellence award nominator wrote of her, “She was a dedicated teacher who took the principles of Christian love, service and compassion – all basic to the fiber of OBU – to the world. God’s plan was for her to be among the throngs of dedicated teachers who are our unsung heroes. She was a much desired and highly regarded teacher.”

Chapman credits her preparation at OBU as invaluable to her success in the classroom.

“OBU professors gave me the skills I needed to be a great teacher,” she said. “They showed me how to prepare to teach my students. They gave me the tools and confidence I needed to be successful. They showed me how to prepare my classroom and how to help my students to be what they wanted to be.”

Chapman and her husband, Joe, who is also a retired teacher, have enjoyed 49 years of marriage. Their daughter, M’Lynne Miller, ’96, son-in-law and two granddaughters live in the same neighborhood. In her spare time, she enjoys swimming, reading a good book and traveling. The Chapmans are members of Longbranch Community Baptist Church in Midlothian, Texas, where Joe serves as a deacon. ■

Hobbs College to Release 21-Volume Library of Faculty-Authored Books

The Herschel H. Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry, in partnership with B&H Academic, will release a 21-volume “Hobbs College Library” over the next few years. The library will consist of three categorical volumes: five Bible, seven theology and nine ministry.

The first release, “The Story of Scripture: An Introduction to Biblical Theology,” is authored by Dr. Matthew Emerson, Dickinson Chair of Religion and associate professor of religion, and edited by Dr. Heath Thomas, dean of the Hobbs College and associate vice president for church relations. The book is set for release Nov. 15 and will be available on Amazon.com.

The goal of the Hobbs College Library is to provide a full theological foundation for further study, equipping Christians with tools for growing in the faith and for effective ministry. Each book is an easily digestible 100 pages written by world-class scholars, who break down theology for the average person.

According to Thomas, the local church is shrinking and we are living in a “bi-vocational atmosphere.” We have a need for an “on-ramp into theological education” without the high demands of seminary.

In early 2018, the first ministry volume “Preaching by the Book: Developing and Delivering Text-Driven Sermons,”

by Dr. Scott Pace, Reverend A.E. and Dora Johnson Hughes chair of Christian ministry and associate professor of applied ministry, and edited by Thomas, will be released.

Dr. Hance Dilbeck, senior pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, views the Hobbs College Library as a much needed and valuable resource for Christians today.

“This series is a must have, go-to resource for everyone who is serious about Bible study, teaching and preaching,” he said. “The authors are committed to the authority of the Bible and the vitality of the local church.”

OBU Hires Blade as Assistant Dean of Students

Maliek Blade joined the student development office as assistant dean of students, diversity and multicultural student services in October.

Odus Compton, dean of students and associate vice president for student development, said Blade will be a vital member of the student development team.

“Maliek comes to us with vast experience in helping an academic institution move toward greater diversity especially within a Christian higher education institution,” Compton said. “His personal experience and unique opportunities at his previous institution will benefit our community as we seek to become an institution that looks more like the diverse kingdom that God’s word calls us to.”

Blade earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian studies with a minor in pastoral ministry from The College at Southeastern and a Master of Arts in ministry leadership at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He previously served as diversity coordinator in the office of the president

at SEBTS, where he coordinated institution-wide diversity programming with the president and staff. He also served SEBTS as an ambassador/recruiter for the office of admissions from 2012-14. He served as director of operations for Vision Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, from 2013-16.

“I am excited to observe and learn the campus culture in my opening weeks to then guide how I engage, as each institution has unique needs,” Blade said. “I want to demonstrate to all that diversity is not something done for black and brown people but rather a tool the Lord uses to sharpen us all. Ultimately, my goal is for students, staff and faculty to walk and talk more like Jesus daily. We all have unique gifts to help equip each other to do just that.”

Dr. Stan Norman, OBU provost and executive vice president for campus life, anticipates Blade’s positive impact on Bison Hill.

“I am grateful to welcome Maliek Blade to OBU as assistant dean of students,” Norman said. “We look forward to working together as we continue

our efforts to encourage and embrace diversity and understanding on Bison Hill and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. His experience with and passion for cultivating open dialogue and engaging students in meaningful discussion will be an asset for our students. His heart for the Lord and his commitment to serving our student body will help us succeed in fulfilling our mission as we undertake the ministry of reconciliation throughout our campus community.”



Blade has garnered a strong interest in facilitating civic engagement from hosting the Kingdom Diversity Podcast and moderating panels at Southeastern.

“I appreciate challenging yet healthy discussions and am always looking to create venues for such discussions both on and off campus,” he said.

OBU Welcomes New Faculty to Bison Hill

Jacqueline Corley
Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Laura Gramling
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Dr. Christopher Hair
Associate Professor of English; Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Chair of the Division of Language and Literature

Dr. Brian Horn
Associate Professor of Teacher Education

Joan Klerekoper
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Julie Parrick
Assistant Professor of Anthropology

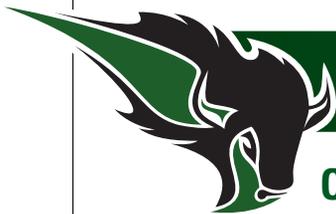
Dr. Teresa Purcell
Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music; Director of Bands

Dr. Jessica Rohr
Assistant Professor of English, TESOL

Dr. Daniel Spillman
Associate Professor of History

Dr. Lyda Wilbur
Assistant Professor of Spanish

Janette Wilson
Assistant Professor of Mathematics



SPORTS

OBU Approved for NCAA Membership

OBU cleared the final hurdle in its three-year transitional journey to the NCAA with a recommendation of full membership from the NCAA Membership Committee, effective Sept. 1. As full members, OBU teams will be able to participate in conference and NCAA postseason events.

After listening to all sides of a debate on whether to pursue membership in the NCAA, OBU opted to journey from its longtime home in the NAIA to become a member of the largest association of college athletics on the planet, starting the process with an application for membership in 2014.

University offices were subject to NCAA training and evaluation. To move forward in each of the three stages, OBU had to demonstrate compliance with NCAA rules and standards.

OBU won its third consecutive Learfield Sports Directors' Cup in its final year in the NAIA in 2014-15 and then won the National Christian College Athletics Association's Presidential Excellence Award in 2016 and 2017, giving OBU five consecutive All-Sports awards.

» » » Read more athletic features and highlights online at obubison.com.

ONLINE FEATURE

Cagney Roberson.

On Saturdays, he wears number 15 on the Bison football team. This summer, he wore scrubs, while serving in health



clinics and working toward his dream of one day becoming a primary care physician assistant in a non-profit clinic. Read his story at obumagazine.com in the Digital edition.



A Golden Voice, A Gifted Teacher

Gifted with a powerful voice and a passion for performing, Pat Lacey, '71, found her way to Bison Hill through what seemed a chance encounter, yet ultimately proved to be divine guidance.

Pat (Brummett) Lacey planned to attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas, until the Bison Glee Club visited her local church. Two of the members stayed in the Brummetts' home and convinced Pat to visit the OBU campus to audition for a vocal talent scholarship. Impressed with the students and faculty on campus and having received a scholarship, Pat decided to attend OBU.

Although she was gifted vocally, she never took piano lessons and found she needed some extra help in that area. Thankfully, she had a professor who went above and beyond to provide the assistance she needed.

"Kathryne Timberlake [professor emerita of music] was my theory, sight-singing and ear-training teacher," she said. "An exam required that we add lower parts to a melody in the key of B, a key with 6 sharps. I looked at her with tears in my eyes and said I could not even play a scale in that key. Very calmly she put that piece aside, looked through her music a bit and found a melody in C with no sharps or flats. I think, perhaps, she was a primary reason that I had the courage to continue as a music major."

While at OBU, she competed and won the crown as Miss New Mexico. She finished among the top ten in the Miss America 1970 pageant and was named one of the winners in the talent competition.

Upon earning a Bachelor of Music, she met and began dating Alton Lacey, whom she would later marry. She thought the Lord was leading her to be a high school choir director or a vocal performer. Instead, He led them both to graduate school. Pat earned a Master of Music Education at North Texas State University and Alton studied psychology and counseling at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The couple then moved to Louisiana College, where Alton went from assistant dean of students and teaching psychology, to ultimately become vice president for development. They remained there from 1976-95. During that time, Pat performed in churches, taught voice at the college, founded a community children's chorus, became certified in Kodaly pedagogy, sang in the local opera company and community musical theatre, and became a speaker, adjudicator and guest clinician in choral music.

In 1995, Alton became the president of Missouri Baptist College (later becoming Missouri Baptist University) in St. Louis.

"I went with the expectation of becoming the traditional president's wife," she said. "But during the fall after we arrived, an unexpected vacancy for a full-time music faculty position led to my 'helping out' for a year. The Lord had other plans and I stayed on first as part-time and later as full-time,

eventually becoming the head of the vocal area of the music department."

During that time, Lacey turned a small ensemble into a vocal jazz group and started the Opera Theatre at MBU. Twenty years later, she retired from the music department in 2015.

"Though I have loved performing in the many, many venues the Lord made available to me, I always felt my biggest reward was seeing my students realize their musical potential, whether that meant singing confidently in their church choir, becoming ministers of music or school music teachers, or performing professionally. If I could show them their strengths and help them reach their potential as singers or performers, that was the reward for me."

In her retirement from full-time teaching, she enjoys exercising, reading, working in her garden, and spending time with grandchildren. She also enjoys being able to travel more with her husband in her role as the president's wife.

Looking back on her time on Bison Hill, Lacey said, "I've been to other places, had other groups of good friends, and had a lot of wonderful experiences. But no place, experience or person will ever replace those from OBU. I thank the Lord daily for what OBU has meant in my life." ■

Healing Hands and a Servant's Heart

From the sunsets on Bison Hill to the plains of Kansas, from the Air Force to the operating rooms of Oklahoma City, Dr. Joshua Carey, '95, has touched lives all along the way.



Meeting a surgeon can be a frightening experience, as it usually involves a surgical procedure, whether planned or unexpected. At those moments in life, love and compassion are needed most, when patients and families are at their most vulnerable point.

And it is with that love and compassion that Dr. Joshua Carey, '95, serves the patients of Oklahoma daily, as a general surgeon at Integris Medical Group. Exercising skill and precision, coupled with Christian compassion and humility, Carey touches lives as he brings healing to countless patients.

God opened doors for Carey's career path during the college selection process.

"OBU had an excellent reputation in science education and a high acceptance rate into medical school," he said. "I had been looking at joining the military reserves to pay for school and when I was offered the Bob and Bonnie Lynn Scholarship it was clearly God directing my path. I could not have afforded to attend higher education otherwise."

With God providing the means, Carey worked diligently and took advantage of the opportunities afforded him to learn under experienced and expert professors.

"Dale Utt [associate professor of biology] demanded excellence and gave it in return. He was my advisor and gave me the hard feedback I needed even when I didn't

want it. I would never have made it into medical school without him," Carey said.

He noted the influence of Dr. James Hurley, professor of biology and namesake for OBU's Hurley College of Science and Mathematics, saying, "He pushed us to be renaissance individuals more than anyone I've ever encountered."

In fact, one of his favorite memories involves Dr. Hurley.

"My senior year I was acting in a play where I was the 'bad guy.' Dr. Hurley took great care to introduce me as a 'thespian' before I led a tour of Wood Science building for prospective students and their parents, because I had long hair, a full beard and was covered in temporary tattoos that couldn't be completely concealed. The way he said it, with the twinkle in his eye, and his unique half grin, let me know he was proud. I can still see it more than twenty years later."

Carey credits his years on Bison Hill for developing his work ethic as well as his breadth and depth of knowledge. He also was impacted by the leadership opportunities and biblical foundation laid in his life. Perhaps most significantly, he met his wife, Jerilyn, '95.

She earned a Bachelor of Musical Arts and recalls that she and Joshua met in the band. She also sees the impact OBU made on their lives every day in multiple ways.

"The professors at OBU challenged Josh not only to question, study and learn, but also to be the best man he could be in every area of his life," she said. "They taught by example being good spouses, parents, teachers and Christians. Because of his well-rounded education at OBU, he can treat the whole patient. He learned to be an excellent listener and consider every facet of life in his decision-making."

Following graduation, Carey joined the U.S. Air Force to serve and help pay for medical school. He attended the University of Kansas and then served a general surgery residency at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. After his residency ended, he was assigned to Tinker AFB in Midwest City. He left active duty in 2008 and joined a private practice. In 2014, he went to work at Integris.

"I'm a general surgeon. Probably the most difficult part of the job is when I know what someone needs to do to get better, but they are unwilling to do it," he said. "Sometimes people make bad decisions and I can't stop them. However, when someone comes back and their problem is 'gone' or 'better,' that's an amazing feeling."

When away from work, Carey enjoys spending time with his family, including Jerilyn and their two children, David and Emily, as well as time at Waterloo Road Baptist Church in Edmond, where he serves as a deacon. He also enjoys target shooting, reading and weight lifting. ■



An Unexpected Journey to Bison Hill

A man of many talents, Walter Grady, '71, owes his OBU experience to one fateful day when an unexpected road trip helped him find his place on Bison Hill.

Excelling in music, ministry, technology and athletics, Walter Grady's life embodies the liberal arts education he received at OBU. Yet, none of that might have come to pass without one surprise decision that changed his life forever.

One summer day in 1965, while he was a student at the University of North Texas, Grady experienced a series of unexpected events that would forever shape his life. Looking back today, a well-seasoned Walter Grady sees how God's plan began to unfold in one unsuspecting moment...when the power suddenly went off at UNT.

Triggered by that power outage and for some unexplained reason, he had a sudden impulse for a road trip. What happened next seemed at the time to be the random whim of a college student, but later proved to be guidance from above, leading him to his eventual home on Bison Hill.

"I remembered that my minister of music had attended OBU. I really didn't even know where OBU was, but I just got up, got in my car and drove to Oklahoma City," Grady said. "I asked some people for directions, and they pointed me to Shawnee."

An avid basketball player, Grady gravitated toward OBU's gym where he joined a pick-up game. By happenstance – or divine intervention – one player worked in the administrative building and suggested Grady fill out some forms, which he did. To his

surprise, he soon received an unexpected letter of acceptance from OBU.

"My mom talked me into it," Grady said with a chuckle. "It was kind of like: the power went out, basketball at OBU, the acceptance letter. I always feel like it's kind of a God thing that I ended up at OBU."

During his time on campus, he took full advantage of educational and performance opportunities.

Grady sang in an OBU group called the Persimmon Hill singers who traveled and sang at many churches and promoted OBU. He also participated in the Tuneclippers, claiming the Caribbean USO tour as one of his greatest memories.

"My time at OBU was incredible. The teachers and the people who were there were absolutely top notch. Most people have heroes in their life, and when I came to OBU, I really hadn't had any."

That changed upon reaching Bison Hill, as he found two heroes whom he still admires.

"One hero is Jim Woodward, dean of Fine Arts. He came in the fall of 1965 and took over the Tuneclippers. I got to know Jim there, and we were friends until he died in 1991. Jim Brown is my other hero, my voice teacher. They are two incredible men who had an incredible impact on my life."

After earning a Bachelor of Music from OBU in 1971, Grady served in full-time music ministry. Along the way, he founded and directed the Dickens Handbell Festival in Galveston, Texas. After serving in full-time music ministry for more than 40 years, he retired from First Baptist Church of Ardmore, Oklahoma, in July 2017.

In "retirement," he continues to run his own business, BasicSolutions, providing computer networking and security support for businesses. He recalls writing a computer program in 1977 for the church bowling league, and soon after, he developed a program that tracked patients and immunizations for five pediatric offices in the Galveston area. He also used his programming skills to develop one of the first programs to track membership and contributions at First Baptist Church of Galveston.

Grady began a travel agency, "Grady Tours," planning up to five trips at a time. On top of work projects that keep him busy, he is training to compete in racquetball for the 2019 Senior Olympics.

Beginning with what seemed like a random road trip one unsuspecting day, and culminating in a life of service as an OBU alumnus, Walter Grady exhibits true Bison Spirit...serving others in the name of Jesus Christ while utilizing the knowledge, wisdom and curiosity honed through his liberal arts education on Bison Hill. ■

An Ambassador of Hope

Journalist Lisa Jackson Tresch, '87, began an international organization, Rising Village, to bring hope and to help improve the lives of women and children in Ghana.



After feeling lost in the crowd at an impersonal state school, Lisa Tresch transferred to OBU, formed some of the most fulfilling friendships of her life and learned the art of storytelling.

"Kathy Brittain McKee was my journalism professor and my advisor," Tresch said. "She not only taught me the skills and practice of media writing, she also taught me how to think critically about current events and social issues, and how to communicate the 'story behind the story.' I have taken that with me in every part of my career journey."

After graduation, Tresch went on to write for the Tulsa World and eventually co-founded a communications company, The Leslie Group, which began a women's magazine, "Mia." Three years later, the publication moved online and Tresch took a trip to Ghana with her daughter to visit orphaned children available for adoption. That trip marked the beginning of her transition to become an ambassador of hope.

"After the trip ended, I was unable to go back to the magazine with the same kind of passion, and decided to fully immerse myself working with an NGO (non-governmental organization) in Ghana," Tresch said. "My job was to tell the stories of impoverished women and children who lived in rural villages and were trying desperately to hold their families together."

But Tresch wanted to do more to help. A

year and a half later, she and a Ghanaian named Isaac Darkwah Akromah formed Rising Village.

"Our mission was to partner with women and children in the margins to find creative solutions that would bring them education and economic opportunity," Tresch said. "Our goal was to ensure that the women we work with could provide adequately for their children, and not be forced to turn them over to orphanages or to relatives."

Tresch explains how she could not have started this journey without Akromah's help.

"Isaac lives in one of the villages where we work," she said. "He had been praying about how he could come alongside the many women and children in his village who were in need. He was planted in the middle of the story, and so he was keenly aware of the initial directions to go as we started this work."

Rising Village currently reaches out to women and children in seven villages spread across three regions of Ghana. The women in Rising Village's programs are seamstresses, basket weavers and hairstylists, with batik fabric designers to soon be added to the list as well. The organization relies on a crowd of supporters, donors, partners and sponsors in the United States.

"Working cross-culturally across two continents causes us to be victims of communication mishaps," Tresch said.

"We constantly struggle with how we 'help without hurting.' We don't want to create dependence and conflict, but instead want to have relationships that respect the dignity of the people we work with and encourage their eventual independence."

Over time, Tresch has learned how to modify and adjust her efforts to help Rising Village flourish. Risks are always associated with business, and regardless of the outcome, all risks bring the opportunity for learning and growth.

"Fourteen months ago we took the risk of opening a retail shop to sell the products made by the women," she said. "In many ways it was a complete success, despite the fact that we had to close it last month. But we couldn't have been ready to launch into our next chapter if we hadn't tried it. We will be expanding our work in the northern regions of Ghana, and bringing more products of the women to the U.S. to help open markets for African handcrafts."

Tresch's family is fully committed to this mission for God's glory.

"We are exactly where we are supposed to be, doing exactly what we are supposed to be doing," she said. "We see the face of God more clearly as we go deep into meeting the needs of the oppressed, the poor and those who are imprisoned by injustice. As we practice radical solidarity with them, we are looking into the eyes of God." ■

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