

Student Life





1996**Lauren Elizabeth (Overby) Starr**

11/18/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE BOTH OF my parents graduated from there and I was born in Shawnee. I ended up attending there for a year and a half before moving to a school in Texas for personal reasons. OBU was a wonderful place to start becoming an adult. The people were amazing and the structure of the day was well-organized. I enjoyed every moment of it. My parents didn't send me off with a car, so I had to leave OBU because I couldn't get back and forth easily. I studied business because I've always loved math and my father was a bank president. My mom was a music major at OBU. I did choir and intramural sports like softball and powder puff football. It was fun to represent OBU at other campuses. I was an Alto in the choir and played softball with other students. The people I met at OBU are what I am most grateful for. My roommate and I still keep in touch and I cherish that friendship. OBU has a strong emphasis on creating a welcoming community and I have many fond memories of my time there.

2022**Daniel L. Chandler**

11/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS special. I remember my first visit to OBU and how the community made me feel welcomed. My time was filled with many memorable moments, but one that stands out is my involvement in Enactus, the business social entrepreneurship club. Involvement in Enactus helped prepare me for entering the workforce after college. Looking back, I know I grew and changed as a person during my time at OBU. Overall, I am most grateful for the Christ-centered community. That was, and continues to be, the thing I value most about OBU.

1986**Dr. Wes Corey Moore**

01/12/2024

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was truly life-changing. I transferred there from a large public institution - the transition was a bit shocking at first, going from 35,000 students to just 1,300. However I quickly adjusted and made some of my closest friends during my four years there. I was studying music, and the music school at OBU was top-notch. The faculty, like James Woodward, Nancy Hill Cobb, Jack Pearson, and Mary Kay Parrish, were all incredibly influential in my life and prepared me for graduate school. Academically I felt very well-prepared and intellectually stimulated. My Western civilization class really opened my mind and imagination to new ideas. Spiritually OBU was also enriching and helped me integrate my faith with my studies. The small campus environment meant that everyone knew each other, which had its ups and downs, but overall it was a great experience. I was also heavily involved in extracurricular activities, like music ensembles, touring, and their version of Greek Life. The best part was that I met my wife at OBU, and we've been happily married for 37 years. I have nothing but fond memories of my time at OBU, and I am so grateful that I chose to attend there.



From a couple of years ago for a work project

1992

Donald O. "D. J." Horn

10/19/2023

"The campus was small enough that I got to know everyone and it really felt like a family.

- DONALD O. "D. J." HORN

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I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FROM 1989 TO 1992 AS A TRANSFER STUDENT

from Centenary College. It was a great experience for me, not just as a baseball player, but as a student and a person. The campus was small enough that I got to know everyone and it really felt like a family. The camaraderie between students and athletes was amazing, we were all friends and it wasn't separated like at some schools. The people who ran the school were like family and were always there to help, even years later when I needed transcripts. It truly became my home and I didn't even go back to Dallas during breaks, I would go to Kanakuk camps in Branson, Missouri, and then back to school. My major was health recreation physical education with an emphasis on prephysical therapy, but I ended up finding my calling in coaching and eventually title insurance. My major did teach me valuable skills like how to excel in sports and academics, and how to study effectively. Two people who had a major influence on me during my time at OBU were Russell Norris, the athletic director and head of the Health PE Recreation Department, and Bobby Cox, the head baseball coach. They both treated me like a person, not just a number, and their doors were always open. Looking back, I can see how the Christian-oriented atmosphere at OBU helped me find myself and grow as a person during a pivotal time in my life. If I could give advice to a student just starting at OBU, I would tell them to study hard, immerse themselves in the university and its values, and make lifelong friends. It's only four years, so make the most of it and come out a better person than when you came in.

1982

Deanna Kay (Branscum) Schmidt

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A REWARDING AND GROWING TIME IN my life. I made many new friends both inside and outside of class. I had great instructors who really took an interest in helping you succeed. I'll never forget Civ Lit classes complete with all night studying and the Blue Book. I was very grateful for OBU allowing me to do my intern teaching in Poteau so I could spend the last months of my mom's life with her. OBU gave me the necessary credentials to teach children, a part of God's plan for my life.

1977

Ronnie Dale “Ron” Simmons

10/18/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS life changing. I was awestruck when I first stepped on campus. I knew that I wanted to pursue music education, and I was accepted into the school. I was a four-year member of the chorale, and I studied with Rhetta Mayfield for my voice degree. I worked hard and went to summer school every year except my freshman year. I was also on the Dean's List and the President's Honor Roll for my last two years. I was disappointed that I was 0.14 points away from graduating with a predicate on my dip, but I still passed and got my degree. I was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha and a tutor for world history. I got one of my jobs because I went to OBU. My religious faith grew and changed while I was there, and I became an advocate for the downtrodden. I have been able to express my faith in Arkansas and Colorado.

2005

Nathan Lee “Nate” Geist

01/24/2024



Me and Katy

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA

Baptist University because I grew up in a small town and thought a smaller college would be a better fit for me. Plus, some of my friends were going there and I wanted to be with them. The smaller class sizes and close-knit community at OBU were major benefits for me, especially in my field of accounting and finance. I made some of my best friends there, and we

still stay connected today through our shared interests and similar career paths. My studies at OBU have also been instrumental in my professional growth, as I have been able to apply what I learned in the real world. I also met my wife at OBU. I am grateful for the relationships and experiences I had at OBU, and I am proud to be an alumnus of such a wonderful university.

2019

Jonathan Pierce Deichman

10/14/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was filled with fun and memorable experiences. The small town atmosphere meant that we had to get creative when it came to having fun on campus. One of my favorite memories was the whole milk two mile, where we would drink a glass of milk and run laps around the Oval. It was hilarious to watch and even professors got involved. Another fun event was the humans versus zombies game, where we would defend ourselves with Nerf guns while trying to avoid being tagged by the zombies. It was a unique and exciting experience that you wouldn't find at many other colleges. The strong sense of faith at OBU was also a big part of the community. The churches in town were solid and there was a strong conviction for faith and attending church. As for professors, there were many who left a lasting impact on me, such as Alan Bandy and Glen Sanders. The entire Music Department was amazing, with professors like Chris Matthews, Justin Pierce, and Randolph Johnson. Overall, my time at OBU helped me discover my passion for music and strengthened my relationship with the Lord. I am grateful for the experiences and memories I made there.

1964

Rev. Barbara L. (Maxey) Robberson

11/16/2023

BOTH OF MY BROTHERS GRADUATED FROM THERE AND MY FATHER WAS A pastor in Oklahoma, so it was natural for me to go to OBU. I had many friends who went there and our bond grew over those four years. We had many students come from Africa, and it was the first time that I got to know people from there. I had some of the best professors in the world there. I was in biology most of the time, and one of my mentors escaped Germany and he had many stories to tell us. I fell in love with someone who was accepted at Caltech, and for the first time in my life, I left Oklahoma and went to California in the 1960s. We had children and ended up in Texas. God called me into ministry and I left the Baptist Church and joined the Methodist Church and served for 32 years in ministry. I served at 15 churches all over the state of Texas. I met people from different cultures and no two churches are alike.

1958

Gene Gooding

10/12/2023

I HAD THE MOST AMAZING TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. THE community there was just incredible. I was lucky enough to be surrounded by outstanding students and people who went on to become influential leaders in the Baptist hierarchy. I was even part of a bicycle league club with some of these amazing individuals, including John Sno, Jim Cram, and the highlight of my time, Warren Angel. He had such a profound impact on all of us, and it's hard to believe that one man could have such a strong influence. Looking back, I can say that I definitely grew and became more focused on my goals and direction in life. I actually met my wife there! We both left OBU and became Minister of Music in Missouri, but eventually I found my true calling as a school music teacher. The 1950s were a glorious time for the music department at OBU, and it was just a wonderful time to be a part of the university. I am so grateful for the experiences and the people I met during my time there.

2022**Lauren Michelle Jones**

12/07/2023

I WENT TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University because my family has a long history there and I felt called by the Lord to study ministry. I have no regrets about that decision. My time at OBU was truly special, thanks to the amazing professors who invested in me and empowered me to pursue ministry in a way that honors God. I also made lifelong friendships that I know will be with me forever. Looking back, I can see how my faith was impacted by being surrounded by a community of people who were serious about their faith. The connections I made at OBU have already had a positive impact on my career. To all the students starting at OBU, I would say that the hard work and investment is worth it. You won't find another place like OBU that integrates education and faith in such a deep and meaningful way. To those graduating, cherish your senior year and all the little moments because they go by quickly. I miss being in the classroom with my professors and walking down the street with my best friends. Soak it all in and cherish the moment.

1962**Charla Beth Parker**

10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS IMPACTFUL, AND I'M STILL IN TOUCH WITH MANY OF the friends I made there. Graduation day was a great day for me and my family. I was part of the Bison League club which allowed me to travel and sing with some of my best friends. My professors were personable, and I learned a lot from them, particularly my piano and organ teachers. I went on to teach music in public school for 29 years and even got my master's degree in music from the University of Northern Colorado. I'm grateful for the education and experiences at OBU and the relationships I built there, which have helped me become a better teacher.

2022**Kailee Diane McCrary**

11/17/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY LIFE-CHANGING.

I was fortunate enough to be a part of the golf team, where I made lifelong friends and grew in my faith. Dr. Green, my marketing professor, provided me with real-life experience that has been invaluable in my career. The golf team had a successful year, with a few members receiving conference honors and winning a home tournament. I am still in contact with my friends from OBU, and Dr. Green still checks in on me. The smaller atmosphere at OBU allowed me to build relationships and not feel lost in the crowd like I did in high school. I also learned important skills like time management and leadership through my involvement in the golf team and organizations like Pi Sigma Phi and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. One of my favorite memories is from welcome week, where I got to meet new people and make starting classes much easier. Overall, my time at OBU was filled with amazing experiences and I am grateful for the relationships and skills I gained there.

2020

Garrett Charles Elmore

11/17/2023

I ACTUALLY ENDED UP CHOOSING OBU BECAUSE OF MY love for running track and cross country. I initially applied to OU, but then OBU offered me a scholarship to come run for them. I was a bit hesitant at first because of the financial aspect, but they ended up giving me more than I expected. I took the leap and it was definitely the right decision. My journey at OBU was definitely a rollercoaster. In my freshman year, I got injured at church camp and didn't get to participate in cross country until October. I was able to start training with the team and ended up having a great season. We even won nationals in indoor and outdoor track, which was an amazing experience. I also became an All American in the 4x800 meter relay and scored in the 1,500 meter race. Academically, I enjoyed most of my classes, although being a science major was challenging at times. I had some amazing professors, like Dr. Chen and Dr. Jordan, who made the difficult courses more enjoyable. I also took a general education course with Dr. Donnelly, which sparked my interest in criminal justice and ultimately led me to become a cop. What really made my experience at OBU special were the friendships I formed with my teammates. Spending so much time together running and talking on the streets created a strong bond that I still have today. I even ran into a teammate at a Thunder game recently, and we caught up like no time had passed. It's truly a brotherhood. Looking back, I am so glad I chose OBU over OU. The smaller class sizes and the relationships I formed with my professors made a huge impact on my education and personal growth. It's not just about getting a degree, but the experiences and people I met at OBU that have shaped my life in a positive way. Overall, I had an absolute blast at OBU and wouldn't change a thing.

2011

Thomas Donald McCarther

01/19/2024



Me with my son, Forest

MY EXPERIENCE AT Oklahoma Baptist University was shaped by scholarships and the opportunity to room with high school friends. I was involved in various clubs and organizations, including the student cabinet and the art club. However, the most impactful part of my experience was the close relationship between faculty and students. The teachers were not only dedicated to our academic

success, but also our mental health and well-being. My favorite professor was Julie Blackstone, who was like a mother figure to us in the art department. I also had a great relationship with my English professor, Dr. Bill Hagan, who shared my interests in literature. Although I now live in Houston, I still keep in touch with my classmates and have attended many of their weddings. Looking back, I can see how I grew and changed as a person during my time at OBU, learning to be independent and form my own ideas. What I am most grateful for are the meaningful relationships I formed with my classmates and teachers. The memories of our shenanigans and shared experiences always bring a smile to my face.

1981**Lynda Jo (Richardson) Matthews**

11/08/2023

I LOVED MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. IT GAVE

me the confidence and support I needed to succeed, especially in the Nursing Program. The relationships I formed with my instructors and fellow students were invaluable. They were always there for me, not just in the classroom but also in my personal life. This open-door policy and genuine care for students stayed with me and influenced my approach as a nursing director later on. The academics at OBU were top notch. I had so many amazing professors, but two who stood out were Dr. Jeffrey Black for anatomy and physiology and Lana Bull House for psychology. They were not only excellent teachers but also mentors who provided guidance and encouragement. I received the best education in anatomy and physiology that was available. Being at OBU allowed me to grow as a person. Coming from a small high school in Vermont, it felt like coming home to a Christian community with similar beliefs. The safe environment allowed me to explore and develop my faith and become more confident in my abilities. I had the opportunity to meet students from all over the country and world, which broadened my horizons and helped me understand different cultures and backgrounds. After graduation, OBU continued to have a positive impact on my life. The high graduation and placement rates from the Nursing Program gave me confidence and preparation for my career. I was able to secure a position in an intensive care unit, which was not common for new graduates. It ultimately led to my adoption of three children from the NICU. OBU taught me resilience and gave me a strong foundation, which allowed me to excel in different areas and transition from nursing to administration and now my work in the church. My time at OBU was instrumental in shaping me into the person I am today. I am grateful for the education and support I received at OBU.

2018**Connelly Luke Rader**

10/09/2023

**ONE OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM OKLAHOMA**

Baptist University was when I was chosen to speak at the President's Vision event during welcome week. I talked about my freshman experience and how I overcame my separation anxiety from my twin brother who attended a different university. I shared how investing in relationships at OBU led me to meet my wife and lifelong friends. I also talked about how the professors at OBU fostered curiosity and expanded my worldview. My civ professors and my finance professor were particularly influential in challenging my thinking and fostering creativity. I am grateful for the impact OBU had on my life and I love sharing my experiences with others.

1963

Rev. John V. Chennault

10/10/2023

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY HOLDS A SPECIAL

place in my heart. It was where I played basketball and earned three varsity letters, and I even got to go to the national tournament in Kansas City my senior year. I was also elected as president of my senior class, which was a blessing that I didn't expect. I followed in the footsteps of my older brother, who was the first in our family to graduate from college. I chose to major in oral communication and speech after realizing that math was not my forte. Being a part of the YE Club and playing intramural football were some of the other activities I enjoyed on campus. I lived in the dorms all four years and have fond memories of staying up all night playing cards and going to the Wide Awake Cafe for a late-night snack. The friendships I made at OBU have lasted a lifetime, and I even met my spouse there. One of my favorite professors was Jean Lucas, who taught me the importance of speaking truthfully and authentically. Graduation day was a big milestone for me, as I was about to start my career as a minister of youth at First Baptist Midwest City. I have visited the campus a few times since graduating, and I am amazed at how much it has grown and changed.

Overall, OBU has had a significant impact on my life and career, providing me with a strong education and a firm foundation in my faith. It will always hold a special place in my heart, and I have a great deal of respect for the school and its mission to prepare students for life's challenges.

1972

Joanne (McCutchen) Andrews

10/16/2023

I HAD SUCH A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. The dorm life was amazing, and I made some lifelong friends there. One of my favorite activities was being a part of the Bison Glee Club, under the direction of Dr. Pearson. I also loved going to Chapel and was even selected to sing in the Freshman Follies. I auditioned with a Beatles song, and it was so much fun. I still love to perform and have been singing for many years. I was inspired to go to OBU because of the concerts that the club would give at my Baptist church. I even auditioned for a vocal scholarship and received one. However, I did struggle with one of my professors who was a master of the Old Testament. I ended up flunking that class, but excelled in New Testament. I got married after my freshman year and finished my music degree at a different college. I wouldn't trade my one year at OBU for anything. I recently visited the campus, and it brought back so many sweet memories. I remember having Chapel once a week and the tradition of freshmen wearing green beanies. I haven't stayed in touch with many members of the Glee Club, but I did reunite with one friend from the third floor of my dorm. I would love to catch up with my two freshman roommates, but I haven't heard from them since. My time at OBU definitely helped me in my music career, and I still use the skills I learned in the Glee Club in my teaching career. I think it's great that OBU showcases the achievements of their alumni, like my friend, Leah, who comes back every year to help new students get settled in. Overall, my experience at OBU was amazing, and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

1974**Marsha Page (Tackett) Bonieski**

10/18/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University, and it was truly a wonderful experience. The professors were amazing and provided one-on-one teaching, which was so valuable. I am now 71 years old, but their impact on my education and career is still evident. I was able to excel in my nursing career and receive honors thanks to the strong academic background and leadership skills I gained at OBU. The small campus atmosphere was perfect for getting to know everyone, and it felt like a little family. I actually had family members who also attended OBU, including my sister and cousins. I was living in Fort Worth, Texas, at the time, so it was an out-of-state experience for me. Looking back I can see how much I grew and became more independent during my time at OBU. I also found my direction in life through my faith in Jesus Christ. I was part of the Athenians Sorority, but the Nursing Program was quite rigorous, so I didn't have much time for other campus activities. However I still keep in touch with five of my fellow nursing graduates, and we try to have a mini reunion every year. It's amazing how close we've remained over the years. After graduating, I took my boards within a few months and started working as a nurse's aide until I passed. I always encourage young nurses to consider OBU for their education. I have been back to the school for homecomings and class reunions, and it's always a joy to see how the campus has grown and changed. My time at OBU was truly one of the best experiences of my life, and I am grateful for the education and friendships I gained there.

2000**Kathryn Laura Whitaker**

11/10/2023

I DID NOT HEAR OF OBU UNTIL MY JUNIOR

year of high school. I was interested in going to a smaller private Christian university, and a friend of mine told me about OBU. A few of us went to visit during our senior year of high school. I was torn between two schools, but OBU was striking to me and I felt welcome. I knew that I wanted to be in some sort of helping profession, but I didn't know what I wanted to do. I went into social work. I remember Dr. Carolyn Cole, she meant a lot to me and went above and beyond for me. Dr. Ball was loving and cared about us beyond the class. All of the professors at OBU are special. I was in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. I liked the community at OBU because it felt like family. I had intimate ties with my friends and the faculty at OBU. I gained lifelong friends at OBU, as well as my relationships with the Lord that grew. My degree was in social work, but I ended up getting a master's degree in professional counseling. My husband and I do a lot of mission work. We started a nonprofit called BridgeWay International to work. OBU holds a special place in my heart, and I'm grateful that I went to OBU.

2017

Rebekah Gail (Fisher) Lawrence

10/09/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly life-changing. The friendships I formed there have lasted to this day, even though we are all spread out across the country. It's amazing how those relationships have stood the test of time. The education program, which I initially wasn't a fan of, ended up broadening my perspective and helping me grow as a person. The teachers at OBU were phenomenal, some of them even taught my parents. They really keep the spirit of the university alive. As a legacy alumni, I feel proud to have carried on that torch. Looking back, I can see how much I changed during my time at OBU. My teachers challenged my worldview and it really lit a fire under me to make a positive impact in the world. After graduation, OBU helped me with my social skills and transitioning into adulthood. I am confident in who I have become and I have OBU to thank for that. We had weekly trips to Brahms, it was our go-to spot for bonding and delicious ice cream.

2013

Karlie Lue (Clifford) Grubbs

11/22/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR MY DEGREE BECAUSE

both of my siblings went there and had a great experience. When I visited, I loved the small school environment and it was a perfect fit for me coming from a big high school. I joined CAB and it really helped me make friends and get involved in different organizations and shows. My favorite memories from CAB were the immediate friendships and being involved in the stage band for the shows. Academically, my professors were excellent and cared about my growth as a person and artist. I started as a music education major but switched to early childhood and elementary education. OBU taught me how to handle interpersonal relationships and respond in a kind and Christ-like manner. After graduation, I felt prepared to teach but also had the freedom to explore other opportunities because of the well-rounded education I received. Overall, my time at OBU helped me grow as a person and gave me the tools to be an educated individual in all aspects of life.

1960

Beverly K. York

11/02/2023

I REALLY ENJOYED MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY,

especially playing tennis in the evenings. It was warm in Oklahoma, and it was a great way to end the day. I played one intramural game, but mostly I just played with different women there. I don't keep in contact with any of the people I went to school with, which I regret. I still get to play a bit of tennis now that I'm retired, and I love it. I highly recommend the school.

1957**Mabel “Sue” Norris**

11/03/2023

THE BAPTIST ASPECT OF OBU WAS A BIG PART OF MY experience. As a Christian, I enjoyed attending chapel services and being a part of the Music Program. I was a piano major and had to do a recital as well as participate in choir and band. The academics were rigorous, especially for a music major like myself. I spent many hours in practice rooms and also took classes in organ and clarinet. At OBU, I had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, including exchange students from Hawaii. I went on trips with the choir, and I have fond memories of a trip to Western Oklahoma, where we saw tumbleweeds for the first time. We brought one back to show our friends. Living in the dormitory was a big part of my experience at OBU. I had a roommate who was Native American, and it was a great opportunity to get to know someone from a different background. I also joined the women's music fraternity, SAI, and have a funny memory of us posing on the steps in high heels with candles. My time at OBU helped me grow and develop as a person. Coming from a small town, it was a big step up in terms of size and diversity. I made many friends and have fond memories of the trips, concerts, and experiences we had together. After I finished my degree, I continued to teach and attend summer school at the University of Missouri to complete my master's degree in music education, but OBU will always hold a special place in my heart.

2012**Dr. Jacob Paul Hooten**

11/17/2023



I GREW UP TAKING piano lessons at Oklahoma Baptist University because I lived about 20 minutes away. It felt like home and wasn't too far from my house. I even lived on campus for four years. I was involved in CAB and SLU, and was nominated for Harvest Court. I also played tennis for the team and even received a scholarship.

Although I eventually left the team, I made lifelong friends and strengthened my Christianity during my time at OBU. It was like a family away from family and the connections I made have lasted longer than some of my family relationships. Overall, I loved my time at OBU and it was an amazing experience.

1980

Vicky L. (Munday) Sharp

10/31/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS SO MUCH FUN! I

loved going to the library and attending the basketball games. On Tuesdays, we would have date nights and fun nights. It was a great way to relax and enjoy ourselves. I had some amazing professors, like Dr. Rowena Strickland, who was an Old Testament and Bible teacher. She was remarkable! I also attended plays, music events, and Chapel.

1972

Dr. Rhoda Elaine (Estep) MacDonald

11/20/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT

one. I was very active on campus and was even voted the outstanding junior nurse. I was able to graduate cum laude, and that really made my parents proud. I then went on to pursue my master's degree and PhD at Portland State University and the University of Minnesota. I was lucky enough to have an academic scholarship and worked as a resident assistant after my freshman year, which really helped me out. I was also the president of the female students during my senior year, which kept me very busy. I would definitely encourage anyone to pursue their education as far as they can take it, as it really opens the door for a lot of other pursuits. OBU was a great place to start my educational journey.

2015

Christine Marie Loughlin

11/17/2023

I CAN'T HELP BUT GUSH ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE

at Oklahoma Baptist University. It's just such a special place. From the moment I stepped on campus, I could feel the sense of community and personal connection. That feeling only grew stronger as I got to know my professors. They were all so approachable and invested in my success. I'll never forget the time when I had to come back to campus early in January and didn't have anywhere to stay. My suite Dean, Dr. Debbie Blue, now Dr. Bosch, opened up her home to me for three weeks. It was such a kind and selfless gesture that I will always be grateful for. She not only helped me in a time of need, but she also shaped me into the person I am today. That's just one example of the tight-knit community at OBU. I've heard so many similar stories from my classmates, and it's just wonderful to see how everyone is always willing to lend a helping hand. I truly believe that my time at OBU has made me a better physician and a better person. I am so grateful for the experience and the people who made it so special.

2011**Tamara Ruth
(Scherich) Royer**

11/01/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly special. I was drawn to the university after hearing about my family member's positive experience there. All four years that I spent at OBU were amazing. I finally felt a sense of community with other believers who shared my values and beliefs. It was a time of intense fellowship and growth in my Christian journey. The academics were challenging but also rewarding. I had some great professors, like Dr. Canaan Crane and Dr. Bret Roark, who made a lasting impact on me. One of my favorite memories from OBU was meeting my now-husband a few months before graduation. We got married and still love coming back to campus for homecomings and other events. I highly recommend OBU to others because it truly shaped who I am today. In fact, my husband and I are now working at a Baptist university because we want to help other students have a similar experience. OBU will always hold a special place in my heart and I am grateful for the memories and lessons I gained there.

1964**Dr. Jerry Lon Harris**

12/01/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

positive. I stayed in the brotherhood dorm for all four years and made many friends. The atmosphere was caring, and people were genuinely interested in how I was doing. It was a wonderful experience that helped me grow. Even after graduation, people were always interested in hearing about my experience at OBU.

1979**Jack Douglas “Doug” Kennedy**

10/09/2023

I HAD SOME GREAT TIMES DURING MY COLLEGE YEARS. I WAS

part of a service organization called Delta Tau Alpha, and we did service projects in the community and met every week. I also had a lot of fun writing papers at Town Talk at midnight with my friends. My favorite class was Dr. Strickland's Shakespeare class. I did Bible studies and late-night debates with some great friends. We also had intramural football and would use trays from the cafeteria to go sledding down hills. I also got to go to OU football games with a friend whose mom worked on campus. We even got snowed in once while returning from a trip to the Ozarks. We also went to Tulsa to hear a famous fiction writer speak. It was great seeing another part of the country and experiencing different cultures.

1998

Kelly Rachel (Graves) McMaster

11/16/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE IT WAS close to my family and I grew up in a smaller Christian school, so the size and Christian community were not overwhelming for me. I lived on campus for all four years and was involved in the Bison Glee club and worked in the Alumni office. My favorite professor was Mr. Pearson, who was also my voice teacher and reminded me of my grandpa. He was caring and made me feel at home. My parents are also college graduates, so I am not a first-generation college student. My experience at OBU helped me grow as a person by teaching me independence and how to overcome challenges. Since graduating with a degree in children's ministry and a minor in music, I have been working in my churches and my kids' school, fulfilling my calling. Overall, my time at OBU prepared me for my career and helped me become the person I am today.

1978

Mark Edward Hunt

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT experience. I had a music scholarship for instrumental music, so I played in the orchestra and in the musicals. I also had the opportunity to take part in the environmental impact study for the city of Shawnee. I had a lot of great professors, like Dr. Black, who I got to feed all the animals in his personal lab. I also had to climb three flights of stairs with crutches when I rolled my ankle, which was a challenge. I even learned to play snooker in the recreational area. I met a lot of great friends and I wouldn't trade my experiences there for the world.

2000

Lena M. (Stevenson) VanVoorhis

11/04/2023



Rich, me, and Colton, Christmas, 2022

LOOKING BACK ON MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE, I would tell a freshman to make the most of it and not take it for granted. College is a great opportunity to learn from professors and to break out of your shell and make friends with people you wouldn't otherwise. It's also a great time to think about what you want to do after college and focus on that goal. Don't forget to have fun too! College was one of the most fun times of my life and I'm glad I made the most of it.

1955**Dr. Juanita F. Murphy**

10/19/2023

**I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE**

at OBU. I met a lot of nice people, who were very social and accommodating. I was a campus nurse, and I enjoyed being around people who were interested in getting an education. I had an English teacher who was very influential, and I really enjoyed the classes I took in English literature and composition. These classes provided me with a comprehensive

understanding of people and life, which helped me get my master's degree, doctorate, and post-doctorate work. I learned that I enjoyed learning and reading. I made lifelong friendships through classes, clubs, organizations, and dormitory life. I enjoyed going to the dining hall and eating with people. It was a great experience, and I'm thankful for the memories.

1979**Rebecca Sue Donovan**

10/12/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AS AN ALUMNA OF OBU WAS

unique and memorable. My parents and siblings all attended the university. My time at OBU taught me to think critically and broadened my knowledge base. I was often asked to write memos and letters for my boss and help friends with their writing. I worked part-time at a bookstore and was the only one who knew what people were talking about when they asked for classic books. I was part of the Student Government Association and co-chaired the Campus Activities Board. We would have activities to keep people entertained and had an SGA retreat every fall. My best friend and I would watch championship wrestling on Saturday mornings. We even demonstrated it at the retreat and ended up wrestling the president of the university. We also had a lot of fun in the freshman women's dorm. We hooked up a garden hose and created a slip-and-slide down the hall. We even ordered pizza from Pizza Hut and lowered a bucket out the window to pay for it. Women now have so many more job opportunities than when I was in school.

1974

Anna Maria (Petro) Beall

10/11/2023

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A DREAMER, and, as a child, I dreamed of going west. My mother, a Baptist, allowed me to pursue this dream by attending a Christian college. I chose Oklahoma Baptist University because I had a great aunt living in Oklahoma City. When I arrived on campus, I felt a sense of culture shock, but I loved it. I was a believer and had dedicated my life to the Lord, but I was called into a different kind of ministry. I was able to use my BSS and RN to help with the camp programming and the horse program. My instructors told me to take courses to make me well-rounded, and I am thankful for that now. I have been married for 47 years, and I am still working full-time. OBU equipped me with so much, and I am thankful for the spiritual growth I experienced there. It was a protective environment that allowed me to make mistakes and grow independently. I am thankful for the memories I made at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1961

Connie J. (Ray) Harrod

10/14/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS A MEMORABLE ONE. I MAJORED IN

business and worked in the business office for Dr. Finley Chu. I loved singing and was a part of the chapel choir. I took swimming classes in the winter at the indoor pool. I was told that I had to have good etiquette in the cafeteria and couldn't pick up my chicken with my hands. My favorite thing in the cafeteria was the strawberry banana pie. I was also homesick since it was the longest I had been away from home. Years later, my daughter chose to go to OBU and was impressed with the Nursing Program. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in nursing, and I was proud to have set the foundation for her.

1969

Patrick J. McMahon

11/16/2023

I HAD THE AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University on an athletic scholarship from Ireland. Walking onto campus for the first time, I was blown away by the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. As a runner, I fit in right away and had an unforgettable experience. Graduation day was a proud moment for me, as I had left four months prior to finish my degree. The camaraderie and support from my coach, Coach Drummond, made my time at OBU truly memorable. I was able to mature and adapt to college life, while also receiving a great education that prepared me for the future. After graduation, I felt well-equipped to enter the real world and start my career. My achievements as a runner also made me a bit of a hero on campus, and I was grateful for the support from my fellow students and faculty. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my nostalgia and I hope my experiences at OBU can inspire others to pursue their dreams.

2018**Micah Keyes Lynn**

11/17/2023

I HAVE TO SAY, MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

was truly unforgettable. The campus life and community that OBU fosters is something that I will always cherish. From the fun and crazy events like Ka-Rip Wars during welcome week, to the close connections with professors in the classroom, OBU really helps you build a strong community from day one. Learning from some of the best in the country academically has been such a valuable experience. I've been able to take what I learned and apply it to my life and my job now, and that's something I will always be grateful for. When I attended one of their preview days, I was blown away by how welcoming and genuine everyone was. They weren't trying to be something they're not, but they were honest about the campus culture and the education they could offer. That sense of community and family atmosphere is what drew me to OBU. I did always know that I wanted to be in ministry. I felt God's calling during my junior to senior year of high school, and it was affirmed right after I graduated. Looking back at my time at OBU, I can confidently say that it helped me grow and change as a person. The community aspect of being around so many people and making friendships, not just with students but also with professors, has been invaluable. Even after graduating, I can still call on them for advice and guidance in ministry and theology. OBU has truly given me a network of people that I can trust and learn from, even after my time there. I am so grateful for all of my experiences at OBU and the ways it has prepared me for life and ministry. It's not just a university, it's a community that keeps on giving and supporting you even after you graduate. OBU will always hold a special place in my heart.

2016**Ashley Renie Snow**

12/07/2023

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

a life-changing experience for me. I was a part of the inaugural women's lacrosse team, and we went from a record of three and one in our first season to playing in the semi-finals of our conference championship the next year. After leaving, I even had the opportunity to coach at the college level for six years. It's crazy to think that before attending OBU, I didn't even know what lacrosse was. It's become a big part of my life and I was on my way to becoming a head coach. I made some amazing friends at OBU, but one of the most impactful was my roommate and teammate, Hannah. She was always a positive influence and helped me get through tough days on the field and in the classroom. The energy on campus was always buzzing with something to do. Whether it was attending Chapel three times a week or participating in musical events, there was always something going on. The student population was inclusive and there was something for everyone. Personally, I grew a lot as a person during my time at OBU. I was always an athlete, but being a part of the lacrosse team helped me come out of my shell and become more outgoing. My advice to anyone attending OBU for the first time would be to have fun and don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. The people at OBU truly care and are always there to support and guide you.

1994

Monica R. Enox

10/16/2023



Loved OBU and her time in the music department!

MY DAUGHTER, Monica, had a passion for music from a young age. She was always bouncing to the beat when music came on. When it came time for her to graduate high school, we visited several Baptist

universities, and OBU was the one she fell in love with. She was active in church and ACT Teens and even got chosen as a panelist for our state one summer. At Oklahoma Baptist University, Monica was involved in vocal music and played piano. She also took psychology as a minor, which helped her work with both children and elderly people as a therapist. She was outgoing and personable, and she made a huge impact on a lot of people's lives. My daughter had a close relationship with her little sister, who is a middle school reading teacher in Dallas.

2021

Afton Kyndall Urton

01/17/2024

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN

life changing. I had the opportunity to work in residential life while living in a freshman girls' dormitory for four years. I got to see firsthand what it looked like to work alongside people who love Jesus and were dedicated to pushing back darkness. I learned how to live out my faith while being supported by my boss and her boss. OBU had a strong focus on helping students grow spiritually while also preparing them for adulthood and sharing the gospel. As a resident assistant, I got to walk with girls through their highs and lows, and it was a privilege to see the Lord working in their lives. This experience has had a profound impact on me, and I am now working as a residential director at OBU. My day-to-day involves being a big sister or dormitory mom, helping students in times of need, and planning events to bring the community together. OBU has taught me the importance of community and how the Lord delights in our sanctification. My journey at OBU began with attending Super Summer during high school and being inspired by my older sister and brother, who also attended OBU. I initially wanted to major in interior design but ended up changing to graphic design and adding a minor in family and community service. My professors, especially Professor Fuller and Dr. Wilber, have had a significant impact on me, teaching me the value of hard work and the benefits of good criticism. Graduation day was bittersweet as I was finishing the legacy of my immediate family at OBU, but I was also sad to leave such a wonderful community. The greatest takeaway from OBU was the blessing of being surrounded by fellow believers and being built up by them. The positive influence of OBU has shaped me into the person I am today, and I am grateful for the opportunity to further the kingdom while growing and learning at OBU.

1962**Linda (Benson) Whitley**

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was defined by the close relationships I had with the faculty and staff. Unlike other universities, I didn't have to make appointments to see my professors - I could just walk into their offices and have a conversation. I remember one instance where my math professor, Gene Lucas, wrote one sentence on the board for our final exam and then left to play tennis. It was a unique experience, but it showed the level of trust and respect between students and faculty. Our class was also the first to graduate from the newly built Raley Chapel, which was a special moment. I've been back to campus a few times and have been impressed by the new young president and the direction the university is heading in. Outside of classes, I was involved in student government, intramural sports, and social clubs. It was easy to stay busy and be a part of campus life. What stands out to me the most is the strong Christian environment and the impact it had on my faith. The faculty were not only great educators, but also strong Christians who were open about their beliefs. It was a blessing to be surrounded by such a supportive and faith-filled community. Overall, my time at OBU was one of the happiest periods of my life and I am grateful for the lifelong friendships and strong foundation in my faith that I gained there.

1982**Charles A. "Chuck" Lawrence**

10/09/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I WANTED TO

become a church music director. I already set my mind on this career path when I started at OBU. During my time there, I made some great friends and had some amazing experiences. I was also a member of the Association of Resident Men, which was a group of guys who lived in the dorm. My time at OBU changed my outlook on life and my worldview. I learned many skills that have been invaluable in my life after graduation, such as how to stand and talk, give instructions, and lead people. I am very grateful for the preparation I received at OBU and the skills I learned there.

1967**Keith Henry Butler**

10/10/2023

I HAD ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST IN MUSIC, SO WHEN I FELT LIKE THE

Lord was leading me in that direction, it was a natural choice. I was a charter member of the Chorale and Dr. Lynn was an important person in that. My senior year, Jim Woodward prepared me for repertoire and other faculty like C.L. Basson and Mary Kay Parrish were very important teachers in my time there. I was involved in intramural tennis my freshman year and I commuted my last couple of years from Oklahoma City. During my time at OBU, I experienced a social awakening and grew to understand myself better. I was also part of a chapel service where nothing was off limits and Al Tucker, an all American basketball player, was making fun of things. The most eventful thing that happened while I was at OBU was a plane crashing into Shawnee Hall. I had a lot of fun experiences with concerts. I also remember the guy who sang Bad, Bad Leroy Brown, and my brother was on the front row for that concert. OBU was a great experience for me and I am thankful for the memories I made there.

1972

Sandra M. (Horton) Basham

11/03/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A WONDERFUL experience. Coming from a small town and a small graduating class, the campus felt big and wonderful. Everyone was friendly, and the professors knew you once you got established in class. I loved the atmosphere, the programs in the chapel on Wednesdays, and the Hanging of the Green. I was in love with the Glee Club, the Tune Clippers, and all of the musical groups. OBU also brought in outside groups like the Letterman and Jimmy Webb. I had great friends that I enjoyed being around and studying with. I was a first generation college student, and my family was happy and supportive of me. My time at OBU helped me broaden my horizons and confirm some things about my faith and my upbringing. It made me look at those things and decide for myself what path I wanted to follow, setting my own legacy.

2022

Taylor Kennedy Mante

10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY LIFE-CHANGING. I had the opportunity to meet amazing people, participate in exciting events like winning a bowl game with the football team, and form lifelong friendships. The learning environment was incredibly enriching, and I was able to easily connect with my professors whenever I needed help. I credit a lot of my academic success to the dedicated and supportive faculty at OBU. As an international student, it was definitely a challenge to adjust to living in a new country, but I am proud to say that I not only survived, but thrived at OBU. It has truly shaped me into a better person and I am grateful for the experience.

1962

Harold “Ellis” Stout

10/10/2023

DURING MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I HAD THE opportunity to major in music and be a part of the Bison Glee Club. One of the highlights of my experience was auditioning for a special group that toured and performed for military bases through the USO. This was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget. I also stayed an extra year to participate in this tour and it was definitely worth it. In addition to the USO tour, the Bison Glee Club also traveled all over the United States, performing at various churches and events. This added to my overall college experience by allowing me to see different music programs and even visit some of our missionaries while on tour. Being a part of the Glee Club was a big part of my college experience and I am grateful for the opportunities it provided me.

2017**Carleigh Jo (Neal) Tyler**

10/19/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly unforgettable. I chose OBU because of the track team and cheerleading, but I ended up loving the tight-knit community and small campus. Many students also mentioned the strong sense of connection on campus, and I found that to be true as well. The professors were approachable, personable, and highly knowledgeable, and I even met the love of my life while at OBU. The college experience itself changed me in so many ways, and I truly believe that OBU was the best choice for me. After graduation, I was unsure of my career path, but my education at OBU prepared me to be independent and make decisions with the help of my friends. I majored in Exercise and Sports Science and even got my personal training certification. Later, I pursued occupational therapy through an additional program. OBU not only impacted my education but also my personal life. My advice to incoming students would be to get involved in clubs and organizations and make the most of the experience. Don't hide out in your dorm room, but instead, get to know your classmates and professors. They truly care about your success and will be there for you even after graduation. Trust me, it worked out well for me, and I have no doubt it will for you too.

1985**Rhonda (Foster) Ellington**

11/16/2023

**I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE**

at OBU. Coming from a small town, the community at OBU was a good size where I could get to know everyone but not feel overwhelmed. I also had a job in the community and was involved in a social club and the BT Glee Club. I was also the president of a business organization. It was a great opportunity for me to indulge in my varied interests. Being in a faith-based university at that time in my life, when I

was transitioning from my family environment to being on my own, was a great environment to figure out who I was and stay close to my values while also exploring new things. I have friends from all over now and I don't think I would have had the same experience at a larger university. For me, it's always about the people. I had some great professors who still come to mind in my business life. I remember taking statistics and not needing to attend class, but my professor sat me down and explained the importance of showing up in the real world. It was a valuable lesson.

2000

Leslie J. “Les” Sombito

11/30/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

was God's assurance that He is in control and that His purpose is always good. I can look back and see that God had His hand on me and His plan allowed me to further my education as a student athlete in a Christian environment because He knew I needed to be with like-minded students and staff. As an incoming freshman, my relationship with Jesus was not close but through my years on Bison Hill, I was able to grow in my relationship with Jesus through student life, friendships and OBU staff. I attribute part of my spiritual growth because of the opportunity to live on campus as a student athlete and because of that, build friendships with other Bison athletes and coaches. To this day, OBU plays a big part in my profession as an orthotist because of the academic and spiritual foundation OBU taught me and it allows me to serve others in my career. OBU has also placed a desire in my heart to serve in the Student Ministry of my church to grow and guide students in their relationship with Jesus and to testify of the truth in the alma mater, 'May thy spirit guide thy sons.' I was blessed to have mentors like Dr. Norris, Coach Davenport, Coach Gomez and Coach Canty who were encouraging and available and I will always be grateful for the time spent on Bison Hill and the spiritual impact it had on my life.

2020

Abigail Katherine (McPheeters) Cunningham

10/19/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. It was truly a transformative experience for me. One of my favorite classes was a ministry class called Chronological Bible Storing with Dr. Carlton. We learned how to read scripture and translate it in a way that anyone could understand. I also grew spiritually and matured as a person, thanks to the mentorship and discipleship at OBU. The community at OBU was also amazing, with faculty involvement and a close-knit student body. I was involved in extracurricular activities like Go trips and mentoring at the Melbourne Student Success Center. My trip to Uganda was eye-opening and showed me the power of the gospel to bring unity and healing in the midst of difficult circumstances. Most of all, I am grateful for the friendships and mentors I made at OBU, who continue to impact my life.

1957

Lou Thelen (Peterson) Kemp

10/13/2023

I WAS PRIVILEGED TO HAVE KNOWN THE RALEYS. I WAS

one of the last classes to experience the building of Kerr Dorm.

Love Stories







Rev. H. D. Harman, minister of music, BMusic, Class of 1955, and me

1952

Marcena D. (Davis) Harman

10/17/2023

“My husband, Henry, was a graduate of NOJC, where he played football and studied music.

- MARCENA D. (DAVIS) HARMAN

MY GRADUATION FROM OBU WAS ON MAY 24, 1952. THE PRESIDENT, DR. RALEY, HELPED ME DOWN THE STEPS AFTER receiving my diploma. About six weeks later, I added another title, which was mother. My husband, Henry, was a graduate of NOJC, where he played football and studied music. Since enrolling at OBU, he had changed his course of study several times so he didn't graduate from OBU until 1955. During my freshman year, I was not allowed to engage in sports or extracurricular activities other than music due to medical limitations. I lived in Owens Hall, and we had a dorm family, the Spencers. My dormmates and some of my professors became good friends and mentors. I remember Annie Earle, who taught French, and Dr. Robert Laessig, who taught German. The music professors such as Bige Hammons, Virginia Reese, as well as Dr. Warren M. Angell, the dean of fine arts. While my husband continued his music studies with some of those same professors, I began teaching piano lessons from a villa apartment, singing, or playing piano and organ for local church services, and taught music for a school. Henry served as director of music for a church. After he graduated from OBU in 1955, we moved and he began serving as a full-time music and education director for another Baptist church. We spent most of our 69 years of marriage in similar situations until he passed in 2019. During my years at OBU, I was privileged to serve as chaplain and then president of the Alpha Eta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, International Music Fraternity for Women Musicians. I'm still associated with music, churches, and SAI today. I taught, played, directed, and performed music on an Native American Reservation, a Virginia Correctional School, as well as private and public schools. The Lord made music a great part of my life, and I even have music professor daughters!

1966

Norma Jean (Rice) Phillips

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS truly life-changing. It's where I met my husband, who came all the way from Canada and was unlike anyone I had ever known. OBU was a place where I could meet people from diverse backgrounds and learn to love and appreciate them. I had some amazing mentors at OBU, but the one who stands out the most is Manoi Adair. She was my business professor and taught me everything I needed to know. I even had the opportunity to teach a few classes for her. The campus was very different back then, but it's amazing to see how much it has grown and become more sophisticated over the years. One of the most memorable moments during my time at OBU was when a plane hit one of the buildings on campus. It was a scary and surreal experience, but also a highlight of the year. My husband and I spent most of our time on campus or walking around the area since we didn't have a car. One special moment that stands out is when he gave me a ring after the hanging of the green ceremony. I remember making him heart-shaped pajamas and he was wearing them when he got thrown into St. Gregory's Pond as part of an engagement tradition. We got married after my senior year and I will always cherish the memories and experiences I had at OBU.

1962

Ralph M. Hamblin

11/02/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A VERY SPECIAL ONE. I JOINED THE track team and began running the two mile race. It was during this time that I met my wife, and we got married in June of 1964. We had a beautiful marriage that lasted 59 years until she passed away last year. We had two natural sons and then adopted a girl and her brother from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. My wife attended OBU but didn't get her degree because she changed her program from nursing to art. None of our children attended OBU, but we were very involved in the university and our church. I was a deacon at our church and enjoyed being involved in all that we were doing. My time at OBU helped me with my spiritual walk and I met some very influential people who helped me grow.

1963

Adele Elaine (Attebery) Martin

10/11/2023

I MET MY HUSBAND DURING MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AT university. We were allowed to eat our evening meals together in the dormitory, which was how we met. We sat at the same table, and by the end of the school year, we decided to get married. It was a long time ago, but I still remember the first time I saw him and the moment we decided to get married. It is amazing that I still have these memories.

1976

Scott Bradley “Brad” Perkins

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLY FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I

was part of the VSU Puppet Ministry and started doing children's church at our local church. I made lifelong friends at OBU and still keep in touch with them. I was also part of the Omega Kai Delta and played basketball and football with my brothers. I was influenced by several professors, including Dr. Yarbrough in counseling, Dr. Holcomb in Bible, Dr. Strickland in Old Testament, and Dr. Bain who took us on a civil war trip during one interim. My most memorable moment from my time there was meeting my wife. I saw her playing the piano at church, and we got married after college and have had a great life ever since. Going away from home and to college was a sink or swim experience, but I grew so much through my college experience and I think, like Mark Twain said, I didn't let my studies get in the way of my college education.

1957

Dorothy Carol (Lee) Stephens

10/11/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF LIVING IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHILE ATTENDING

OBU. It was a diverse group of girls and I was from a small town in Oklahoma, so it was quite eye-opening for me. I was in the Women's Glee Club, and we got to travel to different places for concerts. I got married in 1956 and my life changed. My husband was already at OBU, and we had our first child. We moved to Bethel, Oklahoma and had three more children. We had a lot of funny experiences and I was thankful for the girls basketball team who helped with babysitting. We moved to Shawnee, Oklahoma and my husband coached the girls basketball team. We had 18 great-grandchildren and I never finished school, but I am thankful for all the experiences I had.

2016

Sydney Loren (Gabbard) Nelson

10/11/2023

I MET MY HUSBAND, ANDREW

Nelson, on the first day of my freshman year at OBU. We became friends and eventually started dating and got married. During my time there, I served in residence life from sophomore to senior year, which was foundational to my career in higher education. I chose OBU because I wanted to be part of a small Christian institution that valued the gospel and had dedicated teachers. Looking back, I can see how it helped my faith and set the trajectory for the rest of my life. Walking onto campus for the first time was exciting and nerve-racking, but I felt welcomed and like I belonged. Now, my husband and I are 38 weeks pregnant with our first baby. OBU was a special place and time in my life and I value it greatly.

1993

Jennifer Gayle Coon Donwerth

12/12/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. I was inspired to attend because of my Baptist faith and the strong undergraduate education offered. I knew that I wanted to study music education and OBU had a great program for that. One of my favorite instructors was Dr. Nancy Hill Cobb, who not only directed the University Chorale but also taught conducting. I was also active in the University Chorale and made lifelong friends there. I even met my husband at OBU. We dated throughout college and got married after I graduated. Although my husband only attended for one semester, he jokes that it was the most expensive date that he ever went on. One of my favorite memories at OBU was singing at the Hanging of the Green and being part of a smaller a capella ensemble. I also loved my Old Testament class with Dr. Byon. After graduating, I taught music for a few years before taking a break to raise my children. I eventually went back to school and became a second grade teacher, which I love because I feel like I am helping to shape the next generation. My daughter also attended OBU and met her husband there, so I have recommended it to others. I think the smaller campus and class sizes allow for more personal connections with professors and a better overall atmosphere. I would definitely recommend OBU to anyone considering it.

1983

Rev. Chaplain Bill Hoops, USAFR (Ret.)

12/04/2023



MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was an incredible experience. I was able to learn from amazing professors like Dr. Strickland who knew the Bible like nobody else. I was also able to make lifelong friends and even found the love of my life. My education at OBU prepared me to spend my life in the chaplaincy ministry, which allowed me to go places nobody else could go. I was in the military and spent a career in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. My biggest takeaway

from my time at OBU was finding my wife and having her as my ministry partner for the past 40 years. She has been with me through it all, even when I was sent off to war zones or to a federal prison every day to serve as their Chaplain.

1961**Rev. Garland “Keith” Wilkinson**

11/14/2023



Around the world travels beginning at Machu Picchu, 2008 to present; nearly sixty countries.

I'M SO PROUD TO BE AN ALUMNUS OF OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University! I had some great classes and professors while I was there, like Dr. Rowena Strickland in the area of Bible history, Dr. Gregory Prichard in the area of philosophy, James Ralph Scales, and C Blair in the area of history, and EW Thornton. These were all wonderful professors. Student life was also great for me - I met my future wife, Barbara Slade, also a graduate of 1961, and it really launched me into my ministry. After studying at OBU, I went on to Southwestern Seminary, and then to my ministry in pastoring and in religious education. I even had an interesting experience while traveling to China. We were ushered into China at midnight, and the immigration official asked for my passport. When he saw it was from Oklahoma, he asked if I knew Shawnee and Oklahoma Baptist University. It turns out he was a transfer student there! It was such a small world moment.

1995**Cheramy Lynn
(Mercier) Mayfield**

01/29/2024

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS amazing. Years later, I am grateful for the blessing of attending this university. I remember being dropped off by my family in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and feeling terrified, but welcome week quickly changed that. I joined the other students and quickly made friends. My first experience at OBU was filled with fun and laughter, thanks to my amazing roommate who lovingly nicknamed me 'Qua' before we even met. We had so many great memories and formed wonderful friendships. One of our goals was to avoid the infamous 'freshman 15' weight gain, so we decided to wake up early and go for walks before classes. I even showed off my track skills by jumping over a ditch but ended up spraining my ankle on the first day of classes. It was a hilarious and memorable moment. I had so many memorable professors at OBU, but one who stands out is Dr. Pam Robinson. She pushed us to be our best and took us to a convention in Indiana to present our special education program to professionals. It was a memorable experience and made us feel like professionals even before we graduated. I met my husband at OBU, and we have been together for almost 30 years now. We were set up on a blind date, and it was a fun and unexpected way to start our relationship. My greatest takeaway from OBU is the foundation of my faith. Being away from everything familiar and going through challenging times allowed me to truly examine my faith and strengthen my relationship with God. I am grateful for the amazing people and experiences that shaped me into the person I am today. Thank you for allowing me to share my memories with you.

1963

**Margaret B.
“Maggie” (Barrett) Lanier**

10/17/2023

I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A NURSE SINCE I was a young girl. After working for three years, I decided to pursue my dream and transferred to OBU after one semester at Southwest Baptist in Bolivar. I was inspired to come to OBU by my Sunday school teacher, a lawyer from Texas, and another lady in my Sunday school class. At OBU, I was influenced by Juanita Proctor, the head of the nursing department, and Clo Hammonds, a graduate of OBU and my professor. I also had the opportunity to be a part of clubs and organizations. During my time at OBU, I met my husband, Donald Lanier, who was a teacher at the time. We married while I was still in school and moved to Champaign, Illinois, where he went to the University of Illinois for his master's in library science. We were married for almost 60 years when he passed away. After graduating from OBU, I worked in a variety of places, including the operating room and a nursing home. I enjoyed the opportunity to be of comfort to those in need and to help them with God's love.

1970

Paul Wayne Wyatt

11/16/2023

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN SUCH A SIGNIFICANT part of my life. Not only did I establish strong friendships with people who share similar values and faith, but I also met my wife there. It's crazy to think that I was just sitting on top of a table in the library when she and her roommate walked in and caught their attention. We've been married for over 52 years now and I am forever grateful to OBU for giving me my first and only wife. It's amazing how this university not only helped me in my career, but also in finding direction in my personal life. I couldn't have asked for a better experience.

1969

Glenda “Gayle” (Mills) McKeich

10/25/2023

I ENDED UP AT OBU BECAUSE I BECAME ENGAGED TO A CHEMISTRY professor, John Mills, who was already teaching there. We got married and had four children who all grew up at OBU and went on to get advanced degrees. We lived on a street called Frank Buck Drive, where faculty housing was located. Our children had the freedom to participate in activities and sports on campus. I also worked part-time in the chemistry stockroom while my husband pursued his PhD. After he finished, I went back to school and eventually became in charge of the swimming program at OBU. It was a wonderful time for our family, and we recently celebrated my 84th birthday with a reunion in Sedona, Arizona.

1962**Melba S. (Parham) Rupe**

10/17/2023

MY HUSBAND AND I MET AND WERE MARRIED ON GRADUATION DAY, 62 years ago. It was a very memorable day, as it had stopped raining right after graduation and before the wedding. I was a first generation college graduate in my family, and my family had come from Oklahoma and California, and my husband's family had come from St. Joseph, Missouri. We had a great basketball team at the time, and the basketball games were fantastic. I was in the home economics department and loved it. I lived in the women's dorm, WMU, and then was an RN for three years. Girls couldn't have cars back then, and we had to be in at 10:00 p.m. on Friday, and 10:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. If we came in late, we got late points, and if we got 15 late points, we were grounded for a week. We also had to wear a skirt or dress and couldn't wear pants except on Saturday until five o'clock. We also had to go to chapel two days a week, and they would come by and check and see if our seat was filled. It was a different world, but it was definitely good.

1982**Ronald Kirk “Ron” Maxey**

11/17/2023

I REMEMBER MY TIME AT OBU FONDLY. THE CAMPUS WAS BEAUTIFUL. I lived off campus and met my wife, who was a Sum Lati graduate. We got married and I worked at a Dr. Pepper plant to help fund my studies. One day, a friend invited me to a birthday party and I met Carol, who I would later marry. We had a wonderful 40 years together before she passed away from dementia. Looking back, I know that God brought us together for a reason and I am grateful for the time we had.

1972**Sulyn Kay
(Harmon) Wilkins**

10/18/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was a positive one. I was born and raised in a Southern Baptist family, and when it came time to choose a college, my church awarded me with a scholarship to OBU. This solidified my decision to attend. The faculty were amazing, and I made some great friends. The Christian influence on campus was strong, and I felt comfortable discussing faith issues with my conservative professors. I pursued a degree in education and had a great student teaching experience at Shawnee High School. The campus has expanded and improved since my time there, but it was nice to see that some things, like the WMU dorm, were still the same. OBU didn't have a football team back then, but they did have track, basketball, and tennis. My main takeaways from OBU were the reinforcement of my conservative values and meeting my husband, who I've been married to for 50 years. Overall, my time at OBU was a positive and impactful experience.

1984

Donita D. (Masters) Cooper

10/11/2023



Guy and me, August 2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN incredible experience. I was a student in the music department and felt that I was very well prepared for a degree in music. I was a part of the Bisonettes and Bison Glee Club and the Little Sister which were both wonderful experiences. I also had the opportunity to network with other people in the state of Oklahoma, which has been very beneficial. My husband and I began dating at OBU and we both music majors. We have recommended OBU to many students over the years, as we believe it is one of the best schools you

could ever go to. The professors are excellent, the singing groups are well known and of high quality, and the Christian atmosphere is very focused on Christ. We also cherish the friendships we made there and the closeness to the Lord that we experienced.

1994

Melissa P. “Missy” (Playford) Oursler

10/27/2023

I MET MY HUSBAND AT OBU - I MET HIM AFTER A soccer game, and our first date was incredibly memorable. We went to dinner, a basketball game, a soccer game, and then Dunkin Donuts afterward. My time in theatre was all memorable, but one of the most memorable experiences was when we were living Lenox statues on the stage for Christmas Chapel. It was there that I discovered my passion for directing, which I have used in countless ways since. OBU taught me how to critically think for myself and how to acknowledge that not everyone thought the same way I did. It also helped me prepare for my career by teaching me how to direct and guide people, as well as how to relate to people. My Bible classes at OBU were also fantastic and gave me a great background in scripture. My advice to incoming students is to get involved, make friends, and stay on top of academics. When I think back on my time at OBU, I am most grateful for the stability and the ability to get close to professors and understand they were there to mentor and help me. They wanted the best for me, and I am thankful for that.

1957

Dr. Beverly B. (Brietling) Frank

10/18/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS DEFINITELY MEMORABLE. I HAD A snowball fight with my German professor and we all got in trouble, but he started it! I made a lot of friends there, but since the pandemic, I haven't been in contact with many of them. I grew up a lot while I was there and I even met my husband there. Someone from my church at home introduced us. I was a cheerleader there and I remember going to away games and having to do a really hard cheer that made me nervous. I'm thankful for my time at OBU and the experiences I had there.

1954

Anita Reah (Owens) Adams

10/24/2023

I HAVE A GREAT STORY TO TELL ABOUT THE BEST TIME OF my life. I was at OBU, a religious school, and I had some amazing teachers and a great roommate. It was here that I met my future husband in Dr. Yarborough's Bible study class. We had a lot in common, including the same birthday, and eventually got married. We were together for 65 years until he passed away in 2018. I was also a member of the Kentucky Club, as I was the only one from Kentucky at the time. I had originally said I would never marry a preacher, but the Lord had other plans and my husband became a preacher the summer after I left OBU. My daughter also went to school there and I now live with her.

1958

Donna Marie (Rutledge) Chambers

11/06/2023



I am proud of our three generations of OBU graduate: Jim, 1958; Jerry and Judy; Evan and Kelsey

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA Baptist University was life-changing. I was 15 when I first saw Jim at a concert in my church, and I knew I had to find out how I felt about him. I found out he was at OBU and my friend and I went there two years later. The first night I saw him, he was with a blonde and I cried all night. She went to another school at the semester. After graduation, Jim was drafted into the Army. We got married as soon as he was out of boot camp. I finished my degree later on at another school. My favorite professor at OBU was Mr. McGavern, my piano teacher. He taught our son how

to tune pianos, and I was initially upset because it meant Jerry couldn't spend all of Christmas at home. We're all so thankful that he did because Mr. McGavern passed away not too long after that. Jim, our son Jerry and his wife, Judy, and Evan, our grandson and his wife, Kelsey, all graduated from OBU, and it's a wonderful legacy to carry around. I lost Jim in 2007 in an automobile accident. He was a minister of music for almost 50 years. My time at OBU was truly life-changing and I'm so thankful for the experiences I had there.

1964

Robert Elmer Bicknell, PhD

11/16/2023

AS A FORMER STUDENT AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University, I have many fond memories of my time there. One of the most influential people during my time at OBU was my mentor, who was responsible for the Music Program. I initially went to OBU with the intention of pursuing a career in ministry music, but after getting involved in a music theory class, I became fascinated with teaching at the college level. After graduating, I went on to get my master's degree at Florida State University, where my wife was offered a position as an organist and choir director. I met my wife at my home church in Birmingham, but we married during my time at OBU. I have since been back to OBU for special events, including my mentor's 90th birthday celebration. After getting my PhD at LSU, I taught at various universities before settling at Howard Payne University in 1989. My children did not follow in my footsteps, but they both have a love for music and pursued other careers. OBU provided me with a great education and the opportunity to meet many wonderful people. As they say, the only thing that changes in life when you go away to college is the books you read and the people you meet, and OBU gave me both.

1978

John Edward Briscoe

10/09/2023

I ATTENDED OBU IN 1971 AND MET THE WOMAN WHO WOULD become my wife 26 years later. It was a God-produced effort and not something either of us worked for. During my time there, I learned how to sing better as a tenor, and sang with the Bison Glee Club for four of my six years. I attended my graduation and had my mother and sister come out for my senior recital instead. Since graduating, I have had many jobs and my biggest accomplishment was being saved in June of 1993 and singing with the National Christian Choir in Maryland for five years. I also did some solo work with them. I am now 65 and retired, and I am thankful for the experiences I had at OBU and the blessing of meeting my wife.

1973

Rev. Donald Wayne “Don” Moye

10/13/2023

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE RELATIONSHIPS I DEVELOPED WHILE attending OBU. I met my wife there, and we have been married for many years. We have seven children and 25 grandchildren. At OBU, I developed relationships with other alumni and stayed in contact with them. I am thankful for the spiritual growth I experienced while at OBU. I learned more about discipleship and deepened my faith. I gained practical experience in church music and ministry. I am thankful for the education I received at OBU, which has given me the tools I need to do what I need to do. I am also thankful for the mentors I had while at OBU, who helped shape my philosophy of ministry.

1970

Patsy Louise “Pat” (Miller) North

10/09/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY was special. I met my husband there, and we got married before we both finished our degrees. I worked in the campus library for my first two years, and I valued that experience. I learned a lot about what goes on behind the scenes in a library, and I felt like I had another mother in May Jennings, who I worked under. My husband was my brother's roommate, and we all ended up going to the same church. I was interested in education from the beginning, inspired by a fifth-grade teacher who was using her life to influence children. I was part of the Baptist Student Union, and I was given the responsibility to collect money in my dormitory. This was my first step in leadership, and it gave me a kickstart into being a Christian leader. I had a challenging first semester, but it got better. I would tell someone about to start attending Oklahoma Baptist University to hang on no matter what. Graduation was a special day for me and my husband because we got to walk across the stage together. I learned it is important to finish what one starts, and this has served me well in my life.

1964

Scottye L. (Vincent) Hanks

11/21/2023

I ENDED UP AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AFTER meeting one of the counselors at Falls Creek. She told me all about OBU and encouraged me to go there, so I followed her instructions. She had a great influence over my life. I was given a scholarship through music and minored in music, which really did influence my life. My husband and I were both freshmen at OBU together, and we started dating shortly after. My mother passed away in March of my freshman year, and I had to leave school to take care of my dad. My husband and I didn't see each other for three years, but in February 1964, he made a trip to Shawnee and proposed to me. We've been married for 59 years now and have four wonderful boys, four daughter-in-laws, five granddaughters, and five grandsons. OBU was really the start of my entire life.

1968

Paul Dwayne Barrow

10/16/2023

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT OBU IS THAT I MET MY WIFE THERE. We've been married for over 60 years. We met on campus when our social clubs were having a football game. Two weeks later, I asked her to go to church with me. I was an art major with an education minor. My teaching degree helped me in my career - I helped educate a lot of people. Both of our daughters graduated from OBU. Our youngest daughter was a teacher for many long years.

1967

Dr. Lyndell P. Worthen, Jr.

10/18/2023

I TRANSFERRED TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University in fall 1964 after graduating from Forest City High School in Arkansas. I had always wanted to pursue a career in ministry, so when my family moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma, I knew it was the perfect opportunity. That same fall, a freshman named Mary Cruz arrived on campus. We had known each other for a couple of years, but it wasn't until fall 1966 that I asked her out on a date. We continued to date and by Christmas, I had been asked to preach at a church out west of Winwood, Oklahoma. After preaching there four times, the lead deacon asked me to be their pastor. I talked to my own pastor and he encouraged me to accept the offer. I asked Mary to come with me and she said yes. We continued to date and eventually got married. Mary was a great asset to my ministry as she had a beautiful singing voice and could play the piano. We have been together for 56 years and she has been a part of my ministry the entire time. I am so thankful for the family move that brought me to Oklahoma and for the gift of Mary in my life.

1970

Thomas “Tom” Jordan

10/11/2023



Tom vacationing in Paris.

I MET MY WIFE SHORTLY AFTER I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL. WE

had a lot of mutual friends and went to neighboring churches, so we got connected at Falls Creek and I never let her go. We've been married for 55 years now and it's been wonderful. Before I met her, I was writing and arranging music in high school and my mentor, Dean Angell, took me under his wing and improved my notation. I was also singing and arranging for the Glee Club, which was so much fun. We did a spectacular performance at the end of the year and I orchestrated accompaniments for several pieces. Some of our music was released on an LP a few years later. It was really cool to hear that an OBU alum, who was an astronaut, took our music on board with him on Skylab.

1994

Laurie Beth (Ratliff) Taylor

10/26/2023

I MET MY HUSBAND AT OBU, WHERE HE WAS THE HEAD of welcome week and I was a freshman. We got engaged in the steeple of Raley Chapel, with a view of the whole campus. My older sister and her husband actually set us up. We got married between my sophomore and junior year and had three kids. After graduation, we moved to Fort Worth and then Chickasha, where my husband became a pastor. We then traveled around the United States as he served as an army chaplain, including a three-year stint in Hawaii where he was deployed to Iraq for 15 months. It was a bittersweet experience, but we made many memories and grew in our faith.

1958

Edith Earlene Lightsey

10/10/2023

MY LATE WIFE, EDITH, GRADUATED FROM OBU IN 1958, and we were married in 1959. We had two sons, born in 1961 and 1965, and both are still living. Edith had a good career until she retired to stay home. She was athletic and enjoyed tap dancing and contemporary dancing; she was involved in shows at the city auditorium. Edith was diagnosed with Parkinsonism in 2015 and passed away. Her older brother also graduated from OBU and was a Baptist missionary to Japan for many years. We visited him in Japan once, and he is still living in Purcell, Oklahoma. Edith left an amazing legacy with her family, and I miss her dearly.

1979

Jeannie Marie (Davis) Gramly

10/10/2023



I MET MY HUSBAND, Tim, at Oklahoma Baptist University. I had planned on getting my bachelor's degree and then going on to graduate school to get my master's degree in counseling, but God had a different plan. I was hired for my first job in banking because solely because I had a degree of some kind. I never dreamed that I would end up retiring in banking, but that's where God kept me my whole life. I had an advisor who

pulled me aside and said I wasn't a good candidate for social work because I had a tender heart. He suggested counseling instead and I'm so glad I took his advice. I met my husband at a church off campus during Training Union on Sunday night. I felt God calling me to be a pastor's wife and I got on the bus to a non-denominational church, not knowing where I was going. I ended up at the church where I met my husband and the rest is history. My steps were ordered throughout my time at OBU and I'm so thankful for the guidance I received.

2006

Brent Cole Roberts

10/13/2023

I HAD A GREAT TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. I met my wife there, we were in class together and she was a cheerleader while I played baseball. I played baseball the entire time I was there and we had a pretty good team. I was actually from California and got a scholarship to play baseball at OBU. I knew I wanted to pursue a business degree and had a professor at junior college who helped me choose my career path. I was pretty busy with baseball, so I didn't have time for other clubs or internships. I think OBU helped me grow and prepare for the working world. After playing baseball since I was seven, I was ready to move on and start my career. I didn't play after college, but I stayed in touch with my roommate who is now the head coach at OBU. After earning my degree, I moved back to California and worked in the golf industry. My wife and I wanted to start a family and decided to move back to Oklahoma where her family was. I now work for my family's business and have three kids. I wasn't a Christian when I first went to OBU, but I believe there was a reason I ended up there and met my wife. She had a big impact on my faith and looking back, I can see how God had a plan for me at OBU. Overall, it was a great experience and I'm grateful for the opportunities and relationships I gained there.

1973

Larry Alan "L.W." Walker

11/06/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. It was the first school to accept me and I've been here longer than anywhere else. I took a leap of faith and decided to go without visiting the campus first. Once I got there, I knew it was a place I was going to fit in. I could feel God's will in the atmosphere. I've been here for over 40 years and I've been able to work, take classes, and attend events. I even met my wife here! She was the student worker for the president. I think the university fostered a strong liberal arts curriculum which has helped me become a good critical thinker and a valued contributor. I'm most grateful for the memories I have from OBU, especially the time I spent on the top of the chapel. I'm also thankful for the influencers in my life that I've stayed in touch with over the years.

1962

Margaret Jones

10/20/2023

I HAD A GREAT TIME AT OBU WITH MY SIBLINGS. I REMEMBER MRS.

Stone, the head of the Home Economics department, and Granny Mays, an English teacher who made the most delicious homemade pizza. My parents weren't alumni, but I was able to make some extra money while I was there and I met my husband, who I've been married to for 61 years. It's a funny story - we found out that our mothers graduated from the same high school in Missouri and were even best friends growing up. My education at OBU helped me to be a great mom and a leader in Bible study fellowship and Weight Watchers.

1969

Glenda K. (Bollinger) Madden

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY memorable. I was fortunate to have a full tuition scholarship and my husband had a small scholarship, so we were both able to attend. We met through a mutual friend and two months later, we were engaged and six months after that, we were married. We recently celebrated 57 years of marriage! The small student body was comforting and the quality of the students and faculty was very encouraging. I was part of the Women's Glee Club and a small singing group called the Littlest Angels, which allowed us to tour and sing. I was also in a sorority, though it wasn't a huge emphasis on campus. Academically, I thought OBU was outstanding and I was very pleased with the education I received. I had some favorite professors, like Dr. Katherine Rader, Dr. Shirley Jones, and John Parrish. My degree in English and journalism were both very helpful in my career in nursing and in helping my husband with his papers.

1994

Krista Lynn (Pulley) Wood

10/24/2023

ATTENDING THE ACADEMY AT OBU DURING MY SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH school was a life-changing experience for me. On my first day, I was filled with excitement and a lot of emotions. I decided to live on campus and it was a great experience. I majored in English and had some great professors, like Dr. Crouch, Dr. Jones, Dr. Hall, and Dr. Cole. I didn't have the opportunity to get involved in any organizations, but I did meet my husband there. We got married during my senior year. I remember feeling a sense of personal responsibility and discipline while I was there. I've been back to visit the school and I'm still in contact with some of my friends from school. Overall, I had a great experience at OBU and it was definitely a life-changing experience for me.

1967

Pat (Waggener) Watts, MEd

10/11/2023

I WENT TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ON A FULL TUITION scholarship. My father said that was where I was going to school, so I went! I lived on campus the whole time and was involved in many activities. I was in the Bisonettes, a women's chorus, and SAI. I also had some amazing professors like Dr. Mitchell in the English department, Dr. Reese who taught organ, and Dr. Eighmy who taught history. I even met my husband there! His father was a professor at OBU during the 1930's and 1940's. His mother ran a preschool near the campus. She asked me to come and help teach music to the preschoolers and that's how I met my husband. We went on our first date to a basketball game. During my time at OBU, the basketball team won the NAIA National Championship. It was a great time and I have fond memories of my time there. I have been back to the school several times since graduating, including for homecoming. We have also done some financial support for OBU to help them continue to improve. It's been a great experience and I'm thankful for the opportunity to attend OBU.

1968

Linda (Robertson) Fern, RN, BSN

10/20/2023



ATTENDING OBU WAS a life-changing experience for me. I had always felt that the Lord wanted me in the nursing field, so I chose OBU as it was one of the only Baptist schools that had baccalaureate programs in nursing. I made the trip from Nashville, Tennessee to a campus I had never seen before. I was filled with passion and excitement for what was to come. Little did I know, I would meet my future husband there.

We were introduced

by a mutual friend and met in the dining hall one evening. We have now been married for 55 years. My brother-in-law also attended OBU and graduated in 1969. My sister attended OBU. I am grateful for the impact of my Christian classmates on my life. They have continued to contribute to the Christian community and my faith, which has had a lasting impact on my life. My years at OBU prepared me for my career in nursing by means of excellent, compassionate and caring teachers. I am thankful for the amazing memories I made at OBU, meeting my husband, and setting the foundation for my career in healthcare.

1955

Cedric “Rosser” McDonald

10/16/2023

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA

Baptist University in fall 1954. I did not know that this decision would change my life forever. During my time at OBU, I met a young lady who would become my wife and my partner in all of life's adventures. We traveled to six of the seven continents, meeting incredible people and experiencing different cultures. I was working with the Radio and Television Commission, producing stories about missionaries and their work in various countries. Some of the places we visited were Nigeria, Ethiopia, Austria, Russia, and China. We often had interpreters, but sometimes we were on our own, navigating through language barriers. Our longest trips were to Brazil and Nigeria, where we spent over a month producing television programs for missionaries to use in their ministry. I attended OBU because my parents encouraged me to stay close to home and save money. I am grateful for their advice because it led me to meet my wife and start a family. OBU also holds a special place in my heart, and two of my four children also attended and graduated from there. While my time at OBU was not without its challenges, it was all worth it for the love and memories I gained. My wife passed away three years ago, but her impact on my life and the lives of others will never be forgotten. I am proud to have been a part of the OBU community and to have witnessed the growth and success of my children who also attended. My experience at OBU was a journey that shaped me into the person I am today. I am grateful for the opportunities and memories it provided.

1956

Mollie Dean Crabtree

10/16/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OBU. I WANTED TO BE A missionary at the time, but ended up getting married instead. My husband got his degree at Golden Gate University in California and we met at church before I started at OBU. Now, I'm 90 years old, and we live in our own home in Vera Maria, Kentucky. We have most of our kids and grandchildren living in the same area. We never got to visit a mission field, but we raised a family and stayed in touch with friends from OBU over the years. We now attend Gethsemane Baptist Church in Bura, Kentucky, and we love it here. We moved from Oklahoma to be closer to our son and take care of him. We are very blessed and thankful for all the experiences we have had.

1978

Alan Wayne “Al” Beckett

10/11/2023

I MET MY WIFE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY while I was attending. We dated there and eventually got married. We both attended the same university but had different majors. I had a religion and philosophy professor, Dr. Wester, who helped me line out my degree program. I started out in music, but I changed to humanities, using a lot of my fine arts credits in the new degree. My wife stayed in music and eventually went on to teach grade school music after a 25 year career at AT&T. I retired from AT&T and now I'm a Sunday school teacher, which allows me to use my degree more. My wife passed away almost exactly a year ago.

1956

Cliff C. Ozmun

10/10/2023



MY FRESHMAN YEAR AT Oklahoma Baptist University was a big deal for me. I was only 16 at the time, but I was lucky enough to receive a partial basketball scholarship, which eventually turned into a full scholarship. I played basketball for four years and enjoyed my time in the dorms and classes. My basketball journey was a great experience. I was able to earn a full scholarship by participating in a tryout. My fondest memory was when we tied for the conference championship my senior year. It was a big deal since Southeastern had dominated for so long.

Academically, I took classes that helped me personally, but not professionally. After graduation, I went to Wichita, Kansas to play basketball for a year, but then went back to Noble, Oklahoma to coach basketball and teach physical education for four years. I then moved to Wayland Baptist University for six years and have been in Illinois ever since. One of my fondest memories from OBU was meeting my wife, Janet Hu. She was a beautiful singer and did a lot of solo work at OBU. I was even included in the Athletic Hall of Fame. It was an amazing experience and I'm so grateful for my time at OBU.

1983

Curtis Wayne Treat

10/27/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS TRULY life-changing. I met my wife, Candy, there and we will be celebrating our 41st anniversary in December. We were both theatre majors and were fortunate to have wonderful instructors such as Jerry Cotton. We got to do a variety of shows from different time periods, including a Roman farce and a Western civilization. We also got to go to Fort Worth and perform in a professional theater. After college, we worked with the Sunday School Board and were able to attend a trip to Europe with Dr. Wharton. I also took classes like Western Civilization, Comparative Civilization, Creative Writing, and Poetry which gave me a broad view and helped me understand other people. I wrote two plays for the science classes and one for my and Candy's senior recital. I have had 25 of my plays produced and written a few novels. I also came in third place in the Cliff Barron Creative Writing Scholarship. I am thankful for the liberal arts education I received at OBU and the wonderful people I met there.

2016

Marcus William Titterington

10/20/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY LIFE-changing. One of the biggest things that stood out to me was the opportunity to get involved in global outreach trips through the Go Office. I went on a couple of trips to Brazil, and it opened my eyes to the purpose of our lives and the importance of spreading the kingdom of God to the furthest corners of the earth. The culture on campus also encouraged this mindset, and it was on one of these trips that I met my wife. She was also a student at OBU, and we both shared a passion for spreading the gospel. The experience of going to Brazil and seeing the vastness of the earth really made me realize that it's been thousands of years and yet there are still people who have not heard the gospel. It was a wake-up call for me and solidified my desire to be a part of spreading the good news. The college experience at OBU was also incredibly impactful. The classes challenged me and showed me how faith can be integrated into learning. As an education major, I saw how I could combine my faith with my career and make a difference in the lives of my students. Even after graduation, OBU continues to have a profound impact on my life. I've had various jobs since then, but the lessons I learned at OBU about purpose and spreading the gospel have stayed with me. My wife and I strive to live out these values in our current jobs and make a difference in the lives of those around us. The thing I am most grateful for about my time at OBU is the friendships I made. My core group of friends from college are still my closest friends today. We challenge each other in our faith and support each other through life's ups and downs. It's truly a blessing to have such strong, like-minded friends who have become lifelong companions. Overall, my experience at Oklahoma Baptist University was one that I will always cherish.

Family & Friends





1990**Patricia Ann “Trish” Epperley, MEd**

10/17/2023

WHEN I DECIDED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, I WAS ALREADY WORKING

at my own childcare business. I was able to commute back and forth from my house to classes, which was very convenient. I was also excited to hear that my adopted daughter was planning on attending OBU. I was already working, so I decided to commute instead of staying in the dorms. I was so happy to be surrounded by a diverse group of people, including other mothers going back to school. I was disappointed that I missed out on Spanish, but I ended up taking German and had the best teacher. I was so busy watching her teaching style that I didn't do very well in the class, but I made some connections with my classmates. I never regretted going back to school and I love that it's never too late to go back to school, no matter what age you are.

1982**Loy Del Sawyer**

11/09/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY

special. My parents were both graduates, so I was excited to carry on the legacy. I was especially inspired by our volleyball coach, Kathy Welter. She was able to turn our team around from five wins and 20 losses to 15 wins and 13 losses in just one season. My junior year, I was even awarded Defensive Player of the Year. My time at OBU helped me to grow and become more disciplined and accountable. I was homeschooled overseas, so it was a culture shock to come back to the US and be responsible for my own schoolwork. My advice to any freshman starting out is to go to every class and take good notes. Don't skip class and remember that you're there to get an education and prepare for the rest of your life.

1974**Pamela Mae
(Brooks) Reagan**

10/20/2023

I HAVE ALWAYS FELT A STRONG CONNECTION

to Oklahoma Baptist University. Both of my parents attended OBU and even met there. When it was time for me to choose a college, I knew I wanted to major in English and become an English teacher, so OBU seemed like the perfect fit. My twin sister and I both arrived on campus during welcome week and were surrounded by other students whose parents had also attended OBU. I graduated with an English major and was greatly influenced by my classes, especially in literature analysis. These skills have been invaluable in my career as a teacher and librarian. Some of the professors who had the biggest impact on me were Dr. Hurley. I later got married and had three children, two of whom also graduated from OBU, making them third generation bison. I have also given back to OBU in memory of my parents and through a scholarship in honor of my maternal grandmother. I have many fond memories of my time at OBU, including working in the BSU office and knowing the famous triplets. OBU has had a lasting impact on my life and I am grateful for the education and experiences I received there.

1973

Gloria J. Cates

10/20/2023



In studio with my clay, handmade, whimsical sculptures

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A great experience. It helped me to figure out what I wanted to do in life. The Drama Department was fun, and back then schools had home economics which included interior design. This led to joining a club, and I made some great friends. One Halloween I dressed up as a vampire for a school get together in the chapel. I found friends that taught me about love and life. OBU influenced my career working with designers and architects in the hospitality business. Even now my Hobby of ceramics

and sculpture stem from things I learned in school. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU were the friends made, and the confidence gained to pursue my dreams with the help of the OBU professors.

1981

Rev. Jesse Gray Waddy

11/08/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR MY first degree after my pastor recommended it. I didn't get to do a campus tour, but I was excited to move to a new place and meet new people. Living in the dorms was like having a new family. I got to meet people from all over the country, and I even had a roommate from Texas! I majored in Medical Technology and had some great classes, like the English history class that combined literature and history. I didn't have a lot of free time, since I was working in the cafeteria and kitchen, but I still managed to make some lifelong friends. I haven't been back to the campus since I graduated, but I still keep in touch with some of my friends from OBU. Thinking about my time there always puts a smile on my face.

1975

Ralph A. Crawford, Jr.

12/05/2023

I'M THANKFUL FOR THE TIME THAT I HAD TO GO TO OBU and the experiences that I had there. It's a great school. It's a great place to go. I'm thankful for the time that I had there.

2017

Dr. Jordan Elise Spencer

10/25/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

an incredible journey. I was looking for a university that would help foster my interests in medicine and global health, and I found a university that did just that. It also helped me grow spiritually, gave me friends and mentors that I still keep in contact with today, and I was happy to find all of those things. What drew me to OBU was their heart for people and for the world, and their emphasis on both higher education and spiritual growth. I was not the first generation college graduate in my family, but I was able to add to the achievement pool with OBU. The professors and advisors were instrumental in my success, and I learned to keep an open mind, to listen to all people's stories, and to continue growing. I was part of the Success Center, the Bison Women's Chorus, and the Blitz Week committee. I got to travel across the state of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas with the Bisons, and my favorite destination was McPherson, Kansas, where my grandparents got to come and hear us sing. We performed a wide range of music, from classical to songs in different languages. My greatest takeaway from OBU is faith. Nothing worked out exactly how I thought it would, but if you have faith, you know that the Lord is going to get you where you're supposed to be. I wouldn't have planned my life any other way, and I'm so blessed for the experiences and people I encountered at OBU.

1975

Maj Bobby Gene Burnett, USAF (Ret.)

11/28/2023



At 92nd birthday celebration

I'M A PROUD GRADUATE OF

Oklahoma Baptist University. After 25 years of service in the Air Force, I retired and moved to Oklahoma City to work as a music and education director at a local church. I knew the Lord was calling me to ministry, so I moved to Shawnee and started classes at OBU in 1973. I graduated in 1975 with two majors, Religion and Psychology. I was the only one in my family to earn a college degree. After OBU, I served as a music and preaching evangelist and later as a pastor for five years, and then as a church planter in Colorado for seven years. I returned to Oklahoma and worked

for the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma for seven years before retiring again. I then went back to Colorado to plant another church and stayed for three years. Throughout my journey, I've been blessed to serve the Lord in music, evangelism, pastoral and state staff ministries. I'm thankful for the opportunity to have attended Oklahoma Baptist University and for the impact it has had on my life. I spent the first part of my life in service to my country and the second part of my life in service to my Lord.

1962

Dr. Donald William “Don” Rominger, Jr.

10/12/2023

I WAS A MINISTERIAL STUDENT AND PART-TIME pastor at a small church in Johnston County, Oklahoma. When Oklahoma Baptist University qualified for the National Invitational Tournament in Kansas City, I rounded up a crew of students to join me on the 85 mile drive in my leaky 51 Chevy. It was one of the coldest winters Oklahoma had ever seen, with snow on the ground and temperatures below zero. We had to squeeze six students into the car and set off. When we arrived in Kansas City, we had no place to stay and no money for a hotel room. I found some basketball friends who let me sleep on their floor, and the other students had to find their own way. We were the underdogs in the tournament, but we managed to win our first game against Southern Illinois University. We had to stay for two more days, but we didn't have the money for a hotel. Somehow, we managed to get the car out of the towing yard and made it back to Oklahoma in one piece. It was an adventure I'll never forget, and I'm glad we all made it back safe and sound.

1969

Barbara E. “Barb” (Bourn) Allen

10/25/2023

I HAD TO WORK JOBS TO HELP PAY FOR MY EDUCATION, AND ONE OF the things I did was tutor other students. One of my favorite people to tutor was a lady from Nigeria. Her husband found me and asked me to tutor her in English and to be her friend. Twice a week, I would go to their apartment, and we would do some tutoring and then just sit and chat. I learned about her upbringing in Nigeria - she was a princess with tribal scars on her cheeks and her jewelry was 100% solid gold, so soft you could leave a fingerprint on it. I loved Joseph and Abigail, they were delightful people and it was the first time I began to think about the rest of the world. It was an amazing experience and one I never encountered again.

2006

Richard “Brock” Henderson

11/20/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND IT WAS A GREAT decision. I was drawn to the school because of the small class sizes and the sense of community I felt when I visited the campus. I really appreciated the intensity of the business courses and the education I received there. The professors were some of the best and brightest and I felt very confident walking out of there. My advice to anyone considering attending OBU is to be open to any relationships you can seek out and always be there for your fellow classmates. Those relationships will last a lifetime.

1951

Donna Lee Hadley

10/30/2023

I ATTENDED OBU AND WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO go to college. My major was bookkeeping, which I always enjoyed. I would definitely encourage others to attend. After graduation, I used the skills I learned to help 298 kids in trouble over 35 years. OBU definitely prepared me with the life skills I needed for life after graduation.

1976

Janell Elaine (Thompson) Haddock

10/17/2023

I REMEMBER MY FRESHMAN YEAR AT OBU FONDLY. I made lifelong friends and enjoyed my classes, which were a lot different than high school. We would hang out together and do activities around town. I had some amazing professors who had a big impact on my life, like Dr. Jeffrey Black and Dr. Jimmy Russell. I decided to come back and get a degree in elementary education so I could teach closer to home. I'm grateful for the small school atmosphere at OBU, where I could go and see my professors anytime I needed to and get to know them as people.

1976

Jeaninne E. Grayson

10/31/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY was life-changing. I was singing in a group called Steeple People in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and asked the director, Keith Carver, for voice lessons. He suggested I go back to school and major in music, and when I said I couldn't afford it, he said 'If the way was made for you, would you do it?' I said yes, and he made it happen. He set up all my classes and loans for the first year. All I had to do was pack my stuff and move to Oklahoma. Once I got to OBU, I felt like I belonged. I became a resident assistant at WMU and joined Bisonettes, a ladies singing group, directed by Jack Pearson. I met some of the most wonderful people and my future husband. OBU taught me how to be a part of different groups and connect in different ways. It gave me a boldness, courage, and strength to be a part of a collective and still be an individual. I was also one of the 20 young ladies selected to be part of The Hanging of the Green, and I went on a spring tour with the Bisonettes to Kentucky, Illinois, and even Graceland. While in Nashville, we experienced an earthquake while singing in a church there! My time at OBU was full of amazing experiences and life lessons that I will never forget.

1976

Jim J. Bullock

10/24/2023



MY TIME AT OBU WAS an incredible and exciting time for me. I spent two years there, mostly in the Dorland Theater, learning about theater under the incredibly talented Mike Meece and Doris Simpson. In 1974 OBU did a production of Godspell, and amazing things happened for all of us involved with Godspell. We all still feel that impact on our lives. I know that

experience changed the direction of my life. I learned that acting was my passion. I also learned at OBU that I could marry my Christian faith with being in show business. The encouragement I received from Mike Meece and Doris Simpson put me on my path of pursuing my dreams. I will forever be grateful for such inspiring teachers, the friendships, memories and lessons I learned during my time in the Dorland Theater at Oklahoma Baptist University.

1978

Roger Dale Sims

10/18/2023

I WAS PART OF A GROUP OF MINISTERIAL STUDENTS FROM ALL over Oklahoma. We were intrigued by the fraternities and their intramural sports, so we decided to form our own fraternity called the Flatland Clan. We won the trophy that year and it was a special moment for us. What I appreciate most from the experience is that our group of guys still love Jesus, still serve Jesus, and still stay in touch with each other all these years later. Going to college was a whole different world for me and I was embraced and helped to get an education while still being able to enforce my faith in God. It was a great experience that has helped me grow and change as a person.

2002

Jessica DeAnn (Romberg) Holland

12/15/2023

I'M SO EXCITED TO BE ACCEPTED INTO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University's new Access Master's program! It's a certification program for teachers in Oklahoma to get us prepared for classroom work. I'm looking forward to continuing my education at OBU, as I had a great experience there as an undergraduate student. I was surrounded by great friends and professors who helped me to grow in my personal relationship with Christ. After I left OBU, my husband and I went on to seminary and then to the mission field for six and a half years. We were overseas with the IMB and just recently moved back two years ago. We've been able to maintain friendships with fellow students at OBU over the years, which is great. I'm looking forward to the new opportunities and experiences that this program will bring.

1985**Gregory Dean
“Greg” Luttrell**

10/17/2023



I DECIDED TO GO TO Oklahoma Baptist University after an alumni told me about it and said it was a great place to get connected if I wanted to go into ministry. I had a great support system at home and at school, and there were so many faculty members that stood out to me. Dr. Aggie was one of them, and we

got to know each other well. He was so personable and we even went to Israel together. Dr. Evans was another one I was close to, and he did my ordination service and gave me my first Greek text. He was so gracious and understanding when I came into class unprepared for a test. I also got to know Sarah, who was in admissions, and she was a beautiful and wonderful lady. I had so many great experiences at OBU and I still keep in touch with some of the friends I made there. The Lord humbled me and used OBU to answer a prayer I had prayed 35 years ago. I am so grateful for the grace and mercy of God and how He used OBU in my life.

1973**Patricia Ann “Patti” (Heiss) Smith**

11/10/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A LIFE-changing experience. I was a brand-new Christian and my pastor, brother Moody at Mayridge Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, suggested I try to get a scholarship to attend college, specifically OBU. I was able to get my degree with the help of the Pritchard Scholarship, grant money, VA benefits, and the work-study program, along with a job at a steakhouse in town. As a part of the work-study program, I worked for Mrs. Putnam in the Administration Building, who also hired me to clean her home, and even loaned me a bicycle to ride back and forth from campus to her house. I remember attending a weekly Bible study at Stubblefield Chapel, led by a gentleman from Africa, Ransford. It was a big part of my being disciplined as a new Christian. Dorm life was a totally different experience for me, coming from a family of ten brothers. I had to learn to get along and made some great friendships with the girls. My time at OBU enabled me to grow up and make better decisions in my life. Graduation day was a big deal for me and my family, I am the first out of 13 children to attend college, and I am number 11. I didn't make the best decision in choosing a degree, as home economics teaching jobs were scarce. After graduation, I didn't find a job in my degree field. I did private tutoring and substitute teaching. I have been a Sunday school teacher for nearly 50 years and have volunteered for many charitable causes in our community. I'm grateful for the opportunity to attend OBU and the impact it had on me, and my family. It opened the door for many of my siblings and nieces and nephews to attend college. I was able to set a path for them and I'm thankful for that.

1953

Sylvia “June” (Crawford) Foster

10/09/2023

ATTENDING OBU WAS A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR ME, AS MY

father was a graduate there. I was there to study business, but ended up majoring in sociology and minoring in religious ed. It was a small campus at the time, and I was in Memorial Hall my first year and then in a building that is no longer there until graduation. I had to work my way through school, so I was not able to be active in any sports or clubs. It was difficult to balance work and classes, but I was grateful for the people I met and the happiness I felt while I was there. Looking back, I am most grateful for having been a part of OBU and the memories I made there.

1973

Anita Kay (Lee) Schell

10/17/2023

I HAD A VERY LIFE ENRICHING EXPERIENCE AT OBU. I TOOK VOICE

lessons under James Brown and he encouraged me to stay and I'm glad I did. I met my husband there and we've been married for 51 years. I think I got an excellent education there as our professors encouraged us to think for ourselves. I was part of the University Chorale and went on spring break choir tours. I had relatives that went there and my nephew's son just graduated last year. I have fond memories of Jim Brown and the experiences I had there. I think my diploma from OBU has served me well in jobs as employers knew I had learned to think and reason things out. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot. I still keep in touch with some of my roommates, and we visit every five to ten years. I think it was a great experience and I'm glad I stayed.

1967

Patricia Kay “Patsy” (Bowden) Sanders

10/11/2023

I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN

1963 and pursued a bachelor's degree in nursing at OBU. I was part of the nursing Class of 1967 and spent my junior and senior years in Oklahoma City at the old Presbyterian Hospital. We lived in the dormitory across the alley from the hospital, which used to be Wesley Hospital. Only 13 of us were in the class, and four of us are still in contact. Two of our classmates have achieved their doctorate in nursing, and one is being inducted into the OBU Hall of Fame. I was given an honor award in 1965 as a junior honor student from the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. I got my bachelor's degree from OBU in May 1967 and passed my State of Oklahoma RN exam in September 1967. I also got my board certification from the International Board of Lactations and Examiners in July 1990. I worked at Comanche County Memorial Hospital for almost 40 years and retired in 2007. I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have gained throughout my nursing career.

1998**Jennifer Lynn
(Dungca) Anthony**

01/23/2024

DURING MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I had the opportunity to be a part of the first RA team at Taylor Resident Center. We were a tight-knit group and even left our mark by writing our names under the counter in the resident assistant office. When I went back for my college reunion many years later, I was amazed to see that every year since, the RAs have continued this tradition by signing their names. It's a small but special reminder of where we started and the friendships we formed. Looking back on my time at OBU, I can say that it was a transformative experience for me. It was my first taste of independence and a safe environment to grow into my individualism. I had amazing friendships, mentors, and professors who helped me develop both personally and professionally. One professor in particular, Doug Swanson, had a major influence on me with his practical knowledge and skills that I still use today. Dr. Ramona Farthing, my French instructor, showed me kindness and generosity that I will never forget. What truly makes me smile and feel grateful when I think about my time at OBU is the friendships I developed there. Dorm life and residential life were fundamental to who I am today, and I am still friends with some of my OBU classmates. I am thankful for the foundation educationally and personally that OBU provided me, and I hope that my children will have a similar experience one day. OBU will always hold a special place in my heart.

1952**Jimmie Lee “Jim” Hickman**

10/12/2023

I GRADUATED FROM SOUTHWEST BAPTIST COLLEGE, A two-year school, before attending Oklahoma Baptist University, where I earned a degree in physical chemistry. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at OBU. The campus was pleasant and friendly, and I had good roommates. I learned a lot of things there that I wasn't aware of otherwise, such as attending operas in Oklahoma City. As a very young student, I matured both physically, mentally, and spiritually on the friendly campus. During my time there, the Korean War was starting and many of my classmates were going. I was deferred to finish school and shortly after I graduated in May 1952, I received orders to US Navy OCS, earned a commission, and was in the Active Naval Reserve for several years. After the Korean War in 1956, I was released to inactive duty and enrolled in and graduated from Forestry school at Utah State University with a bachelor's degree in forest management. The GI Bill paid for everything. I also earned my pilot's license on the GI Bill and was involved in aviation for most of the rest of my life. I have worked in many places in the United States, as well as Mexico, Brazil, France, and Spain. My primary activities were aviation, fire management, and sharing in marriage and raising a family. After retiring from the Federal Forest Service and the Navy, I started writing and took some writing courses. I wrote and published a book of short stories for family and friends, and a historical novel about my ancestors going back to 1840. The book is called 'Mule Shoes to Santa Fe.' I have continued to write and have traveled since retiring in 1993.

1965

John Hunter Gifford

10/16/2023



Me and Sandra

I ATTENDED OBU FOR MY BACHELOR'S DEGREE AFTER TRYING

engineering and not liking it. I was inspired by the Dean Angell, who I had participated in a lot of activities with. Coming from a small town, the size of OBU worked out well for me. I was part of the Bison Glee Club and various musical organizations. I also worked in local churches. I had no musical theory background, so the classes and teachers were quite interesting. I went on to get a master's degree from seminary and eventually fell back to my engineering background. I learned about music as a technology and how to construct multi-part music based on a notation system. I also did some historical analysis of musical notation in later degree work. I'm now 81 years old and I'm doing a startup business. One of the drivers is to provide estate capabilities which may include OBU. Also, I'm doing this to help my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren with their education.

1948

Dolores Culp-Drechsler

10/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INSPIRING. I

wanted a Christian environment and a good Christian education, and I found it there. I was a member of the Bison Club and we were able to travel around and sing at various churches. I also worked as a receptionist at the Shawnee Hospital while I was there. After graduating, I transferred to OU and got a music education degree. I met my husband there and we moved to Washington, DC, and started two Christian private schools. I had six children at the time and now the 16 month old is the administrator. We've been blessed and now we're getting the grandchildren of the students we had 65 years ago. I'm now 93 and I'm still loving people and wanting to serve the Lord. I'm living in assisted living and I'm thankful for every day the Lord has given me. I remember my time at OBU fondly and I was a member of the Mortar Board and sang in the choir. I started my schools with a Bible, a paint stir paddle with love written on it, and a bar of Ivory soap. I taught everything in the beginning, but then I had to hire teachers. I'm still teaching the word of God to the children at my schools and I'm praying for the peace of Israel.

1957**Dr. Will J. Roberts**

11/20/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

truly life-changing. I was fortunate enough to have Opal Cole Craig and Dr. Coleman Raley as my mentors, and they had a tremendous influence on me. I majored in psychology and minored in speech with Opal. It wasn't just the academics that made my time at OBU special, it was the friendships I made. Many of my friends have since passed away, but the lasting impact they had on me is immeasurable. One of the most significant experiences I had at OBU was going down to Main Street Mission during my freshman year. It opened my eyes to the importance of serving others and giving back to the community. I can't praise OBU enough for the influence it had on me. In fact, two of my daughters also graduated from OBU with degrees in nursing. It was at OBU where I met my wife, Francis Marie Morgan, who was studying to become a missionary. We got married right after I graduated. I got a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and later got my doctorate at Golden Gate Seminary. Together, we started numerous churches in Kenya and Tanzania, and it's amazing to see how they have continued to thrive even today. My experience at OBU not only shaped my career but also my faith and spirituality. Dean Burke, my freshman year roommate, was a spiritual role model for me, and I also had the opportunity to preach and lead revivals during my senior year. It was my prayer partner, Jim Rich, who had the most significant impact on my spiritual growth. I am grateful for the continued training and development that OBU provides for future leaders, and I am proud to be a part of the OBU family.

2018**Dr. Jantzen J. Faulkner**

11/01/2023



DURING MY FOUR years at OBU, I was able to take advantage of the wonderful science and Honors program which provided me a comprehensive education and the skillset to further my career goals. I was also drawn to the sense of community and the mission statement of the school. I appreciated

the liberal arts focus, which allowed me to explore interests outside of science and broaden my worldview. I made many lifelong friendships with students and faculty in which I cherish the memories we made while at OBU. In addition, I had the pleasure of being a member and leader in several organizations on campus including the science club, academic team, Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, and Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society. I am proud of the experiences I had and the memories I made during my time at OBU, and I am grateful for the support I received from faculty and peers in furthering my life goals both academically and spiritually.

1963

Sharon Gayle Williams

10/11/2023

I HAD A LOT OF FUN DURING MY TIME AT OBU. My roommate Diana Guinn and I shared the top bunk of a bed in a room that used to be a broom closet. We even tried to tan fetal pig hides under our bed with a study lamp and rose water and glycerin, though that didn't work out too well. We had a lot of fun going to the boys' dormitory for our dinners and we even had a tornado scare. After graduating, I worked in medical, surgical, nursing education, and intensive care. I was even able to take the mannequins from the dormitory to the hospital to teach. One day, I had a head on crash with the dummies and the head of the hospital, who was an OBU grad, got out and asked if I had a license for driving that thing. It was great having him as our administrator when I started. I'm still volunteering on the information desk at two of our hospitals and I keep in touch with my nursing class for reunions. It's been an absolute pleasure talking about my experiences.

1967

Carolyn Lee (Wise) Smith

10/14/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OBU. MY ACADEMIC ADVISOR, DR.

Amy, was very helpful and available. I was a transfer student, so I was active in a social club and did some of my student teaching at a Catholic school. I was also part of a house with 18 other girls, which was a great way to get to know people. We all became close and stayed in touch for a few years. My biggest takeaway from my experience at OBU was the camaraderie I had with my roommates and the other girls in the house. It made it easier to assimilate into college life, and I really enjoyed that part of my time there.

1956

Rev. Jack R. Wright, Jr.

11/30/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. I

was encouraged to attend by a friend who was a graduate of OBU and I immediately registered. The atmosphere was totally different than Oklahoma State and I made friends easily. The faculty took a personal interest in me and I had some favorites, like Rowena Strickland. I got a tremendous education and I have no regrets. I switched gears from wanting to play baseball to dedicating my life to the Lord. I was in the ministry for 40 years and I still have fond memories of OBU. I'm proud to have supported OBU in any way I could and I'm glad I chose to attend. It was a great foundation for the rest of my life and I'm thankful for the impact it had on me.

1984**Donna J. Latta**

11/30/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was truly special. My parents and brother had all graduated from OBU, so I was a legacy student. During my time there, I was greatly influenced by Dr. Dick Rader and Dr. Paul Rutledge, who encouraged me to pursue a career in missions. I ended up getting married to someone I met in a Vietnamese language and culture class, and we were appointed by the International Mission Board to serve in China and Taiwan for five and seven years respectively. Now, I'm a chaplain with Homeland Security, working with people from all over the world who are detained due to lack of citizenship. It's a mission field, and I'm able to use my Chinese and share the gospel with them. I never thought I'd be in this role, but it's been a wonderful experience. OBU was the perfect place to start my journey.

2004**Carrie Catherine (Perkins) Farris**

11/02/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN MY LIFE. I GREW UP IN A small town in Oklahoma, so it was a big change for me. I made friends for life and had amazing professors who helped me understand the material and encouraged me to pursue a degree in chemistry. I was also involved in the band and a musical service fraternity, which were both amazing experiences. I also grew spiritually, attending BCM and New Hope Baptist Church. I learned how to take ownership of things and be responsible. I also learned how to break down a problem, ask questions, and study to learn something new. My time at OBU has helped me in my career and I'm grateful for the opportunities I've had to give back. I'm looking forward to getting more involved in activities at OBU and attending more traditions.

1963**Linda L. (Combrink) Pitts**

11/14/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS SO SPECIAL AND meaningful. I made lifelong friendships and learned so much about loving and accepting people. I remember the fun times with the Bisonettes and the tours we took, and the beautiful event of the hanging of the Greens. I was also able to meet my husband there, which was a great blessing. The professors were amazing and made the scripture and philosophy come alive. I especially remember Dr. Rader, Dean Angell, Ted Harris, Dean Neptune, and Dr. Strickland. OBU helped me to become more inclusive and accepting of others, and I'm so thankful for that. It also prepared me for my career in education, and I felt very well prepared. I'm so grateful for my time at OBU and all the memories I made there.

1982

Margaret Ann “Maggie” (Stack) Glass

10/18/2023

I HAD AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE AT OBU. I WAS PART OF THE B CLUB

and toured all over the US, even getting to go back to my birthplace of Hawaii with my mother. I was so lucky to have been mentored by Dr. Cox and Dean Warren Angell, both of whom have since passed away. I was also part of the 250 students chosen from across America to go on America's European America's youth in concerts, the European tour. I sang in Carnegie Hall and all over Europe. I wrote my thesis comparing Star Wars to the Iliad and the Odyssey. I was so blessed to have been part of OBU and the incredible people I met there. I now live in Alabama, outside of Birmingham, and I attend Valleydale Church with Dr. Mack Brunson. I'm also blessed with grandchildren, something I never thought I'd have. OBU has greatly impacted my life and put me on the path I'm on now. I'm so thankful for the time I spent there and the memories I made.

2006

Blaire Lynn (Bender) Hart

10/16/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OBU, WHERE I MAJORED IN NURSING.

The nursing program there is renowned, and having a degree from OBU opened many professional doors for me. I was also part of the campus activities board, and was co-chair of the steering committee, which gave me great leadership opportunities. I was also part of the alumni board for a term. My graduation day was a great moment of accomplishment, celebrated with my peers and family in Raley Chapel. I am grateful to the professors and advisors who had a great impact on my academic experience, such as Yasmin Johnson, Martha Hernandez, and Monica Mullins. Western Civ was a unique experience that shaped my view of the world, and I am thankful for the opportunity to learn in such a way.

1975

Debra “Debby” Mooring

10/19/2023

I HAD SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT

Oklahoma Baptist University. The friends I made there had a huge impact on my life because we all shared a love for God and were actively serving Him. It inspired me to continue sharing the gospel in my secular job. I also attended a Southern Baptist Church and even met my husband there. I had the opportunity to live in an old Army barracks with students from different countries, and we would often share meals and learn about each other's cultures. One of my most memorable experiences was going on revival trips throughout Oklahoma with a group of students, including a guy named Ransford from Ghana, Africa, who knew a lot of the Bible by memory. It was amazing to hear him preach and sing around the campfire. I had wonderful professors who cared about their students and were available to help us succeed in their classes and life after graduation. OBU also had a unique freshman orientation. We had to learn the school song, motto, and Ka-Rip. My time at OBU was filled with wonderful memories and friendships that have lasted a lifetime. OBU prepared me well to serve my Lord Jesus and I will never forget my four years there as a student!

1993**Richard Michael Johnson**

12/01/2023

**I CHOSE OKLAHOMA**

Baptist University because I wanted to transfer to a school that would provide me with a strong education in the Bible and prepare me for seminary. My major is directly related to my calling to the ministry. I am the first in my family to attend OBU. My wife is actually the fourth generation in her family to attend OBU, and our daughters are the

fifth generation. It's pretty amazing to be a part of such a legacy. I actually met my wife at OBU, which is a great memory. I am still in contact with many of my friends from OBU, and I have some favorite professors and mentors, including Dr. Tom Wilks, Dr. Sladen Yarbrough, and Dr. McWilliams. The education I received at OBU was fantastic and helped prepare me for seminary. I became a Christian in college and felt called to the ministry, so I transferred from UCO to OBU to further my education and solidify my calling. OBU's high academic standards taught me discipline and I made lifelong friends. The education and experiences I gained at OBU have been invaluable in my 34 years of ministry. I am grateful for my time at OBU.

1974**Sandra Paulette
“Sandy” (Terrell) Watson**

10/19/2023

I WENT TO OBU INITIALLY FOR THEIR NURSING

program, but I switched to music education halfway through the first semester. I ended up getting a degree to teach music in the public school system, but never taught music in the public school. Instead, I went back to school for a master's degree in generic special education. I taught special education for five years in a small district in Texas and then moved to Washington State with my husband where I taught special education for 14 more years. I ended up part of the ground team for Washington State to figure out how to score alternate assessments for their special education students. I moved back to Texas in 2005 and have been here ever since. My first time on the OBU campus was during summer 1969 when I attended the Academy program. I remember watching Neil Armstrong walk on the moon at the meeting area of Kerr Hall. I graduated from a small school district and OBU was far enough away from home that I had to make my own decisions. I still keep in touch with my best friend from college, even though we don't talk often. It's been a long journey, but I'm back in Texas and I'm grateful for the experiences I've had.

1960

William “Spencer” Ring

10/12/2023

ATTENDING OBU WAS A FAMILY TRADITION

for me. My mother was a strong Christian and wanted us to have a Christian education, so that's what we got at OBU. I had a great experience there, with teachers like Don Osborne and Eunice Short who were very influential in my life. I was also a KL member and represented them on the student council. I was also a floor host, which paid for my room, and I was on the golf team. I was there when they built the chapel and the science building, and I even took pictures of the steeple being put up and gave them to the library. I also suggested they leave one spot open for people to cross the street from the student union to the science building. I graduated and felt a bit lost without the routine I had established, but I've been back for a few reunions and seen some former students. I also had a friend who I invited to OBU and he ended up marrying a student there. OBU has produced some of the best and brightest and I'm sure it's still the same today. The education I received there was invaluable, but the people I met and the experiences I had were just as important. It taught me dedication and perseverance, and I'm sure that's why companies value a college degree.

2021

Tyler Justin Smothers

11/16/2023

I WAS NOT THE FIRST ONE IN MY FAMILY TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA

Baptist University, but I was the first one to graduate. I chose OBU because I didn't want to end up working the same jobs as my family and I thought it would lead me to a better life. My favorite class was Civ with Dr. Spillman and being a part of the Bison Jazz Orchestra with Dr. Justin Pierce was great. The English faculty, including Dr. Noble, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Newsom, Dr. Roark, Dr. Ponzi, and Dr. Watson, were all amazing and treated me like a person. I also participated in the Student Success Center, worked in the library, and played in the jazz band. After graduation, my biggest accomplishment was marrying my wife Sadie and I currently teach middle school humanities. My advice to future students is to get a part-time job, find something to fall in love with, and focus on doing small good things instead of trying to change the world.

1993

Ray Griffin

11/01/2023

I WAS DRAWN TO OBU BECAUSE MY BROTHER HAD GONE THERE

before me and I could sense the excellence that permeated the campus. I decided to pursue a biology pre-med degree with Dr. Hurley, but the Lord providentially guided me in other directions. I am so grateful for the bumper guards of wonderful people, professors, and friends who have shaped and guided my life. From Dr. Jett and Dr. Joe Hall to Otis Compton and Doug Melton, Pat Taylor and Aretha Hook, Larry Walker and Teri, and LD Dubs, I have been insulated against failure. I am humbled and grateful for the people who have kept me rolling in the right direction.

1996**Krici Beth (Minton) Mohr**

10/09/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A TRULY SPECIAL experience. I formed long-term relationships with friends that I still keep in touch with today. We even have a group text message chain and are planning a trip together to celebrate our 50th birthdays. I didn't know what I wanted to major in when I first arrived, but I ended up with a science degree. On graduation day, I wished I had studied harder, but I was still proud of my accomplishment. I grew closer to the Lord and saw my friends as family. I also found an adoption attorney who helped me adopt my two children. My advice to someone starting at OBU would be to get involved, find Bible studies, and form relationships early on. My greatest takeaway from my time there was to surround myself with people who will keep me accountable and help me stay on the path God has for me.

1972**Phillip Mead Nelson**

10/09/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE. I HAD THE opportunity to be independent for the first time in my life and I was able to learn about the university and the hospital from Oral Roberts himself. I was not active in any clubs or organizations, but I did spend my time working at various jobs. Graduation day was exciting and I was drafted into the Army three days later. Looking back, I think I grew and changed as a person while I was there. My time at OBU helped me with life after graduation, as I was able to get a job in banking. I made many friends while I was there, one of which I kept in touch with for many years. We would spend our summers working as migrant farm workers and it was the best times of our lives. OBU was a great experience and I am thankful for the memories I made there.

2021**Christin
Daniella Muller**

11/22/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was full of amazing memories. One of the most memorable experiences was being part of the honors program and writing my thesis project. I was supervised by Professor Benjamin Baxter and I created a 3D reconstruction of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon based on historic data. I presented it to my peers and professors and was awarded the Dowdy Memorial Thesis Award for it. That was a huge achievement for me and I'm still proud of it. My freshman year J-term was also a highlight of my time at OBU. I made some of my closest friends during that period and we're still close friends even two years later. We still do life together and that all started in J-term. It was a strong time of community and we had a lot of fun and games. It was also a great time to get to know the people in my honors class better. I'm truly blessed to have had such a great experience at OBU and to have been able to carry those friendships beyond college.

1955

Donald Orville “Don” Baxter

10/16/2023

I WAS IN THE BISONETTE GLEE CLUB AT OBU FOR FOUR YEARS AND

it was the best part of my life. I met my wife there, Loritta, who everyone knew as Fritz. I was president of the Glee Club during my senior year and majored in sociology. I became more independent than ever before and it gave me a lot to depend on in my future. I had a professor, Dr. Yarbrough, who advised me to major in something else if I wanted to go to seminary. I kept in contact with two of my classmates, Ray and Paul, even after I graduated. I was a minister of music and education for 16 years and then worked for two colleges after that. OBU was an amazing experience that helped shape my future and I'm grateful for all the opportunities it gave me.

1958

Dr. Harold H. Hendrick

10/20/2023

OBU WAS A VERY SPECIAL PART OF MY LIFE. IT MADE A BIG

difference in my ministry and the call to the ministry that I felt there. I was awarded a doctorate through the Pillsbury Institute in St. Louis and was involved in several events with Billy Graham and Franklin Graham. I was also invited to be a part of an introduction of a term in America that had been used in other countries. I was a soul winner and shared my faith with many people. I was known as Mr. Bott in St. Louis and was still going to the radio station when I got sick. I passed away from COVID-19 and OBU had a large influence on my life. It taught me many things and I had many friends there.

1989

Samuel “Brent” Thompson

10/18/2023



Brent says hello from Fort Worth!

I ATTENDED

Oklahoma Baptist University with my wife, who had already started her studies there. Our pastor at the time had also been a graduate of OBU, so it made a lot of sense for us to go there. I was a first generation college graduate and I was thankful for the

small size of the university, which made it easy to make friends quickly and feel part of the life of the campus. I was involved in the Student Government Association and had the opportunity to meet with professors and advisors who had a big impact on me. I was thankful for the professors and how much they gave to the students, and I was proud of the fact that I had a full ride scholarship in my senior year due to my involvement in student government and my grades. I have kept in touch with my best friend from OBU, and I am thankful for the memories and experiences I had there.



2023, 50th Graduation Anniversary;
weathered but still kicking

1972

Letha Ann Hawkins

10/18/2023

**“I was a member of Bisonettes,
which was an all women’s glee
club. We toured all over the
Southeast singing at churches.**

- LETHA ANN HAWKINS

”

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE AND IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT TIMES OF MY LIFE. I WAS blessed to have exceptional teachers such as Mr. Jack Pearson, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Parrish, Dr. Hurley, and Mrs. Betty Woodward. We had teachers that made us a part of their families. I was a member of Bisonettes, which was an all women's glee club. We toured all over the Southeast singing at churches. Many of my close friends from OBU were members of Bisonettes. My roommate, Suzanne, and her family gave me a family away from home. Audrey, one of the RA's, checked my English papers my freshman year. I would have never made it through freshman English without her help. Through the years Audrey and I stayed in touch talking and solving all the world's problems. She never missed sending me a card for my birthday. During the 50th graduation anniversary, we had the opportunity to catch up. Within six weeks, she passed away. Losing friends from that time of my life makes me realize again that OBU is a special place. What makes me smile when I think back to my time at OBU is the nicknames we had for each other. A group of us after our first year from graduation scraped together enough money to take a trip to Europe. The friends I made are Suzanne, Brenda, Mary Jane, Janice, Mara, Shirley and Kathy and so many more. Some of us have stayed connected through the years. I received more than an excellent education from OBU.

1961

Jerry Olson Jones

10/11/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA

Baptist University because of the Bison Glee Club and Warren Angell's Fallen Angells Quartet. I had no idea what else the school had to offer, but I knew that I wanted to sing with them. During my four years at OBU, I earned my degree in music and sang with the Bison Glee Club. This experience shaped my life in the field of church music. I made lifelong friendships with my classmates and professors, especially Warren Angell, who has been the greatest influence on my life. My time at OBU allowed me to grow as a musician and learn about married life. The education I received and the experience I gained from OBU helped me succeed in my career and build new relationships with people after I graduated.

1982

Jacki Kay (Parrott) Yager, RN

10/12/2023

GRADUATING FROM OBU WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF

my lifetime. I had two friends who highly recommended it and it was third in the nation for nursing schools, so I decided to go. I was a first generation college graduate and I was active in the Nurses Associate. Being a part of that added to my college experience by giving me opportunities in leadership and helping me in my career. I had two professors who made a huge impact on me: Juanita Proctor and Lana Bolthouse. My favorite memory from being on campus was making lifelong friends in the dorm and attending chapel. Overall, graduating from OBU meant a lot to me, not only for myself, but for my parents and grandparents. It was difficult, but the instructors helped me persevere and see it through to the end. It was a fulfilling accomplishment and I'm grateful for the education and experiences I gained.

1993

Melissa Dawn (Cypert) Ferrell

12/05/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS FULL OF FUN AND

learning. One of the funniest memories I have is when I returned from a double date to find my car parked underneath the bison statue in the center of the oval. There were also lots impromptu activities like a campus-wide capture the flag game. My biggest takeaway from my time at OBU has been the lifelong friendships I made. I can still go to churches statewide and see someone I know from my time there. My degree from the university also had an impact on my career path. I was a teacher for 12 years after graduating and I felt very well prepared to teach high schoolers thanks to the great education department at OBU.

1972**Cheri Lynn (Searcy) Quattrochi**

10/20/2023

I ATTENDED MY 50TH REUNION AT OBU LAST YEAR AND IT WAS A truly memorable experience. One of the highlights was the night that Jimmy Webb and Thelma Houston came to Bison Hill. It was the first time that Bison Hill had ever rocked a little bit and it was a fantastic evening. I was involved with Kappa Delta Pop Phi, the Education Organization and Sigma Todd Delta, the English one. I received a really good education from OBU and I appreciate the fact that it is still holding true to its conservative values. I was passionate about literature and ended up teaching grammar. I met my soul sister, Irene Burton, at OBU and I'm so thankful for that. I'm grateful for the wonderful memories, friendships, and education that I received at OBU.

2016**Matthew Kenneth Baker**

11/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY life-changing. Not only did I form lifelong friendships, but the university also helped me find my first job after college. I still keep in touch with some of the core people I met while in school. Looking back, I can see how much I grew and changed as a person during my time at OBU. It was a smooth transition from being an adolescent to a more mature adult. The classes were challenging, but they helped me become a better person. Overall, my time at OBU was an incredible journey of personal growth and development.

1965**Glenda J.
(Magers) York**

10/17/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THE INCREDIBLE experiences I had while attending OBU. I had the privilege of working with Dean Warren M Angell, who chose me to be in the Bally Club and Tune Clippers, a USO group that went to Europe for three months to entertain servicemen. This trip changed my life forever and gave me the confidence to sing solos in front of thousands of people. I also had the honor of being the assistant to the President, Dr. James Ralph Scales. I was also Yancy Queen and runner up for Harvest Queen. I had the opportunity to travel to Germany, France, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland, and I will never forget the places I visited, like Venice and Rome. I also had the chance to teach children's music leadership classes at TTA, a national encampment for Southern Baptists. I'm so thankful for the relationships I built with my friends and teachers at OBU, and for the lessons I learned that have stayed with me throughout my life.

1963

Richard A. Hendricks, MEd

10/10/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

because my parents had both attended there. My dad was a Baptist preacher and wanted my sister and I to attend OBU. I went to OBU to play basketball and baseball under Coach Bob Bass, and I have some of my best sports memories from playing on the baseball team there. We won our division in the conference in 1960. I was also part of the second class to graduate from the John Raley Chapel. My spouse Carolyn is also an alum, although we met in high school. After graduation I Coach High School Basketball and Baseball for 19 years and was a School Administrator for the remaining ten years. I was inducted into the Oklahoma High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and my plaque is on display at the Oklahoma Sports Museum in Guthrie. I was one of the founders of the Oklahoma High School Baseball Coaches Association from 1968 to 1969. The organization was founded to promote and sustain high school baseball in Oklahoma. I was also one of the founders of the Oklahoma Sports Museum established to honor Oklahoma athletes and use their influence in a positive way for youth. They also promote drug free youth and encourage them to use their God given ability to be successful. The OSM has the largest collection of Oklahoma Sports artifacts anywhere in the State. Oklahoma Baptist University is an outstanding university giving its students much more than just a good education. Carolyn and I adopted a son, Robert in 1968 who became an outstanding electronic technician and served in the US Navy in Desert Storm. We lost him to cancer on November 21, 2022. The Lord has blessed our lives and OBU played a big part.

2001

Aaron Matthew McDonald

11/02/2023



MY TIME AT OBU WAS EXTRAORDINARY. I CHOSE IT BECAUSE

it was close to home and I wanted to have a world class education from a Christian perspective. I lived off campus my freshman year and then moved on campus for two years. I made friends that I still talk to today, and I was even an officer and student conductor in the Bison Glee Club. During my time at OBU, I was humbled to realize that I had a lot to learn to be on par with the other music students, and it pushed me to be the best musician and person I could be and to be able to present my best offering to the Lord when using the gifts he gave me. In my current profession the hard work ethic instilled in me at OBU pushes me to be the very best I can for my employer and my clients. I'm passing on my legacy to my daughter who is interning with the Sports Medicine department at OBU and has been accepted for admission for next fall. I'm so proud of her and I'm excited to see what she will accomplish at OBU.

1975**Adrian V. Martin**

11/15/2023

I RECENTLY HAD A CONVERSATION WITH A FELLOW

Oklahoma Baptist University alum about our experiences on campus. We both shared stories about our time there, but one story that stood out to me was about how I ended up at OBU in the first place. I had a love for music and knew I could get great training there. What really made my experience special were the friendships I made. I'm still friends with many of my classmates today, and even have minister friends that I met at OBU. It's amazing how this school creates such strong bonds that last a lifetime. My journey at OBU started with a passion for music that I discovered in third grade. I continued to pursue it through high school and even got my first paid position as a music worship leader during my freshman year at OBU. Music has always been a big part of my life and has played a significant role in my career as a music worship leader and hospice chaplain. Looking back, I realize that I may have needed to leave OBU at that time in my life. I can see the impact that my education at OBU and other schools has had on my life. Coming from a military family, I was the first in my family to attend college. It took me 12 years to complete my bachelor's degree and five years for my seminary degree. My dad instilled in me a strong work ethic, which I carried through my education and still use today. I am grateful for the education I received at OBU and other schools, and I believe it has helped shape me into the person I am today. I am proud to be an OBU alum and will always cherish the memories and friendships I made there.

1973**Cynthia Ann (Kinsey) Lincoln**

10/10/2023

**I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA**

Baptist University and I am grateful for the experience and expertise I developed there. I made a lifelong friend, Donna Ruth Malone, who passed away in 2000. I remember her fondly and am thankful for the time we shared. My degree helped me to become a better presenter and I was able to use my skills as a music teacher and in the ombudsman field.

1964

Susan C. (Barnett) Williams

11/30/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A TRULY

transformative experience. I was able to learn from amazing teachers like Dr. Searcy and Mrs. Craig, who inspired me to pursue a career in teaching. I was also able to follow in the footsteps of my father and brother, who both attended OBU. My father was even a cheerleader there! I was able to grow and change as a person while I was there, valuing education more and more with each passing class. I was also extended grace and mercy by Dr. Cannon, which made me a better teacher. I learned I was called to be a teacher and was not alone in my journey. OBU instilled in me a love of knowledge and a sense of who God really was. I am so thankful for my time at OBU and the impact it had on my life.

1967

Doris Taylor Bush

10/11/2023

I RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON MY TIME AT OBU AND

the impact it had on my life. I was able to travel with Ms. Montgomery and the other girls, which was an exciting adventure. Being away from home and developing my own personality was a great experience. OBU helped me to prepare for my life as an educator and I value the friendships I made there the most. I remember my organ teacher, Dr. Binger, dancing around the organ when I did well on my lesson. I am grateful for the chance to share my experience.

2022

David Ray Goforth

10/16/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLE

experience. I had the opportunity to attend a college fair and meet representatives from many universities. I was looking for a school that offered a major in computer science and a minor in creative writing. I was fortunate to meet Justin Moore, a representative from OBU, who I connected with and was able to answer all of my questions. After talking to him, I knew that OBU was the right school for me. I lived on campus for all five years and was part of the Blee Club, which was an amazing experience. I was able to travel for competitions and build strong relationships with my peers. I was also able to get two bachelor's degrees, which was a great accomplishment. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU was the friendships I made. I was able to meet people from all over the country and build relationships that I still maintain today. OBU was an incredible experience and I am thankful for the memories and friendships I made.

2001**Stephen “Chad” Evans**

10/10/2023

WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR A COLLEGE, I HAD PLENTY of options in the US, but I chose Oklahoma Baptist University for a few reasons. I grew up in a small town in Western Oklahoma and was homeschooled, so OBU was the most accessible option for me. I was also familiar with the school through my church and a family friend, Nathan Craft, who was an OBU graduate. He told me about the computer science classes he took and how challenging they were, which made me think that if I could survive the program, I would be prepared. When I first arrived on campus, it was a big culture shock. I was an introvert and there were so many people and things to do that were different than what I was used to. The academic advisors had a good grasp of where I should be and set me up with the right path. I graduated in four years, which was an accomplishment, and I never set the curve, but I survived it. One of the most beneficial experiences I had at OBU was the independent study program for juniors and seniors. I was able to participate in one of those with Dr. Craig, which was a great bridge between the academic world and the professional world. It was as beneficial to me as any class or program I took while I was there. Overall, OBU was the right school for me because it was accessible, had a great computer science program, and provided me with the bridge I needed to transition from university to professional career.

1959**Nancy A. Curtis, MA, MRE**

10/25/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY because of my family's deep Baptist roots. My sister was an alum from 1957. I lived in Memorial Dormitory until my senior year, loved being involved in intramural sports and the OE Club. The contribution to my life by Dr. Rowena Strickland, Bible teacher, and other professors, was significant; I am grateful to them. I have visited the campus a couple of times since graduation, one Homecoming in 2009.

1954**Rev. Kenneth “Ken” Lay**

12/01/2023

MY WIFE AND I HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR 72 YEARS AND WE both attended Oklahoma Baptist University. We met in high school and I graduated with honors from OBU. I worked full-time while attending OBU and pastored a church two hours away. Uncle Jimmy was a great influence on me at OBU and he taught me the best is yet to be. We both graduated from OBU and then went on to seminary. I have four degrees from OBU and a Master's from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After college, I pastored three churches for 30 years and wrote two books, *When Sparrows Fall* and *Revelation Simplified*. Retirement has been great, and we are enjoying it. OBU has enriched our lives, and we are grateful for the professors, advisors, and the experiences we had there.

1973

Jane “Janie” (Gregory) Caputo

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS SPECIAL TO

me. I was a freshman, and my brother was a senior, so I already knew a lot of people. I had dreamed of going to OBU for a long time because my dad attended there and my brothers went there. I felt like I was home.

One of my fondest memories was when the Bison Lead Club gathered together to watch one of their little sisters compete in the Miss America Pageant. I was invited because I knew some of the people there, and it was special being a freshman and getting to go with all these upperclassmen. I tell people to go to OBU because it is the right size, and you can get to know people. My favorite teacher was Norman Searcy. I was an education major, and he reminded me of my dad. I taught elementary school for 30 years and tutored for ten years after that. My degree from OBU helped me in my career.

1999

Gerald “Andrew” Koester

10/12/2023



MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

was an incredible journey. From the moment I stepped on campus, I felt like I was home. I was surrounded by people who were passionate about their faith and it was refreshing to be able to talk openly about my faith. I was able to form relationships with people that I still keep in touch with today. I was challenged to step out of my comfort zone and do something outside of the Bible belt. I was able to take classes that taught me how to think like a lawyer, how to research, how to present material, and how to create a movement. All of these skills have helped me in my career and I am grateful for the education I received at OBU.

1983

Jean E. (Stine) Fairbrother

12/01/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY INFLUENTIAL. I

met so many amazing people who shared the same values as me, and it was a Christ-centered atmosphere. I still feel a connection to those friendships, even though we've lost contact over the years. The professors at OBU really helped me to grow as a person. Dr. Dick Rader was one of my favorites. He had a joy of life that was contagious and taught me to focus on serving and helping others. I'm so grateful for the time I spent at OBU and the people I met there.

1977

Darlene L. Hughes

11/01/2023



At my 50th High School Reunion; in 1973, I also began my time at OBU.

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA

Baptist University because it felt like it was meant to be. I took the ACT and circled OBU without knowing anything about the school, and I was given a full scholarship because I was the salutatorian. When I arrived on campus, I felt a warmth and openness I had never experienced before. I made some great friendships, including my college roommate, whom I am still friends with today. I was the first

in my family of cousins to graduate from college, and my parents were very proud. I chose nursing because I loved science, and I was involved in the Black Student Association, the Student Nurses Association, and the Mortar Board. OBU prepared me to be a good nurse, and when I got to my 40s, I ended up getting into youth ministry.

1965

Sherry F. (Fream) Queener, PhD

11/14/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. It was there that I was able to learn from amazing professors like James Hurley, Jack Purdue, and Allen Holt. They were so engaged with their work and taught me never to let an experiment go wrong without finding out why. They showed me that science is not just cut and dried and that you have to look for the odd things. I was able to take this knowledge with me and use it throughout my career, which extended 43 years. I enjoyed the constant variability and change that came with being an educator and I was able to help teach others. Even though I taught science, I benefitted throughout my career from the excellent instruction I received in writing; Jim Tanner was a world class teacher. I credit him with helping me earn many grants and publish many research papers through the years because, thanks to him, I could write clear prose. I'm also grateful for the conversations I had with my roommates and friends, trying to help them in their science classes. I'm still in contact with two of my roommates and I'm so happy to have been able to stay connected with them. I'm also proud to have been able to leave my family's history at OBU, as my mother, Irene, and my sister, Anita, both attended the university.

2012

Jeremiah Wayne Custar

11/02/2023

I WENT TO OBU FEELING LIKE I NEEDED

a degree to go into ministry. What I found was that the education was important, but the lifelong friendships and mentorships I received while there was what made it special. It was a humbling experience that brought me closer to Christ and opened up my worldview. I was able to go on mission trips and see that the world was much bigger than I thought and that I was much smaller. I learned that everything we do should be about magnifying and glorifying Christ. One professor, Dr. Bobby Kelly, was especially influential. He looked me straight in the eyes and told me I should pursue a master's degree, which was the first time I ever thought about getting higher education. His encouragement was invaluable and I'm grateful for his influence. My advice to a new student heading into OBU would be to get to know your professors and build lifelong relationships with them. They care about your life, not just your academic life, and they care about Jesus. Connecting with them will be invaluable.

2003

Jeremy Michael Buck

10/11/2023

I HAVE SO MANY FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. It was the first time in my family that someone graduated from college, and my parents were always adamant that I would go to school. After visiting several campuses, it was walking around OBU's campus that I knew it was the college experience I wanted. The camaraderie among students and faculty made it feel like home. I remember sitting in on a class during a visit and wanting to go back for the next one. OBU exceeded my expectations and I made lifelong friends and had amazing professors like Dr. Jerry Fox, Dr. Bobby Kelly, and Dr. McWilliams. I also loved playing intramural sports and the opportunities to preach in churches throughout the state. After graduating, my wife and I served in the Middle East for a couple of years before returning to the states and planting a church. OBU holds a special place in our hearts, and we hope our daughter will have the same experience.

1972

Debra Annette (Kircher) Duncan

10/12/2023

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF BEING AN OBU STUDENT FROM 1968 TO 1972. I

was excited to start my freshman year and I had already cultivated some friendships from attending the academy between my junior and senior years of high school. I majored in business education and taught typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping. I was also a member of the Glee Club and a cheerleader for three years. I had the opportunity to work with the accounting instructor, and Max Brattin. I also remember Dr. Hurley's classes, which were the hardest I took. I am grateful for the excellent education I received at OBU and the experience of being with other Christians. I believe that having that connection while going through a big transition point in life can make it easier. I would highly recommend OBU to anyone considering pursuing a degree there.

1977

Micah Dawn Westfall

11/21/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was life-changing. I came to OBU from Iowa, not knowing a single person. On my first night, I was alone in my dorm room when I heard what sounded like a herd of bison running down the hall. I turned around to find a group of girls who had come to welcome me. We became close friends and have been a family for 50 years now. I had amazing professors who taught me a lot and helped me to grow and branch out. My nursing teachers were especially fantastic, but my Old Testament professor, Dr. Strickland, was on a whole new level. Her knowledge just oozed out of her pores. My experience at OBU opened me up to new relationships and made me even more caring in my nursing profession. I'm so grateful for the family I found at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

2020

Alix McKenna Nelson

10/20/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY meaningful and impactful. I was the first in my family to attend, and while I had my own aspirations for attending, it was a happy coincidence that my grandmother had gone there as well. I was fortunate to have professors like Dr. Jett and Dr. Edgar who opened their doors to me and helped me not only in the classroom, but outside of it as well. I grew and changed in a lot of different ways while I was there, learning about the world and myself. I am most proud of the friends I made and how we are still connected today, walking in life together.

1994

Jennifer Lee Stone

11/06/2023

MY FOUR YEARS AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WERE SOME OF the most special of my life. I had the opportunity to grow in my faith, make lifelong friends, and discover my passion for teaching. I was encouraged by my mother to pursue a degree in education, and I'm so glad I did. I had amazing professors like Dr. Pam Bradford and Mrs. Woodward who inspired me and showed me the power of teaching. I was able to make friends who have been with me through thick and thin, and I'm so thankful for the relationships I made at OBU. I also learned the importance of Homecoming and the legacy of OBU. I'm so grateful for my time there and the impact it had on my life.

1980

Dr. Keith Bryan Marschke

10/12/2023



MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU

was great. I was part of the first male class to have on-campus apartment housing, which was a great experience. I got to choose my roommates and it increased the bond between my friends. There was a lot of student life activities, such as music performances, sports, and intramural programs. The library was fairly new and a great place to study. The population was about 1500 students, so it was a tight-knit community. I was a biology major and I took

some time off after graduating before I went to graduate school. I became a lab technician and that prepared me for graduate school. The atmosphere at OBU was very supportive and caring, and it allowed all different opinions to be discussed without being ostracized. That was my greatest takeaway from my time at OBU.

1950

Camille (Limbaugh) Cowlshaw

10/13/2023

I'M 95 YEARS OLD AND AT THE START OF MY CAREER, I

attended OBU. I'm proud of my accomplishments and I'm grateful for the experiences I've had throughout my life.

1990

Bruce Allen Throckmorton

11/02/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TO

continue my baseball career because Bobby Cox was the coach there. I had grown up in the area and it felt like the right decision. Coach Cox was a mentor to me and I still look up to him today. I went on to become a teacher, baseball coach, athletic director, and administrator in high school. I even coached his son at Dell Public School and his wife taught there for 30 years. I met my wife at OBU, and we had two wonderful daughters, one of whom graduated from OBU. After I graduated, I had a wonderful career, and we are still living in the same community. OBU has been a mainstay in our family and it has been a big part of our lives. We are very blessed.

2012**Caio Martinelle Barbalho Franca**

10/27/2023



Me, Whitney, Class of 2009; and family

I'M A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE AND I'M PROUD TO say that OBU chose me. It all started when I was considering going to University of Connecticut, but it didn't quite work out. Then, a recruiter from OBU came across my path and I decided to give it a try. Graduation day was a remarkable and exciting accomplishment for my family, as I was obtaining my degree overseas. My time at OBU was very formative and helped me to prepare for my current role as a faculty at a liberal arts private Christian university. I'm grateful for the educational training I received at OBU, which has allowed me to succeed in my current role.

1979**Rev. Lynn W. Packwood**

10/10/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS TRULY SPECIAL. I GREW UP in Shawnee, so I had been out there quite a bit, even before I was a student. Walking onto campus as a student for the first time was a special feeling. I was able to have classes in Raley Chapel and experienced the wind, which was something else. I wasn't in any clubs, but I did play one year in the band and sang three years in the University Chorale. This was an excellent experience as the man who was directing the Chorale, James Woodward, was an acknowledged expert and well-known clinician in choral music. I learned an awful lot from him. I already had felt called to become a music minister when I came there, which is one of the main reasons I came there. My grandfather and father had both graduated from OBU, so it was like a legacy for me. Graduation day was very exciting as I was honored to sing a solo at our commencement. My time at OBU helped me to be well prepared for my career in music ministry. I was able to learn from Mrs. Timberlake's music theory class, Mrs. Horton, teaching me voice lessons and getting to be in the classes with people whom I had known growing up who were on the faculty at OBU. I was able to serve a church while I was in seminary in Fort Worth and Louisville, which really helped a lot in growing my experiences in administration and worship planning. My time at OBU was truly memorable and I am thankful for the experiences and knowledge I gained there.

1969

Glenice Van Eaton

10/13/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OKLAHOMA

Baptist University in 1953. I was a first generation college graduate and it was a scary experience walking onto campus for the first time. I wasn't from Oklahoma, but my grandparents had connections to the state through the Cherokee Nation. My grandfather was a Civil War veteran. After my grandmother passed away, he took his children to Nebraska and acquired land through a federal grant. My parents eventually bought out the other heirs, and we settled on a ranch in Oklahoma in 1953. We primarily raised cattle, but also made hay and my daughter and her husband still do. I completed my degree in three years and went on to teach. OBU provided me with a great education and I remember one of my professors, Mr. Combs, who taught French. I also had a great education instructor who taught us how to make things for elementary students. I used a lot of what she taught me in my teaching career.

2013

Weston Zachery “Zack” Potts, MDiv

10/11/2023

I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL WITH PLANS TO PLAY FOOTBALL IN COLLEGE, BUT

when I got injured, all the scholarships I was counting on fell through. Then I got a call from Coach Cox at Oklahoma Baptist University offering me a chance to play baseball if they paid for my schooling. I decided to take the opportunity and ended up at OBU, but since there were no engineering programs, I followed my calling to ministry. I was lucky to have professors like Dr. Scott Pace, Bobby Kelly, and Dean McClellan who gave me the knowledge and drive I needed to succeed. I also made lifelong friends in the pastoral ministry and applied ministry tracks. I'm grateful for theological knowledge I gained at seminary, but I'm also thankful for the practical knowledge I got from OBU on how to do ministry. I still stay in contact with Dr. Todd Fisher and Dr. Thomas Heath Thomas, two of my biggest influences. I'm so glad to have such an amazing support system as I continue my journey in ministry.

1953

Wynema J. “Nema” (Mayo) Westmoreland

10/11/2023

I ALWAYS KNEW I WANTED TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY.

Growing up in Pryor, I was always involved in the Baptist church and never considered going anywhere else. After graduation from OBU I attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, which was great preparation for the mission field. My husband and I pastored churches in LA and TN and served 37 years with the Baptist International Mission Board. My degree from OBU helped me in life after graduation, and I made many great friends there.

1976**Beverly J. (McMinn) Kiesel**

10/13/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OBU BECAUSE MY CHURCH CHOIR HAD VISITED AND performed at OBU and when my best friend transferred there, I did too. I started as a music major and between piano, voice and organ. I was in the Chorale and SAI, but other than that there was very little time left for other activities. My Senior year, I realized that I could not stand listening to children singing off key, so I changed my major to Elementary Education. I'm grateful for the people I met during my time there and the lifelong relationships I still have. It's these relationships that make me smile when I think back on my time at OBU.

1985**Kathryn Ann “Kathie” (Curlee) Cintron**

11/08/2023

MY JOURNEY TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BEGAN WHEN I WAS searching for a small, conservative Christian college. At the time, there weren't many opportunities to visit campuses, so I sent off for information from the OBU Admissions office. I was so impressed with their response that I decided to take a leap of faith and attend without ever having seen the campus or been to Oklahoma. My time at OBU was full of amazing experiences. I was a member of Alpha Kappa Epsilon, worked on the newspaper and yearbook staff, and majored in journalism with a minor in religion. I made lifelong friendships and worked hard to finish my degree with the same group of students I started with. My experience at OBU was instrumental in shaping who I am today. It helped me develop my moral compass, my connection with people, and my compassion for others. Even today, I still drive through the campus when I'm in the area because it means so much to me.

1990**Kimberly Autumn (Braswell) Sonsel**

11/16/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was amazing! I was taken there by my youth director, Kent Choate, and I just knew that it was where God wanted me to be. I got to experience the campus with people showing me around and I felt so welcomed. I told my parents that I had to go there and it worked out. I made some great friends that I'm still in touch with today. My daughter even graduated from there last year and her husband is currently getting his master's there. OBU has been a part of my life for 30 years and it's been great. My favorite memory from OBU is the welcome week with the beanies. It was a great way to get the freshman acclimated to college life. I'm from Texas and my parents were scared to death of me going so far away, but it was only three and a half hours away. OBU made me feel at home and like people cared. My experience at OBU prepared me for my career and life after graduation. I learned how to talk to people and feel more comfortable in conversations. The professors were so helpful and it was a Christ-centered environment. It was a really welcoming place and I'm so thankful for my time there.

1976

Gloria Gardner Bonner

10/17/2023

GROWING UP, I WAS A 'BABY BISON' SINCE my daddy, Cap Gardner, started working at OBU in 1947. My Baby Bison certificate and \$5 scholarship were signed by Dr. Raley. It was a no-brainer for me to attend OBU for my degree. I had a great experience on campus and worked in the university bookstore for my mother, Wanda Gardner - where I met my future husband, Stephen Bonner. After graduation, I was able to maintain relationships with fellow alumni and sisters from Gamma Phi Delta. My degree ultimately impacted my career. I taught elementary school for 20 years, worked at Catholic Social Service as a family life educator, and then for the New Mexico Department of Health as the program director for Child Health. The most rewarding part of my career was teaching school and seeing the children learn. I was pleased to reach my childhood goal of becoming a teacher. I am grateful for all of my academic and professional accomplishments.

2008

Bertholomew M. "Prophet" Bailey

10/16/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS THE MOST TRANSFORMATIVE TIME OF MY LIFE. I was able to balance athletics, academics, work, and ministry. I learned the importance of grit and not giving up, even when things got difficult. I was able to experience diversity in chapel, which was representative of Christianity. I heard great speakers like Allen Farmer and Robert Smith, who both spoke to me because of my background. I was able to take what I learned at OBU and apply it to my profession and ministry. I even saw OBU nurses treating my dad in the hospital. OBU prepared me for life in so many ways and I am grateful for the experience.

1968

Rev. Dr. Richard Lynn Hogue

11/20/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY special. I was part of the Glee Club and even got to preach my first sermon while we were in California. I was also part of a group called Evangelism Fellowship, which was a great way to stay connected with other students who were out preaching. I made lifelong friends with many of the students and faculty, and I still keep in touch with them today. I left OBU after four years to pursue preaching, but my wife graduated from there.

1986**Kendra Mae Thomason**

10/17/2023

DURING MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I MADE MANY friendships with alumni, professors, and fellow students. I chose OBU because I wanted a Christian education and my uncle had gone there in the 1930s. I majored in elementary education and was involved in the Baptist Young Women's group, Missionary Fellowship, and Baptist Student Union. Being away from home for the first time, I grew spiritually and in independence, but also in my dependence on God. I was able to make it on my own with God's help and I developed friendships with the teachers and children in the area through my practicums and student teaching. OBU provided me with a high quality education and prepared me well for my career as a teacher.

1992**Tammy L. Johnson**

10/12/2023

I HAD ALWAYS FELT A CALLING TO ATTEND OBU, AND I KNEW IT WAS the right place for me. On my first day, I was nervous because I didn't know anyone, but I also felt a sense of excitement and possibility. I knew my major was going to be math. I was determined to make the most of my experience and I was not disappointed. I connected with other students, and eventually we all lived together in the same apartment. I also worked on the catering staff and made some great friends. My advice to any prospective student is to recognize that OBU is a Baptist university, but the people are still people. You can meet people from all over and develop relationships because it is a smaller university. You can get to really know people and spend time with them, and you can get a great education and make lasting friendships.

1977**Marsha Lee Meek
Humphrey Bowman**

10/10/2023

I HAD WANTED TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA Baptist University since I was 10 years old, and when I turned 18, that was my plan. I had not had the privilege of seeing the campus before I went, but when I arrived, I could tell the level of caring and protection. Everyone was loving and kind and encouraging, and I loved my years there. I had no family that had gone there before, but I knew it was where I was supposed to go. I met my husband there, and our oldest daughter is also a graduate. I was a music major and was a member of every singing group on campus. I had a professor, Dr. Michael Cox, who had a call for excellence and a dry sense of humor. I taught music for 12 years and then went into the regular classroom and taught for 20 more years. I even retired from teaching out at the prison in Amarillo. I am blessed to have had such a fulfilling career.

1969

**Sylvia Jean
(Howard) Fletcher, Mrs.**

10/12/2023



Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday! Jeremiah 29:10 to 14

MY JOURNEY AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was amazing. I was the only one from my hometown of Big Bristol, so I didn't know anyone when I arrived. I got involved with clubs and organizations, and made a lot of lifelong friends. One of my closest friends is Mo Hook, who I was roommates with. We've stayed in touch over the years, even when I was a missionary with the I N B for 30 years. I was also honored to be named an Outstanding Alumni in 2009. OBU has always been a big part of my life and heart, and I'm proud to wear my alumni shirts. I love OBU and I'm so glad I got to experience it.

1998

Brian Christopher Hatcher

10/18/2023

MY JOURNEY TO OBU BEGAN WHEN I WAS 15 AND I HAD JUST BECOME A

Christian. I had been invited to church by someone I had called. The youth pastor of that church was an OBU graduate and he talked a lot about OBU and kept OBU info around. I felt called to ministry and so I decided to visit OBU. My mom put me on an airplane from Dallas-Fort Worth to Oklahoma City and I was picked up by a girl I had met on a ski trip the year before. I stayed with her friends and by the end of the weekend I knew that OBU was where God wanted me to be. My time at OBU was full of amazing experiences. I met my wife there, and we have been married for 25 years and have three boys. I'm still good friends with my potluck roommate from freshman and sophomore year. I have many memories from dorm life and I even remember one night when we randomly decided to drive to the Kansas border. OBU means a lot to me. I still remember things that were said or taught by professors and how it impacted me and my beliefs. I still draw off of the comments and how professors treated people. OBU was a place that challenged me and pushed me to grow and I am thankful for the time I spent there.

1972

Burky Royce Curtis

10/19/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY SPECIAL. I RECEIVED AN EXCELLENT

education, but more than anything, I made three lifelong friends who I had never met before. We still keep in touch to this day. I was also blessed to have two amazing professors, Dr. Chuck Wilson and Dr. David Boen, who were instrumental in preparing me for my career and life as a citizen. Dr. Wilson has passed away, but I still keep in touch with Dr. Boren. Having a degree from OBU opened up many doors for me and I was able to get my first teaching job with the help of Dr. Boren. I taught for 30 years and I still run into former students all the time. I was also fortunate enough to live on campus for my first three years, which gave me some great memories!

1962

Jerry Dona (Divine) Joule

10/16/2023

I'M 82 YEARS OLD AND I HAVE MANY FOND memories of my time at OBU. One of the most memorable was when my future husband, who I've now been married to for 61 years, returned from the Army. Everyone in the dorm knew he was coming and when we arrived, they were all looking out the windows and hollering and whistling. My first roommate at OBU also had the same birthday as me, which I thought was amazing. Two of my children have graduated from OBU and one of my daughter-in-laws also graduated from there. My son was accepted to OBU and wrote on his application that he believed God had something special for him. It turned out that something special was his future wife, who opened the door for him when he arrived on campus. We also lived in the school housing for a while and my husband was a member of the Bally Club. My grandson, Daniel, visited OBU and talked to the Bison Glee Club director about his grandfather, who was also in the Bison Glee Club. Daniel ended up auditioning and joining the Bison Glee Club, just like his grandfather. One of my kids also painted the bison and another put the bubbles in the fountain. I'm so proud of my family and all the memories we have of OBU.

2018

Brian Paul Coates

11/16/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY remarkable. After 40 years, I was able to complete my degree thanks to the help of the faculty and staff. They worked with me to make sure I could get all the credits I needed, even when I had to travel extensively. I was even able to complete my degree before my mother passed away, which meant a lot to me. I was also able to take advantage of the yearly trip to Hawaii with Dr. Hutt to fulfill my last credit. On graduation day, it was surreal to finally have accomplished my goal after all those years. I was amazed at the stories of the students and the accomplishments of OBU around the world. I was also able to meet Dr. Doug Melton, who was then the dean of students, and he has been a great friend. Overall, I highly recommend Oklahoma Baptist University to anyone. It has been an incredible journey and I am so thankful for the help and support I received from the faculty and staff.

1974

Brenda Kay (Driscoll) McGuire

10/11/2023

I HAD AN AMAZING TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. I WAS A member of the To Clippers with James Woodward and every two years we would take a USO tour to around the world. We went to the Orient, Japan, Okinawa, the Marshall Islands and South Korea. It was an incredible experience for me, a young lady from Sand Springs Oklahoma. Having a degree from a Christian school was very helpful during those days. I had to take out loans to be able to go to college and I wanted to accelerate my musical ability. OBU did that for me and it was a fabulous time. I still have wonderful friends that I keep in touch with after all these years. I got to take classes and make friends. It was an amazing time and I'm so grateful for the experience.

1965

Trudy Ann (Irvine) Williamson

10/18/2023

I STARTED SCHOOL IN FALL 1961 AT

OBU, not knowing anyone. I had already enrolled at Ottawa University in Kansas, but two weeks before school started I decided to go to OBU. I loved my four years there and I was on campus the year that the airplane flew into the classroom building. Thankfully, nobody was hurt except the pilot. After graduating, I served as a pastor's wife and I was a school teacher in Salinas, California. I had the opportunity to develop a kindergarten program for children who were not ready for a real academic program. I tested all of the children in the spring and explained the program to the parents. The district gave me an unlimited supply of money to develop this program and the very first year, six children were held back and by third grade they had caught up completely with their class. I did not do a lot of pencil paper activities and I learned from one of my professors that everything you read in a book is based on an ideal situation and there's never an ideal situation. I enjoyed teaching and working with the children in the church, which was God's calling for me.

2018

Hannah Ruth Gordon

10/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEANINGFUL AND

formative. I was welcomed into a community of people who encouraged me to be involved in organizations on campus and to think critically and care for my patients holistically. I chose OBU because it was a Christian university and the nursing program was top notch. I was the second generation college graduate in my family to earn a degree from OBU. I remember the energy on move-in day being high and welcoming. I had professors who were very caring and passionate about what they taught, like Professor Donnelly and Dr. Ezra. I was able to go on a J-term go trip to the Netherlands and a trip to Israel with OBU. These trips were educational and allowed me to engage with other OBU students in a different way. I was able to learn about the gospel and how to share it with people who don't know Christ. When I finally received my BSN from OBU, it was a moment of celebration and reflection. My greatest takeaway from OBU was the community of people who shaped me into the person I am today.

1959

Donald B. Jones, Jr.

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS SPECIAL TO ME FOR MANY REASONS. MY FAMILY

had a long history with the school, and I was able to continue that legacy. I lived in the Brotherhood dorm and had a lot of fun exploring the campus and making friends. I even had a Beagle puppy for two weeks before I graduated! My favorite professor was Dr. Strickland, an Old Testament professor who was very difficult but taught me a lot. I also had the opportunity to work at OBU in development, which was a great experience. OBU has meant a lot to me over the years, from the friendships I made to the mentors I encountered. I still have my basketball season tickets and look forward to seeing my old friends and professors in the future.

1955

Dr. Jimmie Eugene Tanner

10/11/2023

I WORKED IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR A YEAR OR TWO AND came to admire the Vice President, who later became the President. My experience at Oklahoma Baptist University was made special by the friendships I made with members of the faculty. One person who made a big impact on me was Dr. James Ralph Scales. There was also a lady who taught English and had a PhD. She asked me what I planned to do after I graduated and suggested I go to OU and work on a master's degree. She even introduced me to the chairman of the English department. I taught freshman English for a couple of years and got my master's degree. I then pursued my PhD and went into a career in teaching and college administration. I officially retired in 1973. My greatest takeaway from my time at Oklahoma Baptist University was the friendships I made with students, faculty, and administrators.

1992

Julie Anne (Whitehouse) Lewis

10/18/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AS AN ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER HAS BEEN incredibly rewarding. I have been able to watch my students grow and use the gift of music to strengthen their character, spirit, and skills. My own children have also taken up instruments and singing, and I am proud of them. My voice teacher, Dr. Clark, and his wife, Ms. Wanda, were very helpful and encouraging. They took a personal interest in me, inviting me to their church Christmas parties and even letting me stay at their home during a j term. They showed that they cared about more than just my education, and that I was taken care of.

1978

Linda (England) Duckworth, PhD

12/15/2023



I HAD A GREAT experience at Oklahoma Baptist University. I was part of a social services group called Iota Ada Pi with my three best friends. We had a tongue-in-cheek name, but we still managed to get a professor to sponsor us. We ended up with 150 members and supported dozens

of Shawnee-based charities. We had a lot of fun selling pies and eating pie contests. My degree from OBU was essential for my career. The small class sizes and individualized attention from the professors really helped me get my master's and PhD. OBU was the foundation for my life, and I'm so grateful for the education I received there.

1960

Donna Rae Pickel, PhD

10/10/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University with an emphasis in physical education. At OBU I lived off campus first with my grandmother and eventually moved into campus apartment housing. Campus life was great and I enjoyed the bison tradition. After I graduated in 1960, I received a graduate assistantship at Smith College in Massachusetts. After receiving my master's degree at Smith College, I then taught in Connecticut. In 1964 I was invited back to teach at OBU. In two years I left to work on a doctoral degree and eventually received my PhD at the University of Oregon. In 1966 I was hired at CSU, Fresno where I taught in the teacher preparation emphasis, coached basketball, and started the softball program at Fresno State. In 1985 I retired from coaching and continued full-time teaching at CSU, Fresno until retiring in 2000. August, 2023 I moved from Fresno, California to live in the OKC area. I am happy to be living in Oklahoma again.

1970

Anita “Gayle” (Jones) Roberts

10/12/2023

I RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO

attended college at Oklahoma Baptist University. She shared with me her experience of walking onto campus for the first time, being a first generation college graduate, and her graduation day. She also shared how her professors and advisors helped her choose her career path. She said that all of the nursing instructors were really good and had caring concerns. She also shared that she worked for Mr. John Parrish, doing typing for news and sports articles. She was able to go to classes and work, which was helpful since she was on a limited budget. It was a pleasant work atmosphere and she was thankful for the opportunity.

2012

Rev. Joshua D. Goepfrich

10/19/2023

I WAS PART OF THE EARLY ONLINE EDUCATION AT OBU AND NEVER

attended the campus until after I had graduated. I remember when the director of the program I was in at the time said he had 'googled' me, which was a new concept at the time. I had no idea what he meant. I preferred online education to classroom education because I was working and had young children at home. I was in the Hobbs School of Theology. The education helped me, from the human standpoint, to advance my career. My daughter also attended OBU and worked in the bookstore for a few years. There is something about the campus that is special. Having two generations attend OBU is a wonderful blessing, which I do not take for granted.

1971**Dr. James “David” Wayman, Sr.**

10/17/2023

I HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. I met my best friend there and he's still my best friend to this day. I was lucky enough to have Dr. Hurley as my mentor and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to attend OBU. It's funny because when I graduated high school, I never even considered OBU. I always thought I would go to OU, but I ended up getting a small scholarship from OBU and that's what made me choose to go there. I was also given a golf scholarship, which was a huge help in affording my education. I was actually the first person in my family to go to college, so it was a big milestone for me. Graduation day was definitely a highlight, but there was also a little program that our class put on during the ceremony. It was a bit different, but it was a message about our future and our potential. Looking back, I can't even fully describe it, but it was a great experience. During my freshman and sophomore years, I wasn't sure what I wanted to major in, but taking classes with Dr. Hurley sparked my interest in medicine. He had a great reputation for mentoring students and OBU had a great track record for getting students into medical school. I was also pretty shy, so I think at a bigger university, I may have gotten lost in the crowd. At OBU, there were people who encouraged me and helped me come out of my shell. My main extracurricular activity was being on the golf team, which was a bit of a surprise. I had never played on a team in high school, but I picked up the game on my own and had some talent for it. It was a wonderful experience and I even got to play with some professional golfers. After graduating from OBU, I went to medical school at OU and then did my residency at the University of Arkansas. I got married right after graduating from medical school and have two sons and two granddaughters. My youngest son works in the medical field and my other son works in finance.

1967**Michael “Bruce” Magers, Esq.**

10/14/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS LIFE-CHANGING. MY

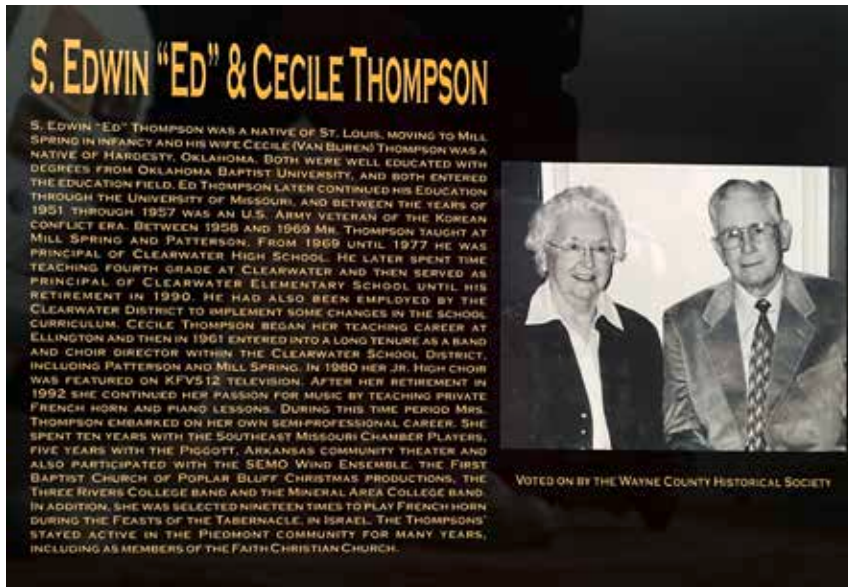
parents had attended in the early 1940s, and my sister and I were there in the 1960s. I was involved in sports and the Bison Glee Club. In 1965, the Glee Club went on a nine-week USO trip to Europe, which was my first time overseas. I was 19 and a history major, so the trip was incredibly impactful. We sang at the Oklahoma Pavilion at the World's Fair in New York City and at a ceremony for Senator Kerr in DC. This trip inspired me to join the Air Force, and I was stationed in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. After the Air Force, I went to law school at Wake Forest University and have been practicing law here since 1974. OBU has always been spiritually grounded and I'm proud of what they continue to do.

2013**Erin L. (Black) Guleserian**

10/09/2023

I HAVE BEEN AN EMPLOYEE AT OBU FOR THE LAST

decade and have had many great experiences there. I met my best friends, my RA, and even my husband there. We even named our daughter Raley after Raley Chapel. I am currently the director of residential life, overseeing all of the housing, meals, and student conduct issues. It has been a huge part of my life and I am so grateful for all of the memories I have made there.



“My husband and I both received the Wayne County Hall of Honor in 2023.
- CECILLE (VAN BUREN) THOMPSON



1960

Cecille (Van Buren) Thompson

10/10/2023

Wayne County Hall of Honor, 2023

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A PRIVILEGE FOR ME. I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AT Missouri University and Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, working on a master's degree. My husband and I both received the Wayne County Hall of Honor in 2023. Spirel Edwin Thompson had passed away in 2022. He had a long professional life in education being high school and elementary school principal for over 30 years. I also spent 33 years teaching music, Band and Choir in Clearwater Schools. We also traveled to Israel together for one of the feasts sponsored by the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem. I played in the orchestra there for 19 feasts. Our daughter, Susanne, has been living in Sweden for almost 30 years. She and her husband run a grocery store in Enhorna, Sweden. While at OBU, I studied music and was able to participate in productions between OBU and the community. I was also able to sing in the Shawnee Community Choir for the Messiah. I was able to see the improvements in the buildings and the new student center when my husband and I visited the campus a few years ago. I'm glad to see that the university has added sports and other departments especially nursing. I remember having to go to chapel and I'm glad that the school still honors the Lord. I would tell new alumni to take advantage of all the opportunities the university has to offer.

1978**Sherry L.
(Ravan) Trebus**

11/08/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly life-changing. I was drawn to the school by my pastor, who was an OBU graduate, and his wife. They were influential in my life and encouraged me to take a look at OBU. I had originally planned to major in nursing, but as I attended classes in sociology and religion, I became more drawn to service work, specifically working with children and families.

After graduating from OBU, I attended Southwestern Seminary and worked for the seminary for some time before starting to work with low-income families in Texas. My time at OBU not only helped me find my passion for service work, but also deepened my relationship with God. The professors and staff at OBU were always supportive and made growing closer to the Lord a top priority. I am still in touch with friends from OBU, and my roommate is like a sister to me. The relationships I made at OBU are what stand out in my life. I am proud to be a graduate of OBU and am impressed by all the great things the institution is doing today. Being a part of OBU's legacy is something I am truly proud of.

1979**Gayla Friend (Whitley) Turner, RN**

11/20/2023

I'M GRATEFUL FOR MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. I was a naive kid when I arrived and had never had anyone in my family attend college. I applied to OBU and OU, but when I arrived at OBU, they called the nursing program and I was accepted. It was a financial challenge, but I made it. I was even featured on the front page of the OBU Bison! I met my first husband at the Grub Steak, and we married in May. We had a good relationship and I still have a relationship with his family. I was a nurse for 34 years and the nursing professors at OBU were so encouraging and loving. They molded me and changed me and I'm so grateful for them. Now I get to take care of my grandkids and that's just as important.

1967**Linda Frances (Lilley) Higginbotham**

11/01/2023

I HAD AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT OBU. I WAS ABLE TO GET AN excellent education in music and education practice, and I made lots of wonderful friendships. The classes were smallish, so we got a lot of interaction with the professors. There was a great spirit of camaraderie and deep friendships, and it was just a wonderful place to be. I tried to get back for all the homecomings and other events, like the Glee Club that I sang in. I met my husband there when he came to my church with his roommate. We traveled all over the state of Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and even California with the Glee Club. I was also chosen by the USO to go to Europe and tour military bases for seven weeks. It was an incredible experience to see things, art works, and music that I had only read about or studied.

1986

Dinah Lee (Rowley) Jordan

10/14/2023

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA

Baptist University, and it was a great experience. Both of my parents were OBU graduates, and I was the last chance for one of their kids to attend. When I took my ACT test, OBU was one of my potential colleges, and they offered me a half tuition scholarship, which I couldn't turn down. I had some great professors and advisors, including Kathy McKee and Paul Rutledge, who helped me choose my career path and inspired me. I was involved in various campus activities, such as the student newspaper and concert band, which made my time at OBU even more enjoyable. I didn't study abroad during my time there. I have stayed in touch with some of my classmates over the years. Looking back, I can say that OBU helped me develop more self-confidence and overcome my shyness. I also met many lifelong friends, including my husband, who passed away in December 2023. Earning my degree from OBU eventually led me to my current writing job at Disney. I also wrote a book about my uncle and aunt. My uncle was also an OBU alumnus. OBU has been a part of my family for four generations, including my grandfather, parents, uncle, myself, one niece, and two nephews. I am proud to be an OBU graduate and will cherish my time there.

1997

CDR Brandy T. (Tomolonis) McNabb, USN

11/22/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING PART OF THE LADY BISON

basketball team at Oklahoma Baptist University. My coaches and teammates instilled in me a team and a servant leader mindset. They taught me the importance of hard work, courage, and unselfishness, and to always prioritize others in every decision and action that I take. This example has been invaluable to me in my career in the military. It has helped me strive to be a good example for my sailors and fellow officers, and to honor God in all that I do. I am very appreciative of the experience OBU gave me and the lessons I learned there. My faith was strengthened and I had great examples and role models there. I always pray for OBU and hope they can pass these lessons on to the next generation.

2007

Jeffrey Scott “Jeff” Barros

10/09/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS GREAT. I

made lifelong friendships and connections with professors that I still keep in contact with today. During my time there, I developed skills that helped me in my master's program and set me up for success in the Air Force and civilian work world. I would highly recommend OBU to my kids and even though it was an expensive four years, it was worth it.

1995**Gene Archie Butler**

10/10/2023

I AM A PROUD ALUMNI OF OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. I WAS the first in my family to attend OBU and it was truly a life-changing experience. I didn't choose OBU, it chose me. I was playing basketball at the University of Central Arkansas when I flunked out and OBU's coach, Bob Hoffman, reached out to me. It was the best thing that could have happened because not only did I continue pursuing my basketball dream, but I also got saved while at OBU. My journey at OBU was filled with memorable moments, especially in athletics. I had been playing basketball my whole life and after high school, I went to a junior college in Kansas before transferring to Central Arkansas. It was at OBU where I truly found my place and finished my degree in 1995. One of the most memorable games was when we played in a tournament against BYU and beat several Division I schools to make it to the championship game. We may have lost by two points, but it was an incredible experience playing in front of a crowd of 18,000 people. Aside from athletics, I also had some amazing experiences in my classes and with my professors. I remember taking Old and New Testament classes, which gave me a deeper understanding of scripture. I also took a computer course, which was a struggle at the time, but now I can apply those skills in my current job. The camaraderie of being on the basketball team and going to chapel every Wednesday was a special part of my time at OBU. OBU had a huge impact on me as a person. It gave me the opportunity to grow spiritually and I even got saved while I was there. It was a time of growth and self-discovery, and I am grateful for the support and guidance I received from my professors and peers. Since graduating, I have had a fulfilling career in community service. I started out as a juvenile detention correction officer before transitioning to the Boy Scouts of America, where I worked for 25 years. Now, I am the executive director of America's Dinner Table.

1955**Dorothy C. Schleicher**

11/10/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY because it was a family tradition. My parents, uncle, and cousin all went there and loved it. I had planned to go since I was 4 years old and it lived up to my expectations. I joined all of the clubs, the education, political science, and social clubs, and church groups. I made some great friendships with alumni and faculty members that I kept up with after I graduated. My degree and time at OBU impacted my life and career in lifelong ways. I taught school for two years and married an OBU graduate. After my husband, Richard, passed away, I wanted to work in a college so I moved to Waco and started working at Baylor University. I got a master's degree in church and state studies, and professional library degree. I served as director of the curriculum library for the School of Education for 25 years. I loved everything at OBU, especially the music. The Bison Glee Club and the women's group were amazing. I was also influenced by faculty members such as 'Uncle Jimmy' Owen, Dr. Yarbrough, Dr. Scales, and Dr. Raley. I'm so thankful for my time at OBU and all the positive experiences I had.

1973

Anita Gail (Foran) Wyatt, BS, RN

10/17/2023



MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was a memorable experience. Being a Christian school, it was a big factor in my decision to attend. When I first arrived on campus, I was excited and nervous, but the energy was very welcoming. It was the first time I was away from home by myself, so it took me a few weeks to get used to college life. I was involved in Campus Crusade for Christ, which was a big influence on my life. It gave me a feeling of home and friends, and helped me

come out of my shell. I had small class sizes and professors that really stood out for me, like Dr. Strickland who taught religion. She was a kind, gentle soul and spoke to me in a way that made me feel at home. My time at OBU helped me grow in my faith, as I made friends who were also Christian and attended church together. After graduating, I worked in Oklahoma City at Presbyterian Hospital until 1976 and then moved to Dallas with the intention of becoming a missionary. My daughter also attended OBU and graduated in 2009, which meant a lot to me. OBU is a big part of my life and I have many fond memories from my time there.

1989

Georgeann (Ward) Forester

11/30/2023

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

a life-changing experience for me. I was shy in high school, but my best friend Shelli helped me come out of my shell, and we had a blast for four years. The professors and advisors at OBU were instrumental in guiding me towards my career path, especially Dr. Jimmy Russell who taught me valuable lessons that I still use today as a teacher. I was the first in my family to graduate from college, and it was a proud moment for me and my family. I chose OBU because of its strong sense of community and the opportunity to make lifelong friends. The university also has a strong focus on ethics and integrity, which is something that I value. It was at OBU where I met my husband, and we have a special bond because we both attended the same university. I am proud of the well-rounded education I received at OBU and the friendships I made. It helped me become more outgoing and confident. Shelli and I had so much fun on campus, from asking the BOP cops to do silly things to creating our own songs. OBU truly felt like a big family, and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking for a college experience that is both fun and fulfilling.

2007**Dr. Jeri “Nichole” (Renshaw) Jackson**

10/18/2023



Just walked off the stage on graduation day in spring 2007 with my BSN!

MY EXPERIENCE WITH OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN

life-changing. From the time I was in seventh grade, I felt at home on the OBU campus. I attended Super Summer there every year and it was my first introduction to Bison Hill. I went on to get my nursing degree from OBU and even met my husband there, who is also an OBU alumni. After I got my doctorate from Duquesne University, I worked for OBU full-time for six years and I still adjunct for them at times. OBU has shaped my professional career and so many other facets of my life. It gave me the education I needed to fulfill my calling as a nurse and introduced me to lifelong friends. I was also able to get my master's education for free through the Butterfield grant. I went on my first over seas trip with OBU as a young nursing student for tsunami relief in Indonesia and then in 2022, I was honored to serve as one of the faculty for a group of students on a trip to Kenya in their last semester before graduation. OBU has given me so much and I am forever grateful for the opportunities it has provided me. My life was transformed at OBU and a piece of my heart will always belong to the green and gold. God bless OBU.

1989**Rebecca Ann
(Dunn) Puckett**

10/26/2023

I HAVE A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO

Oklahoma Baptist University as it is a family school for me. My great uncle, Calvin Miller, was a well-known figure at OBU and I was inspired to attend because of him. My younger cousins also ended up attending OBU, creating a family legacy at the university. Despite some struggles in my family, OBU provided a positive and supportive environment for me to grow as a person. I remember preparing for freshman orientation and being given the words to 'Ka-Rip' but not understanding their meaning. My uncle, who didn't even attend OBU, knew the words and helped me understand the pronunciation and cadence. Even after I moved to Texas, I was able to reconnect with an OBU classmate who later became my insurance agent. The care and support from my professors, especially my piano teacher, was something I will always remember. I was going through a tough time and she reached out to me and even contacted my Mother to show her love and support. Chapel was always a highlight for me, and I even got to see Steven Curtis Chapman perform there. The positive peer pressure at OBU helped me grow and stay grounded in my faith. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the positive impact it had on my life.

1960

Gloria R. (Senner) Sadler

10/18/2023

MY EXPERIENCE WITH OBU HAS BEEN NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING.

From the moment I heard the Bisonette Glee Club sing in my home church in Hugo, Oklahoma, I knew that I wanted to attend OBU. I was inspired by the older friends who had gone there and it was never a question of where I would go. One of my favorite memories was being the editor of the Bison, the campus newspaper, in my junior year. I also took 24 hours of Bible courses and even got a contract to write Sunday school lessons for the Southern Baptist Convention. My favorite professor was Dr. Rowena Strickland who taught religion and Bible. I also have fond memories of my senior year when I got married and had an apartment close to campus. I even brag about OBU to my sons who went to Baylor, but they are die-hard Baylor fans. OBU has been a part of my life for many years and I will always cherish the memories I have of my time there.

1970

Ronald Lee Hatcher

11/03/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY SPECIAL TO ME. I WAS PART OF THE

Bison Play Club, which was responsible for the public relations of OBU through concerts in Oklahoma and other parts of the country. Through this club, I made lifelong friends and connections. I was also supported by the music department faculty, such as Dr. Warren Angell, James Woodward, Mr. Don Clark, and Dr. Bass. It was at the age of 18 that I knew God had called me into the music ministry. Looking back at my time at OBU, I am proud to have been a part of the OBU family and thankful for the influence it has had on my life.

1977

Lynn Alan Heflin

12/12/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was incredible. Before classes even started, I was told by upperclassmen that the thing to do was to paint the Bison statue in the center of the oval. So, a group of us got some spray paint and I was standing on someone's shoulders with a can of paint when the Dean of Students, Dr. Osborn, came up and asked if we were having fun. We quickly realized that this wasn't a tradition that was well thought of and I hit the ground running. Later, I had to go visit the Dean of Students and pay for the repainting of the Bison. I had some great years at OBU and made lots of great friends. I was well prepared for the next step and went on to Baylor for my graduate degree and then became a coach, teacher, and administrator in several school district for 45 years. I kept in contact with some of my close friends from OBU over the years. I had some great mentors at OBU who had a great influence on me. It was an amazing experience and I'm so thankful for the friendships I made and the mentors I had.

1962

Rosemary Dobson Wade

11/03/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A TRULY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE. I HAD

the privilege of making lifelong friends with Sue, Margaret, and Charlotte. I was also blessed to have teachers like Ms. Montgomery, Dr. Strickland, and Dr. Bond, who took a personal interest in me and my education. I made an A in Dr. Bond's class by presenting my son, Mark, as my 50th art project that I created with God's help! I was also thankful for the Christian education I received and the strong leadership there. My greatest takeaway from OBU was the lifelong friendships I made and the knowledge I gained. I am forever grateful for the time I spent there.

1955

Joe Lee Chandler

10/26/2023

I CHOSE OBU BECAUSE I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP. BOB BASS,

the basketball coach then, gave us the scholarships. Afterward I left to work for the railroad. I got my scholarship as the team manager of the basketball team. We had a great team with great guys. My wife and I, and my son, who has a disability from the Army, are all retired now. OBU was a great school, and I enjoyed meeting people from all over the world. We had a great president, John Raley. I was glad to go to school there because my mother was a schoolteacher and graduated from East Central. There was a rivalry between East Central and OBU at the time, and we had a great conference with Southeastern State, Oklahoma State, and Northwestern. We had great baseball, basketball, and track teams.

1959

Nancy Jo (Graves) McLaughlin

10/10/2023



MY EXPERIENCE AT

Oklahoma Baptist University was incredibly meaningful. I had the opportunity to form lifelong relationships with people I met there, some of whom I haven't seen in 30 or 40 years, but we still keep in touch. I was also inspired by the spiritual attitude of the students there, which was a stark contrast to the environment I had grown up in. My major was sociology and

OBU gave me an education, a world viewpoint, growth in my faith, and wings to fly.

I was fortunate to have a professor, Dr. Davis, who encouraged us to do our best and strive for excellence. I was also part of a social club and I found it to be a great source of support. Growing up in a church environment had a profound impact on me and I realized how precious it was when I couldn't attend church due to the pandemic. My advice to someone considering attending OBU is to take advantage of the relationships you will form there and the Christian atmosphere. It will be worth the effort and you will benefit from the education and the lifelong relationships you will form.

1958

Dr. Charles “Earl” Leininger

10/11/2023

I HAD A CALL TO PREACH WHEN I WAS A KID, BUT WHEN I GOT TO OBU FOR my sophomore year, I realized my gifts lay more in teaching. I went on to seminary and pursued my doctorate to become a teacher. During my time at OBU, I made a few friends, but the most important one was my roommate. We held revivals at churches together and I was a speech and theater major. Later on in my life, theater became a second career and I was in 25 productions with lead roles in most of them. I'm happy with my career and wouldn't change a thing.

1982

Rev. Christopher Onie Finley

11/02/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A TRULY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE. I WAS fortunate to have professors who took a personal interest in my success, both academically and socially. Graduation day was an incredible accomplishment for me and my family. During my time at OBU, I was also able to meet my wife and participate in events like the Hanging of the Green together. I was not involved in any clubs or work study programs, but I did grow and develop as a leader. After graduation, I went on to seminary and eventually became a chaplain. I am most grateful for the friendships I made during my time at OBU, as I am still able to pick up where we left off even after 40 years. OBU prepared me for leadership roles and ministering to people, and I am thankful for the experience.

1974

Larry Myrle Harlin

11/22/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was incredibly influential. I was offered a baseball scholarship and chose to attend OBU. I was the assistant baseball coach for two years and the head coach for three. I was also a part of the Vietnam War and graduated in 1974. I was then put on a program to substitute for a few semesters until I finished my master's. After that, I left OBU and went to work in construction. I eventually ended up in Hobbs, New Mexico, where I've been for 38 years. I'm now in four Sonic restaurants and helping with a fifth. I've been working with kids for my entire career, teaching them the right and wrong things to do. I even have one lady who has worked for me for 37 years. My biggest memory of playing baseball was being a first team All American in 1970. I was also very close with Mike Sperry, who went on to be successful in coaching. I still keep up with OBU and am proud of my experience there.

1988**Darla D. Barrow**

11/02/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A TIME OF GROWTH AND

independence. I made instant friends and long-term friends that were consistent throughout my time there. The atmosphere was warm and homey, and I realized how unique it was compared to other college cultures. I learned that I was a lot stronger than I thought I was and that I could weather the storms of life with God at the center. I was constantly reminded that I had everything I needed within me if I was dependent on God. My professors, friends, and even my RA and Athenian sisters had no idea how deep their words were penetrating my life and reassuring me that God was with me and I was okay. OBU was a safe place for me to figure out who I was and how I fit into the culture.

1959**Dr. Robert L. Ross, Sr.**

10/11/2023

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART FOR OBU.

Ever since I was a young boy, I attended the university from 1955 to 1959 and I left with a deep appreciation for the faculty and staff who had invested so much of their time and energy into me. I am especially grateful for the fact that I met my wife at OBU and that two of her three sons and five of our six grandchildren have also attended the university. OBU is truly a part of our family and I am so blessed to have been able to experience it.

1965**Linda Hutcherson
(Henderson) Beckel, EdD**

11/04/2023

I LOVE BEING A STUDENT AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. The professors and education are top-notch. One of my favorite stories to share is about my family's legacy at OBU. My parents met there, and my mom even came back to finish her degree with me when I was a freshman. She went on to become an elementary school teacher for over 20 years. OBU was a big change for me, coming from a one-room schoolhouse and riding the bus 50 miles a day to high school. It was an exciting experience for this little country girl. I didn't feel completely independent because of the rules and curfews, but I also felt safe and protected. Looking back, I had no idea I would end up in higher education as a professor. I changed my major from home economics to speech and theater, and it was one of my professors, Mrs. Craig, who had the most impact on me. She was not only a great advisor, but also someone students could trust with their personal lives. However, I did have some experiences with professors who had a different worldview than I was used to, which was a shock to my system. Overall, my time at OBU was a valuable and formative experience.

1985

Marilyn Sue (Foley) Souter

10/17/2023

ATTENDING OBU WAS A LIFE-CHANGING

experience for me. I was drawn to the music program, which was led by Mrs. Woodward, Retta Mayfield, Dr. Woods, Dr. Lewis, and Mrs. Meyers. I had the opportunity to play for the Spring Affair, Freshman Follies, and I was in the Bisonette Glee Club. I majored in music education with a piano emphasis and a vocal minor. My piano teacher, Ms. Martin, was almost blind by the time that I was a senior, but she could still tell me what measure and note that I had gotten wrong without looking at any music. She taught me a lot about accompanying and responsibility. I also learned the importance of my relationship with God, which was different from my parents' relationship. I had to decide for myself what my priorities were and that my relationship with the Lord needed to be first. I was able to make friends and have fun without going to the movies. We played spades, visited the snow cone lady, went to the park, and participated in the Campus Activities Board activities. OBU was a great experience and I'm still in contact with my dearest friends from there.

1991

Jana Sue (Harlan) VanderTook

10/11/2023



I AM A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE AND OBU WAS THE

perfect fit for me. I was a senior in high school when I attended a college fair and OBU accepted the invitation. I was a National Honor Society member and had the opportunity to host the representatives. When I introduced myself to the OBU representative, he knew my name, my high school, and the major I was interested in. He had done his homework and I felt like I mattered. After that encounter, I knew I was going to OBU. After I graduated, I moved around Oklahoma and eventually returned to the Oklahoma City area. I was looking for an opportunity to invest my skills and found a job opening for an administrative assistant in the executive office at OBU. I was offered the position and worked there for ten years. The interim president and provost then offered to invest in me and help me pursue a master's degree. I now work in the position of helping to coordinate assessment and working with faculty. OBU has had a huge impact on my life and I am grateful for the opportunity to pay it forward and make an impact on the school and its students.

1966

Charles Larry Campbell

10/10/2023



Myself with Dr. Warren M. Angell at his concert in Tulsa

I'M PROUD TO BE PART OF A FAMILY legacy of attending Oklahoma Baptist University. My parents both attended OBU, and my mother was even one of Dr. Warren Angell's first piano students in 1938. My son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Ashley, also attended OBU and even won the Outstanding Alumni Award last year. I was also part of the Bison Glee Club, Fallen Angell's Quartet. I was a member of the Tuneclippers in 1965. We traveled to Europe and entertained Army soldiers. Dean Angell was our director. My family's legacy of attending OBU has been a blessing to all of us. OBU prepared us for the world ahead of us. I'm also proud of the work of my son, Chris and Ashley are doing with the adoption program for the state of Oklahoma. They are building 100 bunk beds to help families take care of their children. It's amazing to see how much OBU has helped our family have an impact on our lives and the others we have touched along the way. We made friends with others at OBU. We are still now friends 50 years later. What a great blessing OBU has been and still is today.

1979

Denise (Irwin) Wolfe

12/06/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly special. I lived in Montgomery Hall my first semester and made some amazing friends. Then I moved to Kerr Residence Center for the rest of my time there. It was a small dorm with only 12 girls, but we became like a family. I was actually the first in my family, other than my dad, to attend college. It was a tradition I was proud to start. During my time at OBU, I had some incredible academic influences, such as Dr. Mayfield and Dr. Strickland. Dr. Strickland's lectures were so captivating that I often forgot to take notes. Her and Dr. Mayfield's encouragement and guidance helped shape my academic journey. After graduation, I realized how small the world truly is when I kept running into fellow OBU alumni. I even ran into an upperclassman from my freshman year at a church in Texas years later. It's amazing how OBU has created a strong community that lasts beyond graduation. The spiritual atmosphere on campus was also a huge influence on my life. The guidance and discussions about faith with both professors and students helped me discover my passion for ministry. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1974

Peggy Faye (Brookes) Shepherd

11/13/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly special. It was a place that felt like family, and I was able to make so many wonderful memories. My parents had met there in the late 1940s, so I had a special connection to the university. I was able to take part in a variety of activities, such as the Glee Club, where I was an officer for three of my four years, and I even got to play the part of Olivia in Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night.' I was also able to take part in a semester of student teaching, where I met with my supervising professor in her living room to discuss our documentation. My professors were so supportive and encouraging, and I was able to form relationships with them that went beyond the classroom. I was even able to babysit the daughter of one of my professors. I worked hard and graduated magna cum laude with my twin sister, and I am so grateful for the experience. My biggest takeaway from my time at OBU was that it truly felt like family. I was able to take part in many activities and form meaningful relationships with my professors, and I am so thankful for the memories I made there.

1975

Lolis Jean (Grammer) Coward

10/25/2023

MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS VERY MEMORABLE. I WAS accepted into the Athenians, a sorority that focused on philanthropic projects. It was uplifting and encouraging to have other women around and some of the older ones were there to mentor if needed. I also went on a European study tour with two professors, Dr. Farthing and Dr. Faring, which was a great experience. I got to travel from London to Italy, the Alps, and Paris. I learned a lot about French and history and it was a great opportunity. Looking back, I think it's important for Christian women to be involved in government and I'm talking to my grandkids about it. I want them to know that they can make a difference and that they should consider it as a possible career.

2000

Heather Renee Carman

01/05/2024

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY LIFE changing. I made some of the best friends of my life in theater Department and grew so much as a person. OBU was a great place for young people to spread their wings and become adults in a safe, Christ-centered environment. theater Department was its own little world, and I had so much fun. I'm still in touch with some of my theater friends, and I talk to my best friend from OBU, Andy, several times a week. My advice to new students is to get out there and explore everything OBU has to offer. Even if you don't join a sorority, look into those groups and meet new people. Go to basketball games, take classes outside of your major, and don't be afraid to try something new. You never know where the Lord will call you.

1990**Robin Renee
(Lovelady) Rose**

10/16/2023

I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF MY

professor, Dr. Jeske, from my bachelor's in psychology. When I decided to go back to nursing, I was worried about what he would think, so I wrote him a letter. He wrote me back and was incredibly supportive, telling me his wife was a nurse. His letter made me feel like I had his blessing to pursue nursing, regardless of my psychology background. I kept the letter forever and it has been a reminder of his support. I have not kept in contact with him since then, but I shared the letter with my daughter when she graduated from OBU. I also stayed in contact with my childhood friend and other roommates from OBU. We still have a bond, even if we only speak once a year. My time at OBU was full of ups and downs, but it was eye-opening and I grew and changed as a person. My mother was also an alumni and she had some influence on my decision to go there. She passed away from COVID-19 in 2021, but I am glad to be her legacy at the school and in life.

1974**Rev. Dennis Luther Woods**

01/30/2024

AS THE PRESIDENT OF OMEGA K DELTA FRATERNITY AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University, I had a great senior year and it was a huge honor. I actually chose OBU because my youth director had recommended it. Life on campus was filled with sports, fraternity events, and even revivals off campus. I originally came in as a music major, but I ended up graduating with a degree in religion and a minor in sociology. I also worked as a youth director at University Baptist Church, which was a great experience. OBU was academically challenging, but it helped me learn how to study and grow as a person. It's been almost 50 years since I graduated, and I'm looking forward to our 50th reunion this year. I'm planning on attending and it will be a wonderful experience to reconnect with old friends and reminisce about our time at OBU.

1963**Joyce Marie Hilton**

12/06/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR MY

sophomore year. I lived in Kerr Dormitory, which I believe is no longer in use. I was involved in the Vice Glee Club and Sigma Alpha Eta, a music sorority. One of my favorite memories was when someone had put all the chairs from the dining room in the attic, and we had to go up and get them. It was quite a sight to see everyone coming down the stairs carrying a chair. I was also a first generation college graduate, which was a huge accomplishment for me and my family. After graduating from OBU, I went back to St. Joseph, Missouri and worked for two years before going back to school. I eventually became an elementary music teacher and taught for many years. I had to carry all my records and books from one room to another, but eventually I got my own room. Teaching music to elementary kids was a lot of fun and I enjoyed it very much.

1985

Karla B. (Bennett) Betterton

11/01/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

an amazing experience. I had the opportunity to follow in my sister's footsteps and attend the same school she did. When I first stepped onto the campus, I was in awe of the beauty and peacefulness of the atmosphere. I was able to work part-time for the Dean of Business and I had my high school sweetheart, who later became my husband, with me. I was very studious and enjoyed my roommate. I appreciated the Christian atmosphere of the school. I was able to get a secretarial certificate and work in an accounting firm, which made me realize I needed to go back to school and finish my degree. I had some amazing professors and advisors, such as Dr. Strickland and Mrs. Hall, who brought the material to life and went above and beyond to help us understand. I am grateful for the education I received at OBU and the relationships I made. My advice to younger alumni would be to take advantage of the opportunity to get a wonderful education and to enjoy the friendships and relationships you make. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU is the education I received and the relationships I made.

1959

Shirley A. (Weaver) Freeman

10/12/2023



MY FOUR YEARS AT OBU WERE

the best of my life. My parents were very strict and it was the first time I had ever slept over at a friend's house. I was living in a big house with three roommates and I was the last one to arrive, so I had to sleep on the top bunk. Alma Papworth was our designated house mother and she would wake us up every morning. Eventually, Connie and I got to move downstairs and it was just the two of us in the room. I met my first husband at OBU my sophomore year,

and we had a lot of fun together. His personality changed and he no longer enjoyed being with me, so he left. A few years later, I married my current husband and we've been married for 25 years. I still keep in contact with my old roommate Betty Driver, who was in my wedding. We've been friends since elementary school and she's been a blessing. I also had a friend at OBU who borrowed my wedding dress for her own wedding. It's sad that I don't keep in contact with my other two roommates anymore, but I understand that things happen for a reason.

1995

Jonathan David Clark

10/21/2023

BEFORE ATTENDING THE SCHOOL I HAD NOT HEARD OF

Oklahoma Baptist University, but I was not aware of my family's history there until I had been accepted. I broke the news of my acceptance to my grandmother, to which she in turn educated me with the news that our family had a good long history there. I had been impressed by the strong music ministry program and the high academic standards. I also appreciated the competitive tuition, and very positive overall reputation. On my arrival to the campus I was not very knowledgeable in music, but I had a good singing voice and competed well in vocal competitions, which helped me get some scholarships. I was placed in Dr. Don Clark's vocal studio and remained under his tutelage throughout my time at OBU. One of the blessings of being in a college of just under 2,000 students was that all the students had plenty of personal connection with the professors. I was not strong in theory and sight singing when I entered the music school. I greatly benefited from the personal attention afforded every student by the professors, and that made a tremendous difference in my ministry later on. I joined the Bison Glee Club in 1991, one of the last years where pledging was practiced. The clubs approach to pledging, while shrouded in mystery, was purposed to bring the pledges into a full investment in the choir club. The practice became almost sacred but continued only one more year, and was terminated in 1993 before the pledging season was completed. We met daily for rehearsal and made beautiful music. We would keep the history on the walls of the rehearsal hall. My addition was the creation of the map chronicling the touring years of Derf Namyar our highly esteemed and nearly clairvoyant bus driver. I loved my years at OBU!

1995

Dr. Josh P. Carey

10/09/2023



I FELT LIKE I BELONGED WHEN I FIRST STEPPED ONTO

OBU's campus, and I felt like I belonged. On the day of my graduation, I was filled with gratitude for all that OBU had given me. Not only did I receive a great education, but I also made lifelong friends and met my wife in the band. I was able to prepare myself physically to join the military, which allowed me to pay for school. I also grew in my faith and understanding of the world around me. OBU provided me with the resources to get ready for the next step in my life, and I am forever grateful for the Bob and Bonnie Lynn scholarship that made it possible for me to attend.

1974

Clara Janet (Meyer) Winters

11/03/2023



Then and now: 1971 and 2023

MY FORMER HUSBAND WENT TO OBU

and that was where I met him. I knew I wanted to be a nurse from a young age. My older sister was a nurse, and I wanted to follow in her footsteps. I lived on campus for most of my time at OBU except for my junior year, when I lived in Oklahoma City for my practical experience. I had amazing instructors and made friends who I'm still in touch with today. We go on trips together, and I'm very thankful for the experience OBU gave me. My favorite part of being a student at OBU was the friends I made, including Berna, Pam, Marsha, and Judy. I would advise young people attending OBU to cherish the friends they make.

1974

Ycedra Lyvonne (Leatherman) Daughty

10/18/2023

GROWING UP, I WAS TOLD BY MY MOTHER THAT I COULDN'T ATTEND OBU

because it was only for white people. Despite this, I was determined to attend and was awarded a scholarship from my high school principal. I worked at a store called T G N Y and was able to pay for my tuition without taking out any student loans. I graduated from OBU with a music degree and was the first black student to do so. I was accepted and made friends with those who were willing to be my friend. I enjoyed my time at OBU and was grateful for the opportunity to attend.

1983

Dr. Paul William Harvey

11/16/2023

WHEN I THINK BACK TO MY TIME AT

Oklahoma Baptist University, I can't help but feel grateful for the incredible experience I had. The focus on humanities, history, English, and philosophy really shaped my academic journey. What really stood out to me was the personal touch that OBU provided. It wasn't just a university, it was a community that felt like home. For me, it was a family tradition to attend OBU. I followed in the footsteps of my family and it was a source of pride for me. I was inspired by the success and accomplishments of my family members who had also attended OBU. Living on campus for my entire time there, I was able to fully immerse myself in the university experience. I may not remember all the clubs and organizations I was involved in, but I do remember having a great social life on campus. Looking back, I can confidently say that my time at OBU helped me grow academically and personally. It laid the foundation for me to pursue my PhD and achieve success in my career. I am proud to continue the legacy of education and excellence through OBU.

1996

Alvin Curtis “Curt” Corley, Jr.

11/07/2023



Christmas, 2022

MY JOURNEY TO Oklahoma Baptist University began when I visited the campus with some friends. I was immediately drawn to the Christian environment and the strong academic reputation. After much prayer, I decided to enroll, and I'm so glad I did. My time at OBU was filled with amazing experiences and memories. I was part of a close-knit

community, and I had the opportunity to get to know many of my peers. I was also able to follow the basketball team and travel with them. OBU was a great place for me to grow spiritually, and I was able to take part in many activities that helped me to learn more about God. OBU means a lot to me; it was a place where I could get an education, make lifelong friends, and deepen my faith.

1986

Logan Herbert

10/11/2023

I ATTENDED WU RIGHT OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL AND many of my friends from college are still my friends today. I had an amazing experience at OBU and I wouldn't change a thing. I was a member of Phi Omega Sigma, a service club, and we took care of the kids in the Brothers and Sisters club. I had some of the best professors in the world and I was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy during my sophomore year. I was yearbook editor and I had to make an appointment with Dr. Rutledge to discuss my grade. He was so sweet and accommodating and he recognized my struggle. I was also in a wheelchair for six weeks and Veep, Don Osborne, made sure the campus was accessible for everyone.

1965

Sen. Dennis Wheeler Smith

10/18/2023

I ATTENDED OBU IN 1961, FOLLOWING IN MY FATHER'S footsteps. It was a great experience, and I made many wonderful friends and had a great education. We were there for the opening of the John Wesley Raley Chapel, and I was able to graduate from there in 1965. My education at OBU impacted my career and success in life more than the technical aspects of my education. I learned how to speak, understand complex subjects, and deal with them. The presence of mind to understand life and the ideals fostered at OBU have had a lot to do with my success. I am grateful for the experience and the impact it has had on my life.

1995

Sheralyn Hope Hepner

10/10/2023

WHEN I DECIDED TO GO TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I WAS drawn to the friendly atmosphere and the Christian education. I was lucky to have a great support system, especially Dr. Jeske who was the department head. He was very knowledgeable and took the time to talk to me when I first arrived. My favorite memory from my time at OBU was the friends I made, many of whom I still keep in touch with today. My degree from OBU prepared me for life after college and I was able to apply what I learned to my career. My advice to a freshman starting out would be to not spend all their time studying, but to take time to visit with professors and friends because they will never get those moments back.

1979

Roland Curtis Gill, PhD

10/18/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY influential and encouraging. I developed strong friendships with both students and professors, such as Dr. James Timberlake who helped me make decisions about furthering my education. I was also able to do an internship with Immanuel Baptist Church of Shawnee and participate in intramurals. My studies with professors such as Dr. Strickland and Dr. Holcomb helped me to grow in my understanding of the Bible and how to apply it to my life. I was also able to be mentored by an OBU graduate at the church, which was a great growing experience. I would highly recommend OBU to anyone looking for a private Christian school. The small class sizes and teacher to student ratio make it a great place to get to know your professors and feel like you are part of a campus that cares.

1955

Rev. Glen E. Pence

12/01/2023

I ANSWERED THE CALL TO THE MINISTRY

while I was a senior in high school in 1951 and that same year I came to Oklahoma Baptist University to pursue a degree in religious education and speech. I graduated in 1955 and have been serving in the ministry ever since. This December I will celebrate my 19th anniversary as pastor of the First Christian Church in Seminole. During my time at OBU, I met my future wife Linda Hobbs and we've been married for 67 years. We have two children, Ron and Janine, who both excelled in basketball. Janine was offered a full ride academic and athletic scholarship to play basketball at OBU and she made All American and had a great career as a coach and referee. After graduating from OBU, I served many churches as pastor and interim pastor. I also taught at the Redford School of Theology at SOS Baptist College and served two terms as Missouri's representative to the Southern Baptist Convention. I have been truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve in the ministry for so many years and I'm grateful for the education I received at OBU.

1964

Ronald Dean Campbell

10/16/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF MY older brother, who was a 1957 graduate and later became a professor there. I had always known I wanted to go there. Before I started, I already knew I wanted to major in business management. I had a great professor and advisor, Richard Farley, who was the director of the chapel choir. I was in chapel choir for four semesters and got to sit right behind Dean Angell. I really appreciate Richard Farley for his support and guidance. I am thankful for the memories I have from my time at Oklahoma Baptist University.

2019

Emmily Yisel Infante Gonzalez

11/03/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE experience. I was offered a full ride to play soccer, and I didn't even know it was a religious school. After four years there, I felt like I was part of a family. Coach White was especially helpful in making sure everything worked out for me. When I first arrived on campus, I was nervous because I didn't speak any English. It was like being in an American movie. The soccer team and the international student office helped me to feel comfortable and acclimated. I learned how to communicate and interact with American people in a respectful way. After graduation, I was able to use the skills I learned at OBU to work with American people in my professional life. Whenever I talk to young athletes about college, I always tell them to watch Monsters Inc. University because it's the same as OBU.

2018

Adalberto X. “Albert” Monge

10/26/2023

I TRANSFERRED TO OBU IN JANUARY 2016 and ended up being randomly placed in a room with my now best friend. We were both football players, he was a running back and I was an outside linebacker. I had the opportunity to play football through high school and college. My favorite professor was Dr. Donnelly, who I valued for his willingness to invest in my life and have intentional conversations with me both in and out of the classroom. I was also the student athlete president, which helped me learn how to be a better leader and prepared me for life after college. I was voted by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and my tasks included organizing events and supporting other athletes. I was also on the conference championship baseball team. What I'm most grateful for from my experience at OBU is the people I met. My best friend and his family have become my family and I have a few other friends that I would do anything for.

1973

Robert Carl Hudson

10/11/2023

MY FRESHMAN YEAR OF COLLEGE, I ATTENDED

Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. My cousin, Anne, had gone there and convinced me to come. I was a seventh generation from Boone County, Arkansas, so it was a great eye-opening experience for me. I was the first in my family to go to college and graduate, and it was a big deal. I was able to meet and become friends with Dr. Hurley, a professor there, who had a huge impact on my life. I was able to stay in contact with him, and he became a lifelong personal friend. Living on campus was a great experience. I was a resident assistant, and I made lifelong friends. I was able to think for myself and make my own decisions, which was a great learning experience. I was also introduced to the importance of nature and the environment, and I now have a strong commitment to recycling. I also learned to appreciate people of all backgrounds and nationalities, and to not judge them based on their finances. My degree is in sociology, but my business is construction. I use my sociology knowledge every day to understand people's wishes and not put them on the spot. OBU taught me to think for myself, to find out information, and to listen to all sides. It opened my mind to new possibilities and gave me the opportunity to blossom.

1999

Cole Don Chlouber

10/17/2023



Climb every mountain in front of you, the views will never let you down.

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY

impactful. Former art professor Julie Blackstone was especially influential in my life, helping me to focus and excel academically. I also ran on the Bison cross country team, and we even went to nationals in Kenosha, Wisconsin. I was also a member of Zeta P Lambda, a fraternity that provided me with lifelong friendships and brotherhood. Participating in these activities and clubs gave me a sense of purpose and focus, and helped me to grow into who I am today. After graduation, my time at OBU taught me to keep going and to try new and bigger things. Although I won't be able to make it back for the upcoming homecoming, I'm looking forward to returning soon and attending Founder's Day in February.

1967**Rickey D. Foreman**

11/07/2023



MY TIME AT Oklahoma Baptist University was a memorable and impressionable experience. I sang in the Bison Glee Club and traveled with them for performances. I even still sing with the Heart of America Barbershop Chorus and New Harmony Handful. During my time at OBU, I was a voice major and my professor, Jim Brown, became a close friend.

I also became close friends with Shirley Jones, the dean of the English department, and Jim Shaw, who was in the accounting department. We all went sailing together and I cherish the memories of my time at OBU.

1990**Jill Colleen (Welty) Eastep**

11/06/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE experience. I made lifelong friendships and was able to take my faith and professional experience and weave them together. The environment was supportive and encouraging, and I felt safe being so far away from home. I had amazing professors, like Claudine Dickey and Lana Bolhouse, who were great role models and even invited us to their homes. I remember one time when a few of us were late getting back to class after having lunch with the dean, and she was more than happy to cover for us. OBU was a great place to grow and learn, and I'm so thankful for the memories I made there.

1968**Jane E. "Janie" (Green) Johnson**

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS VERY SPECIAL TO ME. MY FAMILY HAD A long history with the university, and my dad was even the chairman of the Board of Trustees. I had been there for junior choir festivals, so I was already familiar with the campus. OBU offered many great opportunities in the Elementary Music Department, and I ended up majoring in it and teaching it for 20 years. I was very lucky to have Dr. Montgomery as my professor. She was up to date on all of the new methods. Dr. Searcy in the Education Department was also very helpful. The small campus was very welcoming, and I was taken care of. Even though I'm not teaching anymore, I still sub and do children's music at church, so I'm still able to stay connected to the field.

1963

Ireta Faith (Gant) Ford

10/13/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS THE PERFECT SIZE FOR ME. I HAD

wanted to go to a large university, but my mother wanted me to go to a small college at home. A friend of mine had gone to OBU and she negotiated for me to go there and it was the right decision. The classes were small, usually around 30 people, and the professors were always available if I needed help. I never had the chance to go back and visit, but I have fond memories of working for one of my professors as her secretary. She had a reputation of being tough, but she was so nice to me and made me feel like I was part of her family. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU was the connection I made with my professor and feeling like I was part of a family.

1972

Shirly A. (Albright) Young

10/19/2023

I GRADUATED FROM WESTERN HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL IN 1968, AND

my dad had visions of me going to Oklahoma Baptist University. We were Southern Baptist, and it was a Baptist school, so it was a good fit for me. I lived on campus all four years and made some really good friends. I switched majors a few times, but eventually settled on education. I was a member of Athenian and the Bisonette Glee Club and had some great professors. I was also a voice major and a minor piano. My voice teacher was Jack Pearson. After graduating, I went straight to Western Heights High School where I taught for 32 years. My sister was a year ahead of me and also attended OBU. I still use my music in churches and I had a great experience at OBU.

1964

Carole M. (Macarty) Crawford, APRN

10/26/2023

I WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO ATTEND OBU

and I was very blessed to receive a four year scholarship from Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company. Growing up in the Baptist Church also helped me make the decision to attend OBU. I had some amazing professors, like Dr. Rowe Strickland and Dr. Corbett Rushing, who were very knowledgeable and personable. I was also involved in Alpha Lambda Delta and other activities while I was there. My experience at OBU gave me a great education foundation and I made some of my closest friends there. After graduating, I received my master of science in Psychiatric Nursing from the University of Colorado and taught at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Southern Colorado. I was also in private practice of psychotherapy for 50 years and was named the Outstanding Clinician for the Colorado Society of Psychiatric Nurses. My success was due in part to my strong religious and spiritual life, and I would encourage future students to stay focused and prioritize what is important. Looking back, I am grateful for the opportunity to attend OBU and the start it gave me in life.

2020**Bailay D. (Byrd) Bryant**

12/08/2023



Spring 2020 with Senior Art Show

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS LIFE-changing. When I arrived, my relationship with the Lord was not strong, but I met so many people who poured into me and discipled me. I had never been discipled before, so it was a completely new experience. I was involved in Mission One Eight, which was a group of OBU students who met at someone's house to read and discuss stories from the Bible. This helped me to see that ministry doesn't just happen in a church, but can happen every day. I was also a graphic design major, and my art professors stretched me in ways I had never thought possible. I still keep in contact with many of my OBU alumni, and my husband and I often visit our group in Oklahoma City. OBU has been an incredible blessing in my life.

2006**Mandy Lynn Stanek**

11/09/2023

I'M SO PROUD TO BE AN ALUM OF OKLAHOMA Baptist University! OBU was an incredibly important part of my story and who I am today. I had the opportunity to visit a few different schools while I was in graduate school, but OBU was always my home. I can't say enough good things about it - the people, the atmosphere, the education - it's all phenomenal. If you're debating where to go to school, I highly recommend OBU!

1968**Monty Chester Gavin**

10/18/2023

I HAD AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT OBU. I started at George Washington University, but transferred to OBU to be with my girlfriend, who became my wife. We were married for 54 years before she passed away. I lived on campus for the majority of my four years and was a part of the staff for two years. My sister never got to go to OBU, but my wife's sister, Jean Moon, went there ahead of us. My wife and her sister started the legacy of education for their family and both got their degrees. I had a great time at OBU and enjoyed being there. I was involved in clubs, organizations, Greek life, and work study programs. I am grateful for the experience I had at OBU and for the opportunity to give back to the community.

1979

Rev. Don Darrell Hargis

11/06/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

an incredible experience. I enjoyed it so much I crammed my four years into seven years! Of course, during that time I married and had two children. I also worked at Pizza Hut for four years and then at the Coca-Cola Bottling Company for two years. I became a part-time student after my first two years. My last class was pottery, which I chose because I needed a credit to graduate. My most memorable moment was my first day at OBU when I accompanied my older brother into the women's building, where I saw a beautiful young lady playing basketball with her boyfriend. Three years later, that young lady graduated from OBU and became my wife; we have now been married 48 years. I also enjoyed being part of the track team my first two years. My career, in great part a result of my education at OBU and great teachers like Dr. Rowena Strickland, allowed me to pastor for over 20 years and serve as director of men's ministries for California Southern Baptist Convention for 20 years. I was honored as one of the alumni of the year around 2010. I had several good friends at OBU. Among them was an outstanding pastor, Roger Spradlin, who recently passed away. He was at Valley Baptist in Bakersfield, California. My advice to those looking to attend OBU is to never give up and trust everything to the Father.

1995

Heather Lea (Campbell) Napp

10/16/2023



MY JOURNEY AT OBU

began in summer 1994 when I attended the Academy. I was able to stay in the dorms and take three classes, which gave me the opportunity to meet students from across the United States. I was able to experience the family-centered campus life and get to know current students. This experience impacted my decision

to attend OBU. During my time there, I was active in the Student Education Association and was the president my senior year. I also participated in student teaching in two different districts, which gave me a variety of perspectives on education. I was able to make lifelong friendships with teachers and students, and I was able to learn from my professors who had different sides of the education coin. I am still in contact with many of the people I met at OBU and I cherish the friendships and relationships I made while I was there.

1957

Jane (Ketchum) Ethridge

10/31/2023



MY TIME AT

Oklahoma Baptist University was a very rewarding experience. I worked for two years before attending OBU, and during my time there, I worked for a law firm downtown.

I made many friends at OBU, and I'm grateful for the friendships I still have today. I was able to keep up with some of them after graduation and even ended up at the same church as one of them. I also grew in a leadership capacity while I was there, as I was a floor hostess with responsibility for the freshman floor in the WMU dorm. I had to juggle classes, work, and corral freshmen in the evening. It was challenging, but it was rewarding at the same time. I'm glad I was able to experience a new sense of freedom, and I'm thankful for my time at Oklahoma Baptist University.

1964

Marolyn "Berniece" (McHenry) Irby

10/10/2023

I HAD AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT OBU. I WAS ACCEPTED INTO the music department with Dean Angell and was even part of the Littlest Angels Quartet. I was also president of Bisons my senior year and an officer in the Zeta Kai. I had a great roommate who I met at June Jamboree and we stayed together for four years. I encouraged my children to go to OBU and even had granddaughters who attended. I attended homecoming in 2018 and got to see my granddaughter lead the Yancy Band as drum major. I ran into my freshman English teacher, Dr. William Mitchell, in the student union and even bought one of his books. I also ran into Mary Catherine and had piano from her mother. I had a great reunion for our 50th and still keep in touch with some of my old friends. It was sad to hear about the tornado hitting and damaging Shawnee Hall and the chapel, but I'm glad they are beginning to repair things. It was an amazing experience and I'm glad to have been a part of it.

1959

Eve E. (Earnhardt) Roberts

10/23/2023

I CHOSE TO GO TO OBU BECAUSE I HAD MET DR. ANGELL AT A church workshop in North Carolina. He was an excellent musician and the director of the Bison Net Greek Glee Club and the Bison League Club. I was a member of the Bison League Club and traveled with them to perform in the 1950s. I also played flute in the band. I made some connections and friends. I went back for the 50th class reunion and it was fun seeing friends. I got to see some updates on the campus too. I had a good friend named Rayburn and I would love to know if he's still healthy and living.

1988

Lance Alan Stanley

10/11/2023

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was a dream come true for me. Growing up in a Baptist church, it was only 45 minutes away and I felt like God was calling me there. I was lucky enough to have a best friend, Trent, who also went with me. We were big OU Sooner fans, so Norman, where the campus is, wasn't far from us. It was nice to be around like-minded people and kids my age, rather than the same church group I'd grown up with. I felt like I was in a bubble where everyone wanted to be there because of their faith. I enjoyed the time there and it wasn't just about getting the degree, it was where I knew I was supposed to be for those four years. It worked out great and I was able to go into the professional field. My faith was confirmed and I was able to feed off the other Christians around me. I was able to worship and build relationships on campus. I look back on my time there fondly and I'm grateful for the friendships I made that have lasted for years. It makes me smile to think of what it was like growing up and knowing I was going to OBU and it turned out to be everything I thought it was.

1961

Dr. Carl Whitley Garrett

10/16/2023

DURING MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I AM MOST

grateful for the Christian atmosphere and the teachers who had an interest in me. I chose OBU because it was not a big college and I knew the atmosphere would be good. I enjoyed the teachers and I didn't have a teacher that I didn't have respect for. I felt like they had a goal of making a degree from OBU worthwhile. I also had a great time playing 42 in the student union with a group of us and I had a brother who was there part of the time. I also want to give a shout out to Peggy, who I became friends with. She was always helpful if I needed information or had questions. She was a great help to me during my time at OBU.

1971

Sharon C. Teague

12/08/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AMAZING. I

lived in the WMU dorms, Ker, and the Apartments on campus. I was in the band and the Bison Nets, which gave me the opportunity to travel to various churches. Being on campus and attending chapel services helped me grow spiritually and I was able to make many good Christian friends. I also had a minor in music and was involved in music in the church. The professors were wonderful and the courses were challenging, but they prepared me well for my career. My daughter also graduated from the school of nursing, so it's become a family legacy. OBU will always have a special place in my heart and I'm so thankful for the experiences I had there.

2015**Alyson L. Heath**

10/24/2023

WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, I WAS A FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE

graduate and I wanted to stay close to home, so I chose OBU. I got involved with the business club Enactus and even went to St. Louis, Missouri to present a project we had worked on with a non-profit in Shawnee. I also had foreign exchange students as roommates, which I really enjoyed. College was a time for me to get to know myself better and find my own faith. It was also a time for me to learn how to be accountable and responsible. Looking back, I think it made me the person I am today. I have more empathy for people going through hard times and I have the tenacity to keep moving forward and not give up. College was an important time for me, even if I didn't know what I was going to end up doing.

2013**Tayler Alyssa (Blount) Melton**

12/08/2023

I HAD AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. I made some great lifelong friends and even met my husband and brother-in-law and sister-in-law there. I worked in the student life office and learned a lot. I grew up in a small town in Oklahoma, so OBU was my first real-world experience. My advisor, Dr. Robbie Mullins, was very encouraging and helped me decide on a major. I haven't been back to campus since I graduated in 2013, but I still have family in Shawnee. My advice to someone considering OBU is to go in with an open mind, find good friends and faculty to guide you, and stay connected to the community and the real world.

2018**Greggory Dale Engle**

10/17/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OBU IN 1983 WITH A church music degree. I met my best friend Steve there and we've been friends ever since. I also met my wife there and we have two children who graduated from OBU. I was a member of Kappa Fi, a social club, and my wife was an Athenian. After I left OBU, I got married and started a family. Once my youngest son went to college, I decided to finish my degree and went back to school. I took classes at Southeastern and worked with the folks at OBU to get my bachelor's in family psychology. It was the same year my son graduated, so I walked right in front of him. My time at OBU was memorable for the friendships I made and the liberal arts education I received. I was exposed to different ways of thinking and was able to make my own decisions. I was also mentored by professors who took a personal interest in me. After graduation, I felt a sense of accomplishment and my kids were proud of me. I don't think my degree changed my career, but it made me feel more confident. I'm grateful for the experiences I had at OBU and the legacy I created for my family.

1956

Capt. Charles Eugene Leclair

10/16/2023



First American Indian commissioned an Army Chaplain; awarded Army Bronze Star for service in Vietnam

I MET CLARENCE WHEN I was in the Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. We went to the same church and became lifelong friends. At OBU, he was my roommate. Clarence did a lot of things. He went on to become a doctor and was the third doctor hired by NASA. He gave the astronauts their first physical before they went to the moon and lived with them in a trailer house on the

aircraft carrier for a few weeks after they came back. I'm grateful for the incredible experiences I had with Clarence at OBU. He was always up to something, and I never knew what he was going to do next. We stayed in contact after graduation and he even took me on a tour of the Space Center in Houston. I worked for the Space Center in Florida later on, and I worked for President Nixon. I'm grateful for the degree I got from OBU and the lifelong friendship I have with Clarence.

1976

Dr. Terence Michael Williams

11/22/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I GREW up in a Baptist church and my pastor and parents encouraged me to consider it. I'm glad I made the decision because I had the opportunity to meet Dr. James Hurley, who was my biology teacher and became a friend. We went camping and float trips down the Illinois River and even after I graduated, we stayed in touch. He was one of the wisest men I ever knew and had a huge impact on my life. I also played baseball and golf while I was there. My experience at OBU was invaluable and I wouldn't trade it for anything. It prepared me for my career after graduating by providing me with the classes I needed to pursue a career in the medical profession. I have been a family physician now for over 40 years and still continue to work. I enjoyed the small class numbers. I enjoyed math and took every math course OBU had to offer. Dr Wayne Rhea was and still is a friend. I remember playing tennis against Dr John Mills. I never could beat his left handed serve. I'm still connected to OBU through giving and the traveling bison. I'm looking forward to our trip to Italy next year. I haven't been back to any reunions yet, but I'm considering my 50th in a few years. My most valuable lesson from OBU was to not get ahead of God's will. Be patient. He has a perfect plan that we can't always see but we must have faith that He knows best. I couldn't understand his timing while I was there but looking back I can see exactly what He did to keep me on His path. I encourage young people I encounter to consider OBU.

1979**Billy Wayne Bejcek**

11/15/2023



Retired after 43 years of service to Jenks Public Schools

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. I

had two uncles who had attended the school, so I decided to apply and visit the athletic director about playing baseball. I was accepted and decided to go, even though I didn't receive a scholarship. I left all my old high school friends and went there. I chose to study mathematics because I could show all my work and I had a decent high school background in math. I was already a Christian from elementary school, so I was surprised to find that not everyone at OBU was like me. I had to find where I fit in, but eventually I made lots of friends with higher standards than me. After graduating, I worked as a helper in the maintenance department and took some computer classes. This helped me understand databases and other computer-related topics, which eventually led to my success in my career. I'm thankful for my time at OBU and the lifelong friendships I made there.

1956**Rev. John Irvin Nance**

10/12/2023

I CAME TO OBU MY SENIOR YEAR FOR

three reasons. First, my father had a stroke and was paralyzed, so I thought it best to stay away and let my mom take care of him. Second, I wanted to graduate from a Baptist university. Third, my brother Paul was the business manager at OBU and I didn't want to come as his kid brother. I faced a challenge when I arrived because my transcript was missing language credits, so I had to take Greek and French the whole year. Despite this, I was rewarded with meeting my wife at Noonday Prayer and we've been married for 67 years. We served in the Foreign Mission, International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and Sunday School Board. My area of expertise was working with university students and my wife's was teaching English as a second language. In 2006, OBU gave me a Profile of Excellence Award. We have two children, both of whom have earned doctorates and are ordained. I am also ordained. It's been a wonderful career and I'm proud that our family has been able to carry on the legacy.

1974

Johnny Boyd Cullison

10/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

was a memorable one. I was a non-traditional student, working full-time for Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company in Shawnee while also being a full-time parent. OBU was the only option I had since they supported tuition for employees. I was already familiar with the school since I worked at a service station on Kickapoo Street and dealt with many OBU staff and faculty. I started in night school working on my Bachelor in business administration and eventually became an employee at OBU, completing my degree in 14 years. The faculty members were very supportive and willing to work with me to make sure I could complete my degree without taking extra hours. I was never an on-campus student in the same sense as traditional students, as I was working in the physical plant operation and was very busy. Max Bratton was my advisor for many years and worked hard to help me get through the program. I didn't have what I considered a bad professor in the entire program. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU was the 32 years I worked there. I was the head of the physical plan department for 20 years and a supervisor within that department for my entire career. I was part of many changes, developments, and improvements on campus and my name is on several building plaques.

2005

Robert Karl Hargrove

11/02/2023



Hello OBU alumni; God bless each and every one of you.

ATTENDING

Oklahoma Baptist University was a memorable experience for my wife and I. We looked forward to Wednesdays because we had church, and we still love to hear the church bells to this day. We had some classes together which was really fun for us. I also played golf for OBU. We made a lot of friends in classes and in the common area.

We also had some great professors who made a difference in our education. Graduation day was overwhelming, and we celebrated afterwards with family. We visited the campus after the tornado and enjoyed the sports games. OBU has had a huge impact on my life and career. It has been a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone. OBU means family to me.

1991

Karyl Buchanan

10/11/2023

WHEN I MOVED INTO MY DORM AT WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY IN

August of 1987, I was the only one with a personal computer. My mom had packed it into our little 1978 Honda, and it turned heads when we arrived. Upperclassmen helped us unload and soon enough, word spread that I had a computer in my room. It was a big deal back then, and it made all the difference in terms of studying and writing papers. I didn't have to go to the computer lab to do all of that. I quickly met another girl who had a computer, and her roommate became my best friend. We were roommates for the next three years. I'm still in contact with many of the friends I made in the dorm that first semester, and it's been over 30 years now. It's a story I'll never forget.

1998

Thomas Eugene Brewer

12/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AMAZING. I

transferred from a state school and my first class was an internship class over the summer before I started on campus. I was able to build relationships with faculty and staff, and one professor in particular, Dr. Tom Wilkes, became a dear friend. We would grab lunch off campus and fellowship and he gave me guidance and direction that I still carry with me today. I was also involved in ministry on the state level while at OBU, which helped deepen the call that was placed on my life. It gave me the Biblical foundation to do what I'm doing today as a police chaplain and evangelist. If I had to give advice to someone considering OBU, I would tell them to live on campus at least one semester or one year to be able to have greater and deeper relationships with fellow students. That way, they can get the most out of their experience and build relationships that will last a lifetime.

1966

Connie Lou (Shearon) Otto

10/11/2023

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY holds a special place in my heart because it is where I met my wife, and we are still together after 56 years. The campus was filled with a sense of community and belonging, and I enjoyed participating in activities such as singing in the bison glee club and playing on the tennis team. My favorite professors were Jim Woodward and Juanita Proctor, who were both incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects. I also have fond memories of Dr. Hurley, the German professor who always made class fun. The overall atmosphere at OBU was one of excellence, and the professors were top-notch. After graduation, I went on to have a successful career in music, thanks in part to the education and mentorship I received at OBU. My daughter and granddaughter have also followed in my footsteps and are pursuing careers in music. OBU truly left a lasting impact on my life and continues to be a topic of conversation in our family.

1959

James Ronald “Ron” Cruse, PhD

10/19/2023

I STARTED OUT AS A MUSIC MAJOR AT OBU, but my training was limited. My main qualification was that I liked to sing, and I still do. I wasn't good about practicing, and one day my voice professor, Dr. Richard Lin asked me if I really wanted to do this. I decided to switch majors and chose psychology, intending to go to seminary. I got a minor in religious education and went to seminary for a year, but then switched to Texas Christian University and got my master's degree in psychology. I then taught psychology at the University of Tennessee, Martin and the University of Kentucky, where I got my doctoral degree. I did a residency in clinical at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and then came back to Oklahoma, where I've been for most of my career. I also participated in revivals all over Oklahoma, leading the music and making lifelong relationships. In one of those revivals I met a beautiful and talented pianist, Sandra, married her, and brought her to OBU. We've been married for 65 years now. OBU was a great experience for me and I'm thankful for the people who helped guide me along the way.

1982

Eunice “Diane” (Hayes) Jordan, CLA, MLS

10/26/2023



MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY special to me. Growing up with stories of my parents' time there, I knew it was the right place for me. I was able to get a quality education with a low teacher-student ratio, and I was able to take advantage of the scholarship program. I was also surrounded by a wonderful sisterhood of girls from all over the country, and I was able to form close relationships with my professors. My professor, Dr. Ray, even inspired me to name my daughter after his daughter. I was able to take part in fun activities like sledding down the Raley chapel steps on cafeteria trays, building a huge snowman at the top of the steps and Monopoly tournaments during long snowy weekends. My time at OBU

helped me to develop my writing skills, which I was able to use in my career path. My professors also helped me to broaden my understanding of the world and to see more than just the narrow confines of the classes I was taking. I am so grateful for my time at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1961

Ralph D. Cherry

10/18/2023

I HAVE A LONG FAMILY HISTORY WITH OBU, SO IT WAS ALMOST inevitable that I would end up there. It was a legacy for my family, and I was excited to become a part of it. I had a growing interest in the field I chose to major in, but I had no choice in high school since they didn't offer it. When I got to OBU, I was inspired by my professor, Dr. Of Ramus, and I felt very comfortable with it. I worked hard and earned good grades, and I made a lot of good friends that I kept in contact with for many years. The professors were inspiring and knowledgeable, and it was a very positive experience. After I graduated, I became a college professor of Spanish and French, and I went to Mexico to get my master's degree. I taught in various colleges in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas. My education at OBU was my foundation for success, and I was able to give countless advice to students over the years. My advice to students today is that OBU is like a family, and the professors really care about the success of their students. You're more than just a number in a chair.

1962

Donna Williams (Shiplet) Teague

10/17/2023

I WAS PRIVILEGED TO BE A PART OF THE BISONETTES AT OBU. WE ALL adored Dean Warren Angell and even named our first child after him. I was even asked to mend his socks for a concert he was attending. My husband was also a part of the Fallen Angells quartet with Dr. Angell. During my time at OBU, I gained independence and learned to make my own decisions. It was a great experience that I will always cherish.

1980

Neil Francis Brown

10/10/2023



I'M SO GRATEFUL for my time at Oklahoma Baptist University. I was living in Massachusetts when the area missionary suggested I consider OBU. I was looking at

other big schools, but Dean Woodward wrote me a personal letter expressing interest and gratitude for my interest. Everyone on campus was warm and friendly, and I knew it was the right place for me. I was accepted after an audition with Dr. Ron Lewis and I graduated high school a year early. I was a piano major and joined the Glee Club for three years, and I'm still in touch with many of the people I met there. The education I received in the music and religion departments was incredible. I played piano for the noon days for four years and made lifelong friends. I'm still in touch with them and we pray for each other through the ups and downs. I'm so thankful for my time at OBU and the memories I made there.

1968

Janet Gael (Brooks) Rohde

10/10/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE THAT I AM

still grateful for today. I was able to learn and grow in many ways, both academically and spiritually. I was able to take on leadership roles, such as being a counselor and head momma at WMU dorm, and an apartment supervisor across from Raley Chapel. I was also able to serve in churches abroad as an BSU Summer Missionary in Guyana South America during 1967. This experience had a tremendous impact on my life. I was also able to form meaningful relationships with my peers and professors, such as Dr. James Hurley, who saw potential in me and encouraged me to reach it. Graduation day was a time of searching for me, as I had been accepted to medical school but was unsure if that was the direction the Lord wanted me to go. Ultimately, I chose to attend seminary for a year, and that is when I got my direction straight. After graduation, I married my husband Paul, and we served in the pastorate for 12 years before going to the mission field for 30 years. We have been married for 54 years and are still actively involved in First Baptist Church in Newcastle I was also able to homeschool our children for high school on the mission field, and my education at OBU was very helpful in this. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU is the people and the friendships I made. I am grateful for the lessons I learned by living and working with others, and for the encouragement I received from my professors.

2007

Kyle Richard Van Syoc

10/09/2023



I TRANSFERRED TO

OBU from Texas Tech and I loved the smaller size of the school. Everyone knew each other and there was a strong sense of community. I really only missed the big time sports events that Texas Tech; everything else about OBU was a better and more rich experience. Because of the smaller size, I had closer contact I had

with my professors. I studied math, but I was still able to get a liberal arts education which gave me a good base of knowledge that prepared me n I chose a career outside of what I studied. I'm grateful for the experience I had at OBU and the relationships I was able to form.

2017**Levi J. Jennings**

11/20/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN AMAZING

experience. I was able to spend time with my friends and be around campus. I still keep in contact with the friendships I made there. I was involved in football all four years and played outside linebacker for three years and middle linebacker my last year. The most memorable game I played was the first one in 2013 when it was 117 degrees on the field. I had two coaches, Jensen and Melot, who were both influential in my life. I also had two professors, Dr. Turnage and Dr. Rudebock, who were very relatable and easy to get along with. My time at OBU helped me grow in my faith and prepared me to be an adult. It taught me to be independent and how to communicate in the workplace. I'm so thankful for the memories and experiences I had at Oklahoma Baptist University.

1958**Dr. Charlie M. “Mack” Roark**

10/26/2023

MY DAD GRADUATED FROM OBU IN 1940. THIS ENCOURAGED ME TO GO TO

OBU, and I had already been to the campus before. I lived on campus for the first three years and then moved off campus my fourth year when I was married. I did not meet my wife at OBU, but the faculty and professors helped me to think more critically and evaluate what I read. They also helped me choose my degree path. I made many good friends at OBU who I am still in contact with today. I was not involved in any sports or clubs, but I had to work all the way through college. After graduating, I went to seminary and became a pastor. Later, I was asked to take a job as vice president for religious life at OBU and I accepted. I left the administrative position and went to straight faculty in 1996. My wife started at OBU when we married and did some freshman classes, but left before finishing. When I came back to work at OBU, she enrolled again and finished her degree summa cum laude. I hope I was helpful in her completing her degree, but she was not in any of my classes.

1976**Rhonda Marie
“Rah Rah” Rich**

02/13/2024

I LOVED MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. It was the happiest time of my life. I made lifelong friends, had a great boyfriend, and enjoyed going to classes and seeing everyone. When I got into my education courses, I was able to pursue my dream career. One of the most fun memories was driving around the oval with a group of friends. I also loved going home on weekends with my friends and getting to know their hometowns. The education was great, but the camaraderie and lifelong connections I made were even better. I still keep in touch with my roommate and many other friends from OBU. I was in a sorority, and we had a blast together. I also had amazing professors, who helped me along the way, especially in my education courses. The biggest thing for me was the sense of community and friendship at OBU. It was a great time in my life. My experience at OBU was invaluable, and I will always cherish the memories and friendships I made there.

1974

Douglas G. Mogan

10/12/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND IT CHANGED my life completely. I had no connections when I arrived, but I was lucky enough to be assigned a potluck roommate who became a dear friend and is still to this day. Through the music program, I met my wife and we have been married for almost 50 years. My ministry flourished because of my educational experience at OBU and I still have connections with my old classmates in the area. While I was on campus, I was part of the Tune Clippers, a musical group, and the Alpha U band. I also attended bible studies and served at the First Baptist Church in Stroud. My Christian growth was accelerated and I received a theological education along with my music degree. My son is also an OBU graduate and still lives in Texas.

1986

Paula S. Koontz

10/11/2023

THIRTY YEARS AFTER GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL, I DECIDED TO go back to school and enrolled in one class at OBU. My professor called me a pioneer and before I knew it, I was taking two classes and then two more. It took me eight years to complete my degree, but I loved every minute of it. I met so many nice people, kids and instructors, and it was all good. I didn't join any organizations on campus, but I did a lot of volunteer work in the city of Shawnee. After graduating, I went back to the school for a couple of galas and the library for a thing or two. I could not have gone to a better school anywhere and I'm so glad I achieved my goal of getting my degree.

1955

Rev. Paul Andrew Maxey

10/17/2023



Visiting mission hospitals in 17 countries in Africa and 7 around the Gulf called for casual attire.

DURING MY TIME at OBU, I was able to gain a lot of valuable experience. As a member of the Bison Glee Club under Dr. Warren Angell. Because he had laryngitis for the performance the Baptist General Convention in November 1954, I was asked to narrate between the songs, which then I did for a year and a half. I was also a member

of the Ministerial Alliance, the Life Service, and Sigma Tau Delta. Ernestine Leverett was an associate professor of English and Latin, and while she earned her education degree from Oklahoma State University, I served as her grader and teacher's assistant. Through all of these experiences, I was able to improve my people skills and gain valuable skills that I would use later in my career as a minister.

1998**Dr. Heath Aaron Thomas**

10/17/2023

**MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

was filled with amazing memories and relationships that I will cherish for the rest of my life. One of the most memorable experiences was a camping trip with a group of students from all over the nation. We went kayaking down a river and the friendships I made that first year at OBU have been lifelong. My educational journey was also incredibly rewarding. All of my

professors invested in my life and that made all the difference in my career. My greatest accomplishment at OBU was receiving the philosophy award, even though I was an English major. I had a great relationship with a professor and I tutored students, which was a huge surprise. My toughest challenge was my junior year when I had to write 40 papers. I was exhausted, but I had the support of faculty and students, which helped me get through it. My senior year was a blast. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the OBU family and to share my experiences with others.

1946**Corine (Cullins) Music**

10/11/2023

I WAS A MISSION VOLUNTEER AND HAD TO GO TO A

state school my first year due to the expense for my parents. I finished my freshman year and transferred to OBU to study Bible and Christian education. I got involved in the Ian Social Club and became the president. I was also a member of the life service band and served in that organization doing bible studies for children at the churches around Shawnee. When the director of Missions for Foreign Missions came to the campus, he asked us some questions and one was, do you have any health problems? I had a real problem with a kidney infection that we couldn't get rid of and he said, I would never be appointed a foreign missionary. A former pastor who was a chaplain in Air Force encouraged me to stay in school and I decided to go to seminary. My roommate, Kay Wilson, left and went to Baylor. We promised each other we would come back to OBU the next year and do our studies and finish our degree together and live together. I met my husband while I was a student there, and we both came back to OBU and finished in 1940. I taught in Phoenix, Arizona, the second and third grades and did some teaching in Salt Lake City. I applied for a job at the University of Utah and started as a clerk typist. I was in charge of the entrance exams, the graduate school admission tests, and the day testing room. I was in charge of all the testing for the University of Utah and that's what a psychometrist does. I had a wonderful experience at OBU and God has been so good to me.

1984

Martin Cameron Taylor

10/19/2023



MY TIME AT OBU WAS AMAZING. I MADE LIFELONG FRIENDS AND had a lot of support from faculty, staff, and administration. I was even given extra time to make sure I was successful in my degree. One of the most memorable experiences was when Dr. Woodward's wife knocked on my door to wake me up for class. She also encouraged me to apply for a scholarship and audition. She and her husband were part of my family's life even before I went to OBU. I'm so thankful for the friendships, camaraderie, and support I received during my time there.

1990

Paul Dean Vanwyk

10/13/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was life-changing. After being diagnosed with arthritis at the age of 30, my pastor suggested I go back to school. OBU offered me student housing, a job for my wife and myself, and the opportunity to pursue a degree. We left everything behind and moved to Oklahoma in two weeks. I worked full-time and went to school full-time, graduating in four years. I was the first in my family to graduate with a college degree. The professors and instructors were incredibly supportive and encouraging, even when I had to take time off for a family emergency. I was also inspired by the diversity of the student body and the way we all learned to live and work together. My education opened doors for me, even to the point where I was able to instruct a professor at the University of Washington on a subject they didn't even know about. My daughters also benefited from my experience at OBU, with one becoming a missionary and the other a teacher. OBU provided us with a new beginning and I am forever grateful for the impact it has had on my life and the lives of my family.

1980**Patricia Ann
“Pat” Thornton**

10/23/2023

I GREW UP IN NORTH BOSTON, Massachusetts and my mom had taught at OBU in the 1950s. When I started looking for a nursing school, I wanted to go to a Christian school and I found OBU. I fell in love with the place during the senior visit day and my dad said I was staying. I got involved with the College of Nursing and the Baptist Student Union. I worked in the dish room and ran audio visual stuff for the drama group. I also helped with the J-term drama stuff and did banquets. I went to the mission center on Friday nights and was involved with chapels on Wednesdays. I went to Juanita Proctor's house for Thanksgiving and worked at a Christian camp in Maine in the summertime. I was also involved with mission trips and recruited people to come to Maine. I ended up doing clinicals on the eighth floor and was the night shift charge nurse for two years. OBU had prepared me and I was very confident. I eventually went back to Boston and worked before going to graduate school.

2017**Kaleb Dawson Mears**

10/09/2023

WHEN I LOOK BACK AT MY TIME AT OBU, I'M THANKFUL FOR THE IMPACT IT HAD on my life. I was there for ten years and during that time I formed meaningful friendships with my boss, Holly, and a group of guys who became my best friends. Holly was intentional about pushing me to grow spiritually and as a person. We've stayed close and now work in the same field. I've matured a lot and my worldview has changed for the better. I'm more understanding and caring of different cultures and ethnicities. I had my eyes set on a state school before, but my pastor pushed me to look at OBU and I fell in love. If someone is looking to go to OBU, I'd advise them to be open-minded and explore all their options. It's an investment in their life, and they should think holistically about what they want for their education and how they want to grow as a person.

2002**Dr. Jerry Parkison Joule**

10/16/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE. ON MOVE-IN DAY, I MET the girl who I would later marry. On graduation day, I was waiting in line and the head of the Telecommunications Program, Dr. Hadley, called me over and congratulated me with a gift. I had a sinking feeling that he was going to tell me I didn't pass his class, but it all worked out. I had some great professors, like Dr. Tony Litherland, who I changed my minor for just to take his class every semester. The best part of OBU was the relationships I made. I made lifelong friends who shared the same values and worldviews. My son even fell in love with OBU when he visited for Bison Day because he felt like people there understood him in a way that no one at high school did. I was also a member of Sigma Beta Mu, a social club for Christian guys. It was a great place to live a Christian life and it even helped me get my first job out of college. OBU was very influential in my life and I'm very thankful for the relationships I made and the growth I experienced while I was there.

1967

Netta “Jane” (Lusby) Howell

10/23/2023

I WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO GO TO college, so it was both exciting and terrifying when I first stepped foot on campus. I knew that I had to keep my grades up in order to keep my full tuition scholarship, so I was determined to make the most of my education. During my time at OBU, I grew and changed as a person, gaining a wider understanding of what I was pursuing. After college, I worked several small jobs before taking care of my grandmother and then going back to work. In 2000, I was part of a group that formed an LLC, and in 2007, my partner and I purchased the shares of the company. Looking back at my time at OBU, I'm grateful for the educational opportunities and the fellowship I experienced. I was very shy when I first arrived, but the enforced fellowship in the dining area helped me to get to know people I didn't have much in common with. I'm also grateful for the chance to make a trail for future generations in my family.

2022

Bailee Jo Brown

10/11/2023



MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY

transformative. I initially wanted to go there because of the Christian influence on nursing, but after visiting, my parents saw how the university invests in its students and wanted my sister and I to have the same experience. I am now more on fire for the Lord and a better-rounded human than my other loved ones who went to other universities. On a scale from one to ten, I would rate the education I received at OBU a ten out of ten. I had amazing professors and advisors, like Dr. Turner, who taught me not only in the classroom, but also in Go Trip training. I also founded the Pro-Life Club, which was sparked by a movie we watched on Easter. Participating in clubs and organizations, like Mission Exchange, taught me how to juggle multiple tasks and the value of community. My favorite part of OBU was the lifelong friendships I made and the late nights in the GC doing homework, laughing, and having deep theological discussions.

2022

Nathan Dean Coats

10/11/2023



I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO graduate from OBU, so when I had the opportunity to transfer in for my senior year, I was thrilled. During my time at OBU, I was part of the Hobbs School of Theology and developed some great friendships with the staff that we have maintained after graduation. Though I was a ministry major, one of the most meaningful courses I took at OBU was the Western Civ literature class with Dr. Myers. I took this class in one of the most difficult seasons of my life, but the Lord provided spiritual rest and

recovery for me as we studied through the great works of literature. I came to see them not only as practically useful, but as absolutely beautiful. I am now pursuing a Master of Divinity in Biblical Counseling at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I currently serve as the Minister of Missions and Evangelism and College and Career at Southern Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. I am forever grateful for the time I spent, the relationships I built, and the education I received at Oklahoma Baptist University.

2001

Edythe Rose Gatlin

11/29/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was a life-changing experience. I was a shy and quiet person when I first arrived, but I quickly came out of my shell and built relationships that have lasted for over 20 years. Graduation day was a bit chaotic, as it was also my sister's prom day, but it was a chance for my parents to meet the professors I had been talking about and for me to show them around campus. I loved attending the basketball games, especially when we played SNU, and I remember wearing all of our OBU gear and painting our faces. I also enjoyed going to the GC and meeting friends, and doing the CIV readings with my classmates. My time at OBU helped me become more outgoing and sure of myself. I even tried out for the big fall show, which I had never done before. I got a job working in the computer lab and I loved seeing everyone. I also got to learn more about the Bible and myself. Life after graduation has been great. I still talk to many of my friends and professors from OBU, and we attend alumni events together. I'm so grateful for the relationships I built while I was there and the chance to grow as a person.

2016

Laurel Elizabeth Page

10/10/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY meaningful. I built a strong community with both my fellow students and the faculty. The faculty truly cared about me as an individual, not just academically, but emotionally, physically, and spiritually. They helped me transition into college and prepared me for whatever career or graduate study I chose to pursue. My graduate studies in music therapy were made easier because of the challenge and excellence I experienced at OBU. I also formed lifelong relationships with the people I met there. I still keep in touch with my closest friends and their families, and I have a strong connection with the faculty I encountered. Two faculty members I remember by name are Dr. James Vernon and Dr. Mary Chung.

2008

Hanna Christine (Howard) Hutchinson

11/09/2023

I'M SO THANKFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. IT WAS the perfect place for me to start my adult life. I had the opportunity to major in English and minor in creative writing, which was a brand new program at the time. I was also able to experience a smaller community, which was a great change from my high school. I made some of my best friends there and we had a lot of fun together. We did a lot of silly things, like staying up all night studying for a test, and we even took trips on the weekends and during breaks. I'm still in touch with a handful of friends from OBU, and two of them remain my very best friends. We even have kids the same age who go to school together. I'm thankful for the education I received at OBU. The faculty believed in me and invested in me, and I received the encouragement I needed to pursue my writing career. I don't think I would have had the same staying power without that foundation of faith and belief in me. I'm so grateful for my time at OBU and the memories I made there.

2001

Nancy Ruth Bailey

10/19/2023

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY holds a special place in my heart as it has been a part of my family for generations. Despite initially not wanting to attend due to family ties, I ended up being led there by God and I am grateful for it. The school has left a lasting impression on me, not just through my own experiences, but through the stories of my family members who also attended. From my grandfather who played in the band and went on to become a southern Baptist preacher, to my mother who was in the Glee club and later became a music teacher, to my sister who majored in languages and went on to teach them, OBU has played a significant role in shaping our lives. Personally, I started as a music major but ended up majoring in ministry. The professors in the ministry school were incredibly supportive and their belief in me has meant a lot. Even after graduation, I was touched to find out that my retired professor was still keeping an eye on me and supervising my master's degree. OBU is more than just a university to me, it is a family.

1948**Carla L. (Freeny) Brown**

10/16/2023

MY TIME AT OBU HAD A HUGE IMPACT ON MY LIFE AFTER

graduation. I learned how to learn and that has been a lifelong skill. I had an English teacher who set the criteria for me that I carried with me to every university I attended. I lived with the Creeks who were my house parents and I fell in love with the town. I reconnected with Dr. John Brown, who graduated from OBU in 1949, and I knew many other people who taught there. I even had two sons who graduated from OBU and one is a former missionary to Southeast Asia. OBU has been a big part of my life and I'm grateful for the experiences I had there.

1983**Susan J. Moore**

11/16/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY

special. It was convenient for me because I had family in Oklahoma, and it was also where my family's legacy began. I was able to find exactly what I was looking for in terms of my major, and I lived on campus for two years while playing softball. However, I did end up leaving after my second year because of some issues with the coaching staff and lack of scholarship money. I eventually came back to Oklahoma and even went to graduate school at OSU. Now, I'm retired and living in Texas, but I still have a strong connection to OBU and the Shawnee area. My parents actually met at OBU, and I have relatives all over Oklahoma. Going to OBU really helped me grow as a person, both in my faith and in my social skills. I joined a social club and made some amazing friends who I still keep in touch with today. Overall, my time at OBU was a wonderful experience that I will always cherish.

1969**John William Adkison**

10/12/2023

MY FRESHMAN YEAR AT OBU IN 1965 WAS

one of the most exciting times of my life. I had a great roommate, Ernie, from Mexico City, and we took a trip there with his sister, Liva, and a Spanish teacher, Don Jones. We also went to Acapulco and it was a wonderful experience. In 1999, I was the Profiles of Excellence Award winner at OBU. During my time on campus, I lived in the Brotherhood Dorm and was a student. I minored in math and took calculus, and I was the one who noticed the little details. As I was getting closer to graduating, I joined the Air Force with my friend Randy. We drove to Oklahoma City and I was stuck there for two hours with no money. Randy's girlfriend's mother came to pick us up. In July, we graduated and drove to Lackland Air Force Base and went to Officer Training School. I was a B-52 navigator in the Vietnam War. Looking back at my time at OBU, I grew and changed as a person from freshman to senior. I went to chapel every day and learned to focus more on my studies. I also had a half scholarship because of my ACT scores. My first year I was more interested in dating than studying, but I managed to bring my grades up and graduated with a 3.45 GPA.

2006

Franklin Ray Atchley

10/26/2023



Me with my wife, Lynette, and sons, Clancy, with me, and Grady, with Lynette

GROWING UP IN SHAWNEE, I ALWAYS EXPECTED TO ATTEND OBU SINCE my parents met there and I went to the church across the street. I was lucky enough to go to college with lifelong friends Clint and Jeff. My parents are Michael and Donna Atchley, and Donna's maiden name is Surrell. I was in band in high school and that's where I met my wife. I stayed on campus for all four years of college and had a variety of roommates. I was originally undecided on what to study, but eventually chose the family psychology with a minor in communication theory. I had a few professors who were especially helpful, including Dr. Dowdy, Dr. Roark, and Dr. Simmons. Glee Club was one of the most memorable experiences I had at OBU.

1980

Stephanie Dawn (Boothe) Miller

10/16/2023

I HAD A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE AT

Oklahoma Baptist University. I was drawn to the school because of my background in the Southern Baptist Church and my parents being missionaries. I initially enrolled as a music student, but eventually switched to journalism and then to a Bachelor's of Business Administration. My time at OBU was filled with great memories, from traditional celebrations to meeting my husband there. After graduation, I worked at the admissions office and then as a bailiff for a judge. My husband and I eventually moved to Oklahoma City, where he worked in real estate appraisal and I worked in various industries, including the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. I officially retired in 2012 and now have my own business at home, creating textiles and other crafts. I have stayed in touch with many friends from OBU, including Bill and Jane, who were responsible for bringing my husband to the school. I highly recommend OBU for its top-notch academics and Christian atmosphere, and I am proud of the university and its current leadership. I encourage anyone considering attending OBU to visit and see for themselves the great opportunities it offers.

1963

Phyllis J. (Parker) Kirkpatrick, Mrs.

11/15/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. I was a first generation college student and it was an exhilarating experience to walk on campus for the first time. I was active in one of the social clubs and I made many good friends that I'm still in touch with today. I also sang in the chapel choir every Tuesday and Thursday morning, which I really enjoyed. I learned a lot about teaching and working with children while I was there, and I'm grateful for the knowledge and experience I gained. OBU was a great place to grow and learn, and I'm thankful for the memories I made there.

1983

Sara L. (McGee) Burke

11/04/2023

ATTENDING OBU WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL

experiences of my life. Every Wednesday, I looked forward to chapel time, where I could worship and listen to sermons with my peers. Being surrounded by other believers, attending Bible studies, and participating in Vesper's times helped me to grow my faith and gain a better understanding of scripture. The music department was also a huge part of my experience at OBU. I was able to learn and grow as a singer, and I felt accepted as an artist. I was able to work on recitals and advance my musical skills. After graduation, I went on to get my master's degree in Texas. I want to give other younger people the same opportunities I was given while at OBU.

1975

Donald Lee "Don" Clothier

10/24/2023



I'M PROUD TO BE AN OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University graduate because of the people I met there. Dan Hodges, Rhetta Mayfield Reynolds, Jim Brown, Dean Jim and Betty Woodward, and Dean Angell were all inspiring educators and musicians. I had the opportunity to play the piano for Dan Hodges and Rhetta Reynolds studios, and I was also involved in the productions of 'Hello Dolly!' and 'Fiddler on the Roof' with Jim Brown. Dean Woodward was a standout professor and I had the privilege of taking several classes with him. I also had the chance to meet Jim Brown early on when he came to my church to produce a kid's musical. I'm grateful for the relationships I built with these educators and the impact they had on my life.

1958

Naomi Marie (Foster) Nakamura

11/14/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF attending Oklahoma Baptist University and it was an amazing experience. The atmosphere was so friendly and everyone was so welcoming. I remember the Bible teacher and the chapel services were always so inspiring. The music was outstanding, especially when the Bison Glee Club sang. I remember hearing 'Messiah' for the first time and it was a bit over my head, but I later realized what a magnificent piece of music it was. My daughter even ended up being in the ladies choir. I lived in Shawnee Hall and had some great friends. We had a lot of fun together and even when I didn't get any mail, all the girls in the dorm wrote to me and filled my mailbox the next day. It was a great reminder of the close-knit community at OBU. I'm so thankful for the values and atmosphere I experienced there and I hope it continues for future generations.

1979

Lorinda P. Culpepper

10/11/2023

I NEVER EXPECTED TO END UP AT OBU, BUT I'M SO GLAD I DID. AFTER graduating high school, I had the opportunity to babysit for a pastor and his wife who had gone to OBU in the 1950s. After talking to them about the school, I decided to take a chance and go there. On my first day, I was nervous and scared, but I was welcomed by the pastor's friend and his wife who picked me up from the airport and took me to the dorms. I was a first generation college student and it was a big change for me. I was shy and quiet, but college helped me to come out of my shell. I even ended up teaching after college. I was so proud when my son, who had been interested in Japan since first grade, decided to move there. He is now living his dream and I'm so proud of him. I'm also proud of the fact that he learned his people skills from me. I'm now more confident and I'm not afraid to talk to people, even in the grocery store line.

1988

Jolynn (Evenson) Nieto

10/16/2023

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR me. I was an MK coming from overseas and I had heard about OBU from some friends, so I decided to apply. I made many friends and enjoyed the camaraderie with other students and professors. I was part of the Cousins group, which was made up of MKs and other international students. Being at OBU helped me to grow in my worldview and become a more responsible young adult. I remember sitting in class with Dr. Crouch and having the opportunity to discuss my views on various topics. I also enjoyed the many traditions at OBU, like Follies and Chapel, even though we had to mark our attendance. I also remember the fun times with my friends, like going to the Geiger Center, staying up late and being outside on campus, and sliding down the steps when it snowed. All of these experiences made my time at OBU a memorable one.

1975

Beckie Lorenda (Deatherage) Faulkenberry

10/16/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A LIFE-CHANGING

experience. I worked in the information office there as part of my work study, and my classes were in the basement of Shawnee Hall. My boss, John Parrish, was a very stoic and nice man, and I soon realized how high the bar was set for academics. I had to focus on studying and didn't have time for anything else. After graduating, I got married and moved to Texas to work at Texas Instruments. I experienced a lot of tragedy there, including the loss of a baby on my 25th birthday and the death of my husband in a car accident. I returned to Oklahoma and John Parrish kept in touch with me, sending cards and even attending my retirement. His kindness and support meant a lot to me. I eventually got a job at a newspaper when I was almost 50 years old, and the editor was an OBU graduate who recognized the quality of my education. At OBU, I learned that it was a safe place to learn. I was taught the truth from both sides and was able to understand the world I was entering. I was also the first in my family to graduate from college, which was an amazing accomplishment. Looking back, I am grateful for the growth and change I experienced while at OBU.

2011

Clay Alan Phillips

10/18/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS LIFE-CHANGING. I HAD THE opportunity to be a part of the extracurricular activities, such as being an MC for Spring Affair, being a part of Ministerial Alliance, Omega Chi Delta, and the track team. I was also disciplined by Dr. Scott Pace, Dr. Bobby Kelly, Dr. McWilliams, Dr. Anderson, and Dr. Reeder. I was able to make lifelong friends and have a great community with my fellow students. OBU prepared me for success in the classroom and in life. I was challenged and gained a diverse background. I am so grateful for my time there and the impact it had on my life.

1982

John Dale Skaggs

10/09/2023

I WENT TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FROM 1976 TO 1980. My father was a Southern Baptist minister, so it made sense for me to go there. We were living in Texas at the time, so I couldn't afford out-of-state tuition at OU, but OBU was an amazing experience. I met some great people through student life and the Emmanuel Baptist Church, and I was recently able to reconnect with two dear friends after 40 years. It was like we had never stopped talking. At OBU, I was always at the basketball games, and I remember that the new gym was state of the art at the time. I also remember the traditions like hanging on the green around Christmas time and the freshman orientation where we wore beanies. It was a fun way for upperclassmen to get to know us and make us feel welcome. OBU was a great experience, and I'm glad I was able to reconnect with old friends.

1990

Melanie Ann (Todd) Boyd

11/09/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

invaluable. I made lifelong friendships with people from all different backgrounds, and the education department was amazing. I felt very prepared for the real world and being a classroom teacher thanks to the mentorship of professors like Dr. Russell and Dr. Taylor. I'm still in touch with three of the girls I graduated with in 1990 and we're having a girls weekend in Oklahoma this weekend! I can't speak highly enough about my time at OBU - it was a great experience.

1991

Timothy Ross Taylor

10/13/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS GREAT. I LOVED THE SMALL

class sizes, which allowed for more connection with teachers and professors. Being a Christian-based school, there were lots of opportunities for student life activities such as intramural sports. I'm still in touch with some of my friends from OBU, some through Facebook and some through phone calls. My advice to someone who wanted to attend OBU would be to expect a quality education, where professors and teachers know you by name. There are also great opportunities to get involved with churches and other community services.

1965

Martha L. (Cox) Scales

10/10/2023



80 years old, but still perking along!

my classes, especially psychology, and had a professor that I really enjoyed! I was exposed to people from different countries and cultures, which was exciting for me as a small town girl. I was proud of myself for moving away from home and getting good grades. My advice to someone considering OBU is to visit the campus, explore, and meet people.

I WANTED TO HONOR MY

mother's family, so I changed my name from Cox to Scales but it was Cox when I was at OBU. I had a major in sociology and a minor in psychology and was inspired by my mother, who was a social worker. I lived in the dorm and had two different roommates, my first roommate was from out of state and unhappy being away from her family and friends. My second roommate was from Oklahoma, and we stayed in touch with for quite a while. I enjoyed

2004**Sara Marie Laverty**

10/17/2023

I WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO attend OBU and I felt like the Lord was really opening up all the doors for me. I enjoyed my classes and professors, especially New Testament with Dr. Kelly and Art and Communication with my senior year professor. I appreciated that the professors took the time to learn our names and were always available to help us. I was also involved with the people I lived with, bop around the dorms and creating a community. During my time at OBU, my faith became my own and I grew a lot in maturity and understanding the world. Since graduating, I have been able to travel for work and speak, and I have been an HR consultant for almost 20 years. I have also taken on some leadership roles in my community. My advice to future students would be to take the four years at OBU and embrace new opportunities, enjoy the freedom that college brings, and lean into the Lord. Looking back, I am still friends with people I met my freshman year and I remember how beautiful the campus was during the fall semester.

1988**Robyn Toni (Humphries) Wilburn**

11/01/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET. During my junior year, a tornado blew through campus and our president, Dr. Agee, stopped to make sure we were all safe. I was a shy, introverted student, but I grew and changed a lot during my time there. I was involved in a social club and I was an RA my sophomore year. On graduation day, my family was there and I was proud to have graduated from such a difficult university. My time at OBU helped me to grow in my faith and develop outgoing personalities. I went on the very first mission trip to China and fell in love with the Chinese people. OBU prepared me for life after graduation and gave me the confidence to face anything that came my way. What made my time at OBU so memorable was the close-knit atmosphere. Even 30 years later, I can spot an OBU alumni shirt and immediately start talking. Once a Bison, always a Bison!

2021**Caleb Jonathan Brown**

10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE. I chose OBU because of the great scholarship they offered me and the professors I had the chance to meet at their Be a Bison day. I was also drawn to their international programs, which allowed me to go to Japan. During my time at OBU, I made many connections with people both internationally and on campus. I also learned how to manage a workflow and balance my social life, work, and sleep. Graduation was an emotional experience, as I was the first in my family to graduate college. I am thankful for the professors, particularly Holly Eastham, who helped me get through it. My advice to incoming Bisons is to chase your dreams and never give up. There will be moments of discouragement, but if you have a desire to do something, that is the revelation. You have to have a vision of where you want to be and take action to get there.

1979

Dr. Kathren Ann (Perry) Stehno

11/04/2023



MY DAD WAS A SOUTHERN Baptist minister and only had a ninth grade education, but he was determined to make sure my sister and I had the opportunity to go to college. He took us to OBU and told us that's where we were going to go. I was 17 when I started college and I had a lot of growing up to do. I almost flunked out my first semester, but God kept me there. I felt a call to missions and education and I followed it. I taught in Missouri and Texas and then moved back to Oklahoma and worked in several capacities as a teacher, special education director, and principal. I then

'The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.' -Psalm 147:11

worked for the state agency OEQA and retired a second time before being called to Southwestern Christian University. I'm so thankful for my dad's determination and for God's guidance throughout my journey. I'm proud of the impact I've had on my family, with my sister becoming a nurse practitioner and her daughter a pediatrician. Education has truly been life-changing for me.

2002

Brian James Booker, MBA

10/27/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT SCHOOL. MY

professors cared about me as a person, not just their subject, and I made lifelong friendships. I stayed on campus for my first degree and was involved in two organizations: Templeton Investment Society and Business Student Advisory Council. I was studying business and was proud to be part of these societies. My professors and classes were great and I had a good experience overall.

1991

Laurie Elise (Orrick) Herold

11/04/2023

I WAS IN A TOUGH SPOT DURING FINALS WEEK AT

Oklahoma Baptist University. My parents were going through a divorce and I had no money. I was desperate and decided to go fishing in one of the stock ponds behind the President's house. Miraculously, I was able to catch enough fish to get by. I was amazed at how God provided for me in such a silly way. I still like to go fishing, but I've never been as successful as I was that week. It's been over 50 years since then, but I still remember it like it was yesterday.

1977

Kenny L. Lamb

11/21/2023

I'M SO PROUD TO BE AN OBU BISON! I HAD THE privilege of attending Oklahoma Baptist University for my undergraduate degree and I'm so thankful for the quality education I received there. I also had a great time with the social life and campus life. I made some lifelong friends and still keep in touch with them. I even have a group text with 15 of us who attended OBU during that time. I'm also proud to say that my youngest son followed in my footsteps and graduated from OBU in 2010. I look back on my time at OBU with such fond memories and wouldn't change a thing.

1977

Dr. Randy Carl Lind

10/14/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE that I will never forget. I was able to build relationships with friends and mentors that have lasted a lifetime. I was also able to participate in the Bison Glee Club, which shaped how I still run music events today. I also took up ice skating, which I still know how to do! OBU equipped me for everything I do today in worship and music, and I am grateful for the foundation it created for me to pursue my passion. Most of all, I am grateful for the relationships I built there, as they are the most important thing in life and will last through any career changes.

1998

Ruby Lois Redfield

10/14/2023



Ruby Redfield, RN, BSN, PHN; South Potawatomi County Coordinated School Health Team, 2014 to 2020

I AM A NON-TRADITIONAL student who had to work full-time while attending college. I was determined to finish my degree, so I worked with the school to make accommodations for me. The dean was very accommodating and changed class times so I could attend. I was even asked to be a guinea pig for the school's master's program, but I had to decline due to my children being teenagers. I was even asked to argue against something I believed in for a critical thinking class. I was held to a higher standard and

was asked to redo a paper. I was finally able to graduate with my class, but I didn't receive my diploma until the following year due to a missing English class. It was a long and difficult journey, but I was determined to finish and I am proud to have achieved my dream of graduating from my grandpa's alma mater.

1994

Alan Dale Danielson, Jr.

10/17/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University because I wanted to study ministry, and it was the closest school to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I grew up. Although no one in my family was involved in ministry, I was not a first generation college graduate as my dad had attended college and seminary. I had a great appreciation for Dr. Yarborough and his teachings on church history, which I took every class of. This helped me understand the importance of learning from our past mistakes. My time at OBU helped me grow and change as a person, as I built friendships that are still strong today. My best friend in college encouraged me to follow Jesus and discipline myself, which helped me love and follow Jesus all the more. I still have flashbacks of learning the freshmen chant called ka-rip during welcome week. We had to repeat it a million times, and it was crazy, but it was also fun.

1970

Richard Alvin Bailey

10/10/2023

MY JOURNEY AT OBU WAS AN EXCITING ONE. I HAD A TOUGH CHILDHOOD and my father had a lot of issues, so getting away from home was a blessing. I was freshman class president that first year and I was about a week late to campus because I was selling bible books for the Southwestern Company. My counselor called me in and said they were concerned about me taking philosophy, but I was confident I could handle it. I made lifelong friendships with my classmates and instructors, and I preached over 1200 revivals while I was there. Graduation day was special because I was the first in my family to get a college degree. I also met my wife at OBU and she's a sweetheart. I made some poor decisions in life, but two of the best decisions I ever made were giving my heart to Christ and marrying my wife. OBU holds a special place in my heart because of the relationships I formed and the memories I made there.

1957

Donald Glenn Haught, Sr.

12/06/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. I was a first-generation college student, and it was a big change from Oklahoma State. I was a little overwhelmed at first, but I soon settled in. Graduation day was a great experience for me and my family. I studied history, and I had some great professors and advisors who helped guide me along the way. I had some great memories, and I enjoyed attending sporting events. At OBU, I grew in knowledge of myself and what I wanted to do. I'm most grateful for the friendships I made and the communication I still have with my roommate who became a pastor. OBU was a great experience, and I'm thankful for the memories I made there.

1980**Karla Ruth
(Johnson) Sessing**

10/17/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University and received a well-rounded liberal arts education. I was able to recall the knowledge I gained from my professors later in my teaching career and apply it to my students. I also appreciated the consistency of the professors across the board in how they dealt with us as young people and young adults. One of the funniest things I ever did was to paint the bison on the oval in the middle of the night, which wasn't condoned but was still fun. I made many long-term relationships with OBU students that I still have to this day. I credit OBU with a lot of my self-confidence, my music skills, and how I was able to teach. Dean Woodward had a big influence on how I taught and what I taught. I realized during a Chorale reunion how his emphasis on excellence and his conducting style was a firm foundation for how I taught choir. I am always looking for kids who want to go to OBU and show them what the school has to offer. It has grown so much since the late 1970s when I was there and I really appreciate it.

1971**Thomas M. "Tom" Stogsdill**

10/17/2023

I AM GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OBU FOR TEACHING ME HOW TO learn and think. I had limited options for college, but OBU had a great music program and was close to home, so I chose it. I am thankful for the faculty who had an impact on me, particularly James Woodward and Dean Angell. I am also proud to have started a legacy of family members attending OBU, as my mother, daughter, and her husband all got degrees there. I am thankful for the opportunity to have gone to OBU and for the impact it had on my life.

1966**Della Kathlyn (Paschall) Hutton**

10/17/2023

I HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE LEGACY OF MY FAMILY ATTENDING OBU since I was a child. I remember going to the Harvest Festival with my great-uncle, who was a student in the early classes, and going up the steps of Shawnee Hall. When I attended, I stayed in the women's dormitory. I was part of the celebration when OBU won the conference championship. I also met my husband at campus store. My daughter went to OBU for undergrad and my son went to St. Gregory's but got all of his French credit from OBU. I remember stuffing my freshman beanie with toilet paper and changing the words of the song to honor my superiors. My son and daughter-in-law were both cheerleaders at OBU and St. Gregory's, respectively, and it was ironic that they were cheering against each other. I have been a part of the OBU legacy for many years and have many fond memories of my time there.

1962

Carolyn Nell (Hicks) Hendricks

10/13/2023

AFTER GETTING BACK TOGETHER WITH A high school sweetheart in summer 1960, I transferred from Southwestern State to join him at OBU. I found it to be a wonderful place of combined cultures and people. I made some lifelong friends, especially my then-boyfriend and now-husband Richard, a lifetime pen pal in Rojeane, and an English major, Jane, who married Bill. Another reunion took place at OBU when I realized my favorite English professor had left SWU to teach, Dr Katherine Rader. Another professor, Dr. Rowena Strickland, had grown up with my dad's sisters. She was my Bible teacher for both Old and New Testaments. Having settled in Guthrie and having retired from our careers in education, we find time to return to Shawnee occasionally. The biggest changes for me is the growth of the campus and the changes in the dress code. Because we wore only skirts and dresses! We lost our only son in 2022 to pancreatic cancer, and therefore OBU has been made beneficiary of our will. God bless OBU.

1977

Florence E. “Betty” (Lang) Gingras

10/17/2023



I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT OBU. I MADE LIFELONG friendships there, such as my little sister, Ruth, from Hong Kong. We still keep in touch after all these years. I also met the dean of the Music Department in 1973, who inspired me to go to college. My piano teacher, Mr. McGavern, was a patient teacher and I miss him when he passed. I also learned how to tune pianos, which I have used over the years. I switched from the Music Department to the Business Department because they didn't have a pedagogy course and I didn't want to become a school teacher. I'm thankful to God that I got to go to OBU as it was an eye-opener for me and taught me how to make friendships and how the real world works. I spent most of my life in the business field and I'm grateful for the experiences I had at OBU.

1972

Deborah (Hopkins) Bosch, EdD

10/17/2023

I GREW UP IN SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA AND MY PARENTS DIDN'T GO TO college. They were dedicated to helping my brother and I go as far as we could. I started taking piano lessons at OBU when I was eight years old and my parents could only afford room and board. I loved OBU and was involved in many organizations, including being a cheerleader and a member of Athenians, a social club. My professors were not just teachers, but mentors. I graduated in three years to save money for my parents and went on to have a successful career as a math professor, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and founding dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. I am now retired and enjoying traveling and spending time with my grandchildren.

1975

Harold “Allen” Miller

10/12/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR A SHORT TIME BEFORE I got married in 1973. I was fortunate to be able to take the CPA exam even though I didn't have a college degree, and I passed it in 1994. After that, my wife and I moved to New Mexico for two and a half years, but I had too much Okie in me and we came back home. I then took some accounting classes and got my CPA license. I was in a social club at OBU and I've been able to reconnect with some of my friends from there. Two of them live out of state, one in Long Island, New York and one in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We've stayed close and I've even been to New York a few times to visit them. My time at OBU was important to me because it was a Christian education and it was a good background and influence for me. It also attracted people who were like-minded and I appreciate that.

1973

Wanda “Faye” (Marsee) Stroh

10/17/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLE. I chose OBU because I wanted to be in a Christian educational setting and the campus was small and intimate. When I first arrived, I was excited and a little scared, but the campus was welcoming, and I quickly got over my fear. I was a first-generation college graduate, and graduation day was a day of total joy and relief. During my time at OBU, I participated in clubs and organizations, and I started a girls' football team with my roommate. This experience made me believe that anything is possible. I was close to my instructors, and I made lifelong friends. I worked as a nurse's aide at the local hospital, and the experience helped me grow spiritually. After graduation, I had a successful career as a school nurse for the Department of Defense in Europe and then as a special duty nurse and director of nursing at a hospital. My greatest takeaway from OBU was the spiritual support I had while I was there and how it helped me grow.



I'm a pastor emeritus & founder; now speaking at one of our four Community Bible Church campuses.

1977

Dr. Edward A. "Ed" Saucier

10/11/2023

"Several of the friends I made in my college years remain my closest friends.

- DR. EDWARD A. "ED" SAUCIER

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY INFLUENTIAL IN MY LIFE AND CAREER. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING WONDERFUL professors in the Theology Department who were informed, intelligent, and kind. I remember the day I left Dr. Strickland's class, wanting to be like her when I became an adult. I worked off campus, so I didn't know many of my classmates, but I knew my professors. In my freshman year, Dr. Strickland tried to talk me out of taking a junior-level course, 'The Life of Christ,' but I tried it anyway because it was the only course available to me due to my work schedule. I thought it would be an easy A. I have never been more mistaken. When I didn't do well in her course, I went to her office, apologized for my poor grade, and offered to repeat the course. She advised otherwise, assuring me that I had learned what she wanted me to learn. Dr. Holcomb, our church history professor, was always approachable and had a great sense of humor. He was the only one of our theology professors who had been a pastor. He taught me to be a student and a lifelong learner. He also held a special place in my heart, because I met with him regularly. The professors at OBU gave me the tools and skills to be a student, and that has served me well throughout my pastoral career. My greatest takeaway from OBU is friendship. Several of the friends I made in my college years remain my closest friends. We still get together a couple times every year, and we stay in touch via social media and phone calls. I can't imagine going through life without these friendships. I will forever be grateful for the time I spent at OBU.

1968**Rev. Gregory Howard “Greg” Berkey**

10/10/2023



Sunday at First Baptist Church Watertown, South Dakota

MY SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, I FELT CALLED TO THE MINISTRY AND decided to attend Oklahoma Baptist University, where my grandfather had graduated in 1925. I had never been to Oklahoma before, but I applied and was accepted. I boarded the A train in Pasadena, California and arrived in Oklahoma City on Sunday morning. Two guys from Shawnee who had gone to OBU and attended my church picked me up and drove me to the school. My first sight of Raley Chapel was so big that it amazed me. I met my roommate, Dr. Warren McWilliams, and began my time at OBU. OBU had a tremendous influence on me. I made lifelong friendships, matured, and was prepared to go to seminary and become a pastor. I got a broad education, majoring in history and minoring in psychology. I learned how to study and develop the work habits and spiritual maturity to go forward as a minister. OBU was a big factor in my life and ministry and I am grateful for the experience.

1977**Sherry
Upshaw Christy**

10/27/2023

MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE AT Oklahoma Baptist University was truly life-changing. I was blessed to have amazing professors like Jim Woodward, Mary Kay Parrish, CL Bass, and Virginia Reese who believed in me and taught me the value of excellence. Even though Jim Woodward and Dr. Reese have passed away, Mary Kay and CL Bass are still my friends to this day. My pastor's wife told me about OBU and I knew when I saw Celebrate Life that it was the place for me. I was involved in many clubs and organizations such as MENC, SAI, ODK, and Chorale which all added to my college experience. I also made many lifelong friends through choir, classes, church, and living down the hall from each other. One of my favorite memories was the annual Hanging of the Green service where we sang the Christmas portion of Messiah with Dean Woodward conducting. My greatest takeaway from attending OBU is that relationships are important.

1962

Virginia (Patterson) Goforth

10/25/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN AMAZING experience. I had two sisters who had gone there before me, so it was the place to go. I had a great support system, both at home and at school. My Bible professor, Sarah Strickland, was one that I really enjoyed. I was also in Master Choir, which was a great experience. This year, I was invited to sing with a choir at Carnegie Hall in NYC by an OBU graduate. I made a very good friend, Sharon White, while at OBU, and we had a life-long friendship. My time at OBU prepared me to transition to Louisiana and taught me the skills of living on my own. My dad was a Pastor. He had always wanted to attend seminary and he was able to do so at OBU. It was a proud day for our family when he graduated at the age of 74 in his cap and gown. My advice to a freshman would be to be involved with a church while there. They can be a support system when they need help or guidance. They need to remember that what they do in college is the foundation of the rest of their life.

1962

James Wesley “Jim” Rupe

10/12/2023

I WAS ATTRACTED TO THE UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF THE GOOD

things I had heard about it through word of mouth. I was a first generation college graduate and graduation day was very exciting for me and my family, as I got married in the afternoon. During my time at the university, I was involved in various activities and clubs, such as managing the library's visual department, managing the men's dormitory, and being a disc jockey at the KGF radio station. My time at the university helped me with my life after graduation, as the incredible faculty, especially Dr. Dane, the Bible professor, helped me prioritize and put God first. I am grateful for the experiences I had at OBU and the lessons I learned there.

1967

Raeburn Carlton Horne

10/16/2023

MY FONDEST MEMORIES FROM MY FIRST YEAR AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University were the relationships I formed with the other students I met during the college preview day. We all ended up living in Baxter Hall together. I also remember the sadness of President Kennedy's assassination and the shock of a plane crashing into Shawnee Hall. Every Friday afternoon, we would gather around Montgomery Hall to discuss books and then watch Batman and Robin on TV. We also had a great family atmosphere in the cafeteria, where we ate English style and had to dress up. On Sundays, we would take buses to the church of our choice. We also had a lot of fun, and it was an interesting and memorable year.

1969

James Walter “Jim” Westmoreland

01/26/2024

I LOVED MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. The friendships I made there are still some of the strongest in my life. I still keep in contact with some of them. Choosing to attend OBU was an easy decision for me. I felt called to ministry and the school's strong religious foundation was a perfect fit. My major was religion, and I minored in sociology. One of my favorite professors was Dr. Hurley, who taught science but also led a Sunday school class at University Baptist Church. He was a special person who had a big impact on me. The broad liberal arts education I received at OBU has served me well in my career. I haven't been back to campus in over 20 years, so I'm sure there have been many changes. I was the first in my family to attend OBU, and I'm proud of that. The education I received was top-notch, and I have encouraged others to attend the school. If I could go back and relive those years, I definitely would. Maybe I would change my major, but overall I am satisfied with my experience. I have attended class reunions and even participated in a virtual 50th anniversary reunion.

1995

Robert Christopher “Chirs” Chase

10/17/2023

THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT I FORMED AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University have truly stood the test of time. I still keep in touch with many of my classmates and professors, and they have had a huge impact on my life. They have shaped the way I see the world and how I think about things today. It's amazing to have that kind of family at OBU and to know that those relationships will always be a part of my life. During my time at OBU, I was involved in a social club called Delta Xi Lambda and a smaller anthropology club. I also had the opportunity to work as a student assistant for one of my professors, which was a valuable experience for me. It allowed me to grow and learn even more, while also giving back and serving others. Looking back, I can see how OBU was a crucial transition period for me. It was a time where I was able to leave my parents' home and enter the adult world. OBU provided me with the skills and knowledge I needed to start my career and pursue my passions. Although I ended up taking a different path than I initially thought, OBU was the foundation for my success. After graduation, I spent some time in Oklahoma City before moving to Europe and then China to teach English. I also studied Chinese while I was there. I settled in Dallas where I had some great jobs and got married to my wife, who also graduated from OBU. I am living in the San Francisco Bay area and working for Nvidia. I am grateful for the education and experiences I gained at OBU, which have helped me achieve success in my career and personal life.

1982

Melanie D. “Mel” (Miller) Sloger

11/09/2023



MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was an amazing experience. I was able to pursue my passion for music and develop friendships with incredibly talented people. I learned so much that I still use today in my role as a volunteer music director at my church. I was also able to write musical programs for the preschool I direct. It was so inspiring to be around such a creative group and I had so much fun. I was also part of the Bisonettes and the BSU

My father, OBU alumnus, Dr. Calvin Miller, taught me 'Ka-rip' as soon as I could talk! Zip Bang!

singing group, which gave me the opportunity to go to different places and perform. I'm still very much in the music zone and I'm grateful for all the wonderful people I met and all the experiences I had at OBU.

1966

Diann Griffin Hamilton

10/17/2023

I AM A FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT AT OBU. WHEN I FIRST

arrived on campus, I had no idea what to expect. I arrived from Houston, Texas on a Greyhound bus with all my belongings. When we crossed the Red River, the weather turned cold. When I got to the bus station in Shawnee, I found that my personal belongings were not on my bus. I didn't have a sweater or anything and I didn't know a single soul. I had to find an upperclassman or married couple to take me to the store to buy a toothbrush and toothpaste. Student life was very regimented. We had to wear dresses all the time, even when it was cold and windy. We had to be seated in groups of eight for meals and sing the blessing. We could only wear pants on Saturdays. You had to walk into the middle of the room to turn the light on in the freshman dorm. Coming from a high school where my graduating class had over 1,000 students, I was not a secure, outgoing person. When I graduated from OBU, I was a different person. I developed my personality and became a leader in several different areas. I was no longer afraid to stand up and talk. I was able to do things I never would have done before, like being president of the PTO twice and creating a scholarship in my husband's memory. I served on numerous boards and worked to make a difference. I was privileged to organize several OBU events with the Houston alumni. I had the opportunity to visit many different high schools in my area and recruit for OBU. I still keep in touch with several of my friends from OBU. Five of us would meet in Dallas the first weekend in April. We did this for probably 15 or so years. I am so proud of the legacy I have left and the person I have become. I am proud to be an OBU Alumni.



This was me in 2019

“I was so grateful for the protection and guidance I received from my professors at OBU and I hope that continues for a long time to come.
- KENDALL WAYNE CLARK”

1990

Kendall Wayne Clark

10/25/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY SPECIAL. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING DR. TOM Wilkes as one of my primary professors. He was also a friend of my uncle, Dr. Anthony Jordan, who was the executive director at the time. I asked Dr. Wilkes if he and his wife would join my family and I for my graduation dinner in Oklahoma City, and he graciously accepted. He said I was the first person in all his years of being a professor that had ever invited him to do anything like that. I majored in Ministry and ended up taking the Applied Ministry path, which gave me a taste of all the different specialties. I discovered I wasn't cut out for any of the usual ministry paths, but I was able to use my knowledge from being a lifelong member of a church and my ministry training to help me in my current job as lead custodian of my home church. It has allowed me to anticipate the needs of different events and know how to prepare for them in order to help them function more smoothly. When I was transitioning from high school to college, I knew I wanted to go into ministry. I chose OBU as my first choice because I had been a part of the Oklahoma Baptist community since I was born. I think students coming out of high school and going to university need to give real thought to what they think they might be good at and interested in doing in life. They should consider if they need a college degree for what they want to do and if they are capable of leaving home and living on their own. If a student decides to go to college, I believe a Christian education and a well-rounded liberal arts education is paramount. I was so grateful for the protection and guidance I received from my professors at OBU and I hope that continues for a long time to come.

2016

Gabriel N. Gordon

10/13/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA

Baptist University for a few reasons. Primarily, I wanted to attend a Christian university that would not only provide me with an education, but also help me grow in my faith journey. I am extremely grateful for my time at OBU as it was deeply formative. I come from an uneducated background and was almost unable to graduate high school. OBU provided me with the education I needed to pursue further graduate degrees. I made lifelong friends at OBU and was involved in various campus activities. My favorite professor was Dr. Bruce Carlton, who I took two trips overseas with. He was a mentor to me and I'm still learning lessons from him even though I've been out of school for seven years. My time at OBU helped me grow and change as a person. It prepared me for ministry jobs and graduate school. I am thankful for the education and experiences I gained at OBU.

1969

Denise (Cochran) Anderson

10/23/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR ONE SEMESTER WHEN I

was pregnant. I commuted from McLoud with a friend who also attended OBU and another lady who was going back to school. I didn't have much of an on-campus life, but I did love OBU and I've known many people who graduated from there. My pastor worked there for many years and my grandson is currently a senior there and will be graduating in December and going on to seminary. I chose OBU because it was close and my mother paid for it. Looking back, I'm grateful for the Christian values that are reflected in their graduates, staff, and everything. It makes me smile to think of my time there and my grandson's experience.

1978

Martha Lee (Miles) Daniels

10/11/2023

I TRULY FELT GOD LEADING ME TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. While still in high school, I visited OBU and was impressed by the friendliness of the students, the Christian atmosphere and the quality of the professors and advisors. Although I received my degree from a different institution due to my major, I know I received a quality education from OBU, grew spiritually and developed amazing friendships during my time there. Later my brother attended OBU while another brother married an OBU grad. Best of all, my daughter attended and graduated from OBU which brought back so many memories and introduced us to the many changes that had occurred through the years. We are very grateful for OBU, and it will always be a part of our family legacy.

1974**Thomas S. “Tom (Zig)” Zigler**

10/17/2023

MY FOUR YEARS AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WERE SOME OF THE best of my life. I made relationships that I still cherish to this day, and I believe that my experiences at OBU helped me to become more diverse and successful in my professional life. I grew closer to the Lord during my time there, and I learned how to deal with different problems. I was involved in various activities on campus, and I had the opportunity to work with some amazing people, such as Dean Osborn, Dean Bradfield, and Dr. Tanner. I even got to be part of the team that started making laminated ID cards. One funny story I remember is when Dr. Hobbs introduced Dr. Tanner as Dr. Turner, and I kept calling him Dr. Turner for years after. I was always the last one to go through enrollment, and one time they lost my enrollment and I had to go back and re-enroll in all my classes. I'm grateful for the experiences I had at OBU and the people I met there.

1991**Nancy Hill Mihura**

10/17/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TO MAJOR IN MUSIC. I WAS married when I started as a freshman and was part of Sigma Delta Scholastic Society and the chapel choir. I took speech with Dr. Oval Craig which had a big impact on me as it prepared me for my life as a pastor's wife. I was able to lead and teach in the church and later on in my life I was an adult Sunday school teacher. My four daughters also attended OBU and three of them graduated. My youngest daughter passed away and left four children who have all finished OBU. I am trying to get enough contributions to have a memorial scholarship endowed in my daughter's name. I have tried calling development but have not been able to get a person. I am hoping to get help in forming a letter to mail out to our relatives and friends to ask for contributions.

1974**Janeen E.
(McKinney) Myles**

12/08/2023

I'M GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT Oklahoma Baptist University. I had the privilege of being part of the Bisonettes and traveling around with them, making great friends and doing some great music under the direction of Mary Kay Parrish and Jack Pearson. I had some amazing professors and advisors who really made a significant impact on me. Mary Kay Parrish was a favorite and taught me theory. Charlotte Martin was my piano teacher. She taught me so many techniques and I loved studying with her. Michael Cox was my music arranging professor and he gave me lots of good advice and encouragement. I also accompanied a lot for Don Clark, the voice teacher. When I think about my memories at OBU, what brings a smile to my face is the friends I made and the amazing music program. With Warren Angell and Jim Woodward as the deans of the Fine Arts Program, it was quite the music powerhouse. I'm so grateful for the wonderful experiences I had and the amazing people I met and friends I made.

1962

Creda L. (Foreman) Lewis

10/11/2023

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA

Baptist University, and it was truly a dream come true. My parents made sacrifices for me to attend, but I was fortunate enough to receive a partial scholarship. As a Christian college, OBU provided the perfect environment for me to grow spiritually and I have many fond memories of my time there. I stayed at Kerr Memorial, the women's dorm, and enjoyed going out with a group of young people on Sunday evenings to worship at different churches and help out with the youth. We also had a lot of fun hanging out at the local drive-in after our Sunday night activities. My roommate, Willa Aikens, and I became lifelong friends and I still keep in touch with her to this day. After graduating, I married and moved to Yeager, where my husband was a pastor. He passed away after 48 years of marriage. Later in life, I reconnected with my current husband, who was my pastor when I was a senior in high school. We have been married for 12 years and are actively involved in ministry at our church in Columbia. My husband has a rich history in ministry, having served as head of the Home Mission Board and president of Hannibal Grange College. Together, we have a blended family with nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. OBU played a significant role in shaping my faith and my life, and I am grateful for the memories and connections I made there. I hope to attend another homecoming in the future and relive some of those special moments.

1976

Janice J. (Johnson) Clark

11/29/2023

I'M SO GLAD I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

when I was 8 years old. I had a children's choir director who was a minister of music at our church and he went to OBU. I wanted to be just like him when I grew up. He gave me a flyer for OBU and I kept it on my dresser for the next ten years. When the time came, I tried out for a talent scholarship and Warren Angell himself played for me when I sang. I was the first in my family to go to college and graduate. My grandfather was so proud to have a college graduate in the family that he drove 1,500 miles across the country for my graduation. He had been forced to quit school after third grade to work on his family farm so education was very important to him. OBU helped me to understand and work with people from all around the world. I met people from Africa, Asia, and South America, as well as Native Americans from Oklahoma. The first church I served as Minister of Music was in an area with a lot of immigrants. The experiences I had at OBU helped me to craft multicultural services and special events and incorporate all of those cultures into what I was doing. I am currently serving as Minister of Music to a small church in my hometown, again in an area with high numbers of people from around the world. We are in the process of building a new building which will incorporate a preschool, senior living facility, and community theater. OBU has helped me to reach out to the community and make a difference in many ways. I'm so thankful for the experiences I had at OBU and how it has helped me grow as a person.



Behind every tree is more to learn and experience.

“I was so grateful for the protection and guidance I received from my professors at OBU and I hope that continues for a long time to come.

- KENDALL WAYNE CLARK

1975

Jolene (Butcher) Janway

10/24/2023

I WENT ON AN OBU EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR. WHILE EXPLORING ABOUT NINE DIFFERENT COUNTIES, I NOT ONLY WAS ABLE to experience the culture, works of art, beauty of the countries I was learning from our OBU professors. Some of the outstanding things I experienced besides the everyday people and way of living, I attended the play Romeo and Juliet at Shakespeare's Globe Theater, attended and learned about the Sleeping Beauty Ballet, got to see the actual Mona Lisa and other works of art at the Louver Museum, saw Michael Angelo's Sistine Chapel, and attended church services at the 850-year-old Notre Dame Cathedral. One of my favorite memories is climbing the pathways up an Alp in Innsbruck. At the top of the Alp ending up having an international snowball fight. We could not understand each other's languages but we knew we were having fun. Some memories were not as fun like visiting Dachau concentration camp but taught me a lot that was not just book learning. Besides the learning and experiences I had while attending OBU, I cherished the relationships that developed. I met a friend at OBU that is as close as a sister. Her family 'adopted' me into their family and to this day I have my own family plus my adopted one. As I continue to travel and learn I am amazed at how often I run into other alumni from OBU. I went to Branson and was pleasantly surprised to find a production that my OBU drama professor was directing.

1982

Alan T. Tamashiro, DMin

11/02/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University after being introduced to it by a musician at my church who had graduated from there. I was the first in my family to attend OBU and chose to major in Christian studies, which I continued throughout my college career and into graduate school. The professors and friends I made at OBU were invaluable and the environment was perfect for a young Christian like myself. I still follow some of my friends on Facebook, but have lost touch with others. My favorite professor was Robert SREs, who taught English and helped me improve my writing skills. Another mentor was Nat Betis, who encouraged me to attend OBU and provided opportunities for me to gain teaching experience in different churches. I eventually transferred back home to be with my family, but I am grateful for the time I spent at OBU and the memories I made there. Thank you for allowing me to share my experience.

1969

Sandra H. Steele

10/17/2023

I COME FROM A FAMILY OF OBU GRADUATES, SO I FOLLOWED IN THEIR

footsteps and pursued medical technology instead of becoming a doctor. I was a member of the band and orchestra, playing the flute. After graduation, I became a journeyman and spent two years in Zimbabwe at a mission hospital. It was a unique experience, as I had to generate my own electricity and diagnose things like malaria. After returning to the US, I went to Dallas to get an advanced degree in immunohematology and met my husband. We then spent ten years in Egypt, where I had to adjust to life there with four children. It was a great experience, as I got to visit places like Israel and Jordan, and the people were friendly and welcoming. I had to adjust to life in the US after returning, as so much had changed in ten years.

1958

Charles Reid Baumert

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS FILLED WITH MANY MEMORABLE MOMENTS.

Growing up in Shawnee, my father had a successful wholesale business until he passed away. We then sold it, and those were the good old days back in the 1940s. We didn't have a college football team, but we did have intramural games. I remember one afternoon when the whole school turned out and I made a touchdown. I had to stay home and study hard, but I did get my degree. I went to work for Texaco Incorporated in the early 1960s and stayed with them for 13 years. They then moved me to Chicago, but I decided I wanted to be in business for myself, so I left and bought a dry cleaners and laundry. I was in business for 27 years before I retired and moved to Mesquite, Nevada. Now I'm 89 years old and playing golf. It's amazing!

1971**Vivian Elois (Hall) Rice**

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. I WAS SCARED WHEN I

first walked on campus, but I was determined to match up to the high expectations of the music program. I had a great music voice professor, James Brown, and an amazing music history professor, Bill Horton. I was a member of the Chorale and had a different roommate every year, except for my last year. I have stayed with this roommate, my husband, Lee, for 53 years. I grew and matured while I was there and gained knowledge and a desire to serve the Lord through children. My husband and I even set up a scholarship for those who don't get the big scholarships, so that it won't break their family finances. It was an incredible experience and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to attend OBU.

2020**Cheasa Rae Coon**

11/15/2023

I'M SO THANKFUL FOR MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. It was definitely a chaotic start, but it all worked out in the end. I lived on campus all four years and was involved in Residential Life, the RAWC, Greek Life, club sports, and more. My advisor, Chad Payn, was always very encouraging and answered all my questions. I changed my major midway through my freshman year, and the people around me helped me figure out what I wanted to do. During the pandemic, we transitioned to primarily virtual learning, which was a bit of an adjustment. I'm proud to be the first in my family to graduate college and I'm thankful for the community I found at OBU. It taught me the importance of community and to always put the Lord first in my decisions.

1971**Charles M. Hubbard**

11/07/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was incredibly influential and formative. I met a lot of great people and had some amazing experiences. I was able to learn from both the positive and negative experiences I had while there. I was able to explore different directions I could take and the people I met along the way were instrumental in helping me grow. I had professors like Dr. Cy and Dr. Gans who were very kind and helpful. I was also able to witness some tumultuous historical times while I was there. I remember one English or speech class where I met a friend who was later drafted or enlisted. I also remember a basketball game where I worked with the athletics program and went back to the dorm for a celebration. I was also able to meet my future wife, Wendy Blitzer, in a human anatomy class. I also had the pleasure of meeting John Paris, who was a great public relations man, and Granville Mays, who was in the library and later went on to public education. Lastly, I worked and associated with Coach Wallace, whose wife was a music lady. All in all, my time at Oklahoma Baptist University was incredibly influential and I'm proud to be an OBU alum.

2005

Robin (Pratt) Ozuna

11/21/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY valuable. I came in shy and introverted, but the small campus and on-campus housing helped me come out of my shell and build relationships. I developed work habits that have stayed with me throughout my career and have helped me become a better problem solver. I also made lifelong friends that I still keep in touch with today. After graduation, I moved to Houston with a group of friends I had made at OBU, and we all started our careers together. I'm so thankful for the experiences I had at OBU and the relationships I built there.

2012

Derick L. Echols

10/17/2023

I TRANSFERRED TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY IN 2010 after my coach at Morehead State cleared the house, and I was one of the players who got cut. I ended up at Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas, and then Coach Tolin asked me to visit OBU. I fell in love with the campus and the basketball program, which had just won a national championship. My favorite memory was the 2012 season when we had the most together team I had ever been on. The student section was fantastic and supported the program. I learned a lot on my journey, making me a better person. I don't regret it and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the OBU basketball program.

1971

Donna Jo (Drouot) Monk

11/16/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA Baptist University, even though I was only there for one year. I remember the tornado that hit Shawnee that year, and my roommate and I were trying to move from Montgomery Hall to the freshman dorm when it hit. We were in the basement of Montgomery Hall watching the roots of a tree outside the window turn in the ground. It was a scary experience, but it was also a wonderful experience because we got to help the senior citizens in the downtown area who had lost everything. It was a great reminder to not take anything for granted. After I left OBU, I went to UCO in Edmond to take care of my grandmother in the evenings and at night. I still keep in touch with some of the friends I made at OBU, and we get together a few times a year. We even took ice skating lessons together from the Oklahoma City Blazers! Nowadays, I'm getting ready to go to Alaska again. I love to travel and explore new places. I also enjoy gardening and spending time with my grandkids.

1973**Donald Thomas Presson**

11/03/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

was a memorable one. I went there because the youth director and music director at our church was a graduate of OBU. My most memorable experience was being part of the University Chorale. We had a great conductor and teacher, Dr. Woodward, and I loved singing for him. I also finished my degree on a European study tour. We had a funny story where we were supposed to go to Copenhagen but ended up in Germany instead. To this day, I still won't eat Frosted Flakes! I enjoyed my time in the University Chorale and the voice lessons I had. I was elected president of the Chorale and I'm not sure why. I also shared an off-campus apartment with two other guys one summer. We would sneak into Ford Hall and sing and play. I also had some great friendships that have lasted a lifetime. My time at OBU helped me grow as a person and spiritually. I made some great friends and I learned a lot about music. I also made my living in music. Looking back on my time there, I am most grateful for the friendships I made and the knowledge I gained.

1956**Dr. Collen O. (Lane) Gray**

10/12/2023

I HAVE HAD A LIFE FULL OF INTERESTING EXPERIENCES. FROM BEING

the only woman working to spending a summer in Mexico City, to meeting Henry J. Kaiser's granddaughter, to being accepted to KU without applying, to having a grandson who makes albums, to having a son who is a world consultant, to having a daughter who is married with two children, I have been blessed. I owe it all to God, who has taken care of me and put me in the right place. I have had a good life, and I am grateful for all the experiences I have had.

1966**Gerald Robert Tucker, Sr.**

10/18/2023

I'M FROM OHIO IN THE MIDWEST AND ATTENDED OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. Every Tuesday and Thursday, it was mandatory to attend chapel. I didn't graduate, but my brother did. I remember playing basketball at Clark Gray Field House, and my brother and I had three cases full of trophies and memorabilia. I met some great people like Bob Bass and John Parrish, and I'm still friends with them today. I heard that there was a tornado that went through the university recently and destroyed some of the buildings but they are rebuilding even better. OBU did a lot for me and my brother-in-law, and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a good education and a nice Baptist school.



“I deeply appreciate what I received from OBU, not only an excellent education, but also an opportunity to broaden my mind and my personal horizons.

- DR. REFORD BROOKS NASH

”

1966

Dr. Reford Brooks Nash

10/19/2023

GROWING UP AS A SOUTHERN BAPTIST IN OKLAHOMA, I HAD ALWAYS VIEWED OBU AS MY MOST DESIRABLE COLLEGE destination. A generous scholarship from OBU, encouraging parents, and the grace of God enabled me to go there, and I have always been grateful for what I received. My major was modern languages, with minors in English and education. My ultimate vocational objective was Christian ministry. My original intent was to serve as a Southern Baptist minister, but while at OBU, I discovered the Presbyterian Church, found it to be most amenable to who I was, and ended up as a Presbyterian minister. I served several churches in five different states. I eventually 'rounded out' my formal education by earning an MDiv at San Francisco Theological Seminary, a DMin at McCormick Theological Seminary, and an ABD at Princeton Theological Seminary. I am actively retired, hold the title of pastor emeritus from my last ministerial position, am appreciating a more relaxed life with my retired wife, and am enjoying being with my two sons, my daughter, and our five grandchildren as much as possible. I deeply appreciate what I received from OBU, not only an excellent education, but also an opportunity to broaden my mind and my personal horizons. I highly value my friends from OBU, and mourn those already lost to death. At the same time, I remember all of the good times - some by OBU and some not! I am grateful for the way that OBU shaped my life and life-perspectives, whether intentionally or not, from politics, to theology and religion, to personal values and cultural appreciation. If I have made even a tiny difference in the world or in anyone's life, much of the credit for it goes to my wonderful four years at OBU.

1972

Kathy Louise (Jentoft) Hill, PhD

10/12/2023



I STARTED MY OBU LIFE IN

summer 1968 between my junior and senior year of high school. I was coming from a small town in Southwestern Oklahoma called Gotebo. There was only eight in my graduating class, so OBU seemed huge to me. The classes were hard, but the professors were wonderful and I got to meet new friends. OBU showed me diversity, which I hadn't seen much of in my hometown. The college kids treated us like we were college kids, which made the transition

from high school to college life much easier. I got married at the end of my freshman year. As freshman we lived in the first floor of WMU Dorm, which was the oldest dorm on campus. My freshman friends threw me a surprise shower. We all became really close friends, and I'm still in contact with some of them on Facebook. Even though the upper classes gave us a hard time about being freshmen, they were still welcoming. I've seen some of them across Texas, and it's like a close friendship just because we went to OBU.

1968

Janet Vaught (Jordan) Faulkner

10/17/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND

became a music major. I have been an accompanist for most of my adult life, in church and for students at solo and ensemble. It was at OBU that I met my future husband, and we spent 42 years together in music ministry. I made many wonderful friends, including those in the class of 1968, who are almost closer to me than my own classmates. My daughter also attended OBU and graduated from there. OBU was a place of numerous experiences and especially in a Christian atmosphere. It was a guidance to the future and a place to start life after high school. I sang in the Bison Chorale and accompanied for operas while I was there. We even traveled to Kansas City to see the basketball championship game in 1968 and drove almost all night to get back to Oklahoma and be at our church on Sunday morning. OBU has so much to offer and I would encourage young people to take advantage of it. It is a place where your interests are and if you are a music major, there is no better place. It is a place to grow both academically and spiritually in the same setting. OBU means everything to me and my family.

1958

Lois (Heaton) Willhoite

11/27/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY SPECIAL. I HAD A lot of family members who were Baptist preachers, so it was a natural transition for me to attend OBU. I was originally planning to go to William Jewel, but when my family moved to Oklahoma, I changed my plans. I was able to make some wonderful friendships at OBU, and I even met my husband there! We were married for 57 years before he passed away in 2013. My education at OBU provided me with a great foundation for my teaching career. I'm most grateful for the lifelong friendships I made and for meeting my husband there.

1977

Dr. David H. Robertson

12/07/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE experience. I was a transfer student, so I didn't get to experience the freshman orientation, but I was able to get a BA in Religion. I met my wife there, and we still keep in touch with some of the friends we made while living on the fourth floor of the dormitory. We would get together and challenge each other to grow in Christ. I was also able to get a quality education thanks to the Pritchard Scholarship, which paid half my tuition and activity fee. I was called into the ministry during a revival at my local church, and OBU provided me with the foundation I needed to pursue my master's and doctoral work. I'm so grateful for the spiritual heritage I was able to gain at OBU, and I'm thankful that my three children were able to attend three different Baptist institutions. My goal for my kids was never that they'd be a preacher or serve in a church, but that they'd love Jesus. I'm so proud that they are all serving and loving Him.

1977

Michael Dean Daney

10/13/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS incredibly rewarding. Everyone I encountered was genuine and welcoming. It was evident in their actions, and I never felt like I couldn't sit at any table in the dining hall. Everyone was humble, and there was no sense of cliques or narcissism. I was also a member of the cross country and track team, which was an exciting experience. I got to travel and compete against other athletes, but more importantly, I formed some of the most profound relationships with my teammates. We are still close to this day, even though we are 100s of miles apart. I also befriended some of the basketball players, and I still see one of them on a constant basis. The friendships I gained from OBU have become lifelong relationships. Everyone I encountered, from the chancellor to the custodian, was polite and impressionable. The lessons and appreciation for being genuine have stuck with me for the rest of my life. OBU was a special place, and I am grateful for the people I encountered and the impact they had on my life.

Academic Influences





1976**Elizabeth Ann
(Eyer) Warriner**

12/07/2023

I STUDIED MUSIC THEORY AT OKLAHOMA Baptist University with the amazing Katherine Timberlake. I grew up in Shawnee and my parents worked at OBU, so I had full tuition. They even paid for me to live in the dorms, which was a cool experience. I chose music as my major because I had a passion for it and had invested a lot in my music education. Mrs. Timberlake was my piano teacher and music theory professor, and I loved her as a teacher. I stayed in touch with her after graduation and also kept in touch with friends I made at OBU. I even followed my love for handbells and stayed connected with Mary Kay Parrish. After graduation, I decided to pursue a master's degree at the University of Oklahoma and felt well-prepared thanks to my time at OBU. I haven't been back to campus recently, but I did attend homecoming a few years ago. I still play piano and flute, and even teach my grandchildren piano. Last Saturday, we did a Christmas recital at a retirement center, which was a special experience for my family and the seniors. I wish I had continued playing piano after graduation, but I'm grateful for the memories and skills I gained at OBU.

1967**Linda R. (West) Bibb**

02/12/2024

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University for my undergraduate studies. Attending OBU was an incredible experience. I had the chance to learn from amazing teachers and build connections with fellow students. These experiences were very impactful and helped shape me as a person. I am grateful for the strong foundation and quality education I received at OBU. There were many professors who left a lasting impact on me, such as James Woodward, Opal Craig, and Kathyrene Timberlake. The curriculum was challenging but very beneficial, with classes in music theory, singing, and conducting. This training prepared me for my career as a public school music teacher for 26 years. My husband and I actually met at OBU, at a meeting for an organization called Life Service Band. We have been married for 55 years and have had many wonderful experiences together. Overall, my time at OBU was a significant and memorable chapter in my life.

1970**David James Larson**

10/12/2023

LOOKING BACK ON MY TIME AT OBU, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE determination it took to work and go to school. I remember my organ teacher who was a great teacher and took the time to answer my questions. I'm also grateful for the time management skills I developed while balancing work and school. I'm proud of the doggedness I developed that has helped me throughout my life. I'm also thankful for the experience I gained that helped prepare me for life in the real world.

1979

Dr. Robert Steven “Steve” Bass

12/13/2023



I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY.

It was a great platform for ministry and it really accelerated my seminary studies. I was able to graduate from Southern Seminary in two and a half years because of the work I did at OBU. I was able to put what I learned at OBU into practice almost immediately as a youth minister in Kellyville, Oklahoma. The New Testament and Old Testament survey courses, Greek with James Timberlake, and New Testament Theology with Rowena Strickland were all valuable to me. OBU challenged me academically and prepared me for the practice of ministry. I went on to get my doctorate and then came back to Oklahoma to pastor for a while. I was also the director of Missions in Tulsa Oklahoma for several years and was able to invest in young people. I preached at Falls Creek one week and it was a great experience. OBU has a great heritage and encourages Oklahoma Baptists to be on Missions. I'm thankful for its heritage and what it means to Oklahoma Baptists.

1973

Thomas Eugene “Tom” Willoughby

12/01/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

because I felt called to ministry and knew that the Department of Church Music had a great reputation. My major professor, Dr. James Woodward, was a mentor and friend who had a tremendous influence on my life. The music faculty at OBU continued to support and encourage me even after graduation. I was also fortunate to be part of a music group called The Tune Clippers, where we traveled and performed pop music at high schools, recruiting for OBU. One of the most memorable experiences was our trip to the Far East, where we sang at military installations and had a life-changing experience. My time at OBU shaped me in every way, from my skills as a musician to my understanding of music ministry in the local church. I learned the importance of investing in people and building relationships, which has carried over into my current role as an adjunct professor. Being a professor is a form of ministry for me, as I get to work with students and see them grow personally and emotionally. I am proud to say that I graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and the foundation of excellence I received there will always be with me. I even had the opportunity to serve as the Minister of Music at a church where many of my former professors were now part of my choir, coming full circle and solidifying my love for OBU even more.



Graduation, December 1995; edited by my grandpa

1995

Anna Monique (Hantla) Marsh

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY IMPACTFUL. I WAS ABLE TO TAKE ELECTIVE CLASSES WITH DR. PAM ROBINSON, WHO taught me how to manage my classroom in kind and thoughtful ways. Being in Delta as a little sis gave me the opportunity to help with events and activities, as well as behind-the-scenes matchmaking. Some favorite times were through the Bisonette Glee Club, where we traveled and sang in churches across America and on campus. Dr. Jack Pearson was a steadfast director and made sure we all felt included, as we learned sacred and entertaining music to share. It was an extra honor to be included in the quartet! The Symphonic Band, directed by Dr. Jim Hansford, allowed me space to continue to play the flute, perform, and travel for three more years after high school. Being a competitive team player, I was convinced to join intramural flag football. We named ourselves 'A Bunch of Losers,' so when we won it all, the other teams had to say they got beat by 'A Bunch of Losers.' One of the biggest takeaways was a life lesson on what it meant to be a Christ-follower, truly loving others as God first loved us. During my years at OBU, I was honored to be selected as a Welcome Week Worker and volunteered with transfer students. I can still 'Go with Ka-Rip' and sing the alma mater thanks to this experience. Being persuaded to join the Student Government with friends helped develop and deepen my discernment skills, as we were tasked with hearing appeals to campus tickets. I was also surrounded by professors who encouraged me to deepen my relationship with God while teaching me how to be a well-rounded, studious, truth-searching, volunteer listening, and engaging with others through healthy dialogue, which are lifelong takeaways. Carrying this knowledge into my life, teaching career, and motherhood has helped me to better love God and love others well.

“During my years at OBU, I was honored to be selected as a Welcome Week Worker and volunteered with transfer students.

- ANNA MONIQUE (HANTLA) MARSH

”

2017

Madison Mae Hendrickson

01/29/2024

I ABSOLUTELY LOVED MY TIME AT

Oklahoma Baptist University. As a science major, I spent a lot of time in the Wood Science Building and had some incredible professors who helped shape my career path. Dr. Jet, my advisor, was especially amazing. Every class was taught with passion and you could tell that the professors truly cared about their students. The campus environment was also very positive and being a smaller school, I got to know my classmates really well. I made some great friends during my freshman year who continued to support me until my senior year. We had a great time studying, playing racquetball, and eating together in the cafeteria. OBU is a unique university that values education and a Christ-centered approach and helped me integrate faith and learning. This has not only helped me grow as a person, but also professionally as I am able to share with others. Looking back, I am most thankful for the amazing professors who invested in my education and future career. They truly cared about their students and it made all the difference in my experience at OBU.

1978

Rev. Buddy Davis Hunt

10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY LIFE-CHANGING.

The friendships and connections I made there have lasted a lifetime and have been a constant source of support and guidance in my ministry and personal life. One of my favorite professors, Dr. Daniel Holcomb, left a lasting impression on me and helped shape my academic and spiritual growth. After graduation, I went on to serve as a youth minister at various churches before becoming an associate pastor and eventually a pastor. I also had the opportunity to work for the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma as a youth and family ministry director. Currently, I am serving as a regional ministry partner for the eastern part of the state. My time at OBU was a time of growth and maturation in my faith, which has enabled me to serve in various roles in my ministry. I am grateful for the education and experiences I received at OBU, and I am proud to be an alumni of such a prestigious institution.

1958

Rev. Donald L. Exstrom

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY MEMORABLE. I

chose OBU because it was recommended by a southern Baptist pastor and it was closer to my home state of Nebraska. The professors were all very helpful and dedicated to ensuring that I learned the subjects. I can't think of any particular professor who made a big impact, but they were all great. I actually met my wife before attending OBU, but we lived in Vets Village on campus and got to know other married couples during our time there. After graduation, I never had to worry about my qualifications being questioned, whether it was for teaching or going to postgraduate studies. OBU had a significant impact on my life and career, as I was able to use what I learned to excel in my job as a pastor. Overall, OBU was a college worth attending and my wife and I are grateful for our time there, despite the occasional tornado.

1964

Patricia Ann “Pat” (Wells) Harris

10/10/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OBU, a small school, and I was lucky enough to have Mrs. Farris as my French teacher. She took me under her wing and guided me through my studies. I was a good student, but not a great one, and she helped me get through it. I made lots of friends that I still have today. Through college, I learned how to study and eventually became a French teacher. My husband got transferred to England, so I lived there for five years and then Venezuela for two. When I came back, I decided to become an Enrolled Agent and did taxes until 2013 when I retired. Moving from Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to Norwood, New Jersey, was quite a culture shock for us. My grandfather drew a lot in the Oklahoma Land Rush and got 160 acres in Lincoln County in 1889 for \$204. My brother and I each still have a 40 in Oklahoma. It's been an interesting journey, but I'm thankful for the experiences I've had.

1962

Georgeann B. (Baldwin) Polk

10/17/2023

I ATTENDED OBU AFTER HEARING ABOUT IT FROM THE PASTOR AND music minister of my church, both of whom were graduates. When I first arrived on campus, I attended a freshman week event with my roommate and best friend. I majored in religious education, but if I had to do it over again, I would have chosen Bible. My major professor was Dr. Forbes, who was very helpful and had a great curriculum. After working as a secretary in two different churches, I got a job as a receptionist in a realtor office and eventually got my real estate license. I worked in real estate for 24 years, starting in 1990. My advice to prospective students is to keep their eyes on Jesus and be available for any opportunities that He brings their way.

2022

Nathan Rafael Murillo

11/03/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS FILLED WITH BOTH GOOD AND BAD EXPERIENCES. I had professors who truly cared about my success and were instrumental in my education. Dr. Chen, the physics professor, was especially helpful in teaching me how to get to the answer without giving me the answer itself. I learned a lot about myself and how to face challenges during my time at OBU. I was also involved in Glee Club, which was a great way to interact with people outside of the lab room or classroom. On graduation day, I was relieved to have completed my degree. Looking back, I think that OBU prepared me for the challenges I have faced since graduating. I will always cherish the memories I have with my professors and classmates, but I can't help but think that there could have been more opportunities for me and my peers.



Vocal performance major and musical theatre, attended from 1973 to 1976

1977

Rev. Diane Elaine Pennington

11/15/2023

“Towards the end of my performing career, I had the opportunity to be a part of the workshop for the Broadway musical, ‘Wicked.’

- REV. DIANE ELAINE PENNINGTON



I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE IT WAS RECOMMENDED TO ME BY A FORMER ALUMNUS, BOB Simpson. I was drawn to the school because of its strong reputation for vocal performance education. I had amazing vocal teachers and my professor, Don Clark, was a big influence on me. To the chagrin of some in the Vocal Department, I got involved in the Drama Department and performed in several productions with Michael Meece, who was the professor and head of the Drama Department. We did a production of 'Godspell' on campus which placed eighth in the nation at The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. We later reprised it for a campus reunion. After graduation, I pursued a career in musical theater, working professionally for nearly 30 years. Towards the end of my performing career, I had the opportunity to be a part of the workshop for the Broadway musical, 'Wicked.' The business of sustaining a career in musical theater was tough and I eventually decided to go back to school for counseling psychology, following a path that eventually led me to become a spiritual director, a grief educator, and an ordained minister. I loved the sense of community at OBU and made lifelong friends. I didn't receive any scholarships there and ran out of money, which is why I didn't return to finish my senior year. I helped my daughter find scholarships for her education. I've been back to visit the campus a couple of times and even saw Dr. Clark shortly before he passed away. My experience at OBU had a huge impact on my career and personal life. We never know where our paths will lead us, but God always accompanies our journey.

1982

Carol Jo “C.J.” (Stack) Parsons

10/16/2023

I WENT TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND IT WAS AN incredible adventure. As a small town girl, going to a big private college in Shawnee was a big change for me. It was a grand adventure, from going on trips to New York with the journalism and fine arts students, to going on a mission trip to Panama, and even just having picnics in the snow with my friends during the winter. It was all so exciting and new. One of the highlights of my time at OBU was having the best journalism professor ever, John Loveless. He really shaped my writing and gave me the desire to become the editor of a small town paper. I also had the opportunity to hang out with international students and learn from Dr. Wester and Dr. Rader about missions and philosophy. It was an incredible experience that set me on my career path. OBU wasn't just about academics. It was also about going places and meeting people. That's what made it such an adventure. I remember one day, some friends and I decided to have a picnic in the snow. It was freezing, but we had a blast and got some funny looks from others on campus. That's what made OBU so unique - those unexpected and fun experiences. I also had some amazing professors and advisors who stood out to me and helped me along the way. John Loveless, Dr. Rader, and Dr. Wester were just a few who made a lasting impact on me. They taught me about integrity in journalism, connecting with people from different cultures, and keeping an open mind to questions and different perspectives. Dr. Rader, in particular, helped me gain a deeper appreciation for culture and cross-cultural connections. He was in charge of the missionary kids on campus, and I spent a lot of time with them as I was planning on becoming a missionary myself. One comment he made on a paper I wrote really stuck with me - Africa is a continent, not a country or culture. It made me see the world in a different way and appreciate the diversity of people and cultures.

1985

Dr. Gary M. Mathena

10/17/2023



Gary M. Mathena, BM, MCM,
DCM, DWS

I GRADUATED FROM Oklahoma Baptist University's School of Music and had the privilege of being under the direction of Dean James Woodward. He had a huge influence on me, especially as a conductor and church musician. Dr. Michael Cox, Dr. Don Clark, Mary Kay Parrish,

and Dr. William Horton were just a few of the amazing professors who encouraged me in my pursuit of a career in church music. The school was very focused on training church musicians and very intentional in preparing me for the ministry God had prepared for me. I made many friends during my time there, some of whom I still keep in touch with today. In fact, I even served with three of them, Dr. Roger Spradlin, Dr. Phil Neighbors, and Dr. Mike Miller, for twenty-two years at Valley Baptist Church in Bakersfield, California. The education I received at OBU was top-notch and the relationships I had with my professors made a lasting impact on my life preparing me for an international ministry of encouraging, educating, equipping, and edifying those who lead God's people in worship at home and around the world. Oklahoma Baptist University has had a tremendous impact on my life and ministry that I am enjoying to this very day.

2003

Jill Renee (Hively) Wells

10/14/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY VALUABLE TO ME. I WAS ABLE TO play tennis for the college, join the art department, and meet my husband. The professors in the art department, Dr. Jones, Dean Hicks, and Julie Blackstone, were incredibly encouraging and taught me the basics of art which I have used to develop my own curriculum. I was also able to experience the small school culture and meet people from all over. My husband was able to play for Coach Tolan and his experiences have influenced the way I coach and lead teams. The relationships I made at OBU have been invaluable and I still meet people every day who are connected to OBU in some way. I am grateful for the small classrooms, the dorms, and the opportunities to meet people that OBU provided.

1958

Dr. Ken W. Chamblin

10/24/2023

I'M SO THANKFUL TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OPAL Cole, who later became Opal Craig. She was an incredible person and instructor, and had a special affinity for football players like myself. After I graduated college, I was pastoring in Horseshoe and Mrs. Raley came to Alexandria to do a book signing. She asked me what my life slogan was and I shared that I wanted to live my life in such a way that when I die, my wife and family could use the word integrity on my tombstone. She then shared with me John Wesley Raley's life slogan, 'Do right, do well and care.' This was the best life slogan I had ever heard and I'm so thankful to Opal Craig for pushing me to have a life slogan. I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from her and to be able to live my life in such a way that I can be remembered with integrity.

1964

Roger Alan Copeland

11/15/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA Baptist University was truly life-changing. I had the pleasure of attending from 1960 to 1964, and it was one of the best times of my life. I had originally planned to attend OU, but I decided to go to OBU instead. I was from a small town, and I wasn't used to big cities, so Shawnee was a big change for me. I was involved in the Glee Club, but had to quit due to a church job I had taken. I was also in the Bible courses, and my professor, Rowena Strickland, had a huge impact on my life. She was so wonderful and remembered me 20 years later. I also had a Spanish teacher that I loved a lot. I graduated with a degree in music, youth, and education. I served at several churches while I was at OBU, and then went to seminary after I got out of the Army. I have kept up with many of my classmates over the years, and it's been wonderful to see what they have accomplished and to watch their kids grow up. My greatest takeaway from my experience at OBU is the relationships I formed with my classmates. They are some of the finest friends I have ever had, and I look back at them with such fondness.

1995

Ruth E. Frost

11/01/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS truly wonderful. The education I received was top-notch and it's amazing to see my daughter following in my footsteps and pursuing a career in special education. The friendships I made at OBU were also a highlight for me. Most importantly, my time at OBU helped me grow in my faith and become a better person. I gained confidence through hard work and realized my passion for teaching. After graduation, I became a homeschool mom and also taught special education classes for homeschoolers. I even met my husband at OBU, which has led to 27 years of marriage and four beautiful children. I am grateful for the experiences and opportunities that OBU provided me, and I truly believe it has shaped me into the person I am today.

2019

Ian “Jakoby” White

11/02/2023

I HAD A HARD TIME DECIDING WHICH COLLEGE TO ATTEND, SO I was unsure of where I was going to go. Then I went to Falls Creek and there were representatives from OBU. They were encouraging people to get involved, so I applied right away. I was welcomed and felt like I was part of a new family. I made great friends and was connected to a church. My advisor was very encouraging and believed in me to be an educator. I owe everything I have to the teachers and professors at OBU who poured into me and helped me get to where I am today. I am so grateful for my journey and the experience I had at OBU.

2001

Crystal Amber (Comer) Turney

10/10/2023



MY EXPERIENCE AT Oklahoma Baptist University was truly life-changing. I was inspired to attend by my grandparents, who were missionaries for the Baptist Convention. I fell in love with the campus and knew it was where God wanted me to be. I studied elementary education and had an amazing advisor and

professor, Dr. Russell, who brought education to life in a meaningful way. I was also involved in the encouragers group, where I was able to grow in my faith and make lasting friendships. After graduation, I taught for a year in Oklahoma City before moving back to my hometown and teaching kindergarten for two years. I then became a stay-at-home mom and eventually worked as a secretary at First Baptist Church. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the strong foundation it gave me. I highly recommend OBU to anyone looking for a place to grow in their faith, make lifelong friends, and receive an excellent education.

2004

Lori Dawn (Fulkerson) Scholz

10/10/2023



My family in Grand Teton National Park on one of our many camping adventures!

I'M A SYSTEM ENGINEER AND I OWE A LOT OF MY SUCCESS TO my Computer Science professors in college. They taught me how to learn and that has been the foundation of my career. I started out wanting to be a software developer, but when I was waiting for an assignment right out of college, I got to work on a promotional video and realized I didn't want to sit in front of a computer coding all day. I went into system engineering and my software background has enabled me to work on software-centric programs in the defense industry. I've been able to use my degree to understand what software engineers are talking about and be an effective system engineer. I now work as a contractor for Apex Systems and have been able to take on different roles at a small company because of my continued learning experiences in my career. All of this is thanks to my professors for impacting my life and teaching me how to learn.

2008

Sarah Elizabeth Gibson

11/09/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS an incredibly formative experience for me. I was able to develop relationships with my professors and even now consider some of them to be friends. I was also active in student life as a member of Phi Omega Sigma and as an RA for two and a half years. My time at OBU was instrumental in helping me define my faith for myself and instilling a passion for teaching that I still have today. I'm proud of the growth I experienced while at OBU and the relationships I built with my professors and classmates.

2019

Rachel Elizabeth Lee

10/17/2023

MY FOUR YEARS AT OBU WERE SOME OF THE BEST of my life. I arrived as an undeclared major, but I knew I wanted to grow spiritually and academically. I was blessed to have professors who taught with a biblical worldview and I was able to make strong connections with them. I also made strong connections with my classmates, which was especially meaningful when I declared education as my major. I was able to take mission trips with my church and go trips with OBU, which really grew my heart for missions. Now I'm a teacher on the mission field, a calling I may not have discovered if it weren't for my time at OBU. I'm so thankful for the spiritual and academic growth I experienced during my time there.

1985

Judith Lynn Cotton

10/11/2023

I REMEMBER BEING MORE INTERESTED IN THE PROFESSORS and classroom discussions rather than on-campus activities for younger students. One professor in particular, who has passed away, had a huge impact on me. She taught English, and I had her for Shakespeare. She was tough, but she really transformed my thinking and helped me understand the language. I spent hours in the library listening to audio recordings of Shakespeare plays and somehow managed to get an A in the course. Having a teacher like that made a big difference, and I really enjoyed it. My dad was a graduate of the University of Arkansas and also a minister at First Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas. I was actually born in Fayetteville, but we moved when I was 9 months old. I didn't get involved in any clubs or activities, but I did have great friendships with my classmates. They accepted me even though I was older and included me in conversations and activities. The whole campus was kind, generous, and compassionate. My time at OBU was memorable because of the great classes and dialogue, as well as the support and inclusion from professors. I even had a professor include me in one of his books. Graduation day was very exciting for me and my family, and we had a party afterward. The day after graduation, I went to England as a graduation gift from my parents. I haven't been back to OBU since I graduated, but it's not because of any ill will. I moved on and went into teaching for almost 30 years. OBU had a superlative impact on my career and life. I didn't expect such a stellar educational experience, and I was pleasantly surprised by the devotion of the employees and administration, as well as the openness to diverse ideas. It was more than just a Bible school, it was inclusive and open to different perspectives. I'm grateful for my time at OBU and the impact it had on my life.

1974

Dr. Kathryn A. “Kathy” (Randquist) Steele

10/23/2023



At New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

I ATTENDED

Oklahoma Baptist University because I had been there for some conferences and missions conferences and I really liked the campus and the people. I had a couple of friends who were older than me who were going there and everything they told me sounded like the type of university experience

I was looking for. My most memorable experiences from my time at OBU were the everyday parts of being at a university, the small campus, the small number of students in classes, and getting to really know the professors. I also enjoyed the extracurricular activities and ministry outreach opportunities in the city of Shawnee. I was involved in the Women's Governing Council and a couple of academic organizations. I also played intramural sports and helped referee some with intramural sports for women. My time at OBU helped me to grow and change as a person by challenging me to think about why I believed what I believed in a healthy way. I was also given leadership opportunities which helped me to grow a lot while I was there.

1964

Joan Elayne (Murray) Butcher

10/13/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR FOUR YEARS AND IT HAD A huge impact on my life. The professors knew us all by name and kept track of who was in class and who was not. I had a great roommate who was a product of the Oklahoma Baptist Children's Home. The small campus size was perfect for me since I was from a small town. I was a deacon's kid and there was never a question that I wouldn't go to a Christian college. After I had my children, my husband encouraged me to open my own boutique two doors down from his store. We both worked in the same building and it was a great life.

1970

Randy Brent Bostwick

10/10/2023

I REMEMBER THE DAY WARREN ANGELL CAME TO ATLANTA DIRECTED OUR home Church in a Musical Clinic. My parents invited Dean for Lunch and back to their home and he sat down at the piano, playing and singing. He turned to me and asked if I had ever thought about attending OBU. I had no idea what he was talking about, but he explained that it was a university and gave me a catalog to look through. My parents decided it was a good idea for me to go, especially since I was planning on studying voice at the University of Georgia. Within two weeks, everything was arranged and I was on my way to Oklahoma. However, I was disappointed to learn that freshmen were not allowed to have cars on campus, and I had just bought a new one. It turned out to be a mistake, as my roommate informed me that the rule was from 1954. I spent my freshman year at OBU, joined the Glee Club, and made lifelong friends. I even flew back for Dean Angell's birthdays and his funeral, as he was a mentor and father figure to me. Thanks to him, I discovered my love for singing and continue to do so with a men's group in Georgia.

1974

Alan K. Winters

11/01/2023

I GREW UP IN THE SOUTHERN Baptist Church in Norman and Tulsa, Oklahoma, so when I heard about Oklahoma Baptist University, I was thrilled. I couldn't afford it, so I went to OU for my freshman year and then my parents helped me pay for OBU for my sophomore year. I got a job and enjoyed it. I was disappointed when I heard they got rid of the buffalo they used to have on campus. I pursued a sociology degree and had a professor, named Chuck Edgeley, who was a great instructor and was personal with all his students. Everyone knew everyone at OBU, which I really liked. After graduating, I went into education and taught school in various places in Oklahoma. I taught seventh grade for a couple of years and then high school social studies for most of my career. The education I got at OBU was different than a typical public university education. I had to take Old Testament and New Testament, which I thought was fascinating. I learned a lot about the history of the Bible that I wouldn't have gotten unless I was at a seminary.

1963**Sherel K. (Hunter) Boydston**

10/12/2023

WHILE MY PARENTS INSISTED I GO TO OBU, I'M GLAD THEY did. My first days were frightening, but I grew and formed lifelong friendships. I majored in elementary education and used my degree in my professional life. I remember Dr. Timberlake, my French teacher, who made a difference during my time there. I also went on the first European study group, which was an amazing experience. We went to Holland, Germany, France, Italy, Prague, and Berlin, and I gained a great appreciation for art. My parents provided for me to go on the trip. Since then I've been able to visit art museums here in the US. I'm grateful for the experiences I had at Oklahoma Baptist University.

1982**Terry LaVon
(Fadenrecht) Fancher**

10/23/2023

I'M PROUD TO HAVE RECEIVED MY BACHELOR'S DEGREE from OBU. During my time there, I grew from a naive Southern Baptist preacher's kid into a young nurse who thought she was ready to take on the world. Betty Gorrell, one of my professors, believed in me when some of the other instructors did not. My advice to someone considering OBU is to keep with it if that's what they want to do. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't.

1987**Raelynn (Olson) Kershner**

10/17/2023

I HAD SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT Oklahoma Baptist University. One of the things that stands out to me the most is the relationships I formed with my professors. Dr. Debbie Blue, my main advisor and professor, became a lifelong friend because of her caring nature and influence on my learning. There were so many other professors who had a positive impact on me, like Dr. Bill Hagen, Mr. Jack Pearson, and Dr. John Woods. They were great teachers, but they also became a part of our lives as students. I was a part of the Bisonette Glee Club, which was a good complement to being a math major with a passion for music. I'm now a church pianist and worship leader; my experience at OBU helped prepare me for this ministry. One of the most memorable experiences was my senior year when OBU started a sister relationship with Xinjiang University in China. I was fortunate enough to be part of the first team that went there, and God used that summer to open my eyes to the possibility of serving overseas. I was later a journeyman to Indonesia with the International Mission Board. The experience opened my eyes to the beauty in different cultures. I also learned we can serve wherever we are, doing whatever we do. I am grateful for the opportunities that OBU provided me and the lifelong friendships I formed there.

1990

Amy Jo (Womack) Reid

12/12/2023



MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS life-changing. I had a lot of issues before I arrived, but God introduced me to Michelle Neville and through her testimony and example, I became a true believer. I was not academically inclined and had been told not to go to a regular college, but the Lord saw fit to allow me to go to OBU and it was the first place I ever succeeded in a classroom. I will never forget Dr. Hammond and his wife Anne who were incredibly encouraging. Dr. Hammond even allowed me to take my one math class at a junior college to make it less difficult. He was instrumental in helping me to graduate. After OBU, I went on to get a master's degree in human relations with an emphasis of guidance and counseling and a master's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in library science. I have been a master teacher ever since and I wouldn't have been able to do it without my education at OBU. I am grateful for the friendships I made at the school, my salvation, and the quality education that helped me become a teacher. OBU is a special place and I am so thankful for my time there.

1998

Gina Kay (Johnson) Alexander, PhD

11/07/2023

I GREW UP IN GARLAND, TEXAS AND FIRST HEARD about Oklahoma Baptist University at a college fair. My friend who was graduating a year ahead of me was planning to attend OBU and spoke highly of it. I applied and was interviewed for an honors scholarship, which I received. This was the deciding factor for me to attend OBU, as I wanted to try something new and different from my family's legacy at Baylor University. I was part of the university honors program and had amazing professors like Dr. Watson and Dr. Hall who inspired me in writing and critical thinking. I also had the opportunity to participate in a seminar on rainforest conservation and jungle medicines, which was a unique experience for me as a nursing major. OBU also emphasized community service, and I was involved in a food pantry and wellness program in my hometown of Garland. I also had the chance to study abroad in Spain and learned a lot about the culture and language. In my junior year, I focused on the nursing program and had great professors like Dr. Henson, Donna Mullins, and Dr. Mary White Johnson, who influenced my passion for public health. OBU's location provided rich experiences in rural and community nursing, which led me to pursue my career in public health. I am still in close contact with three of my classmates from OBU and even have a fun fact that my sister-in-law also attended OBU. I am now a professor at Texas Christian University and enjoy giving back to students, just like my professors at OBU did for me. It's amazing to see the little connections and where everyone's paths have led.

1990

Yavonn M. (Harris) Giddeon

10/09/2023



Christmas 2023

I GRADUATED FROM OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN music. I knew I wanted to pursue music, but I didn't realize I could study it in college. I was able to take classes in theory and conducting, which I found to be my favorite. I was able to teach and train my son in music, which was very fulfilling. I was also able to help out with the local community children's theater and the music teacher at the high school. I found out I was a great director and conductor and teacher in the choir sense. I was able to lead choirs at state competitions and direct their spring concerts. I was able to give my son all the knowledge I had musically and he became a very brilliant tenor singer. I was thankful for the skills of excellence I gained from OBU and the level of teaching I was under. I was also thankful for the fact that it was a Christian university that held to God's values and virtues. I made many good friends and even a lifelong friend. I am proud of what I gained through my experience at OBU.

1980

Dr. David Wayne Manner

10/11/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University because of my sister's recommendation and the strong church music program they offered. I've always been passionate about music and pursued my undergraduate and master's degrees in this field. After 20 years as a worship pastor, I joined the convention staff. My time at OBU was memorable because of the close relationships I formed with faculty and peers, as well as my involvement in organizations like the Bison League Club. The professors were not only knowledgeable, but also approachable and became mentors to me. After graduation, I continued my education at seminary and found that OBU had prepared me well for further studies. My personal life was also impacted by my time at OBU, as my daughter and son-in-law also attended. My advice to new students is to take advantage of the well-rounded education and diverse fields of study offered at OBU. To graduating students, cherish your time at OBU and the relationships you've formed, as they will be missed once you leave.

1992

Keith Wayne Beltz

12/15/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I WANTED

to be close to home. I was already involved in youth ministry and I was inspired by Dr. Palm's teachings. I do remember the friendships I made and the camaraderie we had in the ministry. Dr. Tom Wilkes classes were especially memorable because of the OBU field days where we were sent out to different parts of Oklahoma. This opened me up to the ministry and helped me develop my communication skills. Dr. Tom had a way of presenting scripture that was both interesting and fun. If I could give a piece of advice to a recent graduate of OBU, it would be to follow God's will and keep his heart and word close to your heart at all times.

1974

Gerallyn Sue (Leach) Humphrey

11/03/2023

I GRADUATED CUM LAUDE FROM OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND

have many fond memories of my time there. One of the most memorable was a class with Professor Max Brattin, an economics professor. He taught us about the law of diminishing returns using the example of eating a corndog at the state fair. He said that the first one is so delicious, but if you have multiple, you don't enjoy it as much. I also remember Western Civilization, a class with 16 books and a play that we did during the interim between Christmas and New Year's. I also had a mentor, who is still living in Shawnee in her 90s. I remember my science class that I took with Professor Hurley. On the first day, they started passing around live mice, and I was so scared I thought I would pass out. I asked if I could write a paper instead, and the professor let me. I also remember walking up the stairs in Shawnee Hall and going to chapel on Wednesdays.

2012

Ryan David Berry

10/11/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University because I wanted to be close to home while my dad was battling cancer. I had previously attended a private Christian school in Tulsa and loved the sense of community there. When I toured OBU, I felt that same sense of community and decided to transfer there for my second semester of freshman year. I majored in business administration and really enjoyed the small class sizes and personal relationships with professors. After graduation, I went on to law school at the University of Tulsa, where my strong degree from OBU helped guide me towards my passion for helping others through the legal community. My advice for current and graduating students is to not take their time at OBU for granted and to keep an open mind about their career path. Networking is also crucial in finding the right job, as I have found through my own experiences. Overall, my time at OBU was memorable and helped shape me into the successful person I am today.

1957

Dr. Willard Brown “Bill” Moran, Jr.

10/11/2023



Dr. Willard B. Moran, Jr., MD

MY EXPERIENCE AT Oklahoma Baptist University was truly life-changing. I decided to transfer from Oklahoma University because the large class sizes made it difficult for me to feel recognized and truly learn. At OBU, with smaller class sizes and a more personal approach, I felt

like a valued student rather than just a number. The education program was top-notch, with professors like Dr. Purdue and Coleman Raley who were not only knowledgeable but also passionate about teaching. I ended up majoring in psychology, which has been incredibly helpful in my career as a physician. OBU gave me a well-rounded education that has been invaluable in my daily life and in dealing with the challenges of medicine. As one of my advisors wisely told me, college is for a college education, and medical school is for a medical education. OBU gave me both, and I am forever grateful for the foundation it laid for my future success.

1986

Susan Grace Sowersby

10/17/2023

MY FIRST ACADEMIC ADVISOR, RHONDA HALL, WAS THE ONE who helped me find my way to becoming an educator. When I first walked onto campus as a freshman, I was 20 years old and ended up in Ker dormitory, surrounded by upperclassmen. This helped me become more confident, as the class sizes were small and I received more attention from the teachers. My time at OBU prepared me to go out into the world and teach, as I was offered a job through one of the recruitment events. My faculty advisor encouraged me to take the job, and I went to California to start my teaching career. I am grateful for the amazing memories I have from my time at OBU, as it helped me become the person I am today.

2012

Laura Catherine (Simma) Hendrickson

11/29/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN incredible experience. I was able to form meaningful relationships with my advisors, Dr. Joyce Aldridge and Dr. Vickie Ellis, who helped me realize it was okay to change my mind and find my passion in communications. Graduation day was surreal and a proud moment for my family. I was also able to take part in the traditions of the university, like Christmas chapel and Welcome Week, and I was part of the Honors Program. I was able to grow spiritually and make my faith my own. I was even set up for my career by someone at my baccalaureate table. My time at Oklahoma Baptist University was a time of growth and discovery, and I am so thankful for the experiences I had there.

1998

Dr. Kristen K. White

10/16/2023



MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was an incredible experience. I was part of a flag football team that won the championship my sophomore, junior and senior year and even got to compete in the regional tournament at Nebraska. We were even flown out to the national tournament two years in a row by Nike, and we ended up placing fourth in the tournament in December of 1997. I

also had the opportunity to be a resident assistant for three years, which taught me a lot about leadership and eventually led me to pursue a career in higher education. One of the most impactful experiences I had was in Jeff Lewis's intro to global perspective class. We were all surprised when he asked us to come to a two-hour prayer meeting at 5am for extra credit, but it was in that moment that I truly grasped God's heart for the nations. That experience changed the trajectory of my life and I've dedicated my life to helping others understand that same passion.

1971

Dr. Dennis Allen Wright

10/19/2023

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH A FORMER

student of Oklahoma Baptist University about his experience at the school. He shared that he transferred to OBU after feeling called to Christian ministry and spent three wonderful years there before graduating. He studied religion and history and was preparing for the pastorate. However, during his time at OBU, he became interested in apologetics and went on to get his doctorate in ministry in that field. He spoke highly of his professors, particularly Dr. Rowena Strickland, who had a personal touch and taught the Bible with a love and knowledge that was evident. He also mentioned the camaraderie among the students, who were all committed Christians. After graduating, he went on to get his master's degree at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and then Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He pastored several churches before becoming the president of a ministry called Utah Missions. He is now the founder and president of Lion and Lamb Apologetics, which he runs from home. He stays busy with his family, including nine grandchildren, and is very active in his church. When asked about his recommendation for someone considering attending OBU, he wholeheartedly encourages it, stating that it is important for students to attend a Christian school, especially one like OBU that has a strong Christian worldview. He also mentioned that his wife graduated from Dallas Baptist University, but OBU will always hold a special place in his heart.

1985**Dean Brian Grayson**

10/11/2023

I HAVE SO MANY FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA Baptist University. When I look back, there's one story that always stands out to me. It's about the friendships I made and the impact that the professors had on me. Even though it's been a while since I graduated, I still keep in touch with some of my classmates through Facebook and have even met up with a few of them during my travels. It's amazing to see how everyone has grown and started families of their own. That's one of the things I love about bringing OBU alumni together, we all have different experiences but we share a common bond through our class year. I didn't come to OBU straight out of high school, I actually attended a community college for a year and a half before transferring. Once I got to OBU, I was immediately drawn to the music program. I had always loved music and attending a summer music festival where I met the dean of the school of music, James Woodward, solidified my decision to attend OBU. During my time at OBU, I was involved in student government and was a member of the university concert series. I also helped found the Zeta Pi Lambda fraternity, which has been a huge part of my lifelong friendships. I truly believe that my education at OBU prepared me for my career path, even though I ended up in a different field. My degree in church music opened doors for me and I have been working at State Farm for over 35 years now. It's not just about the degree, it's about the knowledge and skills that I gained during my time at OBU. I have been able to use my talents and continue playing my trumpet at my church, where I even helped start and form the orchestra. It's something I am very proud of and it all started with just me and one other person playing our trumpets. I am grateful for the education and experiences I had at OBU and how they have shaped my life and career.

1973**Rev. Richard Wade Greenlee**

10/10/2023



I WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL WHEN I FELT THE Lord calling me to preach. I decided to attend OBU with a friend who had also been called to preach. I was initially intimidated by the freshman orientation, but I soon learned the importance of discipline and time management. I was able to apply the lessons I learned at OBU to my ministry, my jobs in supply chain and purchasing, and my real estate career. I learned to think outside the box and to read and understand contracts. I also learned how to read and annotate biographies. OBU taught me the importance of discipline and time management, and I am grateful for the lessons I learned there.

1961

Dr. Frank M. Huddleston

11/03/2023

I RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, where I majored in Bible and minored in music. During my junior year, I was elected to accompany a lady in the hanging of the green, which was a great honor. I remember my professors fondly and still respect them to this day. I also remember the Junior Qualifying Exam, which I passed on my first try, which was unusual for a new student. My time at OBU taught me the importance of persistence and hard work, which has helped me in my career and future relationships. I am thankful for the memories I made and the lessons I learned during my time there.

1991

Celeste (Albaugh) Guthrie

12/02/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. I made some amazing friendships that have stood the test of time. My professor, Dr. Jenny Russell, was especially influential. She took an interest in each of her students and cared about our lives beyond the classroom. My education there prepared me very well for my master's degree and ministry. I was able to use the methods classes I took to be more effective in my children's ministry and even speak at conferences and write publications for Southern Baptist conventions. I'm so thankful for the well-rounded education I received at OBU, both in terms of secular work experience and a Christian worldview.

1973

Betty Ann (Martens) Hollman

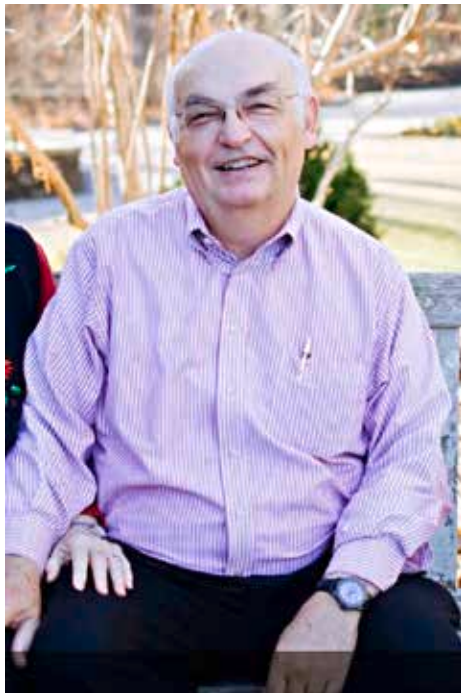
10/13/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING COACH Duffy as my tennis coach during my summer school session. He invited me to sign up for the fall session, but I had to decline due to struggling with my studies. Coach Duffy was a real encourager and his support was a big factor in my decision to attend Oklahoma Baptist University. I was drawn to the campus culture and the friendly atmosphere. With lots of prayer and encouragement, I was able to persevere and eventually make it onto the Dean's honor roll and the President's honor roll. My nursing instructors at OBU taught me the importance of lifelong learning and this has been a major factor in my career success. I have been a nurse on the floor, a nurse educator, a certified infection control nurse, and a certified quality assurance nurse. I am now a director of nursing and I am thankful for the lessons I learned at OBU.

1974

Dr. Edward Lee “Ed” Steele, DMA

10/23/2023



Ed, 2023

I ATTENDED OBU FOR THEIR MUSIC SCHOOL, which was my inspiration for attending. My most memorable experience was singing with Bison Glee Club for two or three years. I was also part of Phi MU Alpha. My education from OBU provided me with a good foundation for life after graduation. When I think about OBU, I am most thankful for the professors and friends I made there.

1996

Lauren Daye (McCaslin) Ross

11/04/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF ITS SMALL Christian atmosphere and the opportunity to have a personal relationship with professors. I was set on becoming a physical therapist and OBU's pre-physical therapy program was a perfect fit. The education I received at OBU was fantastic, with unique opportunities like working on cadavers and learning how to work with diverse groups of people. I am proud to say I graduated from OBU and I am excited to see the university grow and continue to provide a great education and Christian atmosphere for students.

1993

Jami V. Smith-King

10/18/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS CHALLENGING, BUT IT WAS ALSO INCREDIBLY rewarding. I started off thinking that it wouldn't be hard, but I quickly realized that I was starting from a deficit. I had one professor who failed me, which was a hit to my pride, but it ended up being one of the best things she could have done for me. It was humbling and it made me realize that I had to put forth effort and study if I wanted to succeed. I was also blessed to have some amazing professors who encouraged me and pushed me to excel. I was also involved in some great clubs and organizations, like Theta Sigma Kai and Chorale, and I was impacted by Otis Compton, our campus minister. He challenged me to consider worship leading, which ended up being my career. I'm now in my 31st year of leading worship and I'm so grateful for the guidance and support I received at OBU. It set me up for success and I'm so thankful for the people who saw my potential and disciplined me.

1965

Rev. Thomas Edward Cox

11/16/2023

I BECAME A CHRISTIAN AT 21 YEARS OLD AND WAS

already married with two children. I eventually surrendered to preach and ended up at Shawnee's own Oklahoma Baptist University while still serving as a full-time pastor at Fairview Baptist Church. It was a busy time for me, balancing my studies with my responsibilities at the church and supporting my family. I didn't have much time to spend on campus, but I made the most of it when I could. I remember going to the student center in the mornings and chatting with my fellow students. It was a bit of a turbulent time at OBU with changes in administration, but I am grateful for the scholarship that helped me attend. I couldn't have done it without their support. I was 32 years old when I graduated and had a few large classes, but I managed to make it through. It was tough, juggling so many responsibilities, but my professors were understanding and supportive. I may not have made the honor roll, but I graduated and that's what mattered to me. I had always prayed that I would have the opportunity to attend OBU, and it seemed like a distant dream until the pulpit committee from Fairview Baptist Church in Shawnee reached out to me. They were looking for a pastor, not a student pastor, but I convinced them to give me a chance. I promised to be the best pastor and student I could be, and they agreed. It was a wonderful opportunity for me, especially since I was 28 years old with a wife and four children. It wasn't easy, but I made it work. During my time at OBU, I had the chance to speak about unity and ecumenism.

2020

Jonathan Davis Wood

10/10/2023



Dr. Bandy with me at my rehearsal dinner!

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was a great decision for me. I was originally planning to pursue a career in academics teaching theology, and OBU was one of the few places I could attend where I could get a bachelor's degree in English and begin working on biblical languages. I was the only member of my family to attend OBU and I was part of the Student Success Center, the honors program, and I even studied abroad in London in summer 2019. During my

time at OBU, I met my wife and we've been married for three years and two months now. Due to COVID-19, I actually attended our graduation ceremony and my wedding on the same I also had three mentorships that had a profound impact on me. Dr. Benjamin Myers gave me a deep desire to read and to view life in a local place as a means to spread the gospel and impact those around me. Dr. Allen Bandy taught me Greek and officiated my wedding, and Dr. Heath Thomas helped me look into the obscure and overlooked parts of scripture. After graduating, I got a job at National American Insurance Company and decided to stay in Shawnee with my wife while she completed her undergraduate degree. We then moved to Edmond and bought a house. I'm proud of my experience at OBU.

1977

Harold John “Bud” Tate, Jr.

11/09/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was truly special. I had the opportunity to meet Coach Brigham, who was a great help in my life, and I had a lot of fun with him. I chose OBU because I had the chance to do some track, and I met Coach Brigham. I was surprised to find that I had to take two semesters of Western studies, but it ended up being one of the best courses I took. I worked full-time while attending, which was a big undertaking. My last year was particularly difficult, but I persevered and graduated. It was an exhilarating experience to walk up on stage and receive my diploma, especially with Coach Brigham there. After graduating, I got into trucking and eventually started my own business. I'm still working because my employees don't want to stop. Retirement is on the horizon, but I'm still going strong. My greatest takeaway from OBU is the fellowship of the friends I made while there. I still keep in contact with some of them and it's been a great experience.

1959

Mary Lou Shelton

10/13/2023

I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A NURSE AND MY FAITH IN CHRIST LED me to pursue a degree from a Christian college. My time at Oklahoma Baptist University helped me to become more compassionate and caring towards my patients, and to be a servant to those in need. I grew spiritually and became closer to Christ, which influenced my entire life. My time at OBU also helped me to see people through Jesus' eyes and to have a more spiritual concern for them. This has been invaluable to me in my career and relationships since graduating.

1973

John C. Penny

10/11/2023

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART

as it was the first thing I ever saw in person that I was conscious of. Growing up in the Shawnee area, it was a constant presence in my life and had a great reputation. I had originally planned to attend a service academy, but ultimately decided to attend OBU due to its proximity and strong academic programs. The professors at OBU made a lasting impression on me, especially James Markham in the history department and Dr. Hurley in natural science. Even my German instructor, a native Austrian, was exceptional. My time at OBU was unique as I lived at home and worked at a local hospital and my father's farm while taking a full load of classes. Despite not having the typical college experience, I feel that OBU provided me with a well-rounded education that prepared me for my career as a telecommunications engineer in Silicon Valley. Overall, OBU means four wonderful years of my life and I am grateful for the valuable experiences and education I received there.



“I have always been very, very grateful for OBU’s excellent foundation for my subsequent education in seminary, in graduate school, and then in a career as scholar, professor and administrator.

- DAVID JAMES LANGSTON

”

1967

David James Langston

10/10/2023

Pres., SGA Sen.; concert series chair; pres., Sacred Order of the Bison; Kerr Dishwasher, Who's Who

OBU'S EDUCATION SHAPED ME FAR MORE PROFOUNDLY THAN A BRIEF SUMMARY CAN REGISTER. NATURALLY, THE primary influences were professors who inspired me: Gregory Pritchard, William Mitchell, Shirley Jones, Jim Hurley, Allen Holt, Jim Tanner, Marion Patrick, J. Don Reeves, John Eighmy, Gene Lucas—each one a superlative exemplar of what good teaching can be and should be. I greatly wish for space to describe and personally thank each of my fellow students whose lively conversation and stories forged my thinking as we discussed campus visitors, thought-provoking theatrical and musical events, or exchanged opinions in reading-discussion group. As tutor in the Upward Bound program, I gained invaluable understanding of the complex personal and social dimensions of student learning—and which good teaching must amplify. Student government's dozens of bright and dedicated leaders like John Arnett or Harry Feldman offered living demonstration on how service, dedication and inventive leadership are interwoven. James Ralph Scales's presidency awakened visions of what a college should be; Eunice Short showed us how to value each other, and Bill Neptune's advice on our curricular experiments proved invaluable in later years. While we ridicule dorm bull sessions, I recall the best of them as moments of insight, well-intentioned criticism, and cues from others on how to reason; and our chapel sessions enacted the shared principles that are vital to every community. I have always been very, very grateful for OBU's excellent foundation for my subsequent education in seminary, in graduate school, and then in a career as scholar, professor and administrator. The growth and change I experienced on Bison Hill decisively and positively influenced my life as a parent, teacher, citizen, and friend.

2016

Rev. Ariel Celeste (Hawkins) Koerner

10/19/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS truly amazing. The sense of community was something that stood out to me the most. Everyone, regardless of their department, was welcoming and friendly. I knew people from all over campus and it was just a great feeling to be a part of the OBU community. I went into the program knowing what I wanted to major in and my time there only solidified my passion for music. I had some amazing professors, like Dr. Mrs. McQuaid and Dr. Brent Wig, who really stood out to me. I was even able to be the president of Chorale for a year, which was a huge honor. One of the most impactful experiences for me was when Dr. Kristen Staffer Todd passed away during my junior year. The music department really came together to grieve and celebrate her life, and it was a truly amazing thing to witness. Being a part of Chorale and also being an RA for two years helped me develop important leadership skills that I still carry with me today as a leader in my church. I never would have thought that my time at OBU would lead me to become a minister, but here I am pursuing my Master's of Religion and I am so grateful for the foundation that OBU gave me. It's amazing to see the legacy of OBU in my church, with so many OBU grads and even a third of the worship team knowing the school's alma mater. Overall, my experience at OBU means a lot to me personally and it's something I am proud to be a part of.

1951

Howard Leroy Rolf

10/11/2023



Class of 1951

MY TIME AT OBU WAS a transformative experience. I came from a small town and had never been exposed to such a large population. I was competitive in my studies and worked hard to get the highest grade in calculus, which earned me a \$25 prize. I worked on campus for 25 cents an hour, which was a great deal compared to the \$125 tuition. I also grew spiritually during my time at OBU, and

was influenced by a local pastor who wanted to go squirrel hunting with me. He wanted for us to sit on a log and talk, talk about God had in store for me. I think OBU prepared me for graduate school and gave me a broader view of life. I also learned how to study better after my chemistry professor threw out our first test and told us to take it again in a week. OBU was a place where I found myself and realized there was more to life than I had known.

1982

Robert C. “Craig” Wilkerson

11/15/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT

experience. I was a bit nervous when I first arrived, coming from a bigger high school to a private Christian school. I quickly found that the professors were very knowledgeable and made a big impact on me. I remember Dr. Woods, Dr. Cannon, Dr. Hurley, the math instructor, in particular. I was living off campus and commuting from Oklahoma City, so that was a challenge, but I was able to make the most of my time there. The Christian aspect of the school was a big part of my education and has carried on into my professional career. Now, I'm proud to say that my niece and nephew have both graduated from OBU in the last 12 years. OBU has been a part of my family for a long time and I'm grateful for the education and opportunities it has provided.

1992

Noble Kenneth McIntyre

10/19/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

exceptional. I was challenged academically and had some great professors, like Nancy Hagler, who was really helpful. I was also involved in the Campus Activity Board, which planned events like Stampede and talent contests. My time at OBU helped prepare me for my professional career exceptionally well and I'm proud to have gone there.

1973

David D. Berrong

10/17/2023

MY FOUR YEARS AT OBU WERE SOME OF THE

most formative of my life. I was 18 when I started and by the time I graduated at 27, I had grown and matured academically and socially. Professor Dr. David Boren, the head of the Government Department, was my early advisor and mentor and shaped my life around OBU. Graduation day was bittersweet as I was leaving an institution that had meant so much to me, but I was also excited and proud of my four years. The ratio of girls to guys was great and I eventually met my wife there. I was involved in the concert series planning board and took an OBU political science summer tour to Russia and Finland. OBU was very friendship oriented and helped me expand my worldview. It was a great place to experience life and I was involved in campus groups and the cultural shift of the late 1960s and 1970s. It was a spiritual influence and I was able to understand the complexities of life from a Christian perspective. OBU was extremely personal and warm with the faculty and students and I had a fantastic experience as a young person.

1993**Deanna Jean
(Clem) Hays**

10/21/2023

I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER PLACE TO have gone to college than Oklahoma Baptist University. I was drawn to the school because of the great scholarship I received and the fact that my parents were from the area. Plus, I loved the idea of attending a small school where the teachers actually knew who I was, instead of just being a number. I ended up majoring in psychology, which was my third choice after changing my major twice. It turned out to be the perfect fit for me and I miss it more than my previous choices. I was also involved in a social club during my time at OBU, but I haven't kept in touch with many of my friends from college. However, the education I received at OBU has had a huge impact on my career in community mental health and social services. I would highly recommend OBU to anyone considering attending college. One of the most valuable skills I gained from OBU was learning how to write well, which has been incredibly useful in my career. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the memories I made there.

1983**Kristi Ann (Dillard) Cabler**

11/02/2023

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING OBU FOR A YEAR AND IT WAS an amazing experience. I had heard about OBU from a high school friend. When I toured the school, everyone was so friendly and welcoming and the campus was beautiful. I lived on campus in WMU and roomed with Theresa Black Caves. We have a life long friendship and still keep in touch. Dr. James Hurley was the biggest influence during my time at OBU. I remember taking Biology Colloquium which helped me to gain a better understanding of the sciences. I eventually decided to switch my major from pre-med to pharmacy because I wanted to have a career with more flexibility. I had to leave OBU due to financial reasons, but I was able to finish my pre-pharmacy work at Tyler Junior College and then attend pharmacy school at Southwestern Oklahoma State. I'm so glad that my time at OBU laid the foundation for me to be able to pursue my dreams. Even better, my niece is now a sophomore at OBU, so the legacy lives on!

1956**Dr. Harold H. Lee**

10/18/2023

LOOKING BACK AT MY TIME AT OBU, I CAN SEE HOW MUCH I GREW and changed as a person. I was influenced to pursue a career in biology instead of chemistry due to the guidance of Dr. Trent. My time at OBU helped me to gain the basic fundamental training I needed to be qualified for graduate school. I am grateful for the experiences I had at OBU and the knowledge I gained that has helped me in my career and relationships after graduation.

1959

James Webster “Jim” Sinclair

10/12/2023

I WAS A MEMBER OF A SOCIAL CLUB AT OBU. WE DIDN'T DO MUCH, BUT we did get involved in a Sadie Hawkins Day event and the idea was, that the girls were to make box lunches to be auctioned off and the proceeds were to go to the club. The Ministerial Alliance surmised that our social club was sponsoring gambling, and proceeded to mount a campus-wide campaign to put an end to the event. We had a club meeting on the steps of Shawnee Hall to decide whether or not to cancel the event when Dr. Raley, the president of OBU, came by and spoke to us. He said he didn't see a problem, and said, 'I condone this, and I think it's very good for the campus.' We went ahead with the event, and it was a great success. Dr. Raley was a great leader and laid the foundation for OBU to become the institution it is today.

1960

D. Paul White

10/09/2023

I WENT TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ON A TRACK SCHOLARSHIP and ran for four years, eventually becoming the track captain my senior year. I was also elected as the president of the Bison Club. Bob Bass was the athletic director, and I received the Outstanding Senior Athlete Award. I had a great professor, Dr. Lee, who taught zoology and was instrumental in helping me get a job at Oklahoma City Southeast Secondary School. I taught there for four years and coached cross country and track. I changed my major from pre-veterinary medicine to education after working as a counselor at Kanakuk Camp for three years. Hazel from the class of 1961 and I married in 1960 and had three children. She died of breast cancer in 1984, and I married Gwen in 1985. She passed away in July 2023. I thank God for Coach Bruce Drummond and my years at OBU.

2003

Christina LeAnna “Christy” Amato

10/13/2023



I GRADUATED FROM OBU A FEW years ago and while I was there, I was involved in the Student Nurses Association. We had meetings and fundraisers, like selling shirts, which was fun. I made a lot of friends in the nursing program, and we would hang out and study together. I think my time at OBU helped me grow as a person, both personally and professionally. I had originally started at OU, but transferred to OBU after my first semester because the classes were smaller. I knew I wanted to go into nursing when I started college.



“I was relieved to have accomplished my goal of becoming a teacher, despite all the obstacles I faced.

- DR. DONNA DENICE (THOMPSON) SMITH

1976

Dr. Donna Denice (Thompson) Smith

11/02/2023

I STARTED COLLEGE AT OBU AS AN EDUCATION MAJOR, BUT I CHANGED MY MAJOR TO BUSINESS IN THE MIDDLE OF MY sophomore year. I quickly discovered that was not the degree path for me and knew it wasn't what God wanted me to do, so I left OBU and enrolled in another university for special education. However, my dad passed away after the first week of classes and I had to go home for the funeral. It was then that I decided that I should return to Bison Hill. I returned to OBU and talked to my advisor, who didn't think I was dedicated enough to be an education major. I promised I would be and he let me re-enroll. My mother was not able to work and quickly became homeless living with various family members so I had no home to visit on breaks. Essentially I was also homeless so I began to live off campus. The financial aid office helped me out with loans and grants, and I was able to get Social Security benefits because my dad was deceased. I worked at various jobs on campus and took summer classes to make up for the classes I had missed when I changed my major. I was able to finish on time with an education major and a minor in French. I was relieved to have accomplished my goal of becoming a teacher, despite all the obstacles I faced. I had the support of my friends from OBU, whom I still keep in touch with today. It had been my goal to be a teacher since fifth grade with a plan to teach special education. Following my graduation from OBU, I sought additional degrees earning a master's and doctorate in special education. I taught elementary education, junior high English and French, and special education for 30 years. Many students today face similar circumstances and could use help with their needs during holidays and breaks such as food baskets and clothing needs. I know I would have appreciated any help during those times.

2001

Dr. Laura Joan Lucero-Carrillo

10/24/2023

GOING TO THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION at OBU was one of the best decisions I made in my academic career. The instructors were phenomenal and showed me so much care and support. When I had my son six weeks early, they were there for me every step of the way. They prayed for us, visited us in the hospital, and even offered to babysit. I was able to take care of my son and still finish my degree. The spiritual leadership at OBU helped me to be a better parent and teacher. After graduating, I worked in a private school for a year and a half before getting a job with Ville Independent School District. I taught for 19 years before getting my master's in secondary ed, doctorate in organizational leadership and instruction, and admin license. During the COVID-19 shutdown, I decided to make the move into administration. I want my son to see that perseverance is what gets you through and that everyone has their own journey. I'm proud of him and I'm thankful for the support I received from OBU.

2004

Aaron Clark Kelley

10/19/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY SPECIAL. I was lucky to have amazing professors who not only taught me the subject matter, but also prepared me for the work environment and life after college. I'm especially thankful to theater department and Dr. Simons with the Bison Glee Club for helping me realize that I have a big heart and can share my passion with others. When I first chose OBU, I didn't know why, but now I realize that I live in the present and that's what drove me to be the best me I could be. My mom was the first college graduate in our family, so I'm proud to be the second. My biggest takeaway from OBU is to learn for myself and not take things at face value. I'm thankful for the opportunity to think for myself and make decisions that will help me live life to the fullest.

1986

Mary S. "Susan" Kern

10/26/2023

MY AUNT, JUANITA MILLSAP, WAS THE DEAN OF NURSING AT Oklahoma Baptist University when I graduated high school in 1982. I wanted to be a nurse, so I decided to go to OBU. Three weeks into my sophomore year, I went dancing with friends when a drunk driver crossed the lane and hit us on our way back to our dorm room. I was in a coma for three months and never returned to the university. After the accident, I moved to Miami and decided I wanted to act. I sent my resume out to Access Theatre in Santa Barbara, California. I was lucky enough to get a part in a play called 'The Boys Next Door' in 1990. It was a big deal, and I costarred with Anthony Edwards. It was a really exciting experience, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to be a part of it. Since that time, I've been to several other plays in Miami.

1959

Dr. Jack David Fleer

10/30/2023

I HAVE SO MANY FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. One of the things that stands out the most are the amazing professors I had, like Dr. James Ralph Scales. He was not only a history professor, but also the vice president of the university. Later on, he even became the president of OBU. I remember nominating him for a position at Wake Forest University, where I ended up going after OBU. Dr. Scales was incredibly knowledgeable and his lectures were always so articulate. Although, he did have one quirk where he would sometimes walk out of class in the middle of a sentence because he was so busy. It was a bit jarring at first, but I got used to it and it became part of the experience. Another professor who had a big impact on me was Dr. Gregory Pritchard. He was in the philosophy department and my favorite story about him was when I wanted to take a philosophy class as a freshman. He told me it wasn't a good idea, but I ended up taking it anyway and he gave me a B. I went to him to discuss my grade and he told me that I was just a B student. That really challenged me and I ended up taking every class I could with him and never got a B again. He really brought out the best in me. Dr. Pritchard was also very meticulous in his lectures and expected us to know everything he said. I would take detailed notes and even memorize them to make sure I was prepared. He also had a funny moment in class where a student asked him to speak up and he responded by saying he was writing the outline of the course on the blackboard. It was a great laugh for the class. I also had a special connection with Dr. Scales, even though I didn't get to know him as well. When he became the president of Wake Forest, I made an appointment to see him on his first day and he remembered me from my time at OBU. He even returned some essays I had written as a student. It was such an honor and a testament to the impact he had on me as a professor.

1974

Joyce Irene (Padgett) Jordan

10/24/2023



AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE NURSING

program, I became a registered nurse and worked in pediatrics for a few years. I then took some time off and worked for another 20 years as a registered nurse, mostly with children. I was fortunate to have excellent nursing staff and instructors who provided me with a well-rounded education. We didn't have the same hands-on experience as students do now, but we had the opportunity to work with Head Start children and visit an Native American health agency. Claudine Dickey was the head of the nursing program and was very helpful to me. I am grateful for the education and experience I gained from the program, which has been invaluable in my career.

1992

Shana Lynn (Cox) Ritchie

10/20/2023



MY EXPERIENCE WALKING ONTO THE CAMPUS OF OBU FOR THE FIRST time was incredible. Coming from a small town in Texas, the college had a quaint feel to it with an atmosphere of people I could relate to in terms of connection with my faith. The campus was small enough to foster intimate relationships, but large enough to offer a variety of experiences. I started off in music education, but soon realized it wasn't the right path for me. I explored ministry and eventually landed on social work. I was drawn to the counseling aspect of the field and enjoyed my courses with Dr. Jeske. I even met my husband in band, and we have been serving in the ministry together since 1990. I worked at the library and was supported by Mary Price. My degree from OBU was instrumental in helping me get my current job as a field manager for Oklahoma Human Services. I am most grateful for the life lesson that I learned there. I was taught to divide my worries into things that I could and couldn't control and to tackle the things I could one chunk at a time. This has been invaluable to me and I use it every day.

2021

Cassidy E. Wright, BSN, RN

11/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly life-changing. I remember being hesitant at first, not knowing anyone and wondering if this smaller university would be the right fit for me. As soon as I stepped foot on campus, I felt a sense of belonging and community. I knew this was where I was meant to be. Throughout my time there, I was constantly pushed out of my comfort zone and challenged to grow in my faith. God provided every step of the way. From my freshman year roommate who became one of my best friends, to the professors who encouraged us to make our faith our own, I could see God's hand in every aspect of my journey at OBU. As I went through the nursing program, I saw how my faith and my career could intersect in a powerful way. I learned to see my patients and their families through God's eyes, and it truly changed the way I approached my work. Looking back now, I have nothing but amazing memories and I wouldn't change a thing. I highly recommend Oklahoma Baptist University to anyone looking for a strong community, a challenging academic environment, and a place to grow in their faith. It truly was an incredible experience.

1958**Dr. Sandy Lin**

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY influential in my life. I was encouraged to study hard and was taught that whatever I put in my head nobody could take away from me. I chose OBU because I knew about the missionaries there, and the smaller class sizes meant that I would receive more individual attention from teachers. My oldest brother went to OBU before me, so it was fun to follow in his footsteps. The school instilled Christian values in all the students, teaching us to treat people with respect. I was involved in the OE Club, varsity tennis, table tennis, and the jazz band, playing clarinet and saxophone. I learned a lot about sportsmanship and had a lot of fun playing in the band. I also attended the Harvest Festival and the concert. My greatest takeaway from OBU was the importance of doing the best you can and being respectful. I still carry this trait with me today and try to teach it to my two sons.

1965**Dr. Harold “Eugene” Soulsby**

10/19/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY memorable. I was fortunate to have studied with Dr. Warren M Angell, Dean of the School of Music, and my voice teachers Mr. Gary Horton and Dr. Richard Lin who were all very inspirational. In fact, all of the faculty which I had as teachers were personable, caring and very knowledgeable in their field, which I appreciated. Dr. James R Scales was our president during my time at OBU. He was a very inspiring speaker, teacher and leader. I always enjoyed chapel with him. The students were very friendly and committed to learning. It was a great community. I was amazed at how dominant the Christian worldview was in every subject. I also enjoyed attending the basketball games, as they were doing very well at the time. All in all, I have great memories from my time at OBU.

1983**Deborah Elaine Kite**

11/07/2023

I'M AN ALUMNI OF OKLAHOMA Baptist University and I'm so proud of it! I was lucky enough to have my college paid for by the Foreign Mission Board because my mother was a missionary in Africa. It was 50 something years ago, but I'm still grateful for the opportunity. I started pre-Med but changed to nursing and the nursing program was so incredibly good. The instructors were great and really shaped my life a lot. My critical care instructor was wonderful and I'm probably alive today because of my friends at OBU. Between my junior year semesters, I went to treatment in North Dakota and have been clean ever since. I was very happy to graduate my entire class with a 100% pass rate on the first try. I was more prepared than a lot of my peers from other schools. Thinking about a couple of my instructors, Linda Hughes and Judy, makes me smile. They really boosted my self-esteem and I needed that. I also had some good friends and my sister came to OBU two years behind me. It was a great experience and I'm so glad I chose OBU!

1983

Joy A. (Anderson) Atkins

10/14/2023



MY TIME AT OBU was a great learning experience. I was a music major and everything we did was very regimented, from theory to sight singing and ear training. I learned so much about music and I'm grateful for the tough professors who pushed me to do my best. One professor, Sandra Meyer, was particularly memorable. I was

an hour late for my lesson one day and she heard me practicing down the hall. Instead of giving me a zero, she gave me an A for the lesson and said that she was impressed with my discipline in the practice room. I was so embarrassed but she showed me a perfect example of grace that day. I was also active in the SAI women's music fraternity and the OBU Band. I found great friends and a great environment. I learned to look for the right people to be around and not settle for feeling out of place. My time at OBU helped me prepare for life after graduation.

1979

Dr. Ronald Wayne Killam

11/08/2023

I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY WITHOUT

Oklahoma Baptist University. I chose OBU for spiritual reasons and I'm glad I did. OBU gave me a well-rounded education, such as Western civilization and history. I was in Sigma Delta Phi Fraternity and was on the Dean's List twice. I was the Junior Class Marshall and had the highest grade point average in the school. I applied to several universities when I was ready to go to college, but I prayed over my applications and chose the one that accepted me first - Oklahoma Baptist University. I got a bit of an academic scholarship and my tuition and room and board were pocket money for my dad. I had difficulty reconciling my scientific knowledge with my faith, but OBU helped me to do that. I was a Jesus freak in high school, but at OBU, I was a heretic for believing in science. I had a freshman ministerial student as a roommate who gave me a hard time for reading Dobzhansky's 'Genetics of the Evolutionary Process.' My experience at OBU prepared me for graduate school and medical school. My advisor, Jim Hurley, was a great mentor and connected me with Donald, a preeminent electron microscopist at MD Anderson. I got to see single strands of DNA at 250,000 magnification and studied molecular genetics, cancer genes, and cancer development in graduate school. I approach medicine as a scientist and do extensive reading in the medical literature to understand why the guidelines are there. I'm doing good in East Houston, which is an underserved area. I live day to day by the grace of God and see His hand in my life every day.

2011

Charla Ann (Bundy) Story

11/16/2023



I truly value my education, spiritual growth in the Lord, and friends.

God worked big time in that class and opened my eyes to so much. My advisor, Dr. Pam Robinson, and my dear friend Dr. Mack were also instrumental in my spiritual growth. I was also able to work at the bookstore and even become an adjunct professor at OBU. I was so sad to leave the environment, but I am thankful for the impact OBU has had on my life and the lives of my students.

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was truly life-changing. I was enrolled at St. Mary's University when I was invited to visit OBU by one of my volunteers, whose daughter had gone to the nursing department there. When I arrived, I was immediately struck by the Bible verses inscribed in the sidewalk and the warm welcome I received from the admissions counselor. I was also surprised to learn that my transcripts and everything I had done was available for me to use, and I was able to receive several scholarships and grants to attend. The tuition was all-inclusive, which was a huge plus, and I felt like I was home. I was also able to take part in the amazing move-in day and Western Civ class, which I thought I would never survive! But

1993

Brad Allen McCain

12/05/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was life-changing. I had professors who saw potential in me that I didn't even know I had and pushed me to accomplish more than I ever thought possible. Mary Kay Parrish was one of my all-time favorite teachers and Ron Davis, Dr. Sanders, and Dr. Rader were also amazing. Dr. Rader was the dean of the School of Religion and even though I only had him for a week and a half as a freshman, he remembered my name when I graduated four years later. Mary Kay Parrish was an incredible educator and she pushed me to take an honors music theory class even though I had no experience with music. She taught me how to excel and I had so much respect and admiration for her. The tools I learned at OBU have helped me in every aspect of my life since then. I learned how to run a choir rehearsal from a book called *What to Do in Case of Choir Rehearsal* written by Dr. James Brown and illustrated by Dr. James Woodward. I was able to take the principles from that book and apply them to everything I've done since then. I've planted a church, been a pastor, done life insurance, and been the head of a Christian school. I had no idea what I was getting prepared for at OBU, but it prepared me for everything I needed.

1964

Cecil “Lawrence” Matlock III

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. I WAS ABLE TO STAY IN A boarding house and live in a trailer house on campus, which made housing affordable. I worked 25 hours a week at a hardware store and pastored a church. I was there when an airplane crashed into a building and was able to help the firefighters. I had some great teachers, including Dr. JP Dane, who later joined my church. I was able to give back to the school when a big storm came through by helping with chainsaw groups. I grew in my knowledge of the Bible and was challenged by different beliefs and philosophies. My teachers poured a lot into my life and I was able to go to seminary and pastor churches in Missouri for ten years. I eventually came back to Oklahoma to be near family and was blessed with three boys. My time at OBU was a great experience that helped me grow and prepare for life after graduation.

1969

Mary Kathryne (Timberlake) MacKenzie

10/26/2023

GROWING UP ON CAMPUS AND FACULTY HOUSING, MY PARENTS WERE BOTH professors at OBU. My father was the head of the religion department and my mother was in music. I had the opportunity to get to know the other faculty children and faculty members, and I made lifelong friends with whom I still zoom with every week. I experienced academic excellence in diverse fields and it was a magical place and time. I initially majored in English literature and minored in French and music. I had many influential and extraordinary teachers and professors, but my parents were probably the most influential. I never changed my major, but I had supplemental interests. I was able to experience theater and music on campus and it shaped who I am today. I would advise young people to grasp the opportunity for friendships, to be in an environment that helps you find your life's purpose and career, and to receive the training that OBU offers.

1969

Dr. Janice A. (Abernathy) Myers

10/19/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA Baptist University was life-changing. Growing up, I was taught that my father was always right, even when he was wrong. When I went to OBU, I was able to ask questions and observe things differently than I was used to. This encouraged me to become a passionate learner and I ended up getting multiple degrees. I was also able to learn to be a woman who asked questions, which was completely frowned upon at the time. This helped me to make decisions about my faith that I would never have expected myself to make. I was particularly influenced by my microbiology professor, Dr. Hurley, who encouraged us to ask questions and investigate answers. This inspired me to become a leader and I was part of a group of my nursing classmates who created a leadership in nursing scholarship at OBU. This scholarship is still active today and I am proud to have been a part of it. My time at OBU was truly transformative and I am thankful for the experiences I had there.

1981

Shelia Ann (Brooks) Meadows

10/12/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE. THE teachers were very interested in what I was doing and how I was doing it, which made it easier to get a job with OBU as my source of degree. I also enjoyed the extra things we did, like the January term that was music related and Christian music, which was totally different from anything else. I kept in contact with a few people who were local, but not too many. Looking back, I think I grew and changed as a person by wanting to be more independent, getting a wider view of the variety of people and lives out there, and being encouraged to speak out for the Lord more. I'm glad I enjoyed my experience and am thankful for the memories I have.

1992

Marti Ann (Ussery) Goodwin

10/13/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY IMPACTFUL. I WAS PART OF the school's excellent science and biology programs, and I was especially grateful to have had Dr. James Hurley as a professor. He held us to the highest standards and pushed us to reach our full potential. The faculty and staff were incredibly supportive of my personal, academic, and professional goals, and I was able to grow and become more independent. Dr. Hurley even introduced me to the medical technology field, which I have worked in for 30 years. My education from OBU prepared me to go out into the real world with confidence. I was even able to bypass one year of study for my medical technology bachelor's degree due to the excellent curriculum. I would highly recommend OBU to anyone looking to pursue the same major as me. I also formed lifelong friendships with my classmates, and I'm grateful for the memories we made together.

2021

Katherine A. “Katie” Harmon

10/17/2023

MY SISTER ANNA AND I HAD ALWAYS BEEN close, so when it came time to look at colleges, I was hoping we would go to the same one. We ended up touring OBU and I just felt like I belonged there. We both applied and got accepted and had a great time there. I was majoring in pre-med, but halfway through my junior year, I started to feel like it wasn't the right path for me. After a lot of prayer and guidance, I switched my major to psychology and took an extra year to graduate. After graduation, I took a gap year and worked at Cracker Barrel. I was praying for guidance on what to do next and ended up talking to two women who suggested I apply to Rejoice, a private Christian school. I applied and interviewed, but didn't get the job. I applied to Owosso and didn't get that job either. I was feeling hopeless until my mom suggested I contact her old principal. I ended up getting a job teaching fifth grade at Tulsa Public and I'm now in my second year. Last year, I was tagged in something on Facebook about OBU offering a teaching certification program. I emailed people to get accepted and will be done with the program in December. I'm hoping OBU will make a full master's degree in Education program and I'll be able to get my master's degree.



Donna M. Wasson, MBA, BSMT; senior business analyst

“I learned a lot about Western civilization and the people, you know, changing literature with the changing times.

- DONNA MARIE WASSON

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1981

Donna Marie Wasson

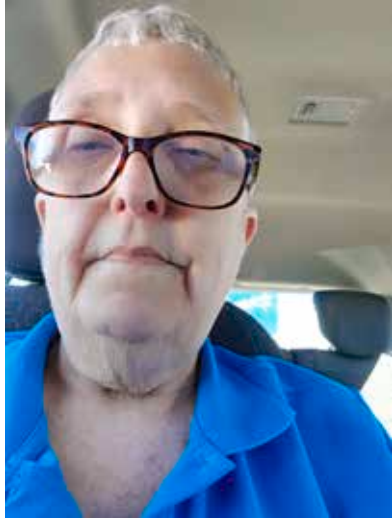
11/15/2023

I HAD BEEN ATTENDING OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, BUT THEN I CAME TO OBU AND BEGAN TAKING CLASSES IN THE biology area. Well, I would say that the number one thing was the quality of the academics. It's beyond above par. It's one of the finer universities. I've been to OU, OSU, went to the Health Sciences Center, but Oklahoma Baptist was the best background anybody could ever get. I enjoyed Western Civ, which was one of those classes that everybody had to take, and it was two semesters and it was one of those classes that was unbelievably difficult given the number of books you had to read for class. It was a very, very wonderful experience. I learned a lot about Western civilization and the people, you know, changing literature with the changing times. I think that class was probably one of the best classes I've ever had, even though it was very difficult. I did pretty well, because I got selected to be a tutor for the class that I was in. I think it was a wonderful class, but I would say that about any of the classes that I took. It was a long time ago, but it was one of the better experiences that I had. I lived at home with my parents, so I wasn't on campus. I transferred to OU and then went to the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, got my bachelor's degree from there in medical technology, essentially, because I wanted to go into the medical technology field.

1991

Sandra “Annette” Fox

10/26/2023



MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY meaningful. I had the opportunity to grow in my Christian life and stay in the same state for my education. I had a passion for working with children, so I was able to pursue that through Sunday school and daycare. The camaraderie and the chance to do Bible study and other activities with people outside of my class was amazing. I was also fortunate to have professors and advisors who were dedicated to their students and provided a great support system. I learned to set my own boundaries and figure things out on my own, which was a great takeaway from my OBU experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of the OBU community.

1968

Nancy Karen Hinson

11/15/2023

I DECIDED TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE MY husband was a student there. I was teaching school at Shawnee High School, and I took a library science class. I had library science in my background, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to take an extra class while I was at OBU. Taking the class helped me learn how to do research in the library. When I think back on my time in college, the advice I would give to a freshman is to always ask the Lord's plan for your life before you get started.

1965

Ellen Louise McPheeters

10/13/2023

THANK YOU FOR ASKING ABOUT MY experience at Oklahoma Baptist University. I had a wonderful time there and I was able to graduate in less than four years. The people I worked with and my teachers were all amazing and I enjoyed every moment. I especially loved working in Kerr Dining Hall, where I got to serve and interact with the students. The lady in charge of the cafeteria was very sweet and I also enjoyed working with my colleague Alma. Chapel was always a highlight for me, the music was fantastic. Even though I didn't participate in it, I loved singing in the assembly. OBU had a great influence on my life and I became a teacher because of it. I had a great background from my classes and the atmosphere was always positive. I am grateful for the Christian atmosphere at OBU and I never encountered any negative situations. Looking back, I am most thankful for the positive and supportive environment at OBU. I am also grateful for the couple who influenced me to attend and now I have children and grandchildren who have also attended OBU. I am thankful to everyone at OBU for making it a great university.

1999

Ryan Allen Goodrich

10/24/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was four of the best years of my life. I made so many new friends there, many of whom remain my friends to this day. I was intellectually and spiritually challenged by some wonderful professors and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. I have many fond memories of my time there, including a humorous exchange between my BCM director and I that still makes me chuckle 25 years later. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU was that I learned that I don't have to check my brains at the door to be a Christian. Jesus encourages us to use our brains and to think deep thoughts and to not be afraid to let our thinking be stretched and challenged. I was able to study Scripture for myself and ask questions of whatever I was reading. This has been an invaluable lesson that I have taken with me throughout my life.

1999

Richard "Gene" Stanley

11/16/2023



MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

was definitely memorable. When I moved in as a freshman, I had a unique welcome when someone knocked on my door and just walked right in, introducing themselves and looking through my cabinets. We ended up becoming great friends and it was indicative of the type of people I met during my time there. I was a psychology major and I really enjoyed the core classes for that major. One professor, Dr. Dowdy, was especially challenging but you could tell he loved the subject matter and he even pulled me aside one time to compliment me for taking

multiple classes with him in one semester. He was difficult but it was the type of challenge I thought college should be, with professors who cared about the subject matter and passed that on to the students.

1948

Willie M. (Maude) Harvey

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS GREAT. I STUDIED A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN

Biology and my most vivid memory was having classes with Dr. Trent. He was a kind man and nice to everyone. I enjoyed the biology classes the most. I wasn't part of any leadership roles at OBU, but my degree helped me to be successful in my life. OBU stands for me as a great school.

1962

Mary Lucy (Lamson) Duffie

10/17/2023

I HAVE TO SAY, ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY was one of the best decisions I ever made. Not only did I receive a top-notch education, but I also made lifelong friends. In fact, six of us from my nursing class still get together once a year, even after 60 years. It's quite unheard of, but that just goes to show the strong bond we formed at OBU. I chose OBU because they had a nursing program, which was rare at the time, and I was also involved in the Baptist church. It was the perfect combination for me. Choosing my major, it was an easy decision. When I was 12, I met a missionary nurse at a camp and knew right then that I wanted to be a nurse. I never wavered from that decision. OBU's nursing program was superb, with excellent leaders who truly cared about us. The smaller class sizes allowed for individual attention and a close-knit community. We lived, studied, and worked together, which only strengthened our friendships. The instructors were always available to talk to. I can't say I had a favorite professor, but I can say that OBU prepared me well for my career. We had extra summer sessions at the hospital, where we were given a lot of responsibility. By the time we graduated, we were used to taking on challenges and were well-prepared for the workforce. It showed in our careers, as many of us went on to further education or teaching positions. Personally, I held various management positions, but I always wanted to be at the bedside, which I did for the first 14 years of my career. The experience and education I received at OBU paid off in my last role as a clinical documentation improvement specialist. I opened an intensive care unit and took on many different roles, all thanks to the education and encouragement I received at OBU. I would highly recommend OBU to anyone, regardless of their major. The small, Christian-based community and quality education make it a truly special place.

1999

Rev. William “Eric” Fletcher

10/11/2023



Me and my family

I'M THANKFUL FOR MY TIME AT OBU AND THE IMPACT IT had on my life. I was struggling academically when I first arrived, but my professor, Dr. Tom Wilkes, saw potential in me and invested in me. He looked me in the eye and told me I was better than my grades showed. He met with me often to talk about life, studies, Jesus, and youth ministry. His investment in me was life-changing and I ended up making Dean's Honor Roll my last semester. I'm grateful for the faculty at OBU who love the Lord and cultivate Christian faith in students rather than tear it down, which is happening on so many other college campuses. At OBU I learned that Christianity and intellect are not mutually exclusive concepts and that I could be highly educated and a devout follower of Christ at the same time. OBU was a special place that changed my life and I'm thankful for it.

1994

Sheri D. (Blair) Wagner

10/12/2023

I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY to attend Oklahoma Baptist University. It was one of the best gifts I have ever received. During my time at OBU, I made many friends and was involved in many campus activities. I was even on the homecoming court in my junior and senior years and was honored to be the Harvest Queen. I also had the privilege of studying under Dr. Russell, who had a huge influence on my teaching career. I taught elementary education for 17 years and was able to use the knowledge I gained from Dr. Russell to help my students learn to write and read. I served on the board of trustees a few years ago. On my first day as a trustee, I had the privilege of meeting a man from Duncan, Oklahoma. He told me stories about my grandfather, who had passed away when I was 14, that I had never heard before. It was a powerful moment that I will never forget. My Uncle Charles encouraged me to accept the position on the board of trustees, and I am so glad I did. OBU has been an incredibly impactful place for me, and I will always cherish the memories I made there.

1989

Judith Ann (Davis) Pothier

10/12/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS THE best of all the universities I attended. I was drawn to the faith-based environment and the instructors were very caring. During my time there, I had an injury that affected my primary hand and the people were so helpful in getting me through it. I also enjoyed walking around the campus and the people were very caring. After I left, I became disabled and had to use a wheelchair for a long time. This inspired me to design a product for people using wheelchairs in cold or wet weather. I was able to sell some of these products to China and to people with disabilities. I also became a certified rehab counselor and now I'm retired, but I still advocate for people with disabilities whenever I see a need. Oklahoma Baptist University was the best university I attended and I will always have warm memories of my time there.

1988

Rev. Johnny Lee “John” Reasnor

11/20/2023

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME I SPENT AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University. It was there that I met my beautiful wife and made some great relationships. I took a lot of classes, but the one that stands out the most was Dr. Clark's logic class. It was the most difficult class that I've ever taken, but I was able to get an A in it. I also enjoyed Dr. Jeske's psychology class, as it taught me techniques to become a better counselor. I'm most grateful for the relationships I made while at OBU, as they have been invaluable to me.

2002

Scott S. Hupfer

10/17/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY influential in my life. I originally went there to become a pastor, but through the education I received, I became very liberal in my thinking and that was not conducive to becoming a pastor. My professors in family psychology suggested I go a different route and I did. Now I'm a professional marriage and family therapist and have been in private practice for 14 years. My professors were incredibly supportive and challenged my belief system, forcing me to understand it deeper. I enjoyed interacting with my professors more than I ever enjoyed interacting with teachers before. They showed a lot of care and concern for their students and demonstrated what they were teaching - to treat others the way we want to be treated. I'm grateful for my time at OBU and the impact it had on my life.

2017

Chase Randall Cheatwood

10/21/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS LIFE-CHANGING. IT HELPED ME GROW IN MY faith and build a community with other believers. I chose OBU because of its small and intimate campus and its focus on Christ. I didn't know what I wanted to do when I first arrived, but I eventually chose a degree that I felt called to pursue. Through GO trips and conversations with professors, I was challenged to step into my calling and pursue ministry and missions. I was able to lead trips to Germany, Switzerland, Uganda, and Israel, which were all incredibly impactful experiences. OBU taught me to enjoy the process and build relationships with students and professors. It was like a second home to me and I will forever be in debt to OBU for the impact it has had on my life.

1960

Elizabeth Lee (Howell) Dillard

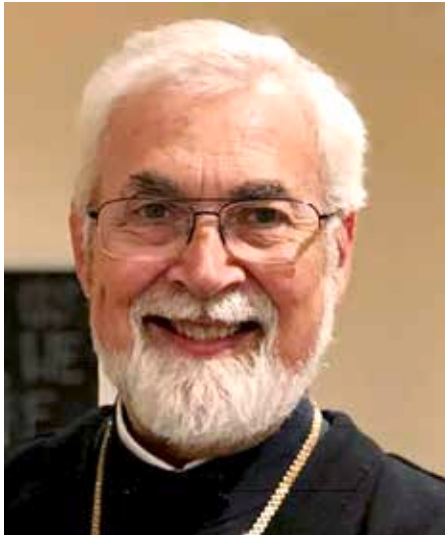
10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY SPECIAL TO me. I had been an OBU-bound person for years, as many people from my hometown of Carnegie had gone there and were very happy. I attended a summer event on campus before I graduated from high school and never considered anywhere else. During my time at OBU, I had a great support system, especially from the professors in the Bible Religious Education and Education departments. One of my favorite memories was our evening Bible studies, where we would meet outside and have devotional time. I also realized that the connection students have with their professors at OBU is very special. My time at OBU prepared me for life after college by giving me an overview of people and the importance of seeking a connection. My advice to a freshman just starting out would be to pray about where God wants them to go to school and then seek that connection.

1975

Very Rev. John David Finley

12/09/2023



I AM GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University. I was able to pursue my interest in music, having been given a scholarship in music theory and composition. Kathyne O'Bryan Timberlake had a deep impact on my life, not only as a professor of music theory and piano, but in terms of spiritual direction and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. I was also honored to be a member of the Tuneclippers, which was an amazing experience, not to mention the influence of Jim Woodward on my life. He was a great mentor and teacher. I'm also grateful for the lifelong friends that I made while at OBU. It was an incredible experience and I'm so thankful for it.

1977

Dr. Thomas “David” Willets

11/15/2023

I WAS A LITTLE INTIMIDATED WHEN I FIRST STEPPED ON

campus but also excited to be there. I chose OBU because I was responding to the call to ministry. I majored in history and had some great professors, like Dr. Timberlake, who had real care for students. I also met my wife there, which was a memorable experience. I was active in the Ministerial Alliance and was even elected president. I also traveled all over the country with a group of others to preach. OBU helped me to grow and change by confirming my call to ministry and expanding my worldview. It was a great place to dream, and I look back on my time there with a lot of fondness.

1972

Keith Michael Miller

11/20/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN

incredible experience. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed with open arms and hospitality. I was exposed to so many wonderful people and experiences that I wouldn't have had anywhere else. I was challenged in my music theory classes, and I even got to join the OBU Chorale and tour the Southwest. I was motivated to pursue a career in ministry, and I was able to gain spiritual underpinnings from my time at OBU. I was even able to take a touring youth choir to OBU as the culmination of our trip. My time at OBU was truly life-changing and I am so grateful for the experiences I had there.

2001

William H. “Will” Wright

10/10/2023



I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF the small class sizes and the degree program I was interested in. I was able to get one-on-one attention if needed and the technical focus was great for my interests. My professors, Dr. Byland and Dr. Babb, were very influential and I even went on a trip to London with them and other professors in the fine arts department. They were great mentors and role models and always available to discuss any questions I had. My time there allowed me to grow technically and spiritually. I also formed lifelong friendships that I still keep in contact with today. All in all, my time at Oklahoma Baptist University was a great experience that I will never forget.

1991

Stephanie R. (Stroud) Donato

11/03/2023

I NEVER EXPECTED MY JOURNEY TO LEAD ME TO WHERE I am today. When I arrived as a freshman at Oklahoma Baptist University, I didn't know who I was in Christ and had very little sense of purpose and direction. Having had experienced a lot of unknown trauma, in addition to self inflicted trauma, my life was unraveling. One particular evening standing in front of my dormitory, I thought about my possible future children, and realized I wouldn't want them to live their life like I was. I was slowly understanding some of my brokenness but without a solution. I started out as an early childhood education major because I liked children and my mom was a teacher. I quickly learned, that was not the path for me. The spring semester of my sophomore year, I took a marriage and family class with Professor Oteka Ball and learned about the significant dysfunction within my nuclear family. That one class became the defining moment that led me to change my major to psychology. Professor Ball was very influential and helped me to hear the call that God had on my life. I did not finish my education at OBU due to my prideful unwillingness to obey my father in getting a job to help with tuition. That didn't stop the Lord's plan for me and He graciously led me in a different direction to finish that calling at another Baptist university. Never did I see myself one day living in Oklahoma where two of my three children would graduate from OBU. I am thankful for the quality education they received, and I'm so grateful to see the full circle of God's faithfulness in my own journey and how He has provided for my children. OBU will always have a special place in my heart.

1981

Dr. Martin Allen “Marty” Marks

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly impactful. Not only did I face and enjoy academic challenges, but I also formed lasting friendships with my fellow students and bonded with my professors and the director of the Baptist Student Union. I initially planned to become a career missionary, but my clarinet teacher, who was also the band director at OBU, solidified my decision to attend. The Department of Music at OBU was top-notch, providing us with rewarding performance experiences and bringing in renowned musicians like BJ Thomas, Andre Crouch, Keith Green, and Michael Johnson. As an undergraduate student, I was honored to perform as a soloist with musicians from the Oklahoma City Symphony in the Concerto Aria concert. My professors at OBU equipped me well for a career in music education, but the school's emphasis on liberal arts also instilled in me a natural curiosity and ambition to continue learning after graduation. The spiritual atmosphere and inclusive community at OBU have also greatly impacted my spiritual life. Overall, my experience at OBU was one that I will always cherish and be grateful for.

1972

Paul Linton Gritz, PhD

10/11/2023



Retired professor of church history,
Southwestern Baptist Theological
Seminary

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT

Oklahoma Baptist University.

I studied history and political science, which ended up being the perfect preparation for my career in teaching. I was involved in the Student Government Association and even became the president of the student body. This involvement in politics eventually led me to a short experience working for the governor of Oklahoma. My interest in political science was sparked by my professor, David Bour, who encouraged me to pursue further studies at Oxford University.

Although I wasn't a Rhodes scholar, I still went and majored in political science. When I returned,

I worked for my professor who had been elected governor. However, during my time in England, I realized my true calling was in ministry, so I left to pursue a master's and doctoral degree at Southwestern Seminary. My education at OBU, particularly in history and political science, greatly influenced my career and interests. I also had a strong background in religion, as my father was the editor of the Baptist Messenger. I formed close friendships at OBU, particularly with my social club, Sigma Delta Phi. I even had some interesting experiences, such as being a student representative on the academic committee and being invited to observe board of trustees meetings.

2020

Marshall Proctor

11/03/2023

I ATTENDED OBU WITH A DESIRE TO LEARN THE biblical languages and deepen my understanding of Christian theology. I was initially drawn to the school because it was the only one within my faith tradition that offered courses in Greek and Hebrew. During my time at OBU, I had an amazing experience. My Western Civilization class was one of my favorite classes and it sparked a love for the humanities in me. I was inspired to teach and encourage students to appreciate the beauty of literature, art, and culture, while also recognizing the corruption and injustices in the world. Learning the Biblical languages was a challenging but rewarding experience, and I continue to study them even after leaving OBU. I am grateful for the professors, particularly Dr. Kelly, Dr. Noble, and Dr. Emerson, who had a significant impact on my life. I also had the opportunity to read ancient Greek texts, such as the Didache and the Shepherd of Hermas, which deepened my understanding of the language and the Bible. I have tried to teach others what I have learned, but it is a difficult task that requires dedication and accountability. My time at OBU was a transformative experience that shaped my love for the humanities.

1969

Rev. Jim L. Wallace

10/16/2023

I WAS INSPIRED TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BY my minister of music, who was in the Glee Club. I had the opportunity to experience the Glee Club's concert at my church, which further solidified my decision. What made the most impression on me was the Music Department and Dean Angell, who was phenomenal. I took some great classes with Jim Woodward that prepared me for my profession. OBU had a great influence on my career as a minister of music and worship. The university means a lot to me as it is a great school that is Christ-centered, and I am thankful for the opportunity to attend.

1979

Frances Roberts

10/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEANINGFUL TO ME. I was so grateful for the opportunity to attend college, as it would have been impossible without the help of OBU. I was proud to be a graduate of the oldest nursing school in the state, and the instructors were top-notch and very helpful. I had some amazing professors, like Milsap, Proctor, Bolhouse, and Forsythe. They were all so supportive and had a great sense of humor. Going through the program helped me to grow up and take things more seriously. It taught me to never give up and keep going, and I was lucky to have such great classmates. It's been so long, and we don't keep in touch anymore.



“Dr. Kelly was my advisor and I had him for several Bible classes. He was a great influence on me and I learned so much from his teaching.

- MICHELLE ANN (BRUNER) GRAY

2004

Michelle Ann (Bruner) Gray

10/16/2023

I REALLY WANTED A WELL-ROUNDED CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THAT WOULD HELP ME DEVELOP AS A PERSON, AND OBU seemed like the perfect fit with its strong Christian influence. When I first arrived on campus during welcome week, I was surrounded by friendly faces and felt so welcomed. It was such an easy process to get settled in. Those first few days were filled with energy and excitement, and I still keep in touch with some of the people I met during that time. The friendships I made, especially during welcome week are so memorable. I actually met my husband during that first week, although we didn't start dating until later. I also met some amazing people who helped shape my walk with Jesus. I had a couple of girls who disciplined me throughout my time at OBU, and they really set the trajectory for my growth and life. Dr. Kelly was my advisor and I had him for several Bible classes. He was a great influence on me and I learned so much from his teaching. He really inspired me to communicate the Bible well. I see his updates on social media. I majored in Bible and minored in communications, and I knew I was called to ministry. My husband and I did youth ministry for 16 years and now we're in pastoral ministry. OBU gave me a strong biblical foundation and the communication skills to effectively share the Bible with others. It has not only impacted my career, but also my role as a wife, mother, and neighbor. OBU really set me up for success in all aspects of my life.

1975

Dr. Bill Ray Clark

11/02/2023

ONE OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES WAS PLAYING A

trumpet solo in Raley Chapel for a school-wide event. I've always had a passion for music and was called into the ministry at the young age of 9 to be a worship leader. I can play multiple instruments, including trumpet, keyboard, and guitar, and read music. My family isn't into music, but I've always had musical talent. When choosing a college, I was inspired to attend OBU because of Jim Woodward, the dean of music. I met him at a choir festival in seventh grade and was so impressed with his conducting that I told him I wanted to go to college where he taught. He didn't remember me when I called him for a scholarship, but I received a full ride on trumpet. Walking onto the campus as a student for the first time was an awe-inspiring feeling, especially since I had friends who were seniors or recent graduates. My mentor, Don Blackley, also a graduate of OBU, gave me great advice for my music career. My favorite professors were Jim Woodward and Don Clark, who helped me get into OBU. I gained perseverance and excellence in music and performance from my education at OBU. Although I changed careers after graduating and pursued a master's in education and a PhD in clinical psychology and counseling, I still do concert work with my trumpet and voice. I even sing with the Singing Men of Texas, a group I joined in 7th grade. I keep in touch with my friends, some of whom I sing with regularly. I would recommend OBU to anyone, and if given the chance, I would go back and relive those years again.

2018

Laurel Elayne Gamble

12/05/2023



Laurel Gamble, MSN, RN

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR MY

graduate program because it was local to me and I wanted to have access to resources and professors on campus. I'm a lifelong Baptist, so it was an easy choice. Most of the program was online, but there were a couple of components that required me to come to campus. I'm glad I chose OBU because it allowed me to have the best of both worlds - the convenience of online classes and the opportunity to access resources and faculty on campus.

1999

Clayton Matthew “Clay” Martin, MEd

11/15/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS INCREDIBLY

impactful. I was surrounded by people who modeled servant leadership and humility, and it inspired me to carry those values into my career. I was fortunate to have professors like Dr. Linda McElroy, Dr. Ronda Hall, and Dr. Jeannie Akin who taught me the importance of connecting with each student individually. My basketball coach, Bob Hoffman, also showed me how to integrate a passion for athletics with a strong faith. All of these experiences have helped me in my roles as a coach, principal, teacher, and official. They have also helped me become a better husband and father. Currently, I'm still in school and working in the NFL, and I'm striving to be the best version of myself in all areas of my life.

2006

Amanda W. (Winn) Ward

11/17/2023

I ATTENDED OBU, A SMALLER UNIVERSITY THAT SHARED MY

Christian values. It was a welcoming and close-knit community that felt like a home away from home. My professors were caring and had high expectations for me, which helped prepare me for my career in early childhood education. I have fond memories of attending basketball and soccer games, studying in the library, and feeling safe and supported while being away from home. My education at OBU gave me confidence and prepared me to be a successful educator. My advice to current and graduating students is to enjoy their time at OBU and cherish the special community and experiences it offers.

2018

Lauren Elizabeth (Reinhardt) Keefer

11/29/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly special. I came in as a freshman, a softball player, and left four years later as a changed person. I made some of my best friends there, like Rachel, who I met my freshman year, and we were attached at the hip ever since. I had some funny experiences, like when I put diesel in my car instead of gas and had to get it towed. I also had some really meaningful moments, like when I graduated and my grandma, who hardly ever leaves the state, came to see me. My classes were some of my favorite moments at OBU. I had great professors like Dr. Ezel and Dr. Noble in my literature classes and Dr. Kelly's New Testament class. I learned so much in the classroom and my professors really knew me and how to reach me. My time at OBU was a time of growth and change. I went from being self-centered to more considerate of others. I became an analytical thinker and really grew in my faith. I went from knowing who Jesus was to walking hand in hand with Him. I discovered discipleship and was mentored. OBU was a place of growth and I'm so thankful for my time there.

1977**Labetta Joyce
(Perry) Wallenmeyer**

10/25/2023

I MADE WONDERFUL FRIENDS, SOME of whom I still stay in contact with. It was there that I was encouraged to pursue my nursing career and eventually get my master's degree to become a nurse practitioner. I was fortunate to have two amazing professors, Juanita Proctor and Juanita Millsap. They were legends in Oklahoma nursing and encouraged me in my nursing career. As nursing students, we didn't have much time for clubs or sororities, but during my junior year, I moved to Oklahoma City to be closer to the hospitals for our training. My time there also strengthened my Christian walk, as I was a preacher's daughter. I attended church every Sunday and Wednesday and met some amazing people who encouraged me. My most memorable moment was being chosen as one of the women to be honored during homecoming. My advice to nursing students is to not be discouraged and to make studying hard an important part of their life.

1993**Mary Lee “M. L.”
McBride, MA, LMHC, LPC**

12/20/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR MY BACHELOR'S degree. My sister was also an alumni and I had heard of the school from a young age. I initially went to another university on a basketball scholarship, but ended up transferring to OBU after meeting some OBU women who had a strong sense of camaraderie. My first week on campus during welcome week was buzzing with energy and excitement. However, my first class with Dr. Hurley in Biology was a rude awakening and I struggled academically. I also faced personal challenges and ended up seeking therapy at the First Baptist Church. This experience led me to add a major in family psychology and I have since worked in various mental health settings, touching many lives. I am grateful for the journey that brought me to OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1966**Dr. Stanley LeRoy “Stan” Hasteley**

11/22/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS LIFE-ALTERING. I MET my future wife there during my first week of freshman year, and we were married two years later. I majored in US Government and had the privilege of having Dr. James Ralph Scales, the president of the university, as my major professor. His wife, Betty Scales, taught Constitutional History and was instrumental in my career choices and development. I went on to earn a doctorate at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and then covered the US Supreme Court for 15 years for the Baptist Press news service and the interfaith Religion News Service. I was also assigned to the White House to cover two presidencies. My time at OBU set me on a good course and I am forever grateful for the impact it had on my life.

2021

Hannah Joy Hawkins

01/19/2024

I MET MY BEST FRIEND AT OBU. ON THE FIRST WEEK OF classes, I went to the chapel and was sitting by myself. I was hoping somebody would sit next to me, and the next thing I know, she was sitting next to me. She was as shy as could be, and we became friends. I was close to two professors who helped me get through my college years. Dr. Wilbur was my Spanish teacher, and she definitely mentored me through my last years of college. I don't know how I would have dealt with a lot of things I did without her. I had people who helped me, and I grew into the person I am today. I was undecided for at least two semesters before I decided on a major.

2015

Christopher Scott Thrutchley, Jr.

11/15/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT experience. I had the opportunity to start fresh and reinvent myself. I made a lot of friends and enjoyed my classes. The faculty were really friendly and generous, and some of them even helped me with personal issues. I even met my wife in a civ class! I was also exposed to the Southern Baptist Convention and the International Mission Board, which I found attractive. My time at OBU helped me to grow and change as a person, and I ended up applying for graduate programs in chemistry. I also became more open to the Roman Catholic Church, which is now my faith tradition. I'm really grateful for my time at OBU and all the people who helped me along the way.

1976

Patricia A. (Coleman) Smith

11/13/2023



Retired and road-tripping when adventure calls

MY EXPERIENCE AT Oklahoma Baptist University was truly life-changing. I was inspired to attend after attending a church camp and hearing a speaker from OBU. I was drawn to the smaller university and the scholarships I received from the Baptist Association sealed the deal. Academically, OBU challenged me to be better than I was and I was able to

grow and learn. On the fun side, I was part of the first women's softball team, and we had to buy our own jerseys and our professor, Dr. John Wood, volunteered to be our coach. We played teams like OU and Enid and Northeastern and it was a really fun time. I even got MVP at a banquet! OBU impacted my career and life after graduation in a very positive way. I went in with a different mindset and ended up getting a business degree which helped me get a job at a nice company in Fort Smith, Arkansas. In 1992, I transitioned to the Pocola Public Schools and was the business administrator there for 30 years. OBU provided me with a good education and I am forever grateful.

1973

Janie Jones

10/18/2023

I WENT TO OBU AS A MUSIC MAJOR BECAUSE I HEARD ABOUT

the music program through my older brother as well as other friends from my home church who were pursuing music degrees there. We were all influenced to go to OBU by our former Minister of Music, who was also a graduate of OBU. We heard about the excellent quality of the education program at OBU and the music school and faculty. The music faculty were excellent teachers, and with the use of their musical knowledge, were committed to helping and inspiring students to achieve their musical goals. During my four years at OBU, I studied piano with the Artist-in-Residence, Charlotte Martin. Besides being an excellent and remarkable pianist, she was also a great teacher who was very dedicated in helping her students develop their piano skills to the best of their abilities. She was very influential in my decision to continue to pursue my piano studies, especially in the area of piano accompanying which is now referred to as collaborative piano studies. I received my master's degree in piano accompanying at the University of Southern California, studying with Gwendolyn Koldofsky and Brooks Smith. After receiving my master's degree, I pursued a career as a professional accompanist as well as teaching and coaching for many years in several cities, such as San Francisco, Louisville, New York City, and Ann Arbor, where I ended up at the University of Michigan. Throughout most of these years, I stayed in touch with Charlotte Martin as well as some of my friends from OBU. I have many good memories of the friendships I made at OBU, which made our 40th reunion a wonderful time to visit and catch up with everyone. Also during the reunion, I was able to visit with music faculty I hadn't seen in many years.

2007

Marci Nichole (Carpenter) Hammonds

10/12/2023

I HAD AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA Baptist University. One of my favorite things was working with the Mission Center and the friends I made there. I loved serving in inner city Oklahoma City and working with the children. I also had some amazing professors, like Dr. Tom Wilkes and Dr. Jackie Wilkes, who were very influential in my life. I have so many great memories from my time at OBU, like the time we went sledding on mattresses and cookie sheets during a whiteout. I remember feeling a little nervous on my first day, but I quickly found friends and even had my whole family there to pray over me. OBU helped me grow in my faith and become more independent and productive. I also developed a passion for missions, which led me to serve as a journeyman missionary for two years in Central Asia after graduation. It was a challenging but incredibly rewarding experience. Coming back home was a bit of a culture shock, but I eventually found my way into teaching, which was my degree. Now, I work with special needs adults in a cafe, using the practical skills I learned at OBU. I also get to do ministry every day as a pastor's wife. I am grateful for the impact OBU had on my life and the opportunities it opened up for me. I have a new addition to my family, a 9-month-old daughter, who brings so much joy to my life.

1991

Ronald

Warren “Ron” Haye

11/17/2023

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A pivotal place in my life, where I developed lifelong friendships and relationships with my peers and professors. It was a highlight that I continue to share with my kids. I chose OBU because of a friend and their strong pre-med department, but the Lord had other plans and led me to Applied Ministries. One professor, Dr. Tom Wilkes, was instrumental in my success and remained a great friend and confidant until his passing. He taught me the importance of integrity and serving others in ministry. Outside of the classroom, I was involved in student life, internships, and clubs, which taught me valuable lessons. Graduating from OBU was a sense of accomplishment and set the pace for my future. Since then, I have been in student ministry and now serve as an executive pastor, constantly reminded that without the Lord, my decisions are empty. My greatest takeaway from OBU is the great memories and relationships that continue to this day. It was a pivotal place that shaped my life and ministry.

1951

Rev. Bill C. Haggard

11/03/2023

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS ONE OF THE KEY HIGH points of my life. I spent four years there and even pastored a small church in Oklahoma City during that time. Later on, I was invited to work for the state convention in the Department of Religious Education, which was an excellent preparation for me to attend seminary. OBU had a great spiritual impact on my life, with a faculty of devout Christian people who were always willing to help and guide me. I never felt alone at OBU and if I had to do it all over again, I would. The school's emphasis on Christ and its supportive community made a lasting impact on my faith and relationship with God. I have high praises for OBU and its faculty, and I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences it provided me.

1968

Dr. Warren L. McWilliams

10/17/2023

I HAD AN IDEA THAT I MIGHT PURSUE MINISTRY AFTER COLLEGE, BUT I needed more education and training. Thankfully, I had professors, like Dr. Timberlake and others, who encouraged me to pursue my education. They led me to become a college professor for my entire career. It was a very rewarding experience to come back to my alma mater and become colleagues with some of my former professors. I received a strong liberal arts education at OBU, which taught me basic skills like research and writing. This helped me to go in several directions, and I gained knowledge and skills in theology. I'm a strong supporter of a liberal arts education as a pathway to several careers. I met my wife at OBU, and both of my daughters attended OBU, so there's a rich OBU heritage in my background. I'm thankful for the professors who influenced me to understand my calling to ministry and how to prepare for it.

1984

Lora Ann Wahpepah

10/25/2023

BUT IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT

basketball. Having a strong support system was crucial, and I was lucky to have that at OBU. Coach Sali was a big influence and always there for us when we needed him. Being a pastor's daughter, it was also important for me to be around others who shared my faith. That was a big part of the OBU community and it was a great experience. After graduating, I took some time off to raise my kids before starting my career as a teacher. My education at OBU really prepared me for that. I was able to stay in touch with the university and even had a couple of student teachers from there. I hope I was able to pass on some of the things I learned and help them become great teachers too. Overall, my time at OBU was fantastic. From the full scholarship to the amazing basketball team and the strong support system, it was a truly positive and impactful experience. I am grateful for the education and preparation it provided me for my career and life after graduation.

2005

Kristin Joyce (McWhirter) Wu

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS FILLED WITH

unforgettable memories and lifelong friendships. I chose to major in Secondary English Education because I had a knack for helping students with their writing and assignments. Graduation day was a proud moment for me and my family, who flew down to attend the ceremony. My degree has helped me in my professional career and my relationships with students. My advice to future alumni is to stay focused and keep your faith as your foundation. My greatest takeaway from OBU is the professors who went above and beyond to pour their lives into us and equip us for the future. I am grateful for their influence in my life.

1976

Deborah (Lott) McBee

10/13/2023

LOOKING BACK AT MY TIME AT OBU, I CAN SEE HOW MUCH I HAVE GROWN

and changed as a person. I met my husband there and it was his Christian influence that led me to become a Christian myself. This has had a huge impact on the rest of my life. Living in the dorms and interacting with professors and other people taught me how to negotiate and live in a world with other people. It made me a calmer person and I learned to deal with people in a more loving way. I also made some great friends that I still have relationships with today. Dr. Black was particularly influential in my life, encouraging me and helping me to grow. My time at OBU has helped me in my career and relationships after graduation.

1977

Rodger A. Whitten

10/11/2023

I WAS ALWAYS PASSIONATE ABOUT MUSIC, which was also a big part of my family. I started playing piano at age 6 and organ at age 12 and was already playing professionally by the time I was in junior high. OBU was one of my top choices for college due to the substantial music scholarship they offered and the particular piano instructor I wanted to study with, Charlotte Martin. At OBU, I was surrounded by experts in their field who pushed me to reach my peak as a student. Charlotte Martin transformed my technique on the piano. She also provided opportunities to travel and perform in Mexico City and Nice, France. Other faculty members, such as Michael Cox and Claude Bass, helped me develop my knowledge of music theory, music history, and composition. Dean James Woodward was a wonderful mentor to me, and I was able to play festivals around the country with him as director. Charlotte Martin also taught me a valuable lesson about focus. When I was invited to play on the varsity basketball team, she told me that if I did, I would lose my scholarship. At the time, I was crushed, but I soon realized she was right. I still played basketball but had to focus more on being a pianist. Attending OBU was the right decision for me, and I am grateful for the tough love and guidance I received from the faculty. They helped me develop my musicianship and knowledge and inspired me to share it in my career.

2020

Alexis Elaine Besch

10/14/2023



OBU gave me two important things: a faith-centered work ethic and a crippling caffeine addiction.

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was truly transformative. As a member of the steering committee, I had the opportunity to encourage and be encouraged by my fellow committee members. We prayed for each other and supported each other in our future endeavors. This sense of community and love was present in all aspects of campus life, no matter what committee or position we held. My major in psychology pre-counseling allowed

me to pursue my passion for helping others and understanding the complexities of the human mind. The professors, like Dr. Anderson and Dr. Crane, challenged me to think critically and apply my knowledge in various situations. After graduation, I faced some challenges, but my degree from OBU equipped me with the tools to navigate through them and continue to grow personally and professionally. The greatest takeaway from my time at OBU was the depth of knowledge I gained about the Bible. Classes like hermeneutics and biblical ethics allowed me to delve into different facets of the Bible and apply it to my life. This has been invaluable in my career, personal life, and spiritual journey. I am forever grateful for my time at OBU and the impact it has had on me.

1958**Willo Venetta McCoy**

11/02/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was a dream come true for me and my parents. I was encouraged to attend by my pastor's son and daughter who had gone there before me. One professor who stood out was Dr. Jimmy, a religious education professor, One of his quotes was: 'I have many things to tell you that your ears are not ready to hear.' One of my favorite memories was living in a small dorm with international students and introducing them to my family and helping them acclimate. We would cook meals together every weekend and I got to sample international foods. My time at OBU prepared me well for life after college. I was able to attend training sessions for Sunday School Week, Discipleship Training Week, Youth Week, and Family Orientation Week. My advice to a freshman would be to pay attention to their advisor and make sure they have a good one to help them determine what they want to do. This was the main thing that helped me realize that I wanted to serve in a local church.

1967**Darla Ann (Burks) Hoggatt**

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS TRULY SPECIAL. DR. WOODWARD WAS AN amazing director who made us all feel special, and I was able to flourish under his leadership. I had always known my major was a calling, and I became more confident in myself while I was there. My advisor, Dr. Searcy, guided us through the Teacher Education Program and made sure we knew what to do when we got ready to get into the classroom. I was part of a group called the Littlest Angels, and we used to do some touring during our spring break. I was able to maintain touch with some friends from OBU, but not as many as I would like. OBU gave me a career that I was very successful in, and it gave me a good, solid foundation in my career path. OBU will always have a special place in my heart.

1997**Jennifer Michelle****“Jenni” (White) Langle**

10/21/2023

I REMEMBER WHEN MY BOYFRIEND LEFT FOR COLLEGE AND HE SOUNDED so different on the phone. I couldn't figure out why he had changed so much. Then I realized when I was sitting by the fountain my freshman year that when you go to college, you get to decide who you want to be and your friends shape you in a way that's different than being at home with your family. Now that I have a daughter getting ready to go off to college, I'm excited to see who she will become and how she will change. It's encouraging to think about the possibilities.

1957

Patsy A. (Freeman) Bush

11/03/2023

I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE TWO AMAZING ACADEMIC influences during my time at university. Dr. John Raley, the business department professor, and Dr. James Ralph Scales, the vice president, both had a profound impact on my life. Dr. Raley taught me to love learning and showed me the importance of giving back to the community. He was leading a campaign to build a chapel and I had the privilege of helping him with it. Dr. Scales was a brilliant man and was so wonderful with the young people. He was the academic influence I needed to help me get into law school. I wrote to him asking for a reference and he wrote me a wonderful letter. I practiced law for 30 years and I know that their influence was part of the reason why I was successful. My advice to new students coming to campus is to go with an open heart and to not be afraid.

2017

Madelyn Elaine (Noland) Wessel

10/11/2023

I DECIDED TO GO TO OBU, A UNIVERSITY IN OKLAHOMA, BECAUSE I grew up attending their Super Summer program and loved the campus. I felt called to ministry in high school and knew OBU would prepare me for it. I studied religion and worked in student ministry after graduation. I participated in intramural football and stayed in touch with classmates. My classes and social life helped me grow as a person and my degree enhanced my career in the church. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the lifelong friends I made.

1975

Lisa (Foley) Cota

10/25/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY was a unique and formative experience. As a freshman, I was in awe of Dr. Strickland's lectures in the big auditorium on Old and New Testament. I spent a lot of my time with Native Americans. I attended the first Indian Baptist Mission, which was led by Pastor Jimmy Anderson. He was a wonderful influence on me and shaped a lot of what I did after. I attended Inlow Baptist Camp. OBU awarded me a partial scholarship for doing mission work on the Navajo reservation in New Mexico and Arizona. I chose OBU because it was Christian and in the heart of a lot of Native American people. I got to experience their culture and be accepted as one of them. I went on to teach American history and sociology and wrote my dissertation for my master's degree on the history of American Indian education. OBU had strict campus policies like not being able to have dances but students held events called functions at the Elks Club instead. I have wonderful memories of dorm life, working part-time in the dish room cafeteria and attending concerts of great entertainers like Gladys Knight & the Pips, Jim Croce, and Al Green. My time at OBU taught me a lot and shaped a lot of what I do today.

1973**Arthur B. Epperson, Jr.**

10/11/2023



January 1971

MY TIME AT OBU WAS incredibly meaningful and formative. I had some great professors in the accounting and business administration fields that helped me a lot. I also made some really good friends that I still miss to this day. I wasn't able to live on campus due to financial constraints, so I missed out on a lot of activities, but I did attend a lot of basketball games. During my time at OBU, I was exposed to different ideas and

perspectives for the first time in my life. This was a bit scary, but it helped me to grow and learn a lot of life values that I still carry with me today. My time at OBU helped me to set the tone for my career and life going forward, and I am grateful for the experiences I had there.

1957**Dr. Norma “Gayle”
(Jackman) Schmidt**

10/24/2023

I WAS FROM WAGNER, AND I WAS GIVEN A scholarship to attend nursing school. I followed a woman who had been working in the town and it seemed like the right thing to do. Campus was small and there were many rules to keep boys and girls separated. We lived on campus until we moved to Oklahoma City for the nursing part of it. We had classes and worked with different organizations in the city to get as many children as possible to receive the polio vaccine. My journey at OBU impacted me after graduation. It was important to look for places to go for church and be involved in activities. I moved around and things changed, but I was always looking for something to do. I knew that I needed more information and more things to go to hospitals. This piqued my interest in more of the community health. OBU laid a foundation for the rest of my academic and professional career. I went on to get my master's and PhD and taught at Texas A&M for 29 years. It was something that I knew I was supposed to be doing and everything that happened to me was good.

2020

Misael Alonso Gonzalez

11/30/2023

I THINK THAT OBU REALLY PREPARED ME FOR MY CURRENT

career and life in a lot of ways. I think that the first thing that comes to mind is just the community that OBU has. I think that community is so important and I think that OBU really taught me how to be a part of a community and how to lead in a community and how to be a part of a community that's bigger than just myself. I think that that has really helped me in my current career and life because I work in a church and I work with a team and I work with a community of people and so being able to understand how to work with others and how to lead in a community has been really helpful. I also think that OBU really taught me how to think critically and how to think deeply about things. I think that the education that I received at OBU really challenged me to think beyond just surface level and to really dive deep into different topics and different subjects. I think that has really helped me in my current career.

1983

Rev. Darryl Ray Sewell

10/18/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS LIKE A HOME AWAY FROM HOME. I WAS

able to expand my knowledge and further my career. I lived on campus for three years and was involved in intramural sports. OBU helped me grow and changed me as a person. It broadened my worldview and taught me how to think for myself. It gave me a big picture of the world and expanded my horizons. I'm grateful for the experience and the opportunity to grow.

1976

Rev. Larry Clifton Minter

10/14/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly unforgettable. As a history and political science student, I was constantly challenged and inspired by my classes and professors. The liberal arts approach in a Christian university not only helped me learn, but also shaped me into a better person. I am grateful for the genuine interest my professors took in me, especially coming from a background of trauma. Being part of the University Chorale, a competitive choir, was a highlight of my college experience. It added joy and enrichment to my daily routine and allowed me to be part of a professional musical organization. Looking back, I can say that my time at OBU helped me grow and change as a person, thanks to the friendships and shared values I formed with my peers. The liberal arts education I received has also been invaluable in my life after graduation, whether in my career, relationships, or understanding of society. I am also grateful for the opportunity to attend OBU as an academy student, which ultimately led me to choose this university. Overall, my experience at OBU has been tremendously enriching and I will always be grateful for the memories and lessons I gained there.

2003**Mary Dale (Ryser) Thomas**

10/13/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I WAS

offered a scholarship to run cross country. I was drawn to the small class sizes, where my professors knew my name. Through my experience there, I was able to broaden my perspectives on many levels, including spiritually. I was raised Methodist, but attending a Baptist University deepened my faith. I also made wonderful roommates and friends on the cross country team. My degree in public relations gave me the opportunity to pursue many different paths. The Western Civilization class I took as a sophomore was a game changer for me, as it changed how I view the world and my place in it.

1993**Frank D. Pryor**

10/27/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS FILLED WITH MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES, THANKS

to the three professors who made a lasting impact on me. Dr. Robert Earl Clark, Doug Clark, and Dr. Strickland were all exceptional in their respective fields. I stumbled upon sociology, which became my major, and I was fortunate to have Doug Clark as my professor. He even recommended his son to teach a class during the summer, and I was impressed by his teaching style. Dr. Robert Earl Clark was a master at bringing out the deeper meaning of the scriptures, and his lectures were always thought-provoking. I also had the opportunity to work with Jim Brown in the music department, where we built a stage set for a play that received rave reviews. My time at OBU was a passport to my success, and I am grateful for the education and memories I gained there.

1969**Edna Elizabeth
(Crow) Wingo**

10/19/2023

MY FOUR YEARS AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University were some of the best of my life. I lived in the dorm and made lifelong friendships. I had some amazing professors, like Dr. Rowena Strickland, Dr. Timberlake, Dr. Eunice Short, Mr. Clark, and Dr. Raley. I was able to see the benefit of my education at OBU throughout my life. I even met my husband there, although he only attended for one semester. I worked at the switchboard in Thurmond Hall to help pay for my education. I wasn't a member of any clubs, but I enjoyed interacting with everyone on campus. Earning my degree prepared me to think and reason for myself and opened up job opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise. The greatest takeaway from my time at OBU was the people. Everyone was so kind, and I could easily talk to the professors about any problems I had. I was so proud when my sister, three nieces, and daughter graduated from OBU. My daughter's wedding was even at the OBU fountain! I'm so thankful for my time at OBU and all of the wonderful memories I made there.

1972

Paul Robin Purifoy

10/17/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY life-changing. I had the privilege of being taught by amazing professors, like Mrs. Timberlake, who went above and beyond to help me succeed. She even provided me with a tutor to help me with my music fundamentals. I later found out that this was not something the University provided, but rather something Mrs. Timberlake did out of her own kindness. The music faculty at OBU was not only top-notch in their field, but they were also spiritually-minded and invested in my success. After graduating, I went on to serve in churches in Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas, and I am still serving the Lord's churches today. I am grateful for the strong foundation and preparation I received at OBU, and I continue to stay connected with my fellow alumni, who have become lifelong friends. My time at OBU means everything to me, as it not only deepened my relationship with the Lord, but also equipped me to serve Him in a meaningful way.

2005

Daniel Rollins Pearson

10/11/2023

I CHOSE TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR the music program and ended up getting a music minor. I was able to stay on campus and experience the campus life. I was a singer and mostly performed on campus. I was also part of a social club, Delta Z Lambda, and had a great time. I had two academic influences that inspired me, Dr. Caroline Cole, an English professor, and Dr. James Vernon, my favorite music teacher. I have been back to the school once since I graduated.

1974

Janis L. (McCain) Larson, RN, BSN

10/30/2023

I HAVE TO SAY, OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY was always my dream school. Ever since I was a little kid, I knew I wanted to be a nurse and I always wanted to attend OBU. I'm originally from El Reno and when I received the WMU scholarship my senior year of high school, it solidified my decision to attend OBU. I had looked at other schools like Baylor and a nursing school in Iowa, but ultimately, OBU felt like home to me. Being an AC Christian school was also very important to me, and I wanted to attend a highly ranked nursing program. OBU's nursing program is one of the best in the nation. It was such a rewarding experience to see my expectations being met and exceeded. The program was rigorous, but I walked out of there with so much confidence and knowledge. I was also very interested in music and OBU's fine arts program gave me a strong foundation that helped me in my nursing courses. I truly believe that having a well-rounded education, including classes in world history and humanities, was crucial in preparing me for my profession. Within six months of graduating, I landed a job at Shawnee Medical Center, right across the street from OBU. Within a year, I was promoted to director of the department. I stayed there for 13 years and I am so proud to say that I am an OBU graduate. It's an incredible feeling to know that I received such a high-quality education from a school that I always dreamed of attending.

1973

Betty Lee Segell

10/18/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE IT WAS CLOSE to my home and accepted my credits from OU. I chose to major in literature because I wanted to become a teacher. I had a great experience at OBU, meeting friendly students and inspiring professors. My advisor, Dr. Shirley Jones, was an incredible person. I learned a lot from the literature classes and discussions. I also attended a Shakespeare class on Saturdays to listen to the plays and discuss the plots. I moved to Omaha in 1975 and have not yet been back.

2020

Gabrielle Renee “Gabi” (Burke) Watts

10/23/2023

I CHOSE OBU BECAUSE I WAS OFFERED A SCHOLARSHIP AND I WAS immediately drawn to the campus atmosphere. It felt safe and friendly, like a close-knit community. I decided to major in psychology and pre-counseling. My professors had a huge impact on my education, especially when I was doubting my decision to major in chemistry. They provided me with guidance and support. I was also a member of Kappa Phi Beta, a social club, which allowed me to make many connections. After graduating, I'm looking forward to using the skills I learned and staying in touch with the community I built. I would advise students attending OBU to make connections and do things that may be uncomfortable but will benefit them in the long run. For graduating students, I would advise them to take advantage of the education they have been blessed with and pass down wisdom and knowledge to the younger generations.

1973

Joyce Lynn (Linton) McHone

11/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was truly special. As an organ major, I was drawn to the school because of the renowned Dr. Virginia Reese, who became my mentor and taught me not only about music, but also about life. I spent countless hours in the practice room and in lessons with her, and it was an invaluable experience. The music activities at OBU were also amazing, and I especially loved the hanging of the green ceremony during Christmas. The instructors were top-notch and the student life was vibrant. After graduation, I found that my time at OBU had prepared me to be an asset in music in the church and throughout my life. I may not currently be playing at church, but for 40 years, OBU shaped me into a growing musician. The relationships I formed at OBU have also been a significant part of my life. I still keep in touch with many of my friends from there, and it's been amazing to see where life has taken them. OBU has made me more aware of the world and how God is working in the lives of others, and I am grateful for the strong foundation it provided me.

1983

Judith Anne “Judy” Sowell

10/10/2023

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT STOOD OUT TO ME AT

OBU was chapel on Wednesdays. Christian music was really taking off, and we would have artists such as David Meece, Steve Green, and Reba Rambo come and perform. I remember one Wednesday, there was a man with a slight British accent who told the story of David and Jonathan in a powerful and captivating way. It really sparked my love for the Word and how it should sound when you're reading it. I was in the Psychology Department, and one of my most memorable professors was Dr. Jeske. He had a unique way of teaching and loved to challenge his students. It wasn't always easy, especially as a young Christian, but I understood why he did it. It prepared me for the secular world I would enter after graduation. Speaking of the secular world, it took me nine years to get back to my field of counseling. I was making all A's in my master's degree program, but it was difficult not being able to openly share my faith with clients. I saw so many people who needed Christ, but I couldn't say anything. My time at OBU prepared me for this and I am grateful for the experience. I also had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, which wasn't new to me coming from a military background. It was still amazing to meet missionaries and people making a difference.

2011

Dr. Rachel Amalia (Griffith) Lingreen

10/24/2023



Go Bison!

Omega Sigma, and started a fundraising group for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I regret not going to the basketball national championship in 2011, but my friends and I still had a lot of fun going out to eat. We also hung out a lot at the RAWC. After graduating, I took a year off and moved back to Colorado, then started medical school in 2012. I went to residency in Wichita, Kansas, and four years ago I moved to Sterling, Colorado, where I practice medicine and met my now husband. I stay active by skiing, traveling, and being outdoors.

BEFORE I WENT TO

college, I knew that I wanted to pursue a degree in biology and eventually go to medical school. I was lucky enough to have some amazing professors at OBU, such as Dr. Jett, Dr. Chen, and Dr. Sanders. I was also involved in a lot of activities, like intramurals, where I played flag football, soccer, volleyball, futsal, basketball, and tennis. I was also the president of a social sorority, Phi

2003**Beth Smith**

11/17/2023

I GREW SO MUCH IN THAT ONE YEAR. THE GIRLS IN MY DORM CHALLENGED ME academically and spiritually, and I don't think I would know half of what I know about the Bible if it weren't for them. They really pushed me to take ownership of my faith and understand why I believe what I believe. The teachers and speakers at OBU were amazing as well. I remember sitting in class and thinking, 'How did I not know this?' It was eye-opening. After I left OBU, that desire to grow in my faith and be part of a community of believers stayed with me. I always make it a priority to find a church and get involved wherever I go, and I credit OBU for instilling that in me. It's had a lasting impact on my life.

1960**Dr. Claudine F. (Franks) Dickey**

10/13/2023

I HAVE HAD A LIFE FULL OF DIVINE COINCIDENCES, AND ONE OF THE MOST significant was my decision to attend the baccalaureate program at OBU. My parents agreed to pay my tuition, and I worked hard to earn money and secure scholarships. The faculty at OBU had a huge impact on my life, particularly Greg Pritchard who taught philosophy and Mary White Johnson who taught English. They challenged me to think differently and to consider alternative views. I also grew and changed as a person, coming from a sheltered environment and learning to see the world differently. After graduating, I returned to OBU to work as a clinical instructor and eventually became the Dean. I have strong ties to OBU and would highly recommend it to anyone looking for an intellectually and spiritually challenging program.

2013**Meredith Anne (Treat) Conrad**

10/18/2023

I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME at Oklahoma Baptist University. Playing basketball was a great experience, but the academics and spiritual development classes were even more impactful. The professors were so willing to shepherd and guide me in understanding the scriptures, which ignited a love for God's word and character. This prepared me for my Master's of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School, which I was able to complete successfully due to the academic rigor I experienced at OBU. I am now married to a pastor and serving in a Southern Baptist church in Missouri, and I know that God put me at OBU for a reason. I am so thankful for the professors who took the time to be intentional with their students and for the spiritual formation I experienced at OBU.

1994

David Curtis Cowan

10/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS LIFE-CHANGING. I HAD AMAZING PROFESSORS

who took the time to get to know each of us as students, and I made lifelong friends. I was able to grow my faith in a significant way, moving from indoctrination to education. I was hungry for mentorship, and the professors at OBU provided that. I had Dr. Mitchell, who taught English and literature in a way that was almost like he was giving a sermon. He was brilliant and helped originate Western Civ. as we know it at OBU. There were so many other professors that had an impact on me and I'm forever grateful for them. The scholarship level was so strong and the 12 to one ratio of professor to student was really great. I was able to get a great education and have a great college experience that prepared me for life and ministry.

1969

Pastor Robert Duane “Bob” Witt

11/16/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I WANTED TO BECOME A

Baptist pastor. I didn't have any music skills, but I knew that OBU could help me out. On campus, I took classes with Dr. Strickland and Dr. Timberlake. I remember taking Greek with Dr. Timberlake and I was determined to make a B or better so I wouldn't have to take it in seminary. I ended up making a B, but I still had to take it in seminary. OBU taught me how to study and that was really helpful in my seminary years. I'm grateful for the education I received at OBU and the skills I learned that have helped me in my career as a pastor.

1974

Mark Robert Barker

10/10/2023

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND

Oklahoma Baptist University and it was a life-changing experience. One of the main things that stood out to me was my roommate, Shago from Nigeria. He taught me about the African world and how Christianity was practiced there. This opened my eyes to a whole new perspective, and we developed a strong relationship. He even had a big impact on my career as the head of the National Fair Housing Committee. We lost touch over the years, but his influence on me is still strong. OBU also taught me how to be a caring teacher and helped me in my career as a real estate educator. The professors and students at OBU were a great support system and I have no regrets about my time there. It truly shaped my Christian faith and my approach to helping others.

1975

Pastor Gerald Lee “Gerry” Crites

10/10/2023



76 years young and still following God's call, serving the Lord!

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS TRULY LIFE-CHANGING. I HAD THE opportunity to take Bible classes that prepared me for seminary, and I was even able to serve an internship at First Baptist downtown and become their youth pastor. I taught grade school, Sunday school, and was able to learn a lot about church stuff. I was even given the chance to sit with the religious education director and learn from him. I will never forget the day I was born again at China Beach Orphanage in Danang, Vietnam. That experience set my life in motion and I have never lost the peace that comes with knowing Christ. My advice to anyone considering attending OBU or considering the profession is to stay close to Jesus, listen to the still small voice, and stay in the scripture so God can give you clear direction about life and living.

1974

Ned Edwin Elzo III

10/27/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS truly a memorable experience. I was fortunate enough to be in a band with some incredibly talented individuals, including Mark Woods and Tim Johnson. Our manager, Jim Fennell, was also a graduate of OBU. Even now, Jim and I still play together in the Tulsa area. Mark, on the other hand, has been playing in bands for over 30 years and is now a part of our current band. We played a lot of rock and roll music back then, and it was a great time. Beyond the music, I also learned a lot during my time at OBU. I learned how to study, thanks to my classes with David Born. He never took attendance, but I never missed a class. I even majored in music for a semester, but, a new teacher gave me a grade that wouldn't count because I had missed too many times. It was frustrating, but it taught me a valuable lesson about perseverance. I ended up changing my major and eventually dropping out, but my experience with music and the people at OBU was still incredibly valuable. It taught me how to study effectively, which has helped me in my career as an aviation technician. I may not have another degree, but I have my airframe and power plant license and avionics license, and I even taught at a community college for a few years. Overall, my time at OBU was a great learning experience, both academically and personally. I am grateful for the friends I made and the lessons I learned.

1986

Timothy Kent Holt

11/13/2023

I WAS A NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT WHEN I

attended Oklahoma Baptist University. I was working full-time at the Mobil Chemical plant in Shawnee and wanted to complete my Business degree, so I attended OBU part-time. Altogether, I spent about six years at OBU. Due to my part-time status and full-time work load, I was not able to participate in any clubs, organizations, sports teams, work study programs, internships, or study abroad programs. However, the biggest impact on me as an OBU student was the quality of the education there. The curriculum was challenging and the content was good. After I left OBU, I continued to work full-time and transferred to another university to complete my degree requirements. Shortly afterward, my career with ExxonMobil Chemical took me to Pittsford, New York. Altogether, I had the privilege of working for ExxonMobil in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Belleville, Canada, LaGrange, Georgia and Pittsford and Macedon, New York. I was fortunate to work for ExxonMobil for nearly 36 years until I retired in 2016. I currently live in the Rochester, New York with my wife and two sons. I have fond memories of my time at OBU. My education there provided me with a strong foundation for leadership positions and a nice career!

1965

Sandra Lee “Sandy” (Moore) Orr

10/12/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND HAD A GREAT

experience. I was very shy when I started, but the university helped me to gain confidence and become a better Christian. I had some really sweet roommates and we had a lot of fun. We went to a restaurant uptown and had black bottom pie, which was really good. I also walked to a Black school and helped them with their Spanish. I met my husband on a blind date, and we were married for 56 and a half years. We had three married daughters and five grandchildren. My oldest daughter is a physical therapist, my middle daughter is a licensed practical counselor, and my youngest daughter is a first grade teacher. I am thankful for my Christian education and the impact it had on my career.

1996

Ahna Katrina (Bilbee) Teague

10/19/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF THE WARM

welcome I received when I visited the campus. I was planning to go to Oklahoma State, but when I visited OBU, someone greeted me by name and asked if I wanted to look around the campus. That made such an impression on me that I decided to attend OBU instead. During my time there, I was part of the band and I felt supported by my professors and peers. I learned that it was important to make my beliefs part of my everyday life and to be a whole person wherever I go. This has been an invaluable lesson that I have taken with me into my career as a teacher. OBU gave me the support and education I needed to be successful and I am forever grateful for the experience.

2014

Kelsi Lorene (Lord) Perkins

11/20/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY LIFE-changing. One of the most impactful aspects was the opportunity to meet and connect with so many international friends. I loved learning about new cultures, and it was the majority of my friendships. I also played tennis while I was there and worked as a tutor in the IEP Program, helping students with their assignments and English. It was like my ministry and calling to impact their lives while they were far from home. I even took some of them home for holidays since they couldn't travel back to their countries. It was definitely one of the most meaningful experiences for me. Playing tennis at OBU also taught me valuable lessons that I still carry with me today. It taught me the importance of being on time, working hard, and showing up even when I didn't feel like it. Our coach, Peter McCorkle, did a phenomenal job, and I am grateful for the impact he had on me. It wasn't just about the sport, it also taught me important characteristics like teamwork and perseverance that have helped me in my current job. There were also some amazing professors and faculty members who played a big part in my education. Bobby Kelly, who taught the Old and New Testaments, helped me gain a deeper understanding of the Bible as a whole story rather than just individual verses. Gina Kraft, who was passionate about nutrition, not only taught us in the classroom but also implemented it in her own life. She even shared healthy recipes with us in class. These two were definitely my biggest influences at OBU. Overall, my time at OBU has prepared me for life after graduation in so many ways. It taught me to multitask, work hard, and be mentally and physically tough. I took 17 hours, played varsity tennis and softball, and worked a job, but I got it all done without making excuses. It has also prepared me for motherhood and working full-time, as I am now a mom of two and work full-time.

2006

Dr. Jeffery L. “Jeff” DeGiacomo

12/21/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was truly life-changing. The relationships I formed with my classmates and professors have had a profound impact on both my personal and professional life. From the first day on campus, I met some of my closest and best friends who continue to support and sharpen me in my walk with the Lord and in my career. The level of care and support we showed each other speaks volumes about the community at OBU and how much we wanted to see each other succeed. As for my personal growth, coming from a small rural town, I had a strong knowledge of the church but not of the Bible. My time at OBU increased my love and appreciation for God's word and shaped me into a better follower of Jesus and a pastor. My greatest takeaway from OBU is the well-rounded education I received. Not only did I gain knowledge in Bible and theology, but also in other areas of education and expertise. This has allowed me to acclimate easily into adulthood and my career, and to engage with people from different backgrounds and professions. I am grateful to OBU for shaping me into a well-rounded individual who can contribute to society and use my influence for the sake of the gospel.

1961

Sandra H. (Hill) Crawford

10/16/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OBU IN 1961 WITH A Bachelor of Science. I had some amazing academic influences, like Catherine Rader and Dr. Rowena Strickland. Catherine was excellent in her presentation and knowledge, but what I remember most was her warm greeting of 'hello, friend' when I walked into her office. Dr. Strickland was very caring and always glad to see me. I was also active in the church, singing as a soloist and in the choir. My OBU experience helped me grow up and continue my Christian influence. I was away from home for the first time and it was a difficult transition, but I was able to get through it. After graduation, I returned home and taught sixth grade in Memphis. I met my soulmate, Mack Ellis Crawford, and we were married in 1962. We had three children, Ina Laurie, Mac Allen, and Elisa Catherine. We moved to High Point, North Carolina, and then to Dayton, Ohio. We celebrated our 60th anniversary last year and now have grandchildren and grand puppies. My OBU experience was difficult, but I'm proud of the growth I experienced and the family I have now.

1964

Dr. Daniel L. Griffin, DMin

10/11/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. It was a time filled with both challenging and memorable experiences. I was fortunate to have a close relationship with Dr. James Ralph Scales, the president who hired me to do public relations in the administration building. I had the opportunity to get to know Dr. Scales on a personal level, and he remained a dear friend until the end of his life. I was there when a plane crashed into the old administration building. My wife and I lived just a few blocks from campus, and during a particularly difficult time when we were running low on money, we received a \$20 bill from a family in Albuquerque, where my parents lived. It was a true blessing and a reminder that God always provides for us. Our time at OBU also strengthened our spiritual life, and I had a breakthrough moment during my junior year when I realized that college was not just about getting a degree, but also about growing intellectually. I was two years older than my classmates and should have graduated in 1962, but I got married, had a child, and was pastoring a church in Oklahoma City. Despite the challenges, God never failed to meet our needs. I only attended OBU for two years before going on to seminary, but my love for English studies led me to consider getting an MA in English at OU. God had other plans for me and opened doors for me to preach every Sunday. It was a decision that was influenced by my time at OBU and the guidance of Dr. Scales and Dr. Jerome Zickrick. I am grateful for the experiences and memories I made at OBU, and I am confident that God's hand was guiding me every step of the way.

1966**Carole Jo “Carole” (Lane) Riley**

10/13/2023



Seated next to my Steinway and Sons piano

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS A UNIQUE ONE, AS I ENTERED AS a transfer student in my junior year. I had to make my own way, as I didn't enter with a freshman class. I was able to make some friends, but I'm no longer in contact with them. I think I grew as a person by having to enter a new school on my own and develop an independent spirit. I was grateful for the help of my advisor, Ms. Myrtle Merrill, who helped me find my way around and make my own space.

1973**Ronald Lee “Ron” Schell**

12/15/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY was a life-changing experience. I met my wife there my sophomore year and we were together for the next two years before getting married the summer before our senior year. We've been married for 51 and a half years now! I was involved in a campus organization called Circle K and I was the president for two years. We did various service projects around OBU. I was also a ministerial student and hung around guys who were like-minded. I was surprised at how academically challenging OBU was. It was a difficult school that kept me on my toes. Living in Brotherhood Dormitory for three years was a unique experience in itself, providing life experiences, friendships, and growth opportunities that couldn't have happened living off campus. The education I received at OBU was broad-based and I believe it helped me to think outside of the box professionally. I spent my career in finance and accounting positions, which typically attract people with a narrower focus, but my broad-based education from OBU allowed me to bring more to the table than just a technical perspective. One example of this is that I did quite a few public presentations over the years, something that most of my colleagues shied away from.

1990

Sherri K. (Murphy) Lam, MEd

12/11/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND

it was a time of growth for me spiritually. I was a new believer and being surrounded by other believers helped strengthen my faith. I made some great friendships, although we have lost touch over the years. I was a member of the Baptist Student Union and enjoyed attending chapels and sporting events. My favorite professor was Dr. Rader, who was also my advisor. I transferred from a community college and the university experience helped me focus on my path, which ended up being in ministry. After graduation, I worked with City Team Ministries in California, where I discovered the high number of high schoolers who couldn't read. This led me to get my teaching credential and I now work with the same population as the director of education, helping them complete their education and find a career path. My education at Oklahoma Baptist University has served me well in all my careers, especially in my Bible literacy. I am grateful for the solid education I received at OBU.

1968

Barbara E. Maples

10/13/2023

MY OBU EDUCATION HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF MY

career successes. I attended OBU for my freshman and sophomore years, majoring in art and theatre with a music and business minor. I took advantage of my music background and went on to get my BFA through the Music Teachers' Association of California at Chapman University in San Diego. I taught piano, organ, and digital keyboard for 25 years, and was eventually the State President the Music Teachers' Association of California for nearly four years. OBU instilled in me the value of pursuing my goals and gave me a strong Christian foundation to build upon as I finished my bachelor's degree, and continued to work on my master's degree. My siblings and I all attended OBU, and it was our strong point of support. I was able to keep my foot planted in the Baptist tradition as I studied different world religions when I worked at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Georgia, in the Department of Interfaith Witness, with Dr. Tommy Starkes, Rev. Billy Mitchell, and Dr. CB Hastings. OBU was always there in my life and the life of my family quietly in the background providing the strengthening building blocks that allowed me to be successful as a student, a wife, a mother, and an educator, and I'm grateful for the Christian strength and support I received there. Zip! Bang! OBU!

1981

Cecelia Eileen “CC” (Haag) Morris

02/27/2024

I WANTED A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, AND OBU had the degree that I wanted. My sister and I started at OBU and she was a freshman when I was a junior. I was a part of the Baptist Student Union and Omicron Delta Kappa. The BSU was the best organization I have ever been involved in. I was also the president of the club that was for transfer students. It was good because we were all transfer students and we helped each other out. Oteka Ball was my faculty advisor, and she was good about helping. Bob Burgess was the BSU director, and he was accessible. OBU was the first experience that I had of being on my own and it helped me to transition to seminary and life after. I had to figure things out on my own because I was a transfer student, and because of that, I gained more confidence in my abilities. After I finished my degree, I went into seminary. My husband and I both went to OBU but didn't meet until later. We got married after he went to seminary. We have been married for 40 years and we have two children.

1994

Brian Evan Smith

12/07/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A GREAT experience. I made lifelong friends and it instilled in me a sense of rigor and purpose. Graduation day was a proud accomplishment and I was able to figure out who I was and what I wanted to do with my life. I didn't participate in any clubs, sports, or study abroad, but I did have some great professors who challenged me to earn my degree. One professor in particular suggested I major in math, which I later used to study actuarial science and get a job in the financial sector. I also had a professor who taught a unique Western history class that has been very helpful. I felt a call to ministry while I was at OBU and that has had a lasting effect on my life. I'm most grateful for the sense of rigor and purpose I gained, as well as the great friendships I made.

1998

Aliene Cook “Cookie” Leigh

11/20/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS REALLY SPECIAL. I made close friends with my professors, especially Pam Robinson and Nell Agee. They were both great mentors and I looked up to them. They helped me grow in my faith and I have a greater appreciation for God now. I also learned a lot from my classes and the experiences I had there. It was a great time in my life and I'm thankful for the relationships I built and the knowledge I gained.



Rev. Fr. Aaron J. Foshee, Catholic priest

2009

Fr. Aaron James Foshee

10/09/2023

“When I joined OBU, I had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Rhettta Hudson, who was instrumental in my formation.

- FR. AARON JAMES FOSHEE



MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEANINGFUL AND FORMATIVE. I WAS A TRANSFER STUDENT AND HAD THE opportunity to participate in the Concerto Aria multiple years, a presentation put on by the School of Music. I loved getting to perform classical music with my peers and present it to the student body in Raley Chapel. I was also involved with student government, which was a lot of fun and allowed me to meet people from the various colleges on campus. Western Civilization was a benchmark of liberal arts education for me and I learned a lot about the history of Western Civilization and read the writings of authors throughout its history. My love of music started when I was eight when I took piano lessons. When my voice changed as a teenager, I realized that I could sing and decided to pursue that instead. My entire family loves music and I had a lot of good mentors who imparted a deep love of music in my heart. When I joined OBU, I had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Rhettta Hudson, who was instrumental in my formation. My time at OBU helped me become a well-rounded individual and taught me a lot about ecumenism and working with people of other faith traditions. It was a powerful witness to me of how we as a body of Christ, regardless of denomination, can work together to bring the message of Christ to people. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the lessons I learned there.

1967

Avis Anita Williams

10/10/2023

I REMEMBER LEARNING IN MY ELEMENTARY EDUCATION CLASSES AT

Oklahoma Baptist University that you don't teach subjects, you teach students. This lesson has been invaluable to me throughout my teaching and counseling career. I remember one student in particular who had a hard time with spelling, so instead of giving him an F, I would count the words he got right and write a note of encouragement at the top of his paper. I also had a student who was seen as a problem by other teachers, but I told him he was special and that I was there to help him if he needed it. He ended up doing really well that year. I also remember that at OBU, you could take 20 hours and pay for 15, which was a great way to save money. Dr. Scales was the president when I graduated. I'm thankful for the lessons I learned at OBU and the impact they had on my career.

2002

Joy Anna (Stowe) Jackson

10/23/2023

MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE WAS INCREDIBLY MEANINGFUL TO ME. I RAN

track and field and it was like a family to me. My professors went out of their way to help me when I had health issues my junior year. Track and field was more than just a sport, it was a way to build a family away from home. My professor Dr. Kelly was a major influence, and my math professor Eugene made learning so much fun. I grew exponentially while I was there, and I was well prepared for my education major. My most memorable moment was going to nationals with my track team and seeing the fruits of our labor. I still stay in contact with people from college because of the meaningful connections I made.

2018

Krishna Renee Ticer

11/09/2023

I HAD SUCH A GREAT TIME AT Oklahoma Baptist University. I remember always having fun, even though there were basement rats. I chose to attend OBU because of their music program in education and because I was close to one. I even kept in touch with some of my friends from OBU, and I even worked with one of them. My favorite professors were Dr. Vernon and Dr. Johnson, who was my private instructor. I mainly play the euphonium, but I also did the bison choir while at OBU. My time at OBU not only prepared me for a career as an instrumentalist, but also taught me about all grades and subjects, which has been helpful in my career. I gained the ability to play more instruments and a better understanding of vocal education. Graduating from OBU means more than just having a degree, it means having a second family and lifelong friends. I am grateful for my time at OBU and all that I gained from it.

1997

Katherine Diane (Robinson) Brockett

11/17/2023

I HAVE SUCH FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME at Oklahoma Baptist University. It was there that I took religion classes and was introduced to the idea of missions and teaching ESL. A visiting professor from Golden Gate really sparked my interest and I ended up going on mission trips with the BSU and even spent two full summers in Africa. I was so inspired by this professor that I decided to attend Golden Gate as well. I remember talking to my best friend about all the amazing things I was learning at OBU and she ended up joining me at Golden Gate and serving in China for over two decades. It's incredible to think that it was all because of the visiting professor at OBU. The university did an amazing job of bringing in guest speakers and lecturers, which really enriched my education. Even now, I still work with international students because of my time at OBU. The friendships I made there have lasted a lifetime. I still vacation every year with six of my friends from the freshman class of 1997. We may have different majors and focuses in life, but OBU brought us together and it's a special bond that we will always cherish.

1964

William Leroy “Bill” Fesler, MD

10/12/2023

I REMEMBER MY TIME AT OBU FONDLY. I WAS A PRE-MED STUDENT AND had the privilege of having Dr. Hurley as a professor. He was an outstanding professor and his passion for teaching had a profound impact on me. He was more than just a teacher, he was involved in the whole community and was an inspiration to all of us. I was also involved in the life service band for missions and was the SGA treasurer my senior year. I was also part of the Harvest Court. I was able to gain a well-rounded education at OBU and felt confident that I was prepared for the future. I was also able to gain a worldview that opened my eyes to what was going on in the world. I was a poor farm boy and was not able to go on the European study tour, which was one of the special things that OBU had to offer. I left OBU feeling confident and ready for what was to come.

1985

Suzanne B. (Bell) Perry

11/16/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AFTER MY JUNIOR YEAR OF high school. I had the opportunity to attend a summer school program with around 60 other students, which was a major influence in my decision to attend OBU. I also worked at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly that summer and met OBU students, which further solidified my decision. I moved away for my senior year of high school and attended a Baptist college in Mississippi for a year before returning to OBU. I didn't take full advantage of all the spiritual growth opportunities OBU had to offer, but I have grown to appreciate the special place it is. I have enjoyed watching OBU expand in the missional area, and I have learned more about missionaries from the MK kids who have come to OBU. It is impressive to see OBU send their students out on mission trips.

1968**John C. Owens**

11/03/2023

AS A SOPHOMORE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University, my experience was a bit different from others. I transferred from Oklahoma Military Academy, where I had already completed my first year of college. It was a natural choice for me to major in business, as my family had a business in town. One course that stood out to me was business law with Professor Robert Jones. It proved to be incredibly useful in my future career, as I was already familiar with how business law could impact contracts and other aspects of business. Overall, my education at OBU was tough but rewarding, and I feel like I truly earned my grades. While I didn't keep in touch with many friends from OBU, I highly recommend the Christian education offered there. Looking back, it's hard to say how I grew or changed as a person during my time at OBU, as I had already spent several years at a military school. I am grateful for the education and experiences I gained at OBU, and I hope it continues to prioritize education over politics.

1976**J. “David” Johnson, MD**

10/17/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS FILLED WITH WONDERFUL MEMORIES THAT HAVE impacted my academic and personal life for decades. The small class sizes allowed us to interact directly with the professors and build meaningful relationships. The student life activities around the campus, such as athletics, student government, and social events, created a deep sense of community. I was able to connect socially with my peers and build strong relationships. I also valued the times spent at Raley Chapel and the spiritual growth I experienced. My professors were able to help me contextualize my faith and understand how to face challenges. I learned to not panic in difficult situations and to trust in God's plan. I am grateful for the impactful experiences I had at OBU and the lasting memories I have.

1967**Dr. Sunny Buoy Stuart**

10/20/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR SIX YEARS, ONE OF the most formative times of my life. I was a high school dropout, but I passed the exams to get into OBU and went on to earn my doctorate. My teachers and students were kind and helpful, and I learned so much. I received my calling into ministry on April 7, 1959, while attending the Denver Baptist Church. I ended up working in ministry for a few years. I was asked to preach there and the church began to grow. I take no credit for the growth, but I believe OBU taught me how to be a pastor and serve God. I am most grateful for the knowledge I gained about God and the school and the kindness of my professors. I will never forget the day Dr. JP Dane gave me clothes to pick out from his office. I am thankful for my time at OBU and all that I learned.

1977

Robert Paul “Robb” Grindstaff

10/26/2023



I HAVE A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University, as my dad attended for a year in his younger days. We would often visit the campus and it always stuck in my memory. When I was a senior in high school, I applied to a few different colleges, but OBU stood out to me. The president at the time even called my parents and offered me an academic scholarship, which sealed the deal for me. I moved to Shawnee and had a wonderful two and a half years at OBU. I made lifelong friends and enjoyed my classes, with some amazing professors. I was on the Bison newspaper staff for a couple of years, and I loved attending sporting events and freshman orientation week. I majored in English with a double major in journalism, which was a smart decision as it led to a 40-year career in the newspaper industry. My journalism professor, John Lovelace, was a huge inspiration and I credit him for my success in the field. Now, I focus on writing fiction four published novels so far and teaching fiction writing to others, and OBU played a significant role in shaping my journey.

1959

Betty Jane Campbell

10/18/2023

I HAD TO WORK EIGHT HOURS A DAY WHILE

getting my nursing degree, so it was difficult for me to participate in activities. Thankfully, I had a few nursing friends who provided me with the support I needed to get through it. It took me five years instead of four, but I eventually got my degree and it has served me well ever since. I was grateful to have the opportunity to attend OBU, even though I couldn't contribute in other ways. I'm proud of myself for working full-time while also getting my degree, and I'm thankful for the support system I had to help me through it.

1956

Jo Anne Smith

10/16/2023

I WENT TO SUMMER SCHOOL EVERY SUMMER

for three years so that I could graduate. I missed OBU after I left and I'm always thrilled when I meet someone who is an OBU graduate or student. I had a math professor, Harris, who was the head of the math department and he had a significant impact on me. I enjoyed every day that I was at OBU and it helped me to grow and change as a person. After I graduated, I became a teacher and I taught for 24 years. I felt like I was an expert in teaching and I'm proud of my career.

1979

Cynthia Kay Byford

11/01/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE DURING MY FOUR YEARS AT OBU. I made lots of friends and worked hard to earn my degree. I fondly look back on the performances with the Bisonettes and Hanging of the Green. Graduation day was exciting and a happy time for me and my family. I was ready to move on and had already procured a job. I remember the fun times we had together such as square dancing, ice skating, and singing duets. I blossomed at OBU and became a more confident and secure person. My degree from OBU had an impact on getting hired later in my career. My professors took a personal interest in me and taught me how to write a paper and be an educator. I am most grateful for the personal interest my professors took in me and the confidence they instilled in me.

2003

Andrew J. Wilkins

10/09/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS ALL ABOUT KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN. I was able to build meaningful relationships with professors, peers, and God. I was able to learn the academic rigor and develop my critical thinking skills. I was also able to learn how to use my knowledge to serve others. My time at OBU gave me a base of knowledge and trust that I was able to use in life after graduation. It was an experience that I will never forget.

1983

Bonnie Sue (Olive) Stone

10/19/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THE opportunity to attend Oklahoma Baptist University and to have had the privilege of being taught by Mr. Don Clark. He was an amazing teacher and mentor who went above and beyond to help me succeed. He took me on as a private student in his home, even though I was a theater major and the university didn't allow non-majors to take private voice lessons. He also helped me with financial obligations by hiring me as a section leader for the church choir and teaching children's church. He even secured sponsors to help me get through the university. Mr. Clark was more than just a teacher, he was like a parent to me. He celebrated my accomplishments, like when I auditioned for regional theater and got a supporting lead role in a musical. He was always there to encourage me and remind me that I could do it. His support and guidance was invaluable and has stayed with me throughout my life. It has helped me to be compassionate and serve others, especially when I was teaching in Tulsa public schools. I'm so thankful for the lessons I learned from Mr. Clark at Oklahoma Baptist University. He was an incredible person who truly made a difference in my life.

1962

Jerry Dean Booze

10/23/2023

WHEN I WAS THINKING ABOUT

college, I wanted to sing in the Bison Glee Club, but the night before I was supposed to go to summer training, I had an appendicitis attack and had surgery. I went against my father's wishes because of the cost, but my mother hung in there and said, 'Nope, he's going to do it, just let him go.' When I arrived on campus, I remember my roommates, my girlfriend, and Hazel, the lamp. Hazel was an old lamp of my mother's that she'd thrown out, but I took it to OBU and she became the hit of our dorm floor. I also remember kissing a female student and running for the dorm when the lights flashed. I entered OBU full of hope and left still full of hope, but a little wiser. I studied Education and English, and two days after I graduated, I was already in the classroom teaching. I was an educator for three years in English, two in Spanish, and then a counselor for 37 years. I had a saying up on my wall at my first job that said, 'If you're the smartest person in the room, you're in the wrong room.' I tried to live by that and it has served me well.

1967

Dr. John Timothy Sumners

12/08/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE

experience. I was drawn to the university after two fellows from OBU came to my church in Memphis and did a youth led revival. I was so impressed with the music and the preaching that I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I was involved in the Glee Club and the Ministerial Alliance, both of which were great experiences. I was able to meet other pastors in the area and grow in my faith. I was also greatly impacted by my professor, Dr. Evans Mosley, who taught me Homiletics and Church Administration. He had a great deal of trust in me and I was able to learn a lot from him. Graduation day was bittersweet as I had to leave for Dallas Theological Seminary before I could attend. Looking back, I am grateful for the friendships I made and the lessons I learned.

2017

Emily Madison Heath

10/26/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I HAD A GREAT

experience attending Super Summer through my church during middle and high school. I loved the campus and the small class sizes, which meant I was getting more intentional education than I would have at a state school. I knew I wanted to spend my life helping people, so I decided to pursue a degree in psychology. I was involved in the Rock Wall and started the Climbing Club, and I also worked for the Student Life Office and helped with on-campus events. OBU's commitment to liberal arts and holistic education sets their students up for success, and I'm proud to be an alumni and see how they engage with the community. I'm grateful for my experience at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1974

Clifford Paul “Cliff” Lehmann

10/09/2023



DURING MY TIME AT OBU, I was very involved in many organizations. I was in student government, the college players, a Greek organization, the BSU, and the Senate. I was quite active and enjoyed my time thoroughly. I also became an art major and learned many new things, such as silk screening, pin-n-ink, and different mediums. These

skills have been very valuable to me and I still use them today. Looking back, I can see how much I have grown and changed as a person. After graduation, I returned to OBU in 1975 to become the director of the Alumni Media Center. I worked in that position for 26 years. I am retired and still living in Shawnee. I continue to use my talent of art by drawing historical building in the State of Oklahoma. I enjoy making my own Christmas Cards. Using the passages in Matthew 2 and Luke 2, I tell the story of Jesus' birth. God has blessed me in many ways.

1984

Christina Kay (Schofield) Taylor

11/29/2023

MY FIRST DAY, I CAME IN ON A GREYHOUND BUS AND ONLY had \$20 to my name. I didn't have much, but I knew that's where God wanted me to be. People reached out to me right away, and I just felt like I belonged. It's where I met my best friend and husband too. It was a blessing to develop such good relationships. My best friend was one of my roommates, and I met my husband in our Western Civilization class. I remember having to stay up all night to study for the Blue Book tests. I was part of the last class in the Home Economics Program before it was closed. I really liked it and thought it was good for me. I took several classes from Oteka Ball, and I remember that we had to take care of mechanical babies in her classes. They looked lifelike, and I remember when a missionary who was in residence chased me down to look at my baby only to be surprised to find out it was a doll. I was able to do a summer mission trip to California as well, which was a really good experience. Oklahoma Baptist University gave me a good, balanced education. Most people think home economics was just cooking and sewing, but it wasn't. I learned about anatomy and physiology, nursing, and chemistry. I became a career and technical education teacher, but I've taught Spanish and science as well. I've always been able to find a job because OBU gave me such a diverse background. I'm at a small school right now, so I've seen kids all the way from their fifth grade year up to their senior year. Overall, I've taught for 36 years.

1986

Kay Lynn (Lovejoy) Draelos

10/20/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS LIFE-changing. I was surrounded by like-minded and like-hearted people for the first time in my life, and it was a feeling of community that I had never experienced before. The smaller class sizes allowed me to get to know my professors, and they even invited me to their homes and had meals with me. I remember inviting President Bob Agee and his wife Nell over for dinner at my campus apartment. OBU taught me the importance of serving and making a difference in the world, and encouraged me to go outside of my comfort zone. After college, I went to Kenya for two years and served as a journeyman, teaching in a Kenyan high school, coaching sports, and working in a community center. This experience opened my eyes to the humanitarian need in the world, and inspired me to pursue a career in law to help those who don't have access to their rights. OBU gave me a great foundation to pursue any career I wanted, and I am forever grateful for the impact it had on my life.

2014

Dr. Melissa Marie Hall

11/17/2023

I HAVE SO MANY FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University, especially in the nursing program. It was a challenging degree, but I bonded with my classmates as we studied and practiced together. We even had to drive an hour to Oklahoma City for clinicals, which created even more bonding experiences. I remember one time when our simulators malfunctioned and fluid shot out, causing us all to burst into laughter. It was also incredibly rewarding to see our learning come to life in the hospital and care for patients. After graduation, I was able to work alongside my mother, who is also a nurse, and it was a dream come true. We even had a special nursing pinning ceremony the day before graduation, where we received our OBU nursing pins. It was a surreal feeling to finally cross that finish line and graduate with my friends and family by my side. I will always cherish my time at OBU and the lifelong friendships I made there.

2011

Kate Lauren Davenport

10/25/2023

LOOKING BACK ON MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE, I REALIZE THAT THE journey was just as important as the destination. I had transferred from another unaccredited Baptist institution to Oklahoma Baptist University, and I was lucky to have the support of Dr. Kristen Soffer Todd, who helped me navigate the transition. I wasn't very involved in college life, but I remember attending the Hanging of the Green event. Although I majored in music, I ended up going on to get my CPA and now work in accounting. I would tell my younger self to savor the journey and not rush to the end. Life takes its twists and turns, and it's important to be prepared to face the unexpected.

1964**George Landus “Lanny” Allen**

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEANINGFUL AND formative. I played the clarinet in the band and sang in the Bison Glee Club. These experiences helped me grow as a person, and I was especially inspired by Dean Warren Angell. Joe Long, my voice coach, was also a great mentor and friend. He passed away a couple of years ago. My two sons also attended OBU, and I had the opportunity to visit for their engagements. My time at OBU was instrumental in my career as a church musician, and I was able to use the music I learned there in my ministry. I also met my wife at OBU, and we were able to grow closer together through our work in the youth rallies. OBU was a place of great growth and opportunity, and I am grateful for the lasting impact it had on my life.

1961**Rev. Victor C. “Vic” Peetoom**

10/17/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OBU IN 1957 AND DURING THAT TIME, MY wife and I had three children. Our fourth child was born during my first semester. To support my family, I worked a series of part-time jobs, scheduling my classes around my work. It was a jigsaw puzzle of job, study, classes, and family. My time at OBU was very precious because I learned to study the Bible and use that study to bring messages to God. After I graduated, I went on to seminary for four years. One teacher that was instrumental in my education was Dr. Strickland. Her Bible class was always rich and she brought life to the Bible for me. She was a great speaker and preacher and I am grateful for her influence.

1992**James “David” Groce**

10/20/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS LIFE-changing. From the moment I stepped on campus, I felt welcomed and accepted. My church music pastor, who was an OBU graduate, encouraged me to visit and I was sold after one visit. I was offered a full Naval Scholarship to Texas A&M, but after attending the funeral of my church's main pastor, I was inspired to attend OBU. I was blessed to receive a scholarship and I knew I had to be there. My professors were a huge part of my experience. Professor Glenn Sanders was my history advisor and Dr. Litherland was my political science professor. I was his teacher assistant, and we became fast friends. He taught me the importance of striving for excellence, not perfection. The life lessons I learned at OBU have stayed with me. I was taught to think Biblically and to pass knowledge, not just intelligence, but wisdom and grace. I was also taught to counsel and encourage people, just like I was at OBU. On graduation day, as the professors greeted us on the walk to Raley Chapel, I was reminded that life is a relay race and that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. I am thankful for the lessons I learned at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1971

Kirtes Glenn Calvery

12/14/2023

I'M SO THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY I

had to attend Oklahoma Baptist University. It all started when Dr. Howard Cargill, who was on the board of directors, invited me to be a roommate for his son. I had no idea I could afford to go to a private college, but OBU allowed me to do a work service and pay me to offset my expenses. It was a great experience, even with the beanies and rituals around upperclassmen commanding us to do things. My wife wasn't one to be commanded, but I was. We had to memorize the OBU pledge and Crip, which caused me a lot of stress. Upperclassmen like Dean Finch and Gary Seton loved to harass us lower classmen. I remember one time I was so intimidated I hid in the chapel for several hours. One of the first professors I had a relationship with was Jim Faring. He was young and went out of his way to make himself available. He even went out for pizza with us. Dr. Scranton and Jim Hurley were also extremely encouraging. I even got to serve as the Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Oklahoma, which was a great experience. I continued to serve churches all through college and after graduating from OBU, I went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and got my religious education degree. OBU played a pivotal role in my journey and I'm so thankful for the experiences I had there.

1994

Timothy Andrew "Tim" Lewis

10/17/2023

I ABSOLUTELY LOVE SHARING MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA

Baptist University, especially my senior year when I had the opportunity to go on a J term trip to Moscow, Russia. It was organized by one of my business professors, and we were joined by other students who were living and working in Moscow at the time. This trip was part of OBU GO, which is now known as Global Outreach. Spending a month in Moscow was eye-opening and had a huge impact on me both professionally and spiritually. We had the chance to meet with business professionals and learn about business ethics and concepts. It was a mix of international business interactions and students like myself. The trip was in 1994, so it's been a while, but I remember it being a new and exciting time in Russia. We even saw President Clinton during our stay. The trip also had an educational component, as we visited a private school where government officials' children were taught various subjects, including religion. This trip not only helped me grow professionally, but also spiritually as we attended different church services, one of which was a culturally diverse and had a mix of American and Russian believers. It was a very immersive experience, as we traveled via the metro system and got to know the locals. This trip had a lasting impact on me, as I continued to serve on mission trips and work in inner city areas after graduation. I feel that the education I received at OBU, particularly in the business program, gave me a strong foundation to enter the workforce. The professors were knowledgeable and provided hands-on, real world experience. It did take me some time to find a job after graduation, but I eventually landed in the insurance world and have been there for over 25 years. Overall, my experience at Oklahoma Baptist University was invaluable and has shaped my outlook on life.

1965**Linda A.
(Grimes) Appleby**

10/17/2023

I GRADUATED FROM A LARGE HIGH school in Tulsa, and chose to attend OBU because of the smaller size. That smaller size enabled me to be involved in a lot of activities and organizations, like Student Government, Kappa Delta Pi, and Gamma Phi Delta social club. I was able to serve as an officer in many of the organizations and loved it. After graduation, I went on the university's European study tour with Dr. Scales and other staff members and students. We visited 12 or 13 countries and even went behind the Iron Curtain. It was a great experience. After that, I went on to pursue my career in teaching and eventually got my master's in early childhood education and the equivalent of another master's in administration. I taught in elementary school for 21 years and then became an elementary principal for the rest of my 35 year career. I've gone back to OBU for a couple of reunions and am so thankful for the wonderful education I received there. I felt like I was well-prepared for my career and attribute that to the well-rounded liberal arts education I received. I also made lifelong friends at OBU, which was an added bonus.

1974**Dr. John Paul Holsey**

10/20/2023

I WAS A FRESHMAN AT OBU, PREPARING FOR THE MINISTRY AND feeling confused. During the spiritual renewal week, I was in Raley Chapel listening to the speaker. He said something that really resonated with me: he was inviting us to know a man named Jesus, not to accept Christianity. That was the moment I realized that my relationship with Jesus was about getting to know Him, not about theology or philosophy. Still in my freshman year, I was troubled by the question of why I believed the Bible. I went to my dorm room and asked God for an answer. I opened my living New Testament and it opened to Luke 24, where Jesus was talking with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. I read the verse that said, 'Beginning with Moses and all the scriptures, he explained to them the things concerning himself.' That was why I believed the Bible - because when I read it, I could hear and meet Jesus. That settled it for me.

2004**Brian Ray Dixon**

01/24/2024

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY transformative. From the social clubs to the professors I met, every aspect of my experience helped shape my future and career. It's hard to pick just one thing that made my time there so memorable, but being a part of Sigma Beta Mu and the close-knit community it provided was definitely a highlight. I had the opportunity to do a summer internship at a counseling center, which was a great experience. While I didn't study abroad, my biggest takeaway from OBU was the investment and dedication of the professors. They truly made a lasting impact on my life and ensured that I had the tools and knowledge I needed for success. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the amazing professors who played such an instrumental role in my education.

1964

David Ray “Dave” Dowell, PhD

11/01/2023

I WENT TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE MY PARENTS

had led me to believe I was going to a Southern Baptist college. An old friend of my dad's, Fred McCauley, had graduated from OBU in the 1920s and regaled me with tales of his time there. I decided to go to OBU because it was only 140 miles away from home and I wanted to cut the apron strings. I had a great time at OBU and was even put to the test by one of the faculty members, Dr. James Ralph Scales. I was on the men's tennis team for a couple of years and worked in the dining hall, counting the number of girls that came over for dinner. This gave me the discipline I needed to be more serious academically. After OBU, I got a couple of master's degrees at the University of Illinois at Champaign Urbana in Latin American history and American diplomatic history and foreign policy. I then joined the Air Force for four years and after that got a master's degree in library science at Urbana and a PhD from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on library science. I worked in academic libraries and became the director of three college and university libraries-one of which had an online library technology program - Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, California. I taught one course, 'Ethics in the Information Age' and had a great time. I encouraged my students to work in groups of four or five people and come up with a consensus answer to the case study. They then wrote a paper on it, posted it to the class discussion board, read each other's papers and commented on them, and revised their papers based on the comments they got from their peers. I was active in the American Library Association for over 3 decades and was listed in Who's Who in America in 1986. After retirement from libraries in 2007, I became a genetic genealogist and authored two books in that fast-emerging field.

2016

Kelsi Elaine Lancaster

10/24/2023



MY SENIOR SEMINAR

with Dr. Sanders had a big impact on my life. He was my professor for several classes, and he was so kind and helpful in guiding us through the seminar. After I graduated, he even sent us our essays and all the things we turned in so that we could look back on later. Similarly, Living on campus at OBU taught me valuable lessons about conflict resolution and living

with other people. I was also involved in JV basketball, which taught me time management skills and allowed me to meet people I might not have otherwise. Overall, my time at OBU was a great experience that has helped me in my life and career.

1972

Larry D. Koonce

11/18/2023

I HAVE TO SAY, I FEEL INCREDIBLY LUCKY TO HAVE attended Oklahoma Baptist University. It's a place that holds so many special memories for me. One of my favorite stories is about Dr. Hurley, who was a bit of a legend on campus. He was a distinguished, gray-haired gentleman who had a way of intimidating even the bravest of students. I remember my freshman year, walking into his class and feeling a bit nervous. He had all of our entry cards and asked us to stand up when he read our names. Then, he had us all switch seats and proceeded to call us each by name. It was both terrifying and impressive. That was just the beginning of my four years with Dr. Hurley. He was always a bit scary, but also incredibly brilliant and had a huge impact on my life. I still remember him coming to basketball games with a thick book and only paying attention if the score was close. I have so much respect and love for him, and I can only imagine the conversations he's having with Jesus now. I have to admit, I was a bit too intimidated to stay in touch with him after graduation, but I am so proud that my grandsons chose to attend OBU and even married OBU girls. It's a legacy that I am incredibly proud of. My father was also extremely smart and my grandsons have inherited that intelligence. I am just so grateful for my time at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

2022

Solomon Ryan Walling

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN unexpected experience that had its fair share of ups and downs. I chose to attend OBU because of my dad's connection to the Baptist church and the men's soccer team, which got cut due to COVID-19. However, the Christian liberal arts education at OBU was something that really impacted me in a positive way. The professors in the business school, like Dean Horton, Dr. Green Ruach, and Dr. Walker, truly made my experience at OBU special. I wasn't heavily involved on campus, but I did play on the men's soccer team and participated in intramural sports like futsal and ultimate frisbee. The ability to do these activities with ease and make great friends was one of the best parts of my OBU experience. I could go on and on about the amazing friends I made, both with professors and students. While I was the first in my biological family to attend and graduate from college, my adopted family has a history of higher education. I was also involved in various clubs and organizations, including the OBU Club soccer team and a Friday soccer group. I lived on campus for all four years, starting in the ag dorms and eventually moving to the village, which I really enjoyed. Graduation day was a big deal for me and my family, as I had overcome many challenges to get to that point. We celebrated with dinner at a Brazilian restaurant in Oklahoma City. OBU has had a significant impact on my life and career, especially in my current job in the oil and gas industry. The school's emphasis on taking care of the earth and reaping its benefits has shaped my perspective on my work and the world around me. Overall, my experience at OBU was a great one, and I am grateful for the education and friendships I gained there.

1976

Dr. Linda Kay Treitler

10/17/2023

MY TIME AS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT OBU WAS

very special to me. It was my first time away from home, and I was the first in my extended family to attend college, so it was a huge step for me, and for my family - to learn about what more is possible in life. I was lucky enough to have two amazing nursing professors, Juanita Millsap and Juanita Proctor, who I still think of to this day. Ms. Proctor came to my wedding! Sometimes while working with a challenging patient, I still ask myself 'What would Mrs. Millsap do?' I think often of people I met and the friends I made and experiences I had during my time there. A special memory for me is attending my music major roommate's piano recital and buying flowers for her celebration. Other special memories are the Hanging of the Green at Christmas with my family, concerts in Raley Chapel, and gathering outside the chapel for Vespers. Dr. Hurley was our professor for microbiology and he was tough! My first clinicals in nursing school were at the Old Presbyterian Hospital in OKC - It was a dream come true to be there in the old hospital. I think that my time at OBU learning about nursing was one of the most peaceful, rewarding times in my life. When I visit I still get that peaceful feeling and I'm grateful to have had that 'beginning' for my adult life.

1987

Catherine Spriggs McPherson-Tampos, MEd

11/15/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

incredibly impactful. I made lifelong friends and built relationships that I still cherish today. One of the most memorable experiences was taking a Western Civilization class and learning about European history and literature through the lens of the literature of the time period. This class really embedded those ideas into my consciousness and I've carried elements of it with me ever since. During my time at OBU, I changed dramatically. I left the Southern Baptist tradition and became an Episcopalian and discovered that I was bisexual. After graduating, I taught English as a second language in Southeast Asia, San Francisco, Singapore, and Sydney, Australia. I then moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I became the dean of students at a medicine college. In 1997, I moved to Hilo, Hawaii, and pursued my master's degree in education through Heritage College. After completing my degree in 1999, I began working for the Hawaii Department of Education as a high school English teacher. I was then promoted to Vice Principal in 2004 and then to a District Education Specialist in 2011. In 2019, I pursued a call to become an Episcopal priest and the Old Testament and New Testament courses I had taken at OBU were incredibly valuable in helping me get through my biblical studies class. I just completed my seminary study in August and am now on the path to become ordained as a priest in the Episcopal church.

1979

James R. “Jamie” Stephenson

11/06/2023



I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME at Oklahoma Baptist University. It was there that I met Max Bratton, my economics professor and advisor. He was so intentional in his interest in me and all of his advisees, both academically and personally. He would host events on campus and even cookouts. His class, Money and Banking, was what led me to my career. He became a dear friend, and we would get together at least once a year, even when I lived outside of

Oklahoma. He was beloved by many and committed his life to his profession. OBU equipped me to take on more responsibility and engage in the professional world. The classes were small, so there was a lot of direct interaction with professors and students. I learned to be comfortable with personal interactions and by the time I graduated, I felt ready to take on the world. The thing I'm most grateful for from my time at OBU are the friendships. I still get together with a group of friends four or five times a year and I have other OBU friends that I see on a regular basis. The depth of the friendships I made at OBU are irreplaceable and a precious gift.

1981

Bruce Colbert

10/10/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS truly unforgettable. I had the privilege of learning from some amazing professors, like Dr. Jim Markham, who was my main advisor and a brilliant teacher of Soviet history and politics. Dr. Chic was another standout professor, with a deep understanding of Eastern civilization. I even heard rumors that he was part of the Royal family of South Korea at one point. There was Dr. Jerry Gunning, who left us too soon but made a lasting impact on me. These professors, along with others in different classes, really shaped my education and career path. It wasn't just about academics at OBU. I also made some incredible friendships and participated in student traditions that I will always cherish. Looking back, I can't help but smile when I think of the memories I made during my time there. Two professors, in particular, stand out in my mind. Dr. Rowena Strickland was an amazing teacher of the word and had a deep love for the Lord. Dr. Laura Crouch, who I had for history of Western civilization and literature, challenged me to take on difficult topics head-on. This really paid off later when I pursued a master's degree in divinity with biblical languages at Southwestern Seminary, where I graduated with honors. I owe a lot of my success to these professors and their dedication to their students.

1993

Sean Eric Bandy

11/22/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OKLAHOMA

Baptist University for two years and it completely changed my perspective on a lot of things. I had previously attended TCU in Fort Worth, a school that claimed to be Christian, but OBU was the first time I experienced a true Christian environment and a true family atmosphere. It was more spiritually impactful than my four years prior at church and my bachelor's degree work. I developed more with the relationships with my professors and with the actual study of materials in those two years at OBU than I did at Southwestern Seminary in the following four years. My favorite professor of all time was Dr. Mac Roark for Greek. He excelled me to a point where I could do a full intensive study in four years at seminary level without needing any of the Greek level that the seminary was giving me. Dr. Rick Byargeon also handpicked a small group of us to treat as guinea pigs in a Hebrew program. We learned more vocabulary in one semester than we did in the entire year of Hebrew at Southwestern. When we walked into the seminary, we were shocked that they never taught us anything. We were on the level where we could have taught those classes. OBU pushed us to a level that we would have never reached without it and I still look back on it all these years later and am amazed.

1977

Rev. Jerry D. Wells

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

incredibly meaningful and life-changing. I had come from a dysfunctional family and was looking for a place to be equipped for ministry. OBU offered me the Pritchard Scholarship, which paid for half my tuition, and I accepted the opportunity. I developed relationships with the BSU director and other students that had a tremendous impact on my spiritual life and growth. The academic side of it was challenging, but it helped me prepare to defend my faith and know what I believe and why I believe it. On graduation day, I was sad to leave because I wasn't ready to move on. Living in the dorm with people of different backgrounds and opinions helped me learn how to relate to people who were different than me. I also lettered in basketball and baseball, and the traditions of the school were new and exciting to me. Playing on the basketball team exposed me to different cultures and backgrounds, and I learned what was valuable to them and how to interact with them. I also learned how important people are to my own spiritual growth, and that Jesus uses his body. My time at OBU helped me become a minister, and I learned how to study the Bible and how relevant it is to every area of life. It also gave me the confidence to learn anything and become proficient at it. This has enabled me to broaden my career and work on the board of directors of a corporation. I'm also an assistant basketball coach at the University of Central Oklahoma with one of my former teammates. My time at OBU was truly life-changing and I'm thankful for the experience.

1973**Stephen H. “Steve” Hudson**

10/09/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY IN JUST ONE

academic year, which is quite an accomplishment. I had already earned 15 credit hours from the academy program I attended between my junior and senior year of high school, and between my sophomore and junior year. I attended four summers and one academic year, 72, 73, and graduated from OBU. My brother, John, was the assistant basketball coach at the time and OBU went to the national tournament in 72, 73, which was a great experience. I had to become a student in order to overload my classes and take 18 hours in the fall and 20 in the spring. It was almost overwhelming, but it was worth it to graduate in three years. Looking back, I think I grew and changed as a person while I was there.

1999**Jeremiah C. “Jeremy” Freeman**

10/17/2023

WHEN I WAS DECIDING WHICH COLLEGE TO ATTEND, I FELT GOD GUIDING

me to Oklahoma Baptist University. I was blessed to have people in my life who recommended the school and the timing was just right. During my time at OBU, I had two professors who really stood out and made an impact on me: Dr. M Roark and Dr. Bobby Kelly. They both clearly loved what they did and were incredibly godly and likable. One of my favorite memories was serving on the Welcome Week steering committee and meeting my wife there. OBU gave me a well-rounded education and experience that has prepared me for life after college. My advice to a freshman starting out is to get involved, get to know people, and get out of your comfort zone. Don't hide in your room and don't run home every weekend. Immerse yourself in campus and it will be a better experience for you.

1977**Carmen Elaine
(Worley) Perkins**

10/20/2023

I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF MY

time in college. One of the most special moments was participating in the Hanging of the Green. My future husband was my escort, and we had known each other since my second semester of my junior year. I was also involved in the music program and I was able to open the door to Ford Music Hall and hear all the different pianos playing at once. I was also able to do student teaching and internships at Dell City. I was very fortunate to have had the influence of Merle Winslet, an alumni graduate who was the music director at my home church. He helped me get a scholarship and I was able to pursue my passion for music. I also had the help of Dr. Woodward and Mrs. Woodward who helped me become more outgoing and confident. Mary Kay Parrish, Dr. Parrish also helped me build my self-esteem. My time in college prepared me well for life after graduation and I am grateful for the experiences I had.

1981

Esther Marie Roberts

01/25/2024



I GREW UP HEARING ABOUT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University from my parents, who both attended classes there. My mom attended classes there after she got her nursing degree. After graduating, I worked in a psychiatric unit before moving to California to be closer to family. My time at OBU was shaped by dedicated and caring professors who challenged me to think critically. There were a lot of professors who had a positive impact on me. I am proud to be an OBU graduate and value the emphasis on compassion and respect for others that the university instilled in me.

1974

Wyatt Earl Reece

10/10/2023

I WAS GREATLY INFLUENCED BY EMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE

Baptist Church in Roseboro and made many friends. I had lots of stories to tell. Many professors and advisors helped me throughout my degree and into my career, including Dr. Timberlake and Dr. Strickland. I received my bachelor's degree in religion and sociology. My time at OBU was a tremendous help for life after graduation. I grew and changed there, experiencing consolation, comfort, and mutual faith. I am thankful for my time at OBU.

1975

Ronda Lanell Mikles

10/10/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY

special. I was blessed to be under the direction of Christian professors who always referenced the Bible and had a personal interaction with the students. One professor in particular, Dr. Shirley Jones, had a huge impact on my life. She was an English professor and I was an English major. I was so inspired by her that I started a scholarship in her honor, the Shirley Jones Scholarship in English. I was also involved in campus life, serving as junior class president and playing softball. I'm still in touch with several of my classmates today. After graduation, I explored different opportunities, eventually working for Clear Channel Communications, which is now iHeart Media. I also started my own company and did training. My advice to future generations is to soak up every moment and go make a difference in our world.

2014**Alyssa M. (Deeds) Vaughn**

10/10/2023



I HAD A GREAT experience at Oklahoma Baptist University. I was drawn to the school because of its Christian education and the smaller class sizes that allowed for personal interaction with professors. While I knew what degree I wanted, I didn't choose my career path until after graduation. During my time at OBU, I

was a part of the honors program and grew academically and professionally. I also grew in my faith through taking Bible classes and digging deeper into God's word. The education at OBU was rigorous and challenging, but it prepared me well for my master's program at OU. I received my master's in Library and Information Studies and credit OBU for teaching me how to be a good researcher and have excellence in my work. Overall, I had a wonderful experience at OBU and enjoyed attending chapel with my peers. The faculty, professors, and students were all amazing and I am grateful for my time there.

1975**Rev. Joel Allen Defehr**

10/16/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS LIFE-CHANGING. IT OPENED MY eyes to a new way of seeing the world and made me a lifelong learner. I was taught to think critically and to view other cultures through different eyes. This has been especially helpful in my career as a hospital chaplain and director of pastoral care, as I have had the privilege of working with people from all walks of life. I learned that people can see the same truth from different angles. This concept became a foundational precept for me and has helped me to approach life with an open mind and an appreciation for different perspectives.

1973**Jane Hammontree**

11/03/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I was introduced to it through their academy program for high school seniors. I ended up attending the university and majoring in mathematics, with the goal of becoming a math teacher. I was part of a small group of math students who were close and took classes together. After graduating, I went on to get my master's in math education and taught for 43 years, including a teacher exchange program in England. My time at OBU not only gave me a great education, but also meaningful friendships and connections that have lasted throughout my career. I am proud of my teaching career and the impact I was able to make on my students.

2022

Andy L. Billimek, MFA

10/25/2023

AS AN ENGLISH MAJOR AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I HAVE BEEN fortunate enough to have been influenced by three amazing professors: Dr. Silas Zel, Dr. Callas, and Dr. Noble. These professors have not only introduced me to important works of literature, but they have also helped me see how literature can reveal God's influence in our lives. Through their courses and their hospitality, they have shown me the value of literature and the importance of using our talents to bring honor to God. Even now, as a graduate teaching assistant at OU, I often reflect on the conversations I had with these professors and try to pass on their wisdom and kindness to my own students. I am grateful for the impact they have had on my life and for the way they have shaped my understanding of literature and its connection to our faith. Thank you, Dr. Zel, Dr. Callas, and Dr. Noble, for being such amazing mentors and for helping me see the power of literature in a whole new light.

2002

Tracy Lynn (Poplin) Ashley

10/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE TIMES OF MY life. From the moment I stepped on campus, I felt embraced by the community. During Welcome Week, I was able to get to know people and form meaningful relationships. I was also able to cheer on the basketball team, which was one of my favorite things to do. One game that stands out to me was when a player got hit in the face, fell to the ground, and stood up and his tooth into his hand and handed it to the coach, and then kept on playing. Graduation day was a time of excitement for me, as I was ready to start the next chapter of my life. I was also fortunate to have amazing mentors, like Dr. Robinson and Dr. Miller, who encouraged me to pursue a career in education. I'm so thankful for the memories and experiences I had at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1994

Jeffrey Eugene “Jeff” Barker

11/16/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University for my undergraduate degree and it was a great experience. My mom actually went there for her first year of college before transferring to the University of Oklahoma. I chose OBU because I wanted a school with a strong biblical foundation and a smaller class size where I could have personal relationships with my professors. I lived on campus for the first two years and then off campus for the last two. I was involved in Campus Crusade for Christ and various honor groups, and I also played on the soccer team. My time at OBU helped me grow as a person and I made lifelong friendships. I even met my wife there and we've been together for 30 years. After graduating, I continued my education and career, but I always value the diverse experiences and relationships I had at OBU. I am not a first-generation college graduate as my parents and sister also have degrees, but I encourage my children to consider trade schools and technical programs as well. Overall, OBU was a great fit for me and I am grateful for the strong legacy it has in my family.

1995**Jerilyn Kay (Campbell) Carey**

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEMORABLE. I MADE SOME OF MY best friends and even met my husband there. The professors were very personal with us, and we spent a lot of time together. We even went to one of his professor's house for Curry and Croquet one time. It was a great experience and I was more than just a number - I was a name and a face and a friend to the professors. I have so many great memories from my time at OBU and I'm thankful for all the relationships I made there.

1999**Laura Lynn (Carpenter) Bartholomew**

11/03/2023

I REMEMBER MY SOPHOMORE YEAR OF COLLEGE WHEN I WAS STILL unsure of what major to pursue. That's when I met Bill Buchanan, a key professor in the recreation department. He introduced me to camping ministry and it became my passion for the next 13 years. My husband and I even started our careers and family thanks to Bill's guidance. He showed us how to use recreation as a way to care for people and their ministry. Through camping, we found a built-in community and created shared experiences for campers and staff. Bill's fun and silly activities with water noodles at different events and youth groups opened my eyes to the world of connecting with kids and families through recreation. I am grateful for his influence and for finding my true calling in life. I even got to experience camping in Michigan and Colorado after graduation. Thank you, Bill, for everything.

1997**Shane David Jett**

10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was incredibly influential in my life. I was able to learn from amazing mentors like Dr. John Craig and Dr. Bob Ag, who taught me the importance of incorporating biblical teachings into my professional career. I was also able to get involved in local and state politics, as well as join a number of honor societies and organizations. One of the most memorable experiences I had was attending chapel each Wednesday with my friends and listening to the word of God. I also learned the importance of looking for busy people to add to my team and to always produce high quality work with integrity. I have been able to stay connected with OBU by serving on the School of Business Board of Executives and meeting with the OBU president, Dr. Heath Thomas, who graduated the same year as me. Recently, I was able to help with the tornado recovery effort at OBU by translating for some of the students who had come to help. I am thankful for the amazing experiences I had at OBU and the lessons I learned that have helped me become a better leader.

1994

Jason S. Oliver

10/17/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was amazing. The instructors truly cared about the students and were available for us even after class and into the evenings. They were dedicated to helping us learn and become better individuals. It was easy to get the necessary one-on-one attention with the professors. It was difficult to pick one professor above another because they were all so good and dedicated. I was unable to be involved in clubs, organizations, and sports due to having to pay for my education myself and working a lot of hours. I did, however, have some great memories with friends and roommates. We would rent movies, have popcorn, and watch movies together. I am still in contact with some of the friends I made while I was there. I lived in the dorms for a year and then in the apartments for the rest of the time. I didn't like living in the dorms because it was always loud and I'm a light sleeper. The instructors at OBU pushed me to do my best and the workload was pretty heavy. Taking classes at OBU was much more difficult than at other schools. The work ethic I developed at OBU helped me get promotions regularly within the first five to ten years of my career. I am thankful for the experiences I had at OBU.

1992

Darryl Randall Chandler

12/13/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

incredibly meaningful to me. I had surrendered to full-time ministry and needed to be prepared for that, so I enrolled at OBU when I was 28. I was a commuter, so I didn't have much time to get involved in campus activities, but I was fortunate to have Dr. Bob Evans as a professor. He was a marvelous Bible teacher and I took every one of his classes I could. The most challenging part of my time at OBU was finding the time to do all the schoolwork, as I was also working part-time and involved in the church. The thing that brought me the most joy was the education I received. The professors challenged us to do a lot of thinking and never told us what to believe. I looked back on my time at OBU with great fondness and even had a goal of going back to teach, but I was never able to obtain my doctorate to make that happen.

1992

Rhonda Lee McIntyre

10/19/2023

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A PASSION FOR EDUCATION, AND WHEN I WAS A

teenager I knew I wanted to pursue it as a career. I chose to attend Oklahoma Baptist University because it had a Christian worldview. During my time at OBU, I was involved in the Bison Glee Club, the music department, and a social club. These organizations allowed me to get to know different students and develop leadership skills. I was also very fortunate to have two mentors, Dr. Jimmy Russell and Jack Pearson, who were experts in their field and passionate about what they did. They were also very accessible to the students when we needed something. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU is how important it is to stay in a community of people that build each other up and have high expectations.

1974**Dr. Timothy
E. Walker**

10/17/2023

I HAD A REALLY SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

during my sophomore year at Oklahoma Baptist University. I was taking Western Civilization, and my professor, Dr. William Mitchell, made a big impression on me. When I graduated, he was the one who presented me with my diploma. He shook my hand and said, 'Tim, we're expecting great things from you.' His words meant a lot to me, and I will never forget them. Dr. Mitchell helped me learn how to take essay exams, which I had never done before. He encouraged me to take 15 minutes to outline my answer, and I ended up doing better on the tests. On my first exam paper of the spring semester, I got an A-plus, and Dr. Mitchell said I had done a wonderful job. I enjoyed my time at OBU. The professors had a great knowledge of their classes, and the impact they had on my life was much higher than I would have found at a big state university. Western Civilization was a great class, and I still have my books from it.

2001**Emily Dawn (Bender) Borg**

11/15/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AMAZING. I WAS

so blessed to receive a full academic scholarship, allowing me to graduate debt-free. I was very involved in campus activities, including the student council, directing shows, and being on homecoming harvest court. I also joined Delta Z Lambda and made lifelong friends. My education at OBU set the foundation for my successful career in corporate finance. I was able to use my degree and the education I received to become ACA certified CFP. I'm grateful for the well-rounded experience I had at OBU, both academically and socially. I was able to gain a strong educational foundation, as well as develop my leadership skills and gain a global perspective through a mission trip abroad. My involvement in various activities and organizations allowed me to network and interact with people from different fields of study. I'm so thankful for my time at OBU and the impact it had on my life.

1984**Rebecca Kay “Becky” Carter**

10/18/2023

I RECEIVED AN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP TO PLAY SOFTBALL WHICH WAS

invaluable for me to obtain my education at OBU. I lived on campus for the first two and a half years and the Liberal Arts Foundation gave me a good foundation going forward, preparing me for the workforce. I didn't participate in any clubs or organizations, but I did attend summer school after my sophomore year which helped a lot. My professors and the relationships I built there provided me with the additional self-confidence to be successful in my career. My most memorable experience was when my softball team finished third at the national championships my sophomore year. I am still in contact with very few of my friends from college.

2002

Dr. Amy L. Peeler

11/09/2023

MY JOURNEY AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

truly incredible. I fell in love with the campus when my youth pastor's wife, who was a mentor to me, told me about her amazing experience there. From that moment on, I knew OBU was where I wanted to be. I never wavered throughout high school. I was heavily involved on campus, from being co-chair of the campus activities board to serving as student government vice president. My major in New Testament was my passion, and I was fortunate to have two amazing professors who mentored me and helped shape my career path. I even had the opportunity to work for the Dean of Students, who introduced me to the world of publishing and encouraged me to pursue graduate school. OBU has truly made me who I am today, and I am forever grateful for the experience. One of my favorite stories to tell about my time at OBU is how I changed my major from psychology to New Testament. It was during my junior year when I took electives in life of Christ and Greek, and I immediately fell in love with the subject. I spoke with my professors, Dr. Roark and Dr. Bobby Kelly, and they saw potential in me and encouraged me to pursue my dream of becoming a New Testament professor. Twenty years later, I am living that dream.

1972

Esther L. (Bear) Bell

10/16/2023



Mother of two, grandmother of six, great-grandmother of three

ATTENDING OKLAHOMA

Baptist University was a life-changing experience for me. I had grown up in a small school district with only 11 people in my graduating class, so going to OBU was a huge adjustment. I had to get used to studying much more than I ever had before, but it was a great learning experience. I majored in business and it helped me to meet new people, expand my circle of acquaintances, and learn

different perspectives. Being at OBU gave me a new outlook on the world. It was an amazing experience that I am grateful for.



“A nursing professor who had major impact on me was Juanita Millsap. She had genuine interest in her students personally and academically.

- JONE WYNEL (FAST) FRIESEN

1967

Jone Wynel (Fast) Friesen

10/19/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE. I WAS DRAWN TO THE SCHOOL BECAUSE it was the only accredited baccalaureate nursing program in the state of Oklahoma. This accreditation was required for my first job after graduating as a public health nurse in Suffolk County, New York. The quality of the BSN program was impressive as was the individual attention given by the professors. They were always supportive and guided me through my education. One class, outside of nursing courses that stands out in my memory, was social psychology. This class had significant impact on my understanding of human behavior. A nursing professor who had major impact on me was Juanita Millsap. She had genuine interest in her students personally and academically. I was a small-town farm girl with limited exposure when I arrived on OBU's campus. During my time at OBU, I was exposed to a wide range of classes, professors, and students. I took philosophy classes, English classes and more that broadened my worldview. After graduating, I had a strong foundation in nursing that helped me go on to get my master's degree in nursing and to have a successful career in nursing administration, management, development, and consulting. OBU gave me the foundation for the growth I experienced after graduation.

2001

Daryl Logan Reininger

12/13/2023

I STRUGGLED AT FIRST TRYING TO

adjust to the freedom of college and the difficulty of the classes. I found structure by walking on to the track team and eventually earning a scholarship. My coach, Ford Mastin, was a great influence and helped me grow in my faith. OBU's professors were not just focused on grades, but on investing in us as individuals. Dr. Bobby Kelly, had a huge impact on me. When I hit a rough patch and doubted my abilities, he told me that I may not be an A-level student, but my job was to learn and grow, and that lesson has stuck with me, shaping who I am today. I may not be the best academic, but I am always striving to learn and improve. OBU taught me to be the best version of myself and to trust in God's plan for my life. It's a lesson that I carry with me in my ministry and in my everyday life. OBU truly molded me into the person I am today and I am forever grateful for the impact it had on me.

1983

Rev. Ronald Wesley Starr

10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE. I WAS 28 WHEN I

started as a freshman, so I was a bit older than the other students. I was able to mentor them and learn from them as well. I learned a lot of important life skills, like how to work with different kinds of people, how to write, and how to take tests. I also got involved in church planning and missionary work there. It rained on my graduation day, but I still celebrated with my family and church family. It was a great experience, and I'm thankful for my time there.

1983

Lisa (Hunt) Littrell

10/27/2023

I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED MY TIME AT OBU. I WAS A SCIENCE MAJOR AND

had a lot of time in class and laboratories, but I appreciated the small class sizes. I was lucky enough to have Dr. Hurley as a professor and his involvement in my time at OBU had a big impact. I loved the overall atmosphere of the campus, going to chapel, and being with people in the student center. I chose biology as my major before I came to the school, and Dr. Hurley challenged me to rethink my decision. His challenge helped me to clarify what I wanted to do and I eventually switched to nursing school. My advice to any young person thinking of attending OBU is to enjoy your time there. Don't get too stressed out about classes, but don't miss out on the campus life either. Meet as many people as you can, have a lot of friends, and enjoy the day-to-day things.

1957

Johnnie Mae Brasuell

10/12/2023

I'VE LEARNED A LOT THROUGHOUT MY life, but one of the most important lessons I've learned is that I'm not the center of the world. I had to learn this the hard way, but I eventually made a B in Old Testament. I was also very lucky to have a professor, Dr. Pritchard, who taught me about psychology and broadened my perspective on life. I also had a professor who taught me about the New Testament, but I had a hard time staying awake in her class. I graduated as salutatorian from my high school and I worked for my tuition at Sylvania Electrical. I then went to OBU and majored in physical education. I eventually decided to go into nursing and went overseas to Yemen for five years. I developed a nursing school there and taught in English. I learned to love the people there, even though they didn't love Jesus or know about him. I learned that laws and rules of religion don't make people, and that being saved is just the first step. I also learned that we all have one God and that it's a choice to follow Him. I've come to believe that everyone is of the spirit and that we are all one.

1966

Jacanette Newman Wells

10/11/2023

DURING MY TIME AT OBU, I WAS INVOLVED IN THE EDUCATION group and I decided to become a teacher. I taught school for 38 years and I was focused on getting good grades. I grew and changed as a person during my time at OBU, improving mentally and socially. The four years I was there were great because of the people and the excellent teachers, like Dr. Kendall. I also earned extra money by babysitting for professors, which I enjoyed. I had a great experience at OBU.

1976

Joy Lynn Durham

11/22/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN AMAZING experience. I was filled with a lot of mixed emotions when I first stepped onto campus. I was excited to be in the United States again after living abroad for five years, but I was also a little scared of the unknown. My dorm mate, a history major, sat down with me on the front steps of the freshman girls dorm and encouraged me to vote in the elections, even though I had been away for so long. Everyone was so nice and helpful, and I felt right at home. During my time at OBU, I grew and changed as a person. I had to face life and death issues while working in the hospital, which was a personal journey for me. I also saw the joy of children being born. I matured a lot during my four years there, and the summer trips I took helped me develop as an adult. I was more accepting of other cultures and was a well-rounded person when I graduated.



Leading the 2005 Graduation Procession at Pacific Rim Bible College, Honolulu

1980

Rev. Dr. John H. Brangenberg III

12/07/2023

“The faculty was fantastic and I had great experiences both in and out of the classroom.

- REV. DR. JOHN H. BRANGENBERG III

”

I HAVE MANY FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT STANDS OUT the most is my involvement in the BSU, especially the Daily Noonday services in Stubblefield Chapel. Those were such a great way to break up the academic day and provide a time of refreshing. The BSU discipleship program also had a huge impact on my life. I applied to six different schools, but my parents' income made it difficult for me to receive financial aid. OBU caught my attention when they offered me an academic scholarship before I even received my test scores. After visiting the campus, I knew it was a special place and I could afford it, and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. The faculty was fantastic and I had great experiences both in and out of the classroom. I even attended church at University Avenue Baptist Church, right across the street from OBU. It truly felt like a family and I still keep in touch with classmates and church members. Two professors that really stood out to me were Dr. Rowena Strickland and Dr. Warren McWilliams. Dr. Strickland's classes were like stepping back in time to the Bible era. She was so immersed in the Word and her passion for it was contagious. Dr. McWilliams was not only a great teacher, but also a friend and advisor. I even attended church with him and his children's sermons were amazing. The infamous eight-hour-a-week Western Civ class was a great foundation for my future studies in seminary and graduate school. Dr. Timberlake's Greek class, which prepared me to compete with Greek majors from other universities. Bob and Joy Burgess, the BSU director and his wife. They were an amazing couple who lived out their faith in a visible and inspiring way.

1971

Geraldine “Geri” (McQueen) Chappelle

10/12/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY and lived in Shawnee Hall, which is no longer there. I had a great view of Belshazzar across the street. I was there when the Geiger Center was built and remember all the work involved! Yes, it is a windy campus, I am a small person and got teased that I carried my books around to keep me grounded, I did have a struggle getting up the chapel steps. I remember going up two and back down one. The Geiger Center was built. I originally chose to attend OBU because it was a Baptist University and had a good program for nursing. I didn't end up finishing with a nursing degree, but I had two professors who made my experience memorable. Dr. Hurley was my microbiology professor and he was very instrumental in taking care of his students. I had a vocal music teacher who was also very helpful. I would recommend OBU to anyone looking for a well-rounded Christian education. They offer many different courses and will do all they can to help with finances. Two of my daughters graduated from OBU and both received scholarships.

1971

Geneva E. (Lomax) Jordan

11/06/2023



Tom and I on our 50th Anniversary Cruise in 2019!

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was an incredible experience. I was an organ major and had the privilege of studying under Dr. Reese. It was during this time that I realized my passion for music education. I was more interested in music and playing, being able to play hymns and things in church and be a church organist. I was involved in the American Guild of Organists and was the music librarian my senior year. I was also involved in the move of the music library from Fort Hall to the basement of the chapel. I had the opportunity to type all the Dewey decimal cards and set up the whole card system, the checkout system for the music

library. Virginia Reese was my major professor and advisor and she was a great influence on me. She was very supportive and calm, even when I decided to get married my sophomore year. My greatest takeaway from my time at Oklahoma Baptist University was the education I received and the growth I experienced mentally and physically.

1959

Dr. George Edward Kouri

12/08/2023

I HAD SUCH A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY.

I made lifelong friends and studied history as my major with a minor in philosophy. My favorite professor was Dr. Thornton, and his two-semester course on Western civilization was incredibly impactful. It has helped me understand the world we live in today. After OBU, I went on to earn my master's degree of divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The professors at OBU and Southwestern had a high view of scripture, which laid the foundation for my work in training global leaders. I took survey courses in the Old and New Testaments, as well as an introduction to New Testament Greek, which was taught by Dr. Timberlake. My younger brother, Donald, also attended OBU and became the head of graduate studies in physical chemistry at the University of Houston. OBU had a big impact on our family.

1979

Rama “Jo” (Wilks) Dunlavy

10/17/2023

I WAS A FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATE AND I DIDN'T FEEL

any pressure to go to school or finish school. While I was at OBU, I knew Ron Lewis, the dean of Music, who was my professor, advisor, and piano teacher. He invested in me and helped me gain confidence to do what I do. Looking back, I think my time at OBU gave me direction and I knew I wanted to teach when I started college. After graduation, I was able to immediately begin working in the field I wanted to work in and I started teaching the next fall. It was an amazing opportunity and I'm grateful for the passion and direction I found at OBU.

1985

Dr. Janet Denise Cummings

10/18/2023

I AM THANKFUL TO HAVE ATTENDED

Oklahoma Baptist University. It had a major impact on my life, especially in the academic area. I was an education major and wanted to pursue a career in teaching and leading. I was fortunate to have Dr. Jimmy Russell as an instructor. She took me under her wing and saw potential in me. She was my advisor for the educational organization I was president of and I sought her opinion often. She was a leader in her field and gave us everyday examples of her teaching experience. She took the time to visit with us and that really stood out. After I graduated, I reflected back to the advice she gave me and it made a difference. I am thankful for the forethought she had in preparing me to be a teacher. I was led to OBU because I felt a call to missions. It was there that I found my mission field would be in the classroom. The education I received there prepared me to further my career and I earned two master's degrees and a doctorate degree. OBU was the foundation of which I held to all the tenants I believed in as an educator. I would not be where I am today if it had not been for OBU.

1969**Sharon R. Bogle**

10/11/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OBU. I had the opportunity to make some lifelong friends and develop relationships with some amazing professors. I was a long distance operator before I went to college, so I was able to get a job on campus as a switchboard operator. I had some incredible professors like Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Prichard, and Dr. Hurley who taught me a lot and gave me the opportunity to put my ideas into practice. I was also able to take piano classes and use the practice rooms to take out my stress. I was an English major and a religion major, and I was able to learn a lot in both of those classes. I was also in an educational society and I was able to get an ACT scholarship. I worked a lot while I was in college, but I was able to graduate without owing any money. I was also able to attend some meetings with special speakers, which added to my teaching career. Overall, I had a great experience at OBU and I am thankful for the education I received.

1978**Jerry Luther Vaughan**

01/22/2024

I JUST WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME INTERESTING

information about Oklahoma Baptist University. It's a private Christian university located in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The campus is beautiful and has a strong sense of community. The faculty and staff are dedicated to providing a top-notch education and helping students grow spiritually. The university offers a wide range of academic programs, including business, nursing, and education. They also have a strong athletics program with 21 varsity sports teams. Overall, Oklahoma Baptist University is a great place to pursue higher education and deepen your faith.

1976**Danette S. T. K. Kong**

10/11/2023

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOME

amazing people, including Betty Woodward, Catherine Timberlake, Jack Pearson, Dr. Bass, Dr. Michael Cox, and Dan Holcomb. These professors and mentors were like surrogate parents to me, and they encouraged me to explore my faith and follow my calling. I even arranged music for The Bison, directed by Jack Pearson. I was also fortunate enough to meet President Tanner and his wife, who were good friends of my parents. I visited some of my professors and even had the chance to attend a reunion in Shawnee after graduation. I am proud to be an OBU graduate and will always cherish the relationships I built and the lessons I learned there.

1971

Charla J. Owens

10/11/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT PRIDE AND JOY. I

had never had the challenge academically that I did at OBU, and I was thankful for that. I was active in college players and loved working with Doris Simpson, who went on to work with the Donna Wishbone series on PBS. Graduation day was pure joy and a proud accomplishment. I was part of the chapel choir and loved hearing Richard Huggins play the organ in chapel. OBU taught me to be more responsible and to really work for my grades. After graduation, I taught school for 34 years and it was almost like a missionary experience. I was always proud of my OBU background and loved my career in teaching. It was a great testament to my time at OBU and what occurred after my graduation, touching others' lives.

1974

Denver E. McCormick

11/16/2023

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. I was offered a full track scholarship and had to choose between OU, LSU, and OBU. I chose OBU because my girlfriend at the time was going there. The coach, C Lee Brigham, made a great impression on me and I signed a letter of intent that day. I ran outdoors at OBU since they didn't have an indoor track. What I didn't realize was how intense the academics were. I was able to pursue fields I didn't even know existed and was able to get into the healthcare administration program, which is what I've done all my adult life. I'm so thankful for the quality education I received at OBU and the opportunities it gave me.

1998

Chad R. Rhoades

11/06/2023



I CAME TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY IN

1995 after a mission trip that summer. I had surrendered to preach in 1993, but hadn't followed through yet. On the mission trip, I had the opportunity to preach my first sermon and after that, I knew my calling was to devote myself to the Bible. My home church pastor, James Robinson, encouraged me to attend OBU and showed me what classes to take. At OBU, I was able to learn the life and literature of Paul, walk in the shoes of Jesus, and understand the historical background of the Bible. This helped me become astute in the Bible and understand the context of the scripture. I started my first pastor role in spring 1996 at Corbett Baptist Church and have been in the ministry ever since. OBU helped shape me to be a pastor and I'm thankful for the knowledge I gained there.



Giving Dr. Mathews the first-ever Bison Glee Club Appreciation Award!

2021

Kyle Bradley Daughabaugh

10/23/2023

“During my time at OBU, I learned how to trust others, problem solve, and grow in my faith.

- KYLE BRADLEY DAUGHABAUGH

”

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEMORABLE. BEING PART OF THE BISON GLEE CLUB WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE THAT helped me get through college, both educationally and spiritually. The director, Dr. Chris Mathews, was a great spiritual advisor who helped us grow in our relationship with Christ. The brotherhood and fellowship of the Glee Club provided a sense of community that was a perfect way to end each day. The Bison Glee Club was such a fun experience. We toured different schools, churches, and events, and I remember the community we had as we prayed, sang, fellowshiped and worshiped together. When I first arrived on campus, I was both excited and overwhelmed by the energy and presence of Christ. As the first one out of my siblings to graduate, graduation day was cold and windy but an exciting time! I was proud to sit with my peers and walk across the stage to receive my diploma. During my time at OBU, I learned how to trust others, problem solve, and grow in my faith. My time there also helped me gain the skills I needed for my current job in ministry. Thanks to the God, my community, the Sports Communications Department, Bison Glee Club, and all of my professors such as Vickie Ellis, Ann McNellis, Kaylene Barbe, Bryce Schubert, and Logan Harper, for making my time at OBU great! Because of them I am expanding the Kingdom to the next generation.

1979

Richard Camden “Dick” Gray, Jr.

10/13/2023

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING DR. KEN BAIN AS MY AMERICAN HISTORY professor. He was so good at connecting the past to the present, and I still keep in touch with him. Recently, I lost my education professor, Dr. Robert Kirk, who was very instrumental in my life. He was great at listening to us talk about the art and science of teaching and helping us refine our skills. His passion for education was evident, and it is why I'm still in the classroom with high school kids at 68. I've been in education for over 40 years, and it's a calling that I'm passionate about. I'm grateful for the time I got to spend with Dr. Kirk before he passed away. It is a reminder to stay in touch with those who are important to us.

1998

Liesl Maye (Flaming) Pierce

10/17/2023

I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE AMAZING CAREER I HAVE IN NURSING, WHICH I owe to my degree from Oklahoma Baptist University. One of the highlights of my experience was attending OBU with my identical twin sister. We were study buddies and enjoyed the college life together. It was a unique experience that allowed us to be supportive of each other in our careers. Since graduating, my degree has had a huge impact on my professional career path and connections. I love being able to serve my community and having people recognize me and tell me that I am a good nurse and that I served them well. I am so thankful for the experiences I had at OBU and for the academic and professional achievements I have been able to celebrate.

2018

Kelsey Caroline Lambert-Speer

11/17/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was definitely a challenging one, both academically and personally. I struggled with my mental health and even considered dropping out at one point. Thanks to the encouragement and mentorship of my professor, Brent Newsom, I was able to push through and graduate. It was a surreal feeling to walk across that stage and receive my degree, especially since I had never been academically challenged before. After graduation, I took a job as an English teacher, following in my mother's footsteps. When COVID-19 hit, I found myself reevaluating my career path. I eventually landed a job at the Department of Corrections, where I have been able to use my creative writing degree in unexpected ways. I recently even got promoted to a new position in human resources. It's been a wild journey, but I am grateful for the education and support I received at OBU. I am excited to see where my career takes me in the future.

1969

Rev. William Thomas “Tommy” Hinson

11/15/2023

I DESIRED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MY SOUTHERN

Baptist roots in a university setting. I previously attended The University of South Florida in Tampa. When I contacted universities, there was a gentleman who encouraged me to pray for the decision to move from Tampa to Oklahoma. I found out what I needed academically and spiritually, and I found my desire to complete a degree in preparation to go to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Douglas Clark was a sociology professor, and he was a great teacher, mentor, and friend. He invested in my life personally by having me share in some of the traveling events that he conducted along with other students. Dr. James Timberlake was my professor in the Religion Department, and he was my teacher at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The atmosphere was what I needed to be challenged academically and spiritually. It was the foundation that propelled me through seminary and into the ministry as a Southern Baptist pastor. I served as a student pastor while also pursuing my academic life. The birth of my first child, Darla, happened while I was at OBU. She was born in January and I graduated in May 1969. My advice for new students would be to capitalize on relationships among your colleagues and faculty. Make sure that you are open to relationships that will inform you and develop into who you become.

2000

Sara Denise (Chavez) Nettekmeier

01/26/2024



MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS

personal and meaningful. The teachers were dedicated and cared about their students, even years after graduation. I was surrounded by a supportive community and received sound advice that helped me succeed in my career. I would encourage potential students to explore all their options and take advantage of the resources available at OBU. It is important to find the right people who will support and guide you.

1984

Frank Carlton Gantz

11/21/2023



I WAS RAISED IN A MILITARY family and after graduating high school in Oklahoma, I spent three years in the Army before deciding to attend OBU. I knew I wanted to study religion and become a pastor, and OBU seemed like the perfect fit for me. My favorite professor was Dale Soden, who made history come alive and inspired me to pursue graduate work in

the subject. Dean Rader was also a great influence on me with his godly presence and personal encouragement. I was also active in intramural sports, but as I lived 90 miles away, I had to commute to campus. Despite the long commute, I have many fond memories of my time at OBU. My favorite class was intellectual history of the United States with Dr. Soden, which taught me how to think critically and prepared me for both ministry and my later career in hotel management. I retired from hotel work due to disability, but I still teach and mentor younger individuals in my church. I have recommended OBU to others, as it provides a well-rounded liberal arts education that teaches students to think and appreciate various disciplines. I am grateful for my time at OBU and the influence of President Dr. Bob Agee, who was a role model and mentor to me. I highly recommend OBU to anyone considering attending.

1990

Dr. Stephen Dale Havener

12/05/2023

I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE AT Oklahoma Baptist University. The education I received was top-notch and the professors were not only knowledgeable, but also caring and accessible. Dr. Rader and Dr. Tom Wilkes were especially influential in instilling in me a love for scripture and the art of preaching. It wasn't just these two professors, all of the faculty at OBU played a role in shaping me and building a strong foundation for my future. The friendships I made there are still with me today, and I am grateful for the lifelong connections I have made. Even though I was an older student with a family, I had a great time on campus and formed strong bonds with my classmates. One of my fellow students, Steve Holland, has become a dear friend, and we continue to support and encourage each other. OBU also provided me with invaluable hands-on experience through off-campus ministry opportunities, which ultimately led me to realize my passion for serving in the local church. Now, my daughter is following in my footsteps and attending OBU, and I couldn't be more proud. It's amazing to see the impact that this university has had on my family and the lives of so many others. I wouldn't trade my time at OBU for anything in the world.



Me and my husband, Brian Jarner

1992

Valerie Jeanne (McCormick-Langkiet) Jarner

10/11/2023

I WAS AN RN TO BSN STUDENT, SO I WAS ALREADY AN RN AND CAME BACK TO SCHOOL TO GET MY BACHELOR'S DEGREE. I was influenced by the faculty and the program, so I went on to get my master of science from OU and ended up teaching for ten years as well as working in the hospital in the emergency room and ICU. I moved to Alaska and took a job as the acute care manager, but went back to a staff nurse position because I was working more hours and getting less pay on a salary than I was if I was hourly. I was a single mom with three kids, so I went back to being a staff nurse in the emergency room. I met my husband up there, and we got married in 2005 and moved to Michigan in 2007. My time at OBU opened my mind to different cultures and ways of looking at things academically. It changed my whole perspective of nursing and encouraged me to go back for my master's degree. I graduated with a 4.0 and took an additional six hours toward the doctorate while I was there. I was inducted into a couple of different honor societies for academic outstanding leadership and got the outstanding clinical practice award. I miss nursing and teaching terribly, but I have multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease which has prevented me from being able to work at the bedside. I don't have the stamina to work right now, so I'm on disability. I loved my experience at OBU and being with the traditional students. My professor, Dr. Claudine Dicky, was a mentor to me and helped shape my success. My faith is strong now and I have a prayer partner that I meet with every week. Teaching in the two year program to go on and go back to school at OBU made a huge impact on my life and was probably one of the biggest blessings I've ever had.

“My time at OBU opened my mind to different cultures and ways of looking at things academically. It changed my whole perspective of nursing and encouraged me to go back for my master’s degree.

- VALERIE JEANNE (MCCORMICK-LANGKIET) JARNER

”

1955

Robert Lester “Bobby” Nowell, Sr.

10/12/2023

DURING MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I WAS MUCH older than the other students. I found a group of outcasts that I connected with and we spent a lot of time together. I had family in Oklahoma that I spent time with off campus. I wasn't active in any clubs or organizations, but I had a strong support system of professors and faculty members. I met my future wife while I was there and we had a son. I was also able to verify my calling to become a minister. I had a great relationship with one of the teachers. I would go to her house and do work around her house and yard for three years, even after graduation. I'm thankful for my time at OBU and the experiences I had there that have helped shape my life.

2007

Minda Joy Hofer

10/12/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY BECAUSE MY SISTER-IN-LAW had graduated from there and spoke highly of the education program. I also loved the small community and campus. I worked three jobs to pay for my education, but still made time for friends and school. My favorite professor was Dr. Aiken, who inspired my passion for teaching. I also had other great professors like Dr. Kelly and Dr. Haller. OBU strengthened my faith and I am grateful for my upbringing that taught me grit and hard work. I am proud of my grades and the small scholarships I received. Overall, my experience at OBU was challenging but rewarding.

1967

Cleavel N. Scott

10/20/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was an awakening for me. I grew up in a small town in Texas called Palestine, which was highly segregated. Coming to OBU, I was exposed to a predominantly white society and was able to learn how to interact with people from all over the world. I was prepared for this by my parents who taught me to treat others as I would want to be treated. I was also able to experience a sense of excitement on campus, whether I was in the gym late at night or going to church services. I was also surprised to find that I never heard the n-word while I was at OBU. My time at OBU helped me in my life after graduation. I went into the military and was able to use the skills I learned at OBU to interact with people. I eventually retired after 42 years in retail. I also entered the ministry in 1982 and became a pastor, which OBU also prepared me for. I am grateful for the experiences I had at OBU and the way it has helped me in my life.

2018**Brandon R. Thompson**

11/11/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS LIFE-CHANGING. I HAD grown up in church, but not Southern Baptist, and had a lot of questions. I found out that OBU had a Christian Studies program with a focus in apologetics, so I enrolled and left my banking career behind. I had a great support system while I was there, and one professor in particular, Dr. Matthew Emerson, really stood out. He was a professor of theology and is now the dean of theology. One of my favorite memories was a class I took with Dr. Tawa Anderson on pain and suffering. I learned so much that semester and it really prepared me for life after college. My advice to a freshman starting out would be to enjoy it and worry less about the busy work. Soak it all in and make the most of your time at OBU.

1978**Thomas Roy Little**

10/10/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE experience. I was drawn to the school for its music program and the work of Warren M. Angell with the Bison Glee Club. I was fortunate to have Jim Brown as my voice teacher and Michael Cox as the leader of the Bison Glee Club. One of my favorite memories was learning to ride a unicycle in the hallway of the brotherhood dorm. I enjoyed singing with the Bison Glee Club for three years. My degree from OBU prepared me for life after college by allowing me to get promotions in my secular job. My advice to a freshman just starting out would be to focus on what God wants you to do and listen to His leadership. Learn from your friends and professors, and take away what you can from their teachings.

1979**Dr. James
Scott “Jim” Bissett**

10/11/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS LIFE-changing. I had an academic awakening that prepared me for graduate school and ultimately my PhD from Duke University. I was passionate about learning and reading, and I was inspired by the passionate professors, such as Gerry Gunnin. I was also exposed to a new culture and place, which was very useful to me. I was involved in an honors project that grew into my first book, 'Agrarian Socialism in America: Marx, Jefferson, and Jesus in the Oklahoma Countryside, 1904-1920'. This book enabled me to get tenure at Elon University, where I spent 30 years teaching and served as department chair for nine years. I felt like I had the best job in the world and I was able to pass on my passion to my students. My time at OBU taught me that if I worked hard and prepared, I could do whatever I wanted in life. I still keep in touch with some of the people I met there, and I'm grateful for the experience.



“My experiences and the influences I had at OBU grounded me solidly in my bold belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in my opinion, that is an invaluable gift to instill in a young person.

- SUZANNE MICHELLE (MCCREARY) SHIRLEY

”

1993

Suzanne Michelle (McCreary) Shirley

10/13/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OBU IN 1993 WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN EDUCATION AND A FOCUS IN SPANISH. I

began taking undergraduate classes for a Biology major which could lead me to the option of eventually going to dental school after graduation. Early in my sophomore year, I realized that math and science were not my strong suits. I went to Dr. Hurley who encouraged me to pursue a degree in education, or speech and communications or telecommunications. I took his advice and pursued a degree in Education with an emphasis in Spanish. I was a successful student and enjoyed many of my classes at OBU, especially learning a lot about the Bible and developing my faith. I was also a member of the Spanish Club and Campus Crusade for Christ, and went on a mission trip during spring break. After graduating, I taught high school Spanish for 23 years, but eventually stepped away to pursue an online network marketing business. I used the leadership skills I cultivated for many years in the classroom working with students to build a network marketing team, and I am thankful for the character and confidence I gained at OBU and in all my lessons learned being a teacher. On a personal note, I walked into OBU as a Freshman, a born again believer in Christ, but when I graduated as a senior, because of all my experiences at OBU-the formal theological instruction of God's word and the spark of passion ignited in my soul by my professors and Christian influences there, I left OBU with my faith in Christ solidified and grounded in a strong foundation that prepared me to take on all of life's challenges that I would face in the world after graduation. My experiences and the influences I had at OBU grounded me solidly in my bold belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in my opinion, that is an invaluable gift to instill in a young person. I am forever grateful to this day and will always be.

1968

Joseph O. “Joe” Baker III

10/18/2023

**I'M GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OBU FOR MANY REASONS.**

My roommate was the son of a former president of the school. His father's work on the Southern Baptist Convention and its turmoils has been reflective on the current state of our national politics. We had a great time in the dorms and kept in touch with many of our friends who have gone on to do interesting things. My education at OBU has been instrumental in my career success, as I have multiple degrees and have been able to move into personnel and business management. I'm most grateful for the personal approach of the professors and fellow students, especially their concern for others and for our world.

1985

Dorothy Lea (Cope) Crow

11/16/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was unique because I didn't attend until I was over 40 years old. I had already earned my associates degree, but I wanted to go back and get my bachelor's degree. I was one of the older students, but there were other women in similar situations, so I didn't feel out of place. It was a lot to take on, especially with family obligations and working full-time, but I was determined to accomplish my goal. My time at OBU helped me in my career, as I earned a business degree and went on to work in accounting. It was the sense of accomplishment and the supportive environment that made my experience at OBU so special. I have fond memories of attending Chapel every week and hearing the organ play, knowing that one day I would walk across the stage and receive my degree. I am proud to be a Baptist and OBU is a valuable asset to the Baptist community in Oklahoma. One funny memory I have is when my daughter went into labor and I still went to class and Chapel before going to the hospital. My family never lets me forget that! Overall, my experience at OBU was a great fit for me and I am proud to have attended such a prestigious university.

1997

Bryan Cook

11/11/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

was an incredible experience. I was drawn to the school because of its emphasis on faith, Christian community, and building relationships with others. I had an amazing support system while I was there, and the faculty and staff were always so encouraging. One of my favorite memories was having outdoor classes with my education professors, discussing our readings and experiences and relating them to our lives. I earned two degrees from OBU, the first in Religion and Philosophy and the second in Secondary English Education. My Religion and Philosophy degree provided me with a solid worldview and biblical foundation, and I had some amazing professors who shared their experiences from around the world. I decided to come back and earn my second degree because I wanted to have more options for my family and to be able to engage with the ever-changing world. My advice to a freshman starting out would be to pray and be involved in education and life experiences to balance your life and work so you can make the long-term commitments you need to make.

1975

Shirley Jean (Newnam) Hargis

10/18/2023

I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY AND become a teacher. I was fortunate to begin at an academy program before my senior year so I could finish in three and a half years. I remember my biology class with Dr. Hurley, who started the class by showing us a mouse and a snake and saying 'This is life.' My supervisor was Shirley Jean Jones. I met my husband at OBU while working at Pizza Hut. Going to OBU opened my eyes and mind to the world, and I became an adult there. Academically, it prepared me to be a teacher and for my calling as a pastor's wife. I am thankful for the education I received at OBU and the experiences that helped shape me into who I am today.

1999

Corrie Elizabeth (Nelson) Wilson

11/10/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AMAZING. I WAS an accounting major and I was also in Bisons all four years. Mr. Pearson was an amazing teacher and mentor and he really helped me make friends that I wouldn't have made without that. I was able to meet people from all over and learn to actively listen. This skill has been incredibly helpful in my professional life. I also had the opportunity to go on a service trip with the church. It was a really heavy experience, but I learned a lot from it. I learned to make the best of any situation and to be generous with my time. I'm so thankful for my time at OBU and the skills I learned there.

1975

SFC James Carl “Jim” Lewis, USA (Ret.)

01/03/2024

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly a blessing. I had the privilege of having a music director in Colorado, who was a man of God and led many to the Lord. I made a great group of friends while I was there and was part of a revival team that went to places like Memphis, Tennessee, and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. I was Music Minister at the First Indian Baptist Mission and at Wallace Avenue Baptist Church during my tenure at OBU. I was a member of the College Players where I built sets for theater productions at Dorland Theater under the tutelage of Dr. Jim Brown. During my time at OBU, I grew and changed as an individual and developed the skill to lead music, which has taken me to places I wouldn't have gone otherwise. After graduation I reenlisted in the Army and finished a 22 year career. Every place I was assigned, God showed me a place to minister as the choir and church and chapel music director. My time at OBU has helped me in my life after graduation and I am thankful for the experiences I had there.

1997

Lori Dawn (Pape) Rippy

10/16/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEANINGFUL. I WAS LUCKY enough to have the support of Dr. Jimmy Russell, who invested a lot of time in me and helped me build my career as a teacher. This showed me the importance of investing in my own students. I had always known what my major was going to be, and during my time at OBU, I matured spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. OBU holds a special place in my heart and brings back fond memories. Even now, when I go back on campus, it feels like going home.

1973

Ruth B. (Briscoe) Woodring

10/13/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS A GREAT ONE. I CHOSE THE SCHOOL because I wanted to go away from home and still stay within the Baptist community. During my time there, I made friends with people from Oklahoma who had different experiences than I did, and I got to visit their homes. This was a great opportunity for me to grow as a person and as an adult. I learned a lot of theory at school, but I also learned a lot about putting nursing into practice when I went to work at the hospital where my mother was working. I also learned that there is no perfect place to work. After graduation, I was able to get a job quickly because of my degree and the fact that nurses are in high demand. My science teacher, Dr. Hurley, taught me a lot of life lessons, including how to handle a medical emergency in a room full of nursing students. His lessons were very helpful for me for a long time after school.



Moved to New York in 2022 after visiting multiple times as a student at OBU.

2019

Payton Nicole Clark

10/12/2023

“I was fortunate to learn from many amazing professors, including Professor Holly Easttom and Dr. Vickie Ellis, who helped me build confidence in my professional skills and God-given gifts and encouraged me to use communication for His glory.

- PAYTON NICOLE CLARK

”

NOT MANY PEOPLE WOULD WILLINGLY ENROLL IN A UNIVERSITY THAT THEY HAD NEVER VISITED, BUT I DID THAT WHEN I enrolled at OBU. It turned out to be a step in faith that would alter my life. My first time on campus was just days before Welcome Week. My family took me on a tour after weeks of encouragement and word from God that I should attend once my twin sister Reagan was already enrolled. I had already enrolled at a school in my home state of Texas, but to my surprise, I felt at peace and excited about what was to come. On my first day, I was in a Welcome Week group that included four girls who would become my future roommates and best friends. Despite being a lifelong introvert, I studied communications, which profoundly affected my future. I was fortunate to learn from many amazing professors, including Professor Holly Easttom and Dr. Vickie Ellis, who helped me build confidence in my professional skills and God-given gifts and encouraged me to use communication for His glory. Professor Easttom took me on a trip to a journalism conference in New York City, spurring a desire to visit again on a Global Outreach trip and a call from God to move to the city. Dr. Ellis gave me confidence in my abilities as a researcher and communicator, helping me to apply to graduate school at the University of North Texas, her alma mater, and eventually gave a job recommendation for the role I now have at Columbia University in New York. It is an understatement to say that my experience at OBU changed my life. I cannot imagine how different it would be without those relationships and connections, and I will always cherish the memories and friends made on Bison Hill.

1964**Rev. William
L. “Leroy” Ruede**

10/16/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS a life-changing experience. I had just graduated from a junior college in Joplin, Missouri, and got married, but I had no experience with the Bible. My wife had grown up in the church, so she helped me along, but I knew I needed to go to OBU to get the education I needed. I worked at two or three different jobs while I was at OBU, and the last one was cleaning up in the executive offices. After I graduated, I moved back to Tulsa and took another church. I had some amazing professors and advisors who were particularly helpful to me, like Dr. J.P. Dane, Dr. Timberlake James, and Dr. Rowena Strickland. Dr. Strickland was my Old Testament professor and she made the prophets come alive in my life. Dr. Timberlake was my Greek teacher and Dr. Dane was my New Testament professor. My time at OBU affected my life after graduation in my career and relationships. It laid the foundation for my life and my son and daughter-in-law graduated OBU and went as missionaries to South America. They were part of the 1,100 people who were cut from the missionary board, and they finished 29 years on the mission field. I am so thankful for my experiences at OBU and I was there when the basketball team won the NAIA title. It was an overall good experience.

1969**Charles Edward
“Charlie” Warren, Jr.**

10/10/2023



In retirement

MY JOURNEY AT Oklahoma Baptist University was a memorable one. I was accepted at both Baylor University and OBU, but I ultimately chose OBU because of its smaller size. I felt like I would do better in a smaller school environment. The campus atmosphere at OBU was amazing. I was very involved in the journalism side of things, serving on the newspaper staff and eventually becoming the editor of the yearbook. I also sang in the Bison

League club. One story that always stands out to me is when I was meeting with my journalism professor, John Parrish, and another professor interrupted us. John made it clear that I was important and that our meeting was important. It was a small moment, but it showed me how much the faculty at OBU truly cared about their students. That's something I'll never forget. My journey at OBU was filled with academic influences and unforgettable experiences.

2017

Stephen Andrew Briggs

10/20/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was incredibly rewarding. I had the opportunity to take classes in both computer science and creative writing, and I was able to join some of the honors clubs like Sigma Delta and the Business Honors Club, Delta Mo Delta. I was able to attend Sigma Cal Delta's annual conference for two of the years, where I presented one of my fiction pieces and got to know the other English majors. I also had great experiences with the professors in both the computer science and English departments. Dr. Newsom and Dr. Myers did a great job of teaching and communicating their passion for the material, and Dr. Ramey and Professor Turnage had a good mix of engineering and industry experience that helped me in my current career. My biggest takeaway from my time at Oklahoma Baptist was the education I received, as well as the community of classmates I had around me. I still keep in touch with many of them to this day.

2017

Dakota Quade Unruh

10/13/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY MEANINGFUL AND FORMATIVE. I

built relationships with friends and professors that shaped me into the person I am today. Through rigorous academic study and mentoring from professors, I was able to discover who I was and who I was in Christ. This prepared me for my current role of serving the local church. I was also active in the University Chorale, which was a great opportunity to make music and share life with others. During my time at OBU, I was called to be a minister of music, which was a transformative experience. My time at OBU also prepared me academically and musically, and gave me the skills to think and look at the world around me through a Christian worldview.

2015

Janette Ranae Schoenhals

12/22/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY

special. From the moment I stepped on campus, I felt like I was part of a family. The professors, residential life, and finding a church home in Shawnee all contributed to this welcoming atmosphere. I was filled with excitement and energy on my first day, knowing that God had called me to OBU. Throughout my time there, I had the opportunity to grow spiritually and explore different areas of ministry, which helped me figure out my calling after graduation. The classes and professors at OBU equipped me to fulfill my ministry and job callings after graduation. Looking back, I have nothing but fond memories and I am grateful for the experiences and growth I had at OBU.

Career Success





2003

Dara Lynn (White) Steward

10/10/2023

I WANTED TO ATTEND OBU BECAUSE OF THE TIME I

spent there as a youth during the summer. I felt spiritually challenged there, and I was the most connected to God. I felt that the Lord was leading me into the medical profession, but I didn't have the clarity to know exactly what it was. I knew that I wanted to be married and with a family, but I was uncertain about the commitment. I was part of the first group to live in the Taylor Residence Center. I attended the BCM regularly but did not hold any offices. I had Dr. Mark Hemric for chemistry and he was incredible. He was one of the most godly, brilliant men who I had ever known. Because of him, I fell in love with the path of nursing even more, as well as the science that was included in it. OBU was a wonderful place, and I met some of my best friends there. I found out who I was during my college years. OBU set me on a course for the rest of my life. I served the Lord and the healthcare community at large. If someone was entering the school of nursing, I would encourage them to apply themselves diligently. I am 43, I've been out of college for 23 years and I still am learning things about healthcare and medicine and healing and caring. I got married in 2008, and we have five children and I hope that they will attend OBU. I would just encourage anyone to dive in and to do their best, to not skip any reading. It is valuable and will serve you if you apply yourself.

1972

MAJ Beverly Kay (Oeland) Urick, USA (Ret.)

10/10/2023



I CHOSE OBU FOR MY

nursing education because I wanted to experience college life and the nursing program had a great reputation. I was scared when I first arrived because I didn't know anyone, but I quickly made friends with my roommates and their families. I enjoyed the classes and the professors, especially Professor Mills and Professor. I was able to take an operating room elective during my

sophomore year and I found it fascinating. I decided to join the Army Student Nurse Program and my junior and senior year were paid for by the Army. After I graduated and passed my state boards, I went active duty with the Army and spent the rest of my time in the Army. I was able to use the education I received at OBU to pass my state boards and the Army was very supportive of my transition. I am thankful for the opportunity to receive a great education and serve my country.

2018

Rachael K. (Tartsah) Collins

10/30/2023

I WAS HIRED BY OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY to pursue my master's degree through their bridge program. It was a personal goal of mine to receive my master's, and I was drawn to OBU because of its faith-based approach. I was working full-time and juggling motherhood, but my professor was amazing and always encouraged me to keep going. Most of my studies were online, with a few in-person sessions to prepare us for our final months. The program also included hands-on experience in clinics and shadowing other nurses. Looking back, I can see how much I grew as a person during my time at OBU. Not only did it enhance my own life, but also my family's. The incorporation of faith in our studies was also a valuable aspect. One thing that really stood out to me was OBU's graduation ceremony, which was unlike any other I had experienced. It was intimate and personal, highlighting each individual's achievements. After earning my degrees, I was able to apply for higher positions at Chickasaw Medical Center, where I work. Being Chickasaw myself, it was a great feeling to know that I could accomplish my goals and inspire others to do the same. My degrees also helped me advance from a manager to a director, greatly improving my life and my children's. I am grateful to OBU for providing me with the opportunity to achieve my personal dreams and goals.

1983

Toni Lynn Harris

10/21/2023

I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT MY EXPERIENCE IN THE OBU NURSING program has had a lasting impact on my life. After graduating, I applied for a job at Kaiser Permanente in California during an economic downturn when they weren't hiring many new graduate nurses. Out of over 120 applicants, I was one of the three chosen for the position. I believe this was due to the confidence and experience I had gained from OBU. I was even offered the job the same day as my interview! Since then, I have had a 40 year career with Kaiser Permanente, working in med surg nursing, ICU, urgent care, ER, and now oncology. I'm grateful for the opportunity OBU gave me to provide for myself and be part of a big organization of nurses.

1997

Holly Kay (Hendricks) Emig

11/15/2023

I HAD SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University. Not only did I learn valuable skills that I still use in my career today, but I also had the opportunity to become a teacher and pass on those same assignments to my students. It's truly a rewarding career, and I am so grateful for the support and confidence I gained from the people I met at OBU. The work ethic and quality of output from OBU alumni is top-notch, and it's no surprise that they are some of the best and brightest in their fields. My advice to incoming or potential students would be to consider the transition to a smaller university like OBU, where you can be surrounded by people who share the same faith, values, and morals. It's a much more comfortable and supportive environment compared to larger universities.

1984

Melinda Kay (Parsons) Teehee

11/04/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY VALUABLE. I WAS LUCKY enough to have a roommate, and we even got to reconnect at Homecoming last year. It was so different from when we were there, with no football team, but it was still really exciting. I also reconnected with an old friend from out of state during the pandemic. I didn't join any clubs or get involved in extracurricular activities, but the school provided a great foundation for me to be successful in my career field of nursing. I eventually retired as Chief Nurse Executive, which I'm very proud of. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU was the education and skills I learned in the nursing program. Those skills have been invaluable to me and I'm proud to say I graduated from OBU.

1958

Delma Mae Campbell

10/10/2023

I GRADUATED FROM ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL AS SALUTATORIAN OF my eight-person senior class. When I went to OBU, I was not prepared for college. I struggled with taking notes and didn't have shorthand. I made friends easily, though, and ended up with three roommates my freshman year. I had originally enrolled as a business major, but at the end of my sophomore year, the Lord opened a door for me to become a physical education teacher. I taught physical education for 35 years, ten of which were in Colorado and 25 in California. I also ended up being a track coach for 20 years. It was amazing how the Lord called me to a different direction than what I thought and it worked out very well for me.

1961

Dr. Jack O'Brian Poe

10/17/2023

MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE HAD A LONG AND blessed journey. We have been all over the country, from Oklahoma City to Canada, and even Germany. We have been State Tennessee ambassadors and US Marshals for Oklahoma. We have seen and experienced a lot of things, and have a lot of stories to tell. We started our journey when we quit our jobs and left with two kids and our parents to go to seminary. We had nothing, and it was hard. We were placed in West Dallas, and it was there that we really grew up and honed our skills. We were there for four years, and it was more than we learned in seminary. My husband then joined the military and became a chaplain. He was never home, and I was an angry wife. He told police officers in the academy to pay attention to their families first, because officers don't always do that. We have been so blessed, and we talk about it nearly every day. We have had all of our accolades and things, but we won't have any in heaven. We try to spend quality time with our family, but they are scattered a bit. Our daughter lives in Norman and our son lives in Denton. We also owned a Christian bookstore for four years, until the oil bust happened and we had to take bankruptcy. It was a long time ago, but I miss my customers. My husband is still the Secret Service Chaplain for the Secret Service Office here in Oklahoma City. We would love to have him talk about his time.



“I credit OBU for preparing me for seminary and giving me a deeper understanding of people.

- REV. ARNOLD L. “ARNIE” SORRELLS

1959

Rev. Arnold L. “Arnie” Sorrells

10/13/2023

GRADUATION DAY WAS A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR MY FAMILY AND ME. MY DAD WAS SO EXCITED THAT I GAVE HIM THE gown and cap, and we took pictures as he walked down the stairs wearing them. During my time at college, I was active in a fraternity as a social chairman. We did some athletic stuff that gave the incoming students a fun but rambunctious workout. We had a fraternity-wide taco feast and other events with matching music. The next year, I helped connect students and churches and interviewed pastors in Shawnee to gain their information to provide to the students. My major for my BA was psychology. One of the requirements was met by asking pastors about their call to ministry. I went on to seminary right after college after receiving the Southern Baptist Seminary Centennial Scholarship. I credit OBU for preparing me for seminary and giving me a deeper understanding of people. I went to OBU with questions but was helped by the professors, my roommates, and college organizations. There were opportunities to serve and help people in the community through conversational encouragement, music, and public speaking. It all helped me decide on a career path, which resulted in a pastorate at West Phoenix Baptist Church for 22 years. After that, I was called to be the director of missions in the association in Yavapai. I will never forget the faculty and students nor their deep, spiritual, unselfish living. Blessings also came in the form of classmates who became friends for life.

1985**Jana Elizabeth (Adams) Kuehler**

10/24/2023

**I WENT TO OBU ON A TOWNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FOR PIANO**

and voice. I met lifelong friends at orientation, and I don't remember laughing as much as I did during then. I was part of the BSU, and we would perform at different churches from time to time. I was also in a social club. After my freshman year, I realized not much was open to me as a music major, and I didn't want to teach music as a job. During my sophomore year, I switched majors and lost my scholarship. I decided it was best to change my major and went into education to teach. A lot of experiences at OBU taught me and formed me into who I eventually became. Those experiences shaped me personally. I did my student teaching at my old elementary school in my hometown of Bethany, Oklahoma. The people were the most important things at OBU. Every university has its traditions, but the ones at OBU were fun and I formed a lot of friendships.

1969**Elaine V.
(VanVleet) Adams, RN**

11/13/2023

IT ALL STARTED WHEN I HAD PLANNED ON

becoming a secretary, but my teachers advised me against it. My mother then suggested I become a candy striper at St. Paul Hospital, and I fell in love with it. My Sunday school teacher, who graduated from OBU, recommended their nursing program, and that's how I ended up there. My grades weren't great in high school, but my mother always made sure I did my homework, which helped me get into college. I was put on probation, but with hard work and God's help, I was able to excel in my studies. During my freshman year, I worked as a resident assistant to help pay for my education. It was a challenging time, but the education and clinical experience I received at OBU prepared me well for my career as a registered nurse. I worked in various units, including the ICU, where I had the opportunity to witness the first heart transplants. I also made it a point to share the gospel with my patients, even if they were unconscious, as I believed hearing is the last sense to go. Nursing has always been a part of my life, as I took care of my mother and mother-in-law who both had health issues. I am grateful for the education and experiences I had at OBU, which shaped me into the nurse and person I am today.

1977

Rev. Mark Lynn Baker

11/14/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was truly life-changing. I initially wanted to study music, specifically vocal performance, but I also had a passion for religion. The academic dean allowed me to pursue an interdisciplinary degree in religion and music. My vocal teacher, played a huge role in shaping my singing abilities and being a great coach. After graduation, I pursued both music and pastoring. I even had the opportunity to serve with the International Mission Board, becoming the first missionary appointed under the new name. My wife and I were missionaries in Scotland before returning to the States, where I started three cowboy churches and released three albums of Western music with a Christian message. It's amazing how my time at OBU prepared me for exactly what I am doing now. My wife also graduated from OBU with an art degree and has used her talents in painting and writing devotions for the Southern Baptist publication. We actually met at the University of Arizona, but I had always wanted to attend OBU since high school. I am grateful for the full scholarship that I received for singing and the opportunities I had to perform and learn from the vocal director at the University of Oklahoma. OBU played a significant role in shaping my life and I am proud to be an Okie from Muskogee.

2014

Megan Elizabeth Smith

10/19/2023

I GRADUATED FROM OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY'S MSM PROGRAM

in 2014 and I'm proud to say that the quality of the faculty was one of the best parts of my experience. I had the privilege of having Dr. Robbie Henson, Dr. Lana Bolhouse, and Dr. Claudine Dickey as professors. I was even able to work with Dr. Henson after I graduated. Although I didn't make any lifelong friends while I was studying, I was able to reconnect with them if I reached out. I was also not involved in any extracurricular activities or clubs due to having a full-time job. After graduating, I was able to start working at OBU, which was a dream come true. I believe the program prepared me well for my career. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, hiking, walking, gardening, and missions. I've been able to lead a couple of global outreach trips to Mexico and Kenya, where we did a variety of work such as working at a clinic, mobile health clinics, palliative care, hospice work, home visits, and volunteering at an orphanage. It's been a great experience and I'm thankful for the opportunity.

1994

Patricia Ann “Patty” Hall

10/17/2023

GOING TO COLLEGE AS AN ADULT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I

had three kids and was already married, so I was already busy. I was able to attend Oklahoma Baptist University, which was close to home and had smaller classes. I was exposed to two different reading teachers who had different approaches to teaching, which I found very helpful. I learned that I didn't know as much as I thought I did and that I should respect the knowledge of others. After graduating, I was able to get a teaching job in September, which was a blessing. I taught for 18 years before I had to take a medical retirement due to rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia. I was able to use my gifts in the church and help with a nursing home ministry and sitting with widows. It was a blessing to be able to do something flexible that I could do when I wasn't having a flare.

1959**Rev. Franklin
Harold Heiney**

10/26/2023

I WAS DRAWN TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University when I felt called to preach. It was suggested to me and I ended up choosing it as my school. I didn't know what I wanted to major in at first, but through my time there, I became a religious education major. This was partly because I was a pastor at a nearby church and my professor, Dr. Borough, helped me in my church work. I was given projects to start different organizations and services, which helped me get into religious education. It took me eight years to graduate from OBU, during which I also pastored a church, got married, and had three children. It was a busy and fulfilling time for me. OBU and my experiences there have impacted my life greatly and will continue to do so. I am proud of my work with the Kickapoo Native American Church and other Native American tribes throughout my career. I have been actively involved in ministry for many years and am still involved even in my retirement. My wife passed away three years ago, but I continue to serve and stay connected through worship services and Bible studies. OBU has played a significant role in shaping my life and I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences it has provided me.

1969**Al T. “Dosh” Bridgman III**

02/01/2024

IT WAS TRULY A LIFE-CHANGING TIME FOR ME. I NEVER IMAGINED

that my passion for basketball would lead me to such amazing opportunities, like being voted the most popular man on campus and receiving a scholarship to continue my education after my military service. Being a part of the basketball team during such a pivotal decade was an incredible experience. I had the privilege of playing under Coach Bob Bass, who went on to coach in the pros. My education at OBU not only prepared me for my career at Sears, but also allowed me to make connections and friendships that have lasted a lifetime. I am grateful to John Parrish and John Hudson for their friendship and to OBU for giving me the opportunity to grow and succeed.

2001**Lori L. Neu, DNP**

10/24/2023

I HAD AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. From the dorm life to being a part of the worship team and incorporating Christ into the classroom, it was a well-rounded experience. The small campus and class sizes made it easy to get to know people and it truly felt like a home away from home. I was able to be involved in a variety of extracurriculars and discovered my talents and abilities. The nursing program was challenging, but my advisor, Dr. Johnson, pushed me to excel and I graduated well-prepared for my career. I was fortunate to land a job at the prestigious Mayo Clinic and spent 21 years there, eventually becoming the manager of the pediatric ICU and flight team. OBU taught me the importance of seeing patients as whole individuals and integrating spirituality into nursing. I am grateful for my time at OBU and how it shaped my career.

1976

Janet L. McDowell

10/12/2023

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN INDEPENDENT PERSON, SO WHEN I DECIDED to pursue a degree in nursing, my parents were very supportive. I was a first-generation college student at OBU and it was a great experience. The nursing program taught me how to be a leader and make decisions quickly, while also being willing to change those decisions if more information came. This training was invaluable when I went overseas as a missionary nurse for 28 years. I worked for the International Mission Board, a Southern Baptist organization, and I did a variety of things, including running bush clinics, working in a mission hospital, and even being a business manager for our Kenya mission for five years. My nursing training helped me make decisions, be organized, and be adaptable. I also had some funny experiences, like when the children in the pediatric unit would sneak up behind me and pull on my white hose, thinking it was my skin! After I retired in 2000, I worked as an oncology nurse in Colorado and then moved back home to Van Buren. Even though I was retired, I still couldn't stop working and I'm still working in my profession today.

1977

Dr. William Alburn Tuttle

10/21/2023

I GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS WITH A DEGREE IN business and was interested in healthcare administration. I was recommended to OBU by Dr. Frank S. Groner, the president of the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis. The classes were taught at the Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City by the administrative staff and the CEO, Mr. James L. Henry. It was one of the few undergraduate programs in healthcare administration at the time and allowed me to get a second undergraduate degree in two semesters. That was the starting point of my 38 year career in healthcare administration and I am forever grateful for the opportunity. It was also within a faith-based organization, which was important to me.

2006

David Anthony Noblett

12/07/2023

I NEVER EVEN KNEW ABOUT OKLAHOMA Baptist University until my junior year of high school. It was actually a girl I was dating who inspired me to look into it. I was also becoming more involved in my church and my dad's background as a coach led me to pursue a math education degree. Despite my parents' concerns about the cost, I was able to attend OBU with the help of generous family members. The real story is what happened after graduation. I originally planned to coach and work in a church, but after struggling with Calculus, I switched my major to sports journalism. This led to a 16-year career in intercollegiate athletics before transitioning into sales. My time at OBU was transformative, thanks to mentors like Ray Fink, John and Mary Kay Parrish, and Dean Bobby Kenny. Even though I commuted and worked full-time, I was heavily involved in sports information and the student newspaper. OBU also helped me make connections in the industry, like Doug Tolan, whose daughter's husband is now the SID at Oklahoma State University. My family was also embraced by the OBU community, and my parents even created an endowment for journalism. My degree from OBU opened doors for me in my career, and I've been able to provide for my family while still staying connected to my faith. I see a lot of similarities between athletics and sales, and I know my dad is proud of my success.

2016

Laramie Danielle (Batey) Duncan

11/01/2023



Teacher and photographer

WHEN I ARRIVED ON campus for my freshman year, I was excited to learn about Bill Pope, the campus photographer. I had a passion for photography, so I applied for a student job working for him and was lucky enough to get it. For the next three and a half years, I took pictures of sporting events and other activities on campus, which helped me develop my skills and shape what I do now. I also got

involved with News 30 in the telecommunication building, which taught me more about video production and news production. After I graduated, I started out doing Head Start, but eventually got my teacher certification and was able to teach photography, video, art, and other classes I had taken in college. I'm grateful for the opportunities I had while at OBU and the knowledge I gained that has helped me in my career.

1965

Charlotte Ann (Carroll) Beene

10/17/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, AND IT WAS one of the happiest years of my life. I had a music director who was a good friend, and we would often go back and forth on the weekends. I made a lot of good friends there, although I haven't kept in touch with many of them. I do remember one of my roommates, Pat, who was only there to please her father, a big Baptist in Missouri. She was an artist and I admired her talent. When I think about my time at OBU, I believe it helped me grow and change for the better. I came from a strong Christian home and had been saved at an early age, but being surrounded by good people at OBU reinforced my faith and showed me that being a Christian can be a happy and fulfilling life, not just a set of rules to follow. I remember struggling with my faith before finally giving in and walking the aisle at church when I was 8 years old. I am grateful that I made that decision at a young age. Recently, I have been praying for a woman named Anna, who owns a business in the mall and is a Buddhist. I believe the Lord is working in her heart, and I hope she will make the decision to accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior. I know that time is short, and I want everyone to have the opportunity to join us in heaven. On a different note, I have always loved writing poetry, and I published a book called 'Lift Us Higher' about five years ago. It is my legacy for my children and grandchildren. I have another book in the works but haven't been able to publish it yet. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my faith and my love for poetry with others.

2022

Taurean

Rashawn Smith

10/23/2023

I COULDN'T IMAGINE MY TIME AT OBU

without football. It had such a huge impact on me, not just on the field, but also in building friendships and relationships that I still maintain today. Being a part of the football program really shaped me into the person I am today, from an 18-year-old coming from high school to a 23-year-old in the real world with a job that I love and plan on pursuing further. Football took up most of my time and I wanted to focus on that, but I did try to balance my academics as well. Going to college on my own gave me a sense of freedom, but I tried not to abuse it. Instead, I embraced it and learned important life skills like cooking, cleaning, and doing my own laundry. It was a time of growth and independence for me. I would say it's the value of hard work. OBU is not an easy university, both academically and athletically. I had to work hard for every grade and every win on the field. That hard work has paid off, as I now have a job that I love and feel prepared for because of the work ethic I developed at OBU.

1959

Ruth Alene Stowell

10/17/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A BLESSING. I DO

remember Mary Kay Parrish, who lived two or three rooms down from me. I never told anyone that I played the piano and organ, but one day when I was alone in the room, I started playing. Mary Kay walked in and heard me. I decided to transfer to Northeastern in Tahlequah because my father was not making much money and I felt guilty for them having to pay for college. I wanted to go into the music field, but I never pursued it. I started playing the piano for my church in the eighth grade and when the pastor and music minister came, I started playing the organ. I never took any lessons. I have done a lot of music throughout my life, from church performances to Christmas and Easter stuff. I have played with a lot of well-known groups and it has been a blessing.

1959

Rev. Freddie “Max” Dowling

10/13/2023

I WAS 38 YEARS OLD AND HAD NEVER OWNED MY OWN HOME WHEN I

received a call to the First Southern Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois. I was humbled by the offer, but I asked the Lord about it and He said not to go. I then received a call to the First Baptist Church of Henrietta, Oklahoma, which would have been a bigger church than the one I was currently at. However, the salary was lower than what I had been told. I decided to go back to Bur Burnett, Texas, where I had been before. I started buying Bur Burnett real estate with the little money I had and in 42 years, God blessed me with 75 income producing properties, all paid for. Three years ago, I was impressed by the Lord to start selling my properties and I sold 39 of them to Nathan Platt. I also bought a custom built four bedroom brick home in the lovely edition of Bur Burnett. I still get my \$127 a month minister's retirement and I have lacking only \$36,000 to reach \$1 million cash. I use this money to help preachers preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1968

Dorothy C. “Cathy” Burgess

11/03/2023

AFTER GRADUATING FROM OBU, I WENT ON TO HAVE A FULFILLING

career as a public school teacher. I taught everything except first grade and ninth grade. My husband was a basketball coach, so whenever he moved to a new job, I would take whatever teaching position was available. I spent the last 25 years of my career teaching middle school English, which was quite an adventure. Even though I retired almost 24 years ago, I still love to teach and now I teach adults in my church's bible study class. It's a joy to continue sharing my knowledge and passion for teaching. Looking back at my time at OBU, there are so many things that make me smile. I loved participating in the campus traditions, like the freshman class picnic by the lake and the hanging of the green. Those were such fun and memorable experiences. I am also grateful for the education and opportunities that OBU provided me. It truly shaped me into the person I am today.

2018

Anna Leigh Joy (Ricks) Pratt

10/20/2023

I'VE WORKED AT A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS AND

have been able to use my degree in a lot of different ways. I've been able to use it in my personal life, in my church life, in my work life, and it's been very meaningful to be able to do that. We've also been able to have two little girls. We have a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old, and they are just the light of our lives. We've been able to do a lot of things in the past five years, but it's been a very full five years. I think that OBU really prepared me for that. I think that it prepared me to be able to have a lot of different things going on at once and to be able to balance them and to be able to do them well. I think that that's something that I really appreciate about my education at OBU. I think that it's something that I've been able to carry on and to use in my life after OBU.

1993

John D. Blair

11/27/2023

I ABSOLUTELY LOVED MY TIME AT

Oklahoma Baptist University. The school of business was amazing and I had such a great experience with my professors. They were always there for me and I really felt like I could connect with them. Graduation day was a huge milestone for me and my family was so proud. Walking across that stage and receiving my degree in business was such a proud moment. It wasn't just about academics, the social life at OBU was also amazing. I was a part of a social club and made some great friends through that. Attending basketball games and other athletic events was always a blast. I also had the opportunity to intern at Mission Hill Hospital and Logan County Hospital as part of my healthcare administration degree. After graduation, my degree really helped me jumpstart my career in healthcare. I did an internship and then got into healthcare consulting, which I did for 16 years. Now, I've been working with Mercy for over ten years. OBU was truly a springboard for my career and I am so grateful for my time there.

1996

Chad Rayland Vance

11/28/2023

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND different universities, but I ultimately chose Oklahoma Baptist University. The main reason was its proximity to where I was working at the time. I also appreciated the smaller size of the school. I studied fine arts with an emphasis in video production and sound reinforcement. During my time at OBU, I worked for the physical plant and gained experience in audio mixing and setting up stages for events. Now, I work for a company that specializes in large-scale AV installations, such as in airports, NFL stadiums, and corporate facilities. I've been with this company for 26 years, ever since Dr. Hadley, the dean of the video production college at OBU, suggested I reach out to them. I haven't had much contact with OBU since graduating, but I did visit the campus a few years ago and noticed a lot of new buildings. Overall, my experience at OBU laid the foundation for my career and I would highly recommend it to anyone considering college.

1968

Frances Laging

10/12/2023

MY FAMILY HAS A LONG HISTORY WITH OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY.

My sister, Jerry, was enrolled there in 1956 where she met her boyfriend, Willard. Willard introduced me to my husband, Bill, and we had a lot of fun together. My son attended OBU, and my daughter graduated from there and married a graduate. We lived in Shawnee for eight years while Bill was in school. He also taught at Wilson Elementary School and Franklin Elementary. He was a father figure to many students and tried hard to ensure they got a good education. He also taught art appreciation, math, and other subjects. He was a principal at a Christian school in Tulsa and found it important to have support from the administrators, superintendents, and school board. He also found it important to have prayer in his classes. Prayer has been a big part of my family's experience with OBU, and it has been a lifelong learning process.

1956

Dr. Roberta S. (McBride) Damon

10/12/2023

I WAS A TRANSFER STUDENT AT OBU AND I WAS EAGER TO GET BACK TO

Oklahoma. I had wonderful friends and faculty members there who treated us like young people and watched over us. I lived in WMU dorm and had delightful times with my girlfriends. I was expected to do something with my life that would affect others for good and I felt very safe and secure. My major was English and I went on to become a marriage and family therapist and have four books published. I wrote a memoir called 'A Voice Beyond Weeping' and a book about the early church in Rome called 'Theirs is the Kingdom.' I also wrote two books of letters to women in the Bible. I enjoyed my time at OBU and I'm sure that some of the core values remain the same even now.

1960**Luther Edward “Luke” Harbison**

10/12/2023

I HAD A BI-VOCATIONAL CAREER, LEADING SINGING FOR SMALL

churches in the Dallas area for over 35 years. My home church was Preston Highlands Baptist Church, but I also sang at other churches like Tremont Baptist Church, Piedmont Baptist Church, and Westmoreland Heights Baptist Church. I also worked for the Lady Board and led singing for a 30-minute program on Sunday mornings. Later, I moved to Arkansas and sang at Dilworth Cumberland Presbyterian Church. My wife and I have been married for 61 years and have three children, all of whom graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University. My son works for Ford Credits and my daughter is a music teacher. OBU had a strong influence on my life and helped me become the Christian I am today. I have many lifelong friends from OBU and highly recommend it for anyone looking for a solid Baptist education.

1996**Ader “J.” Assis**

10/17/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS TRULY LIFE CHANGING. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY

to travel to South America with some of my professors, which was an incredible experience. We built relationships with government authorities, and I started a company called Global Options. The trip was a seed that was planted, and it grew into what I do today; helping international NGOs set up offices in new countries. I learned how to apply Christian values and ethics to business, which has been a great blessing. My greatest takeaway from OBU is the friendships I made during college. I was welcomed by Oklahomans, and I was able to grow spiritually. I am now able to use my business to help inspire others and be a witness for Christ. It is a great honor to have my daughter continuing the family's legacy at OBU. We are so happy that she chose to attend, and we are grateful for the combination of excellent education and Christian faith and values that OBU offers. Teaching her at a young age to put God first is something that I am truly thankful for.

1961**Kenneth E.
“Kenny” Zorger**

11/15/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was a great experience that set me up for success. I was able to get my BSS industrial engineering degree at OU after attending OBU for two years, one of which I was out sick. I remember one funny moment in a calculus class with Dr. K Clotfelter when a bird flew in the back window, made a circle and flew back out. Dr. Clotfelter said, 'That must mean this class is strictly for the birds!' Everyone got a good chuckle out of that. After graduating from OU, I worked two years at Ford Motor Company as a manufacturing process engineer in Ypsilanti, Michigan. I then moved back to Oklahoma and worked at Tinker Air Force Base for 32 years, retiring in 2000. My wife was a graduate of St. Anthony's School of Nursing in Oklahoma City and later got her certificate as a certified nurse anesthetist. OBU provided me with the educational background to lead a successful life and support my family. Now at 83 years old, I'm slowing down a bit, but I'm grateful for the experience I had at OBU.



15th season with the OKC Thunder

2011

Kaylee N. Lonsinger

12/20/2023

“I was the first intern for the Oklahoma City Thunder when they came to town and worked for Thunder for 15 seasons, stepping away July 2023.

- KAYLEE N. LONSINGER

”

MY JOURNEY AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE. I FIRST FELL IN LOVE WITH THE campus when I was chosen to attend Super Summer, a leadership camp, starting in fifth or sixth grade. I was able to receive scholarships for attending multiple Super Summers. As a freshman, I started working as a basketball statistician for OBU Athletics and was made the student director of sports information for the following three years. My main sports to cover were basketball, tennis, softball and volleyball. I would keep scores, do write-ups and feature stories and helped sell advertisements for print collateral and web ads. I also played varsity volleyball my sophomore year, but my career ended due to a severe ankle and knee injury. I helped developed media and stat protocol for the newly revived sport and became the voice of Lady Bisonettes Volleyball following my injury. I found a passion for sports communication instead of my intended career of sports medicine and switched to a communications based degree. I was the first intern for the Oklahoma City Thunder when they came to town and worked for Thunder for 15 seasons, stepping away July 2023. I started in the Guest Relations department and worked my way into a leadership role with the brand and creative team, overseeing Thunder's creative queue, design work and maintaining the overall brand. I worked for the Thunder full-time during my senior year while finishing college, and boy was that a challenge but worth it. OBU was the catalyst for my first big chapter in my career life and I wouldn't change my journey for anything.

1959

Peggy Lynn Scales

10/20/2023

THE SUMMER BEFORE MY FRESHMAN YEAR, I entered a scholarship contest at OBU and gave a monologue on stage, which received a standing ovation and won the scholarship for me. After the applause, I met Bob Scales who was a sophomore at OBU. We were both involved in Theatre Program and were cast in plays together, and our romance blossomed around the oval. I received a BA in English, theatre, and education with honors, and taught in public schools in Colorado and Los Angeles while Bob got his master's degree and PhD in theatre. We had two beautiful children while Bob became well-known in the professional theater world in technical theatre, working at The Guthrie Theater, The National Theatre School of Canada, and Seattle Repertory Theatre, eventually becoming the dean of the USC School of Dramatic Arts. I worked at Seattle Repertory Theatre for 18 years as casting director and assisted visiting playwrights such as Neil Simon and Herb Gardner, keeping the daily script revisions in developing over 50 new plays and working with outstanding actors including Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Tony Shaloub, and Mary Tyler Moore. When I left The Rep, they named the green room 'The Peggy Scales Green Room.' I am ever grateful to have attended OBU, which set the course for the rest of my life!

1957

Dr. Bobbie Rue Scott

10/10/2023



MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University was incredibly memorable. I met my wife there, who was also a mission volunteer, and we went to Malawi, Africa and South Africa together. I also worked for the Baptist General Convention in Oklahoma and went back to Malawi many times. I enjoyed the intramural sports and lettered in them in 1956. I'm still friends with Jimmy Noyes, whom I met in 1953, and we still visit each other. I also enjoyed the companionship of the people there and Dr. Yarbrough was very encouraging. OBU taught me how to study and work, and I'm grateful for the experiences I had there. While attending OBU, I was impressed to be a missionary. Later Gwen and I went to Malawi in January of 1968. As of this year, 2023, I am still helping the people in Malawi by writing commentaries on the books of the New Testament. I have written a commentary on every book of the New Testament except Revelation, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The commentaries are sent to Malawi where they are translated into Chichewa and then sent back to me to check if the Chichewa says what I wrote in English. The commentaries are for the pastors and preachers in the villages who do not know English well. I have sixteen relatives who attended OBU, including two daughters.

1957

Sue Ellen (Albright) Ferguson

11/15/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University in the late 1970s and early 1980s. I worked part-time as a dental assistant while I was there and was even asked to participate in the Harvest Queen Court. I was studying public speaking and didn't get involved in any student organizations due to my part-time job. After I left Oklahoma Baptist University, I moved to Tulsa and worked as a dental assistant for a few years until I got married. My former husband was with an oil company, and we lived in many different places. I started collecting hats in the early 1980s and have collected close to a thousand. I started speaking about my hats in the early 1980s and have spoken at many places. I even developed a presentation that focused on the history of the hats and how they relate to scripture. I still speak, but mostly in smaller settings due to the pandemic and my cancer diagnosis. I have written down the history of some of the hats and am still working on writing down the history of the rest. Collecting hats has been a big part of my life and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share it with others.

1998

Carol Cleo (Miller) Branstetter

11/10/2023

I CHOSE OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FOR MY DEGREE AFTER A

church member told me about their nursing program. I was already an adult, so I didn't live on campus and just went to classes and did my thing. Going through the program made me more disciplined and I was confident when I graduated. I was able to find work right away in critical care and within two years I was traveling as a travel nurse. My degree has helped me in my career, allowing me to go straight into a role of charge nurse and increase my position as I've worked. It's been great to have the degree to help me reach my goals and I'm thankful for the opportunity OBU gave me.

1968

Bill E. Chaffin

10/17/2023

I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TO EARN MY DEGREE.

It was close to where I lived in Shawnee, so I didn't have to drive far to get to class. It was tough to work full-time and go to school two nights a week, but it was worth it. My company asked me to switch my major from mathematics to business management, which I did. I didn't make many connections with fellow alumni, but I did make some with fellow students and employees of Oklahoma Natural Gas Company. I believe that a college degree is a door opener, but you still have to learn the job after you get there. My wife, Dolores Chaffin, enjoyed the camaraderie with the other students and the connection she had with fellow employees. She made a big impact on lots of people with her smile and laugh. Attending Oklahoma Baptist University was a great experience and I'm glad I did it.

1956**Dr. MariLyn H.
(Hale) Beaney-Kelly**

11/13/2023

I TRANSFERRED TO OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University in 1954 from Oklahoma College for Women. I was originally a French major, but when I arrived at OBU, I found out that they had lost their French professor, so I made literature my major. I was very fortunate to have Dr. Katherine Rader as my mentor. She was an incredible teacher and the sponsor of Mortarboard, which later became Phi Kappa Phi. Through her guidance, I learned so much and made lots of good friends. Years later, after I had married and had three children, I needed to come back and finish my graduate degree. I was able to finish my master's degree a month before my husband died, leaving me to become the breadwinner of the family. The Lord has been very good to me and has led me to many incredible opportunities. I taught in Africa, Kazakhstan, and several ESL positions. I was also advised to get my doctorate at Oklahoma State University. I eventually got a job at Rose State College, where I initiated a study abroad program for students. OBU impacted my life in many ways and gave me many opportunities. I was able to learn from Christian professors whose example I tried to follow in my own career. I am thankful for the experiences I had at OBU and the impact it has had on my life.

1974**Donna Jean (Jones) Alden, PhD**

01/24/2024

WHILE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I MADE LIFELONG

friends with similar goals and backgrounds. I felt safe and accepted at OBU, which was important to me. I started with a different major but ended up majoring in English and eventually becoming a teacher. One of my most influential professors was Dr. Mitchell, who was professional and always there to help. Through my experiences at OBU, I found focus in my life and pursued a master's and PhD. My life was filled with friends and fun activities like dinners and movies. I loved my time at OBU and wish I could have returned for my other degrees. I am grateful for the friends I made and how my belief in God was integrated into all aspects of my life at OBU. I would love to visit and see how the university has grown. Overall, my time at OBU was enriching and felt like a home to me.

1975**Robert Leon “Lee” Edmunds**

10/13/2023

I AM GRATEFUL FOR MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. I

made many friends and received a great education that prepared me for life. I was especially grateful for the Church Music Program, which was the best in the country at the time. I felt capable of doing whatever I wanted, and my education matched up well with any other respected programs. I was also thankful for the basic education I received and the influential people I met, such as Dean Angell and Dr. Horton. After college, I served as a full-time minister for ten years and then went into part-time ministry. I also had several secular jobs. I eventually retired early due to myasthenia gravis, but I am still an active member of my church choir. OBU has given me so much, and I am forever grateful.

1986

Jefferson Edward “Jeff” Howeth

10/12/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY

unforgettable. I have so many fond memories, especially with my professors, who played a huge role in shaping my education and life. Dr. Don Wester, Dr. Doug Williams, Dr. Bill Mitchell, Dr. Bill Hagen, and Dr. Timberlake were all incredible teachers who made a lasting impact on me. One of my favorite memories was when my second-year Greek class would meet at the donut shop. It was such a unique and fun experience. My time at OBU was outstanding. Coming from a small town in Oklahoma, my time at the school really opened my eyes to a wider world and expanded my horizons. After graduating, I initially thought I would pursue a career as an English professor. I even attended the University of Virginia for its English Program. I soon realized that wasn't the right path for me and decided to go to law school. I received my juris doctorate from Washington Lee University School of Law and then practiced law in Tulsa for three years before moving to Dallas in 1995. Since then, I have been practicing law for almost 30 years in various capacities. My time at OBU prepared me well for my future studies and career. The academic rigor and challenges really stretched me and helped me grow intellectually. I felt well-prepared compared to students from prestigious schools, but it wasn't just about academics for me. My professors were also my friends, and I stayed in touch with some of them for many years. Looking back, I am most grateful for the intellectual and spiritual growth I experienced at OBU. It truly holds a special place in my heart, and I am proud to be an alumnus.

1974

James Vernon Lackey, Jr.

10/17/2023



I ATTENDED OKLAHOMA

Baptist University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. Having a general degree rather than a specific one allowed me to explore a variety of career paths. I was able to get my foot in the door for many jobs and ended up working in the healthcare field for the rest of my career. My favorite class was business law, taught by a judge who would

relate what happened in court that day to the material. I had three jobs while I was in school, so I didn't have time to join any clubs or organizations. After I graduated, I worked in the hospital field and then moved to the insurance company side. In 1996, I started a company from scratch that used the internet and sold information tools to hospitals. We sold it to Experian and it now has over 2000 employees. I also founded and grew another company to almost the same size and sold it to private equity. Now I'm retired and on four boards, helping others do the same. I'm thankful for my time at OBU because it gave me a good education and I made a lot of great friends. It's a great place to go if you want a focused, small town experience.

1972**Jolynn D. (Darland) Lowry**

11/01/2023

MY EXPERIENCE IN THE NURSING PROGRAM AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY

impactful. I had two instructors, Mrs. Millsap and Ms. Proctor, who were both experts in the field and had a great understanding of how to interact with patients. They were both patient and exacting, and taught us good decision making skills. Mrs. Millsap was especially good at using humor to teach us lessons. After OBU, I went on to pursue a master's degree in psychiatric mental health nursing and taught at various universities. I also worked in various hospitals and psychiatric units, and even started my own unit. I also became certified as a faith community nurse and coordinator, and worked with ADM students. I eventually moved to West Virginia with my husband when he retired. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to travel and work in many different places. I have learned to be open to different opportunities and explore different fields. I would encourage future generations at OBU to do the same and seek out different opportunities.

1971**Martha Fae “Martha-Fae”
(Needham) Frymire**

10/16/2023

DURING MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, I CHOSE MY MAJOR

because nursing seemed too difficult. I didn't have a specific professor or advisor who influenced my decision, I was pretty independent in that aspect. Looking back, I'm not sure if it was OBU or just the time of my life, but I definitely became more confident. I think that's a common experience for many students at that age, feeling invincible and ready to take on the world. OBU definitely prepared me for my profession and I was able to jump right into it after graduation. It's been almost 40 years since then and I'm still going strong. I'm grateful for my time at OBU and the foundation it provided for my career. Thank you for taking the time to talk with me.

1981**John Allyn Workun**

10/10/2023

I ARRIVED AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, when I was 17 years old. I was homesick for a large part of my first year, but the culture of family and sense of belonging I found there made it easier. I switched majors after two and a half years, from elementary education to business, and was able to graduate in four years. I was grateful for the relationships I had with my professors and the class sizes that made the transition and extra class hours doable. Max Brattin was my favorite professor, and I sang with the University Chorale for two and a half years. We even took a mission trip to Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Japan. After graduation, I got married and planned to take my business finance degree to Canada to work for a national bank. I ended up in a management program at Liberty Bank in Oklahoma City. I've been in banking ever since. OBU gave me a great start to get into the field that has been good to me and my family. My advice to future generations would be to find something within the scope of what OBU offers and embrace it fully. It's a whole life experience, spiritual and educational, and the value is still there.

1982

Katherine M. “Kathy” (Parmer) Shaull

11/03/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS TRULY LIFE-CHANGING. I SPENT 39 years in education, starting as an elementary and middle school teacher and eventually becoming a counselor. The values I learned at OBU helped me to help others in my career. Originally, I had planned to go to seminary after graduation, but financial aid fell through and I had to find a full-time job. That's when I discovered my love for teaching and went into elementary education. Looking back, I am grateful for the friendships I made at OBU and the sense of community on campus. I was also involved in clubs and organizations, such as the Athenians and the Bison Nets, a women's singing group. Music has always been a big part of my life, and I continue to use it in my retirement through writing a Christian blog and a devotional. OBU helped me solidify my relationship with God and I am grateful for the daily practice of being in His word. It's easy for teenagers to get caught up in the freedom of college, but OBU provided a strong foundation for me.

1964

Dr. Walter “Scott” Williamson, Jr.

10/30/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I WAS AWAY FROM HOME for the first time and had to learn how to do things for myself, like ironing, doing the wash, and finding ways to earn some extra money. I also got involved in a club for those planning to go into pastoral ministry. It helped me learn about senior adults since I led a group that went to various senior adult facilities in Shawnee. My last pastorate turned out to be in a senior adult community in Arizona. During my time at OBU, I also sensed my call to pastoral ministry and met the woman who would become my wife. I enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie with other students in the men's dormitory. We would stay up late and talk about the world's issues. OBU was a memorable experience that helped shape my life and career.

1996

Amy Michelle (Maples) Powell

10/17/2023

I ATTENDED OBU WITH A strong desire to become a nurse, a dream I had since I was nine years old. I was drawn to the university's Christian worldview and felt at home on campus. I remember my time at OBU fondly, especially the close-knit community of nursing students and the support we gave each other during our studies. After graduation, I pursued my dream of becoming a missionary, but ended up working in the ICU at Scott and White in Temple, Texas. I eventually moved back to the Dallas area with my husband and have been working as a nurse ever since. OBU's liberal arts education and Christian foundation have prepared me well for my career, and I am content to continue serving at the bedside.



Chief operating officer, Nemaha Environmental Services

1995

Audie Wayne Dorrough

10/16/2023

“My time at OBU was a pivotal moment in my life. I was already 28 years old when I came to college, so my relationship with my professors was more of an adult.

- AUDIE WAYNE DORROUGH

”

I CAME TO OBU WHEN I WAS 28 YEARS OLD, ALREADY MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN AND A CAREER IN RETAIL SALES management. I was there to gain the academic discipline I needed to be a better student of the scripture and to be better disciplined. I had a great relationship with Dr. Tom Wilkes and Dr. Yarborough, and I pastored full-time the whole time I was at OBU. After my wife passed away, I left the pastoral ministry and went into education for a while, teaching special education for seven years. When I remarried, I couldn't make a living on that income, so I went back to the oil and gas industry. I had some oil field experience before I came to OBU, and one of my former church members asked me to come work for him. I worked my way up to the position of chief operating officer of an environmental company that reclaims waste products from the oil and gas industry. My time at OBU was a pivotal moment in my life. I was already 28 years old when I came to college, so my relationship with my professors was more of an adult. I was there for the discipline of education and to help me with administration and those type of things I needed to be a pastor. After 20 years of pastoring, I left the pastoral ministry and went into education for a while. When I remarried, I couldn't make a living supportive family on that income, so I went out into the oil and gas industry. I had some oil field experience before I came to OBU, and one of my former church members asked me to come work for him. I worked my way up to the position of chief operating officer of an environmental company that reclaims waste products from the oil and gas industry. It's amazing how life can lead you in unexpected directions. I went from a church history major to managing an oil field service company. I still have a calling and a responsibility, but I just don't fill the pulpit. Life can throw you some real curve balls.

1973

Vernetta Clarissia (Martin) Johnson

11/16/2023

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS DECIDING ON WHICH COLLEGE TO ATTEND, MY

mom suggested Oklahoma Baptist University because she worked at the OU Medical Center and knew a nurse who was an OBU graduate. I was shy and liked the idea of a smaller school with smaller classes. I chose to study a degree in healthcare because I wanted to help people. During my time at OBU, I struggled with anatomy and physiology labs but enjoyed my internships at hospitals. I also remember being part of a black group on campus and wearing a dashiki for the first time. After graduation, I felt confident in my knowledge and skills and enjoyed working with patients, especially veterans. I loved being their advocate and ensuring they received the best care.

1957

Rev. Richard M. Gay

10/11/2023

I HAD A FAMILY OF TWO CHILDREN, SO I ONLY ATTENDED TWO

semesters of college before enlisting in the military. I was able to take my language requirements and was awarded recognition for being well-trained in physical things from my two years in the military. After that, I graduated from Southwestern Seminary in April 1961. I felt the call to preach when I attended Falls Street after high school. I took several people with me, and the invitation called me to a lifetime service. I was married in 2015 and am now 87 and a half years old. I pastored in Shawnee while still in school for nine months and then went to seminary. I served nearly two years in the Airborne Artillery and had a good experience in some interim pastorates after I retired.

1970

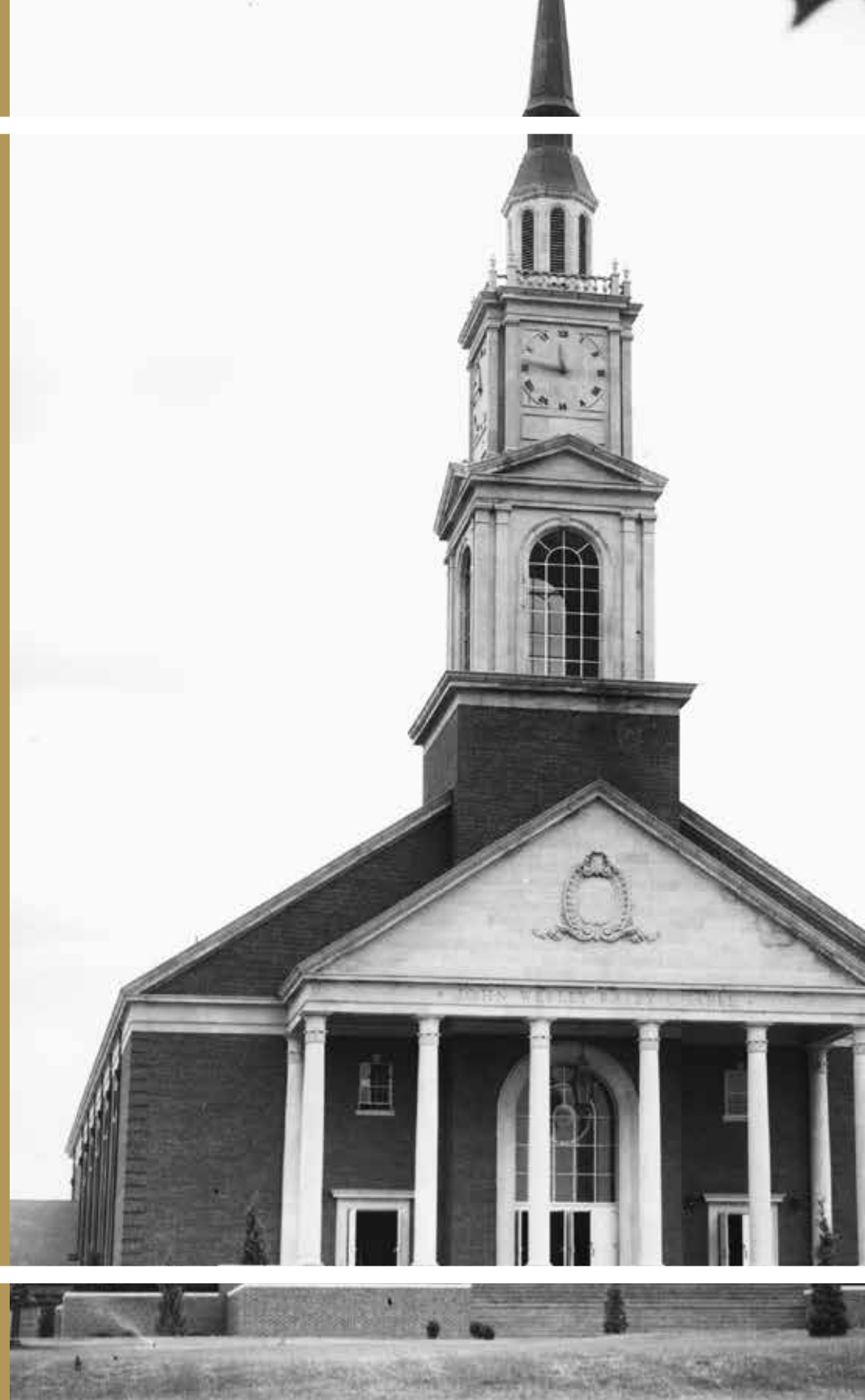
Rev. Burl “Mike” Knight

10/26/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University was positive and affirming. I was initially looking to pursue a career in medical research, but my choir director, who was good friends with a professor at OBU, took me to Shawnee to check out the music program. I was lucky to receive an instrumental scholarship for clarinet and some academic scholarship help. Once I got there, I knew it was where I needed to be. The professors were all knowledgeable and experienced, and they had a dedication and calling to the staff there. I was a voice major, but also played clarinet in the small instrumental program. I was a member of the Tuneclippers, a group that presented OBU to schools and churches, and I sang with the Singing Churchmen for 53 years. I also had the opportunity to participate in competitions. My youngest daughter is also an OBU graduate, so I have a bit of a family legacy there. When I think of my time at OBU, I'm filled with joy and gratitude. I still have dear friends who were either graduates or faculty members, and the professors were instrumental in where I ended up. It was a special place, and I got so much from it, including a great education and great friends.

Moments in Time







Joanna and me at OBU in 1975; she was in Hanging of the Green and I was her escort.

1973

William Jason “Bill” Jones

10/11/2023

“The faith that I have today is a result of the journey with God that started at OBU.

- WILLIAM JASON “BILL” JONES

I ENTERED OBU ON A CHURCH MUSIC DEGREE, BUT I LOST MY FAITH EARLY IN MY SOPHOMORE YEAR, SO I SWITCHED TO music education. A comment by Dr. Bill Mitchell taught about Dante's Inferno in a Western Civilization class, and that shook the foundations of my very shallow faith. I had multiple influences after that at OBU that helped me to begin thinking through these things for myself and finding a much deeper faith. A friend in the dorm pointed me to Jerry Barnes, the pastor of University Baptist Church. I told Jerry that I no longer believed in God, but was still open and searching, and Jerry said, 'Come join our church,' which I did. Jerry's preaching challenged me in a way no preaching ever had. He also met with me once a semester in his study to see how my search was going and was a major influence in helping me find my way back to Christ. The faith that I have today is a result of the journey with God that started at OBU. In fall 1972, it was during my senior year, and I was among the first group of non-Chinese students invited to pledge to the Chinese Student Association. Warren, the CSA president, assigned Joanna, a freshman from Hong Kong, to teach me. I eventually asked Joanna on a date, and we soon found ourselves in love. After she graduated in 1976, we got married that September at University Baptist Church. We were married for 44 and a half years until her passing in February 2021. We had a wonderful marriage that included two children and four grandchildren. On our 40th anniversary, we traveled to Shawnee, worshiped at University Baptist Church, got our picture taken, and spent the afternoon walking around the OBU campus, reminiscing about our time there. OBU will always have a very special place in my life because of the impact that it made on my faith and finding Joanna, the love of my life.

1995

Mindi Fox McNair

01/22/2024

I HAD SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE AT

Oklahoma Baptist University. It wasn't just about getting an education - it was about serving others and focusing on their needs instead of my own. This taught me to be a more giving person and helped me grow as a Christian. I made some incredible friendships that have lasted even after graduation. I still keep in touch with a few of my best friends and even see some of the girls from my sorority. Overall, OBU helped me become a better person, and I have high hopes for its future. I hope it continues to be a place where students can receive a godly education and learn about self-government. In today's world, we need more people who understand the importance of self-government and doing what's right instead of following the crowd. The greatest takeaway for me from my time at OBU is definitely the friendships I made and the personal connections I formed with my professors. I still have a deep connection with many people from OBU, like Doug Melton, who has even preached at my family members' funerals. I truly hope that my boys will have the opportunity to attend OBU and experience all the amazing things I did.

1972

Cheryl Lynn Squyres

11/06/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN AMAZING

experience. It was my first time away from home, and I was excited to be there. I worked in the Psychology Department and loved the dorm life. I got to know so many girls, and we did homework together. I had to work the whole time I was there, but it helped me mature and accept responsibility. I used the education and teaching credential I gained from OBU in my teaching through my church ever since. I had a great time and would encourage any young person interested in college to do the same. I liked the Christian environment, and it worked out great.

1960

Janice Gail (Hatfield) North

10/11/2023

LOOKING BACK ON MY TIME AT OBU, I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE

experiences I had and the friends I made. I was able to take psychology and Bible-related courses, which helped me develop a career goal. I wanted to be a pastor's wife, which was something I had never considered before. I was able to attend a church I enjoyed. After graduating, I went on to get a seminary degree, and I married my husband. We had four children together. I am thankful for the time I spent there and the memories I made.

1978

Harry “Julian” Ward, Jr.

12/01/2023

I WAS A FOUR YEAR LETTERMAN ON THE Oklahoma Baptist University baseball team and a scholarship athlete. I was a catcher and called my own signals on the field. I hit two home runs and a couple of grand slams while I was there. We weren't a very good team, but we had a good time. I was grateful to Gene Wallace for giving me a scholarship and I was a dual scholarship person. I had the athletic scholarship and I had a township from the School of Music that paid for my entire education. My minister of music, WJ Davis, and his wife Marie were OBU grads and had a major influence on my decision to go to college. I was a vocal major and was the Oklahoma Music Teacher Association Vocalist of the Year in either 1977 or 1978. After graduating from OBU, I went to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was in full-time music ministry until 1994. That's when I became bi-vocational and was able to do ministry in churches that could not pay me. I was motivated by my call to ministry, not because I had to have the money. Oklahoma Baptist University gave me the opportunity to pursue my passions and I am forever grateful.

1970

Dr. Kurt Robert Scroggins

10/11/2023

I WAS INSPIRED TO ATTEND OBU BECAUSE OF ITS EXCELLENT reputation and the opportunities it provides. I wanted to be a part of a community dedicated to learning and growth, and this school was the perfect fit. I was also drawn to the diverse student body and the wide-ranging offering of courses. I knew that I would be able to explore my interests and develop my skills in a supportive environment. I'm excited to be a part of this school and to take advantage of all the resources it has to offer.

1958

Nee Won Young

12/08/2023

MY EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS A positive one. My sister was already attending the school when I decided to go, and I made some friends while I was there. I also formed a bond with some of the faculty members, like Ms. Strickland. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education, but I didn't become a teacher. If someone asked me for advice about attending OBU, I would recommend it because it is a Christian school. I started a family tradition there, as my son also attended the school. OBU is a great place to get an education and I'm glad I chose to attend.



Lea Ann Fannin Quirk

“ I have many memories in Kerr Dorm, Raley Chapel, Shawnee Hall and Sarkeys, not to mention late nights at the GC and in the library!

- LEA ANN (FANNIN) QUIRK



2002

Lea Ann (Fannin) Quirk

02/13/2024

I CHERISH MY MEMORIES AND TIME AT OBU. THERE WERE MANY WONDERFUL INTERACTIONS WITH FACULTY, STAFF AND fellow students. I have many memories in Kerr Dorm, Raley Chapel, Shawnee Hall and Sarkeys, not to mention late nights at the GC and in the library! I was a Communications Studies major and was very close to completing a minor in History at graduation. OBU is an academically challenging institution and, while I gained very useful knowledge about a wide-range of subjects, the things that have proven most valuable to me in my professional life are the work ethic I developed as a student and how to organize my time. I had to work very hard at OBU and had to learn how to be extremely organized in order to keep my head above water. These skill sets have been invaluable to me and have allowed me to succeed in my chosen profession. I'm also grateful for the Jesus-focused setting that OBU provided while I was a student and continues to provide. As a student, it was a part of everything around me and that was a great thing because in my senior year, I finally realized that I had not settled the issue of my salvation and gave my life to Christ once and for all. After graduation in May 2002, I went to work in higher education for the next 18 years and was thrilled to return to my alma mater in 2021 to continue that work. Wonderful, life-changing things continue to happen on Bison Hill and I'm grateful to get the opportunity to be a part of it. God bless OBU!

1981

Dr. Timothy W. “Tim” Bailey

10/23/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY was truly life-changing. I remember when I first heard about OBU from my church in Miami, Florida. There was no internet back then, so it was through word of mouth. When I was 14, the Oklahoma Bison Chorale came to my church and performed. It was such a powerful experience, and I knew right then and there that OBU was where I wanted to go to college. At 17, I packed my bags and moved all the way to Shawnee, Oklahoma. It was definitely an adjustment, but the most important thing that happened was meeting my wife in my freshman year. We actually met on campus through some friends who thought we would hit it off. It turns out, her dad was the new president of OBU at the time. It's such a funny story looking back because we ended up tracking snow into the president's house during our tour. That's just one of the many memories I have from my time at OBU. I am forever grateful for the music faculty who not only taught me how to sing, but also instilled in me a belief in myself. Even though I initially planned on getting a master's degree in church music, I ended up following a strong calling from the Lord to pursue a master's in divinity. This opened up so many doors for me, and I am truly grateful for my experience at OBU.

1976

Robert Michael “Mike” Kuykendall, PhD

11/08/2023



Me and Terri

I ENJOYED PLAYING BASEBALL and meeting my future wife. OBU laid the groundwork for my educational career and instilled in me the desire to study more and achieve what I was able to achieve, which was being able to teach for a living. I was not the first generation of college graduates. Both my parents were college graduates. I was recruited to play baseball. My mind was on one track during those first couple of years of playing baseball. I wasn't a great student in my first year. The next year, I did better academically and didn't play baseball. I was an outfielder and was an all-conference during my freshman year, and I pitched during my senior year. I haven't kept track of anyone except my wife, Terri, who graduated one year after me. I was at Gateway Seminary, which used to be Golden Gate Seminary, and I was there for 33 and a half years. I saw hundreds of students go through and many excelled in their ministries and mission enterprises.

1986

Rebecca Lee (Copeland) Gibas

10/17/2023



Greetings! It's a glorious day in paradise! Make today the best day of your life until tomorrow!

I GRADUATED FROM OKLAHOMA

Baptist University in 1986, but my journey there was not an easy one. In the middle of my junior year, I was hit by a semi-truck while home for Christmas. I was in a coma for 14 days and the doctors didn't think I would survive. I did, and when I woke up, I had to start my life over from when I was nine months old. I didn't know my colors, numbers, or even my own name. I was determined to go back to school and finish my degree. With the support of my family, friends, and the OBU community, I was able to graduate on time and even become the student body president. It wasn't easy, as I

had to relearn how to learn and rely on pictorial memory to take tests. With the help of my professors and friends, I was able to prove my doctors wrong and achieve my goals. I now have two master's degrees and a successful career. OBU was a catalyst for my recovery and I am forever grateful for the prayers and support of the entire community. My children are now grown and successful, and I am living my best life every day, grateful for the second chance I was given.

1976

Mollie L. (Frisby) Hall

10/16/2023

AFTER 47 YEARS OF WORKING IN

nursing, I recently retired. I had the privilege of attending Oklahoma Baptist University to receive my education. I was very shy when I first started, but my professor, Juanita Millsap, made me feel at ease and kept us laughing. I met my husband at OBU. My daughter attended OBU and majored in nursing, and we ended up working together in the same department at St. Francis Hospital. Now that I'm retired, I'm looking forward to going back and working a couple of days a week. I'm also looking forward to spending time with my 101-year-old mother.

1952

Janice Ann (Warkentine) Taylor

10/30/2023

I WAS MARRIED TO DON TAYLOR WHEN

we moved to an old Army base. We had a wonderful time together, and I enjoyed the schooling I did. We were married for almost 60 years, and our time at OBU was a great experience for us. I'll always enjoy and think about our time at OBU.

1963

Beverly June “Bev” (Wynn) Kirkpatrick

10/18/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS INCREDIBLY

special. I had an amazing Greek teacher who made learning fun and made jokes on the phrases. He made Greek come alive for everyone in the class. My education at OBU helped prepare me for my time at seminary and my foreign mission service. I was able to travel to Bangladesh and experience their culture and way of life. It taught me to not look differently on anyone, no matter what country they're from or what color of skin. I had a wonderful language teacher who had a master's degree in English, and we became really good friends. She made a big impact on my life by teaching me Bengali, and I learned the culture of the people along with learning the language. OBU provided me with a strong foundation that prepared me to be able to grow spiritually during my journey. My greatest takeaway from my time at OBU is the feeling of knowing that God is with me every minute of the day, and he loves me more than I will ever know.

1993

Dr. Bob R. Agee

12/04/2023

MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY WAS AN INCREDIBLE

experience. As President from 1982 to 1998, I was surrounded by amazing students, staff, and faculty who created a sense of community that made all our accomplishments possible. As a first-generation college graduate, graduation day was always an exciting moment for my family. Looking back, I can see how much I grew and changed as a person during my time at OBU. My life was deeply enriched by the people I worked with and the students who made lifetime memories. Even now, I stay in touch with many of them through Facebook, and my executive vice president and former provost are two of my best friends.

1969

Dr. Julie (Camp) Adamcin

11/10/2023

I HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY. I WAS

the first in my immediate family to go to college and I was able to take advantage of the safe environment. I was involved in the Home Economics Club, Spanish Club, and Drama Club. I even had a sewing machine and was able to help out with costumes and other tasks. After graduation I got a job as a 4-H agent that I held until my retire 37 years later. I earned my master's degree and doctorate there! I'm still in contact with some of my roommates and suite mates from my time at OBU and it's been a great experience. A few months later I realized I may have gotten the job because the extension director had attended OBU and met his wife there.



“My favorite class was debate with Dr. Ellis. She taught us how to think critically and address both sides of an argument.

- AMANDA ELLEN (LANCASTER) KEARNS, MA



2013

Amanda Ellen (Lancaster) Kearns, MA

10/10/2023

MY TIME AT OBU WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE. I MADE LIFELONG FRIENDS AND HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF LEARNING from amazing professors. I'm so thankful for the way OBU allowed me to mature, not only in my education and critical thinking skills, but also in my walk with Christ. I learned that small things matter and that I could have an impact in the world. My favorite class was debate with Dr. Ellis. She taught us how to think critically and address both sides of an argument. On top of the skills learned in that class, for those that took a class taught by Dr. Ellis or Dr. Barbe, we left class knowing that we had a professor who was invested in us and our success and that support can't be understated on the impact it has on your life. Intramural sports were a highlight each year as well. Flag football was always very serious and very fun. The friendships I made at OBU may be the most impactful part for me. To walk away with an incredible education but also people who are still in my life that I love and care for is such a blessing. Even though we all live in different places, we still stay in touch, share pictures of our kids and dogs, and get together for events. We even have a traveling picture that my best friend and I bought our senior year at a garage sale. We send it back and forth to each other for any major life event. It's not the prettiest picture, but it's always a highlight to get it in the mail. OBU's liberal arts education has been instrumental in my career. I've been able to think critically and make connections with people. The professors held us to high standards and taught us the importance of the little things. I wouldn't be where I am today without OBU.

1969

Sarah “Anne” (Crawley) Fairchild

10/12/2023



MY EXPERIENCE AT OBU has had a lasting impact on my life. I was part of the 1969 School of Nursing class, which started with 40 students and graduated 19. We have stayed close throughout our lives, which has been a blessing. We lived on campus for the first two years and then in the nursing dorm in Oklahoma City. One experience I had, that a student today wouldn't be able to fathom, was taking a dance class, which was called Rhythmics. We learned the

fox trot, the waltz, and other dances, but there were no boys in the class. We were also required to wear dresses to class, even on cold days. Communication with people who weren't there was done by going outside and seeing them or using the limited time frame on the dorm phone. OBU prepared me for the changing world by teaching me that change is the norm and not to be fearful of it. I am still close with 13 of my classmates, and we talk almost every day, get together every two to three years, and come to campus every fifth year since graduating.

1972

Gaylene Lilley Kelley

10/12/2023

I REMEMBER MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University like it was yesterday. OBU was the beginning of my journey, a foundation that has shaped who I am today. I always knew I wanted to attend OBU; it was a dream of mine since I was a child. When I finally got there, it was everything I hoped for and more. The professors and advisors were amazing. They truly cared about their students and helped guide us toward our passions. I had fantastic teachers, who reinforced my love for music and set the foundation for my career. I grew and changed as a person during my time at OBU. I gained a deeper understanding of the role God plays in everything I do, including my career. I went on to teach music for 42 years, from prekindergarten to high school. I was a head director at two high schools and four middle schools, and I taught voice at a junior college. I am most grateful for the Christ-centered foundation that OBU instilled in me. It has been the rock that I have stood on throughout my life. When I think back on my memories at OBU, I can't help but smile and laugh at the fun times we had in the dormitory, when I was a resident assistant. OBU will always hold a special place in my heart.

1967

Mary Gayle (Anderson) Ross

10/18/2023

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE LIFELONG

friendships I made at OBU. One of the most memorable events of my freshman year was when an airplane crashed into the building I was in. Thankfully, no one was injured or killed, but it was a frightening experience. I also appreciated the churches providing buses to pick up students on Sundays. My education at OBU impacted my career and success, leading me to get my master's degree. Looking back, I'm most grateful for the faculty's commitment and the Christian friends I made.

1966

Dr. William H. Underwood, Jr.

10/13/2023

WILLIAM'S FAMILY GOES BACK WITH

Oklahoma Baptist University. He met his wife there, and his parents were professors. He went into ministry.

1964

David Emerson Stinchcomb

10/09/2023



I WAS AN INVISIBLE PERSON ON

campus during my college years, but I still enjoyed playing on the tennis team and taking art classes. I found art classes to be more enjoyable than photography because I had the freedom to do whatever I wanted. I learned that getting a degree doesn't really prepare you for the working world, and I was the last one to get a degree in photography. I was the only person enrolled in the class my senior year and the program shut down before I graduated because

the professor couldn't leave his business to teach one individual. I was shocked when I first got in the class because they handed me an old box camera the purpose of which was to learn the basics of exposing film and darkroom procedures. It was not until my second semester that we were able to use more sophisticated equipment. I enjoyed my philosophy classes the most because the professor was very knowledgeable and always prepared for classes. College was a great time for me because I had the chance to explore and read without the pressures of having to make a living. I also enjoyed strolling the dorms at night looking for philosophical discussions.



Dad and Mom's Retirement Celebration, First Baptist Church Mannford, Oklahoma

“My mom worked at OBU in Shawnee Hall for several years and was there during the plane crash in 1964.

- REV. JAMES P. “JIMMY” BECK

1972

Rev. James P. “Jimmy” Beck

10/16/2023

GROWING UP IN SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA, OBU WAS ALWAYS A CENTRAL PART OF OUR YOUNG LIVES. I WAS THE ELDEST, and I used to go with my dad to the football stadium in the evenings and he would kick field goals and throw the javelin. He had not even considered becoming a minister at this point. My mom worked at OBU in Shawnee Hall for several years and was there during the plane crash in 1964. My father's career grew in the Public Service Company of Oklahoma and Transok Pipelines, we were transferred to Weleetka in 1965. My younger brother and I would ride in his supervisor's truck to 'emergency' issues at night. We began attending the First Baptist Church there, and we started going regularly. My parents seemed to be pleased with this lifestyle change. During this time, my dad felt a call to the ministry and eventually became a part-time minister at the FBC of Pharaoh, Oklahoma. He continued his work at the Public Service Company of Oklahoma and was offered a vice president job in Tulsa, but something else was calling him, and Mom was supportive. In 1967, He left Public Service, and we moved to a new town, Leetha. He had accepted a position as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Leetha and had cut his salary by 80% just to accept this calling. My mom was still supportive, despite us now being a family of five. They wanted someone with a degree, and my dad knew that to continue in this calling, he would need to earn one. He started making a three day a week drive to OBU, which was 60 miles each way. He earned his degree, and we went on to many churches and many towns in the South Central US. His pastoral career was a success, and many lives were changed, and my mom remained supportive!

1968

Donald Joe Kincy

10/16/2023

I WAS BAPTIZED AS A BAPTIST A LONG TIME AGO, SO I DECIDED TO VISIT THE OBU campus to see what it was like. I enrolled and lived in the dorm and had no complaints. I made some basketball friends and even got to travel with the team a little bit. I was a statistic keeper, tracking the shots and stuff of the players. It was really cool to be on the road with the team and I even got to go to ADA, Penn, Northwest, and Alva. I made some friends in my grade, and we graduated together. I still remember some of the ball players' names. One of the most memorable experiences I had was when I was walking to the gym and I saw a buffalo in a pen with a wire fence around it. I managed to get the buffalo out and it even licked my hand as a thank you. It was a really cool experience.

1960

Janet Marie (Clem) Barnard

11/30/2023

I'M 85 NOW AND LOOKING BACK AT MY TIME AT OKLAHOMA BAPTIST University, I can't help but feel a sense of nostalgia. I was only 18 when I first stepped foot on campus and I was working in the president's office on a Saturday. I was a local, so I commuted to classes and I met my late husband there. My uncle was the night security force at OBU and I still keep in touch with my cousin who lives in San Francisco. My favorite professor was Ms. Adair and she taught me subjects I was passionate about, like macroeconomics. I was a Southern Baptist and joined the Methodist Church when I married my husband. I got to experience different aspects of faith, like the Evangelical and Catholic sides. My time at OBU helped me grow and change as a person. I was able to meet new people, form relationships, and learn new things. I'm thankful for the experiences I had and the memories I made.

1957

Eleanor F. (Nibarger) Brooks

10/16/2023

I WAS ONLY 17 YEARS OLD WHEN I arrived, and I was scared and alone. I was taken under the wing of a student named Jane, and she helped me not be so afraid. I even met my first husband there. I was only there for one semester, but it meant the world. I made lifelong friends, including with Norma, and I was seen for who I was. Everyone from professors to neighbors was so kind and welcoming. I tell everyone that if they're looking for a school, they can't do better than OBU. After graduation, I moved to Chillicothe, Missouri, and opened a cake business. My husband and I then started our own HVAC business, which we ran for 17 years. We then moved to Texas, and I ran the business until his passing in 2005. My time at OBU helped me mature as a Christian and as a person. It gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams and never forget that God was with me every step of the way. OBU was my past but also part of my present.

1956

Bobbie J. (Blackburn) Greenup

10/10/2023

IN MAY 1954, I GRADUATED FROM OBU, AND A SUPERINTENDENT from Kansas came to campus to interview prospective employees. I had gotten to know Ms. Ann Marshall, the dean of women, on three occasions. One of them was when my roommate left at mid-term, and a girl from Hong Kong wanted to come to OBU and live in the dormitory. Ms. Marshall called me to see if I had any objections or biases, and I told her no. During this time, there was a flu epidemic, and many students went home and were restricted to the local hospitals and Shawnee. I got sick, and there was no place for me to go but to stay in my room. To get medical care, our names were put into a hat, and faculty members drew a name out and then transported that student to see the physician. Ms. Marshall drew my name out of that hat. There was later a counseling and guidance class offered in the evening time in the summer, and I needed that course. Ms. Marshall was teaching that class, and there were less than 15 students in it. She had a window unit in her apartment, and she said that if we didn't mind some of us sitting on the floor, we could meet in her apartment and have air conditioning. When the superintendent came on campus to interview prospective teachers, he asked Ms. Marshall to recommend a student, and she recommended me. He waited in the Student Union until I got to campus after work to interview me. He asked me what my future plans were, and I told him I wanted to get a couple of years teaching under my belt, get an assistantship, and earn a master's degree at Texas University. He offered me a contract to come teach for him in Kansas with a beginning salary of \$3,200 a year. Six years later, I was still in Kansas. A science teacher rented a three-bedroom house, and the superintendent gave her my information. She contacted me about sharing rent and living in that furnished house, which I did. She didn't tell me that she had a single brother at the time, and that was how I met my husband.

1969

William Michael “Mike” Shawn

11/02/2023

I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT OBU, where I made many lasting friendships. My education was excellent, and I was particularly influenced by Dr. Hurley in biology. During my time there, I matured and accepted a level of responsibility that helped me in life after graduation. I graduated with a degree in hospital administration, which led to a 50 year period of employment. My daughter Carla is also a graduate of OBU, and I hope she will convince her children to attend as well.

1964

Dr. Gary Wyatt Cook

12/08/2023

ALL THE TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATION AND other people were a great experience. I've matured in my faith and in every other aspect of my life and came away with a good, solid Bachelor of arts education that prepared me for my life by going on to the seminary at Fort Worth and becoming a pastor. For ten years, a vice president.



“My mom worked at OBU in Shawnee Hall for several years and was there during the plane crash in 1964.

- MERLYN R. DUNGEY

”

1967

Merlyn R. Dungey

11/07/2023

I REALLY WANTED TO GO TO A CHRISTIAN COLLEGE. I WAS LIVING IN KANSAS AT THE TIME, MY DAD WAS IN THE MILITARY. I

started first grade in Lawton Oklahoma. We lived three houses from First Baptist Church. Dr. Tom Wilkes was our pastor at the time. Dr. Green was one of the members who was a board member during the time I was at OBU. I'd heard about way back as a child. Even though I looked at several different Baptist colleges, colleges throughout Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma, I chose OBU. Like I said, maybe that early contact or hearing about OBU may have influenced me. I wanted to go to a Christian college, I was a Southern Baptist. I'd always heard about the Bison Glee club. There were several things like that that helped me choose OBU. I tried out for the Bison Glee club my freshman year. I didn't make it and I never tried out again. The reputation of OBU I had experienced over the years growing up, yes, I wanted to be part of it. I wanted to be there. Experience that. Fortunately my older brother, Daryl, joined me my Sophomore year. Daryl had served three years in the Army after his High School. So, when I was a sophomore, he came as a freshman. Now he only did three years there. You know, he would've been in the class of 1968. He married a lady, Donna Eller, class of 1966, a girl from our church in Junction City, Kansas. By marriage, she ended up being also part of our family that had had attended OBU.

1984

Susan D. “Sue” (Towers) Hoops

12/04/2023



OBU PREPARED me to spend my whole life in the chaplaincy ministry. I was in the military and went all over the world. I spent some time in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I had the pleasure of getting to do

a lot of ministries that nobody else could do. At OBU, Dr. Strickland knew the Bible like nobody's business. When there were discussions of religious issues among students, people would pull out their notebooks and read to see if Dr. Strickland agreed with it or not, and then the argument was over. I still keep up with some friends over the years. I also found the love of my life at OBU, and we have been together for 40 years.

1956

Herman L. Ritchie

10/10/2023

ATTENDING OBU WAS A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE.

During my freshman year, I was invited to a revival service at Calvary Church by a student athlete. I was saved that day, and it changed the direction of my life. I was offered a basketball scholarship and accepted it. After I graduated, I joined the Army and eventually graduated from Southwestern at Weatherford. I was proud to be a Bison and returned for many ball games with my wife after we were married. I was happy for the years I spent at OBU.

1954

Elaine Richardson Davis

10/20/2023

I'M PROUD TO HAVE ATTENDED OKLAHOMA BAPTIST

University. It was a great feeling to be able to tell potential employers that I had attended an accredited school. I was there when Dr. Arai announced that OBU had been accredited, and it was a great moment. I always shared a personal story with my students when I taught in Forgan, Oklahoma. I told them about the time I lived in Jenkins Hall, and we had a surprise visitor in our kitchen one morning. It was a skunk-like animal called a civet cat. We had to get the maintenance people to help us get rid of it. The kids always enjoyed the story, even though it was a bit juvenile.

1962

Viola “Vi” (Bledsoe) Huddleston VI

10/20/2023

I HAVE SO MANY FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME AT Oklahoma Baptist University. Even now, I still keep in touch with many of my classmates and friends from campus. One of the most unforgettable experiences was being a part of the Bisons and singing under the direction of the amazing Dean Angell. I wasn't a music major, but most of my friends were, and I loved singing with them under Dean Angell's guidance. His last name truly says it all. I feel sorry for those who never got to experience his talent and passion for music. Looking back, I can say that my time at OBU helped me grow and change as a person. I was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and I proudly call myself an 'Okie from Muskogee' because of the famous song by Merle Haggard. Despite not completing my degree, I am proud to have been the editor of the yearbook in 1961. It was a challenging task, but I am most proud of theme I chose, inspired by Dean Angell's alma mater and the stained glass window in Ford Music Hall. The two older boys who took the pictures for the yearbook did an amazing job, and I am grateful for their hard work. I am honored to have been a part of such a talented and close-knit community at OBU.

1974

Glenda F. (McKinney) Moye

10/13/2023

I'M FROM YUKON, OKLAHOMA, WHICH IS A SMALL TOWN

west of Oklahoma City. I chose OBU because it was a Christian environment and I wanted to be in music education. I also had two cousins who went there. I was saved at 9 and I was in a godly home, but I was never personally invested in the intimacy with the Lord. My first year was hard and God used that to bring me to a relationship to him. I went to some groups when I was encouraged to grow deeper in the Lord. I had some relationships on campus that helped me to learn about prayer, love, and forgiveness. During my sophomore year, God was an integral part of my life. The professors took an interest in the students, and those experiences and teachings allowed me to have the freedom to experience a lot of self-awareness in the Music Department. I'm grateful that OBU allowed my cousin and me to go on a European study-abroad trip for the entire summer. It made a huge difference in my life and I am grateful for that opportunity. Donald and I met at a conference in Dallas, Texas. We had mutual friends who introduced us to each other. We realized that we went to the same university, and the conference changed our lives. We memorized scripture together, and he was also a music major. We became really good friends for the next two years. We never really dated, but were committed to the same spiritual values and endeavors. We were married for 13 years and got divorced in 2019, but we are still good friends and still see each other.

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