

# OBU legacy newsletter

Legacy Newsletter offered by Oklahoma Baptist University

December 2009

## *Dum Tempus Habemus, Operemur Bonum*

(While we have the time, let us do good)

# Plant an Evergreen “Tree”

Endowments are like the evergreen tree – they produce colorful results all year long. They are like the redwood trees – long-lasting. They are like the fruit tree – producing fruit in season.

Endowments allow you to create a legacy for generations to come, perhaps until Jesus comes again.

Endowments can provide a scholarship for a hopeful student; encourage a professor to strive for even better results in his students; or produce a special lecture series which brings the best in the nation to challenge the students at OBU. Each of these can happen every year because they are evergreen.

There are only two requirements to establish an endowment: your purpose for the endowment must be consistent with the OBU mission and the fund must have a minimum amount of \$10,000. The endowment purpose should be as God leads you, so our only restraint on your intentions will be to guarantee to all of our other donors – past, present and future – that they will continue to be proud of our tradition of excellence in Christian higher education. The base amount of \$10,000 is the smallest total which we believe we can administer and still be sure that the significant portion of the income will go to your intended purpose each year.

Seeing a mission or educational goal is easy for many of our friends. Each of us has dreamed, “What if OBU could do ...” and we have filled in the dots with wonderful goals. For most of us, understanding how we might give enough to fund these worthy goals is more difficult.

Many might do this through their wills. Others may have property which they believe to be of little use,

but which may be very useful at the campus. Some may think a gift like an endowed fund is given only by people with large resources – but that is incorrect. Most of the endowments at OBU were not established by the wealthy. Most were established by people who saw that what happens at OBU helps shape the moral and intellectual “climate” of our world and they wanted to be a part of improving that “climate.”

You could plant your own fruit tree giving fruit to encourage Christian travelers in season. You could plant a long-lasting redwood tree to continue your ministry for generations to come. You could plant your own evergreen endowment at OBU, providing a colorful legacy to speak about your love of our Lord and your faith in His ability to transform lives. To learn more about endowments and how you can “plant” your own “evergreen tree” contact John Little. He may be reached by telephone at (405) 878-2718; by cell phone at (405) 760-8455; or by “snail-mail” at Oklahoma Baptist University, Attn.: John Little, 500 West University, Shawnee, OK 74804. ♦

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# The Depth of the Problem

## *Nutritional Risk for Older Adults*

Life expectancy increased more during the 20th century than in any other century. By 2030, one in three persons will be 50 years or older. Most significant in this growth has been the increase in the number of people 65 years and older. In addition, the percentage of those 85 years and older has increased significantly. A contributing factor to this longer life expectancy has been an increased emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention, including a focus on nutritional well being.

Proper nutritional intake is directly linked to the maintenance of health and prevention of disease throughout life. Studies indicate the factors contributing to nutritional risk among older adults are complex. For example, older adults receive a variety of costly and complex medical interventions while the routine availability of adequate food and fluids is often neglected. In 2000, national health care expenditures totaled \$750 billion, 30% of which was associated with inappropriate dietary intake. Malnourished individuals experienced longer hospital stays and greater hospital costs.

A large percentage of older Americans have inadequate intakes of energy-rich foods and certain nutrients. Surveys indicate that a large percentage of older adults consume less than two thirds of the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) of vitamins A and D and also experience shortages of several B vitamins. B vitamins are directly linked to maintenance of cognition and slowing of disease progression such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Dietary supplements have been shown to improve energy and specific nutrient intake. Poverty is an indicator of nutrition risk. Approximately 17% of older adults are labeled as "poor" or "near poor." At best,

many live on a fixed income. Thus, they may eat fewer meals to compensate for decreased income. Many who live alone may consume the same foods day after day.

Food safety also is a concern. To save expense, older adults were found to take more risk than younger adults regarding eating foods that have been around the house for a while and might be outdated.

### **What is the answer to this growing concern?**

The first step is education. Older adults need to be aware of the nutritional requirements for healthy living. The dietary reference intakes include additional specific requirements for older adults, especially in the area of protein. Here is a great website for promoting nutritional health in the older adult population. It includes the modified Food Guide Pyramid for Older Adults and questions to ask to make early identification of any nutritionally related health problems: [www.patienttalk.info/icn\\_fact\\_sheet\\_9.pdf](http://www.patienttalk.info/icn_fact_sheet_9.pdf).

### **In addition, these are some guidelines to follow from a well-known older adult nutritionist:**

- Older adults need the same nutrients as younger people, but in differing amounts.
- As you get older, the number of calories needed is usually less than when you were younger. This is because basic body processes require less energy when there is a decline in physical activity and loss of muscles.
- Basic nutrient needs do not decrease with age. In fact, some nutrients are needed in increased amounts. The challenge is to develop an eating plan that supplies plenty of nutrients but not too many calories.
- Choose nutritious foods that are low in fat and high in fiber like whole grain breads and cereals, fruits and vegetables.

- Be sure to include moderate amounts of low-fat dairy products and protein foods like meat, poultry, fish, beans and eggs.
- Sweets and other foods high in sugar, fat and calories can be enjoyed from time to time but the key is to eat them sparingly.
- Calorie needs vary depending on age and activity level but for many older adults 1600 calories each day will meet energy needs. Chosen carefully those 1600 calories can supply a wealth of nutrients. The recommended number of daily servings from each group in the Food Guide Pyramid – with a few additions of fats, oils and sweets – will easily add up to 1600 healthful calories.
- Calcium is important at any age and may need special emphasis as you grow older. Calcium is a mineral that builds strong bones and helps prevent osteoporosis. Many older adults do not eat enough calcium-rich foods and the aging body is less efficient in absorbing calcium from food. In addition, many adults do not get enough weight-bearing exercise – like walking – to help keep bones strong.
- It is not too late to consume more calcium and reduce the risk of bone fractures. Eat at least two to three servings of calcium-rich foods every day. Low-fat milk, yogurt and cheese are good choices. Some dark green, leafy vegetables; canned salmon with edible bones; tofu made with calcium sulfate; and calcium-fortified soy milk can add a significant amount of calcium to your diet.
- Do some weight-bearing exercise like walking for a total of 30 minutes each day.
- The National Institutes of Health advise adults over 65 to consume 1500 mg of calcium daily. This amount may be difficult to achieve through food alone so for some people a calcium supplement is a wise choice. Supplements should be taken between meals. Remember, calcium can hinder the absorption of iron from other foods.

You can find more helpful guideline information at [www.gicare.com/Diets/nutrition-for-older-adults.aspx](http://www.gicare.com/Diets/nutrition-for-older-adults.aspx) online. ♦

## About the Writer

*Dr. Susan Souter is dean of nursing at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, a Baptist college based in Belton, Texas.*

*An Oklahoma native, she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from OBU and a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma. She completed a Ph.D. degree in nursing from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio.*



*She has been active in Baptist churches throughout her life including singing in women's groups, serving as church pianist and teaching Sunday School. She remembers fondly her time at OBU, playing sports and learning to be a nurse. She said her call to education had its roots in the faculty who taught her at OBU. Her spiritual history and legacy continues in her children who are both in the ministry. Her son, Zachary, is youth pastor at Taylor Memorial Baptist Church in Hobbs, N.M. Her daughter, Hope, is children's minister at Westbury Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.*

*Souter's experience includes clinical work in emergency department and home health care nursing. She was on the faculty of Seminole State College in Seminole, Okla.; was director of the nursing program at New Mexico State University in Carlsbad, N.M.; and was director of the bachelor's programs in nursing at Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing, a consortium of Abilene Christian University, McMurry University and Hardin-Simmons University.*

*Souter is a member of the National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau international honor society for nursing, American Nurses' Association and the Baptist Nursing Fellowship. She received the 2000 Woman of the Year Award from the Carlsbad chapter of Business and Professional Women.*

*Her research has focused on nutritional risk among older adults, resulting in several publications and presentations at national, regional and state nursing conferences. She also is a co-writer, chapter author or reviewer for several nursing texts.*

# Mitchell Releases New Poetry Work

Dr. William Mitchell, OBU professor emeritus of English, recently released the latest edition of his popular Christmas volume, "Tribute to the Advent." Mitchell said he expects this fourth edition will be the final update to a project which started 39 years ago.

The book started in December 1973 as Mitchell sat at his desk addressing Christmas cards to fellow OBU faculty members. He had purchased a box of cards with a "peaceable kingdom" motif. As he looked at the illustration on the cards over and over, he thought of a line of poetry, which he quickly wrote down:

*"In that kingdom where a little child shall lead us, force and love shall be at home, reconciled."*

He finished the poem – which is included in "Tribute to the Advent" – and wrote it in each of the cards. Every year since then, he has written a poem to send to friends and family at Christmas. Each work starts out on a yellow notepad, later to be typed and revised before publication. Mitchell said his poems often deal with finding a deeper meaning in the popular scenes of Christmas during a time of year that can become "mechanical."

"I began thinking of characters in the original story and what it meant to them," he said. "For example, the stable boy working at the inn gave up his own bed. They defined themselves by what they did."

He said the poems reflect a deep spiritual search on his part, seeking to understand what God intended with the incarnation. He delved even deeper into what theologians would call the "problem of the incarnation." He searched the Old Testament for clues on what was happening in man's relationship with God. He said as he probed, he gained insights into the Advent.

"I have discovered something about the various participants in the original Advent drama," Mitchell

wrote in the book's preface. "The coming of Jesus seems to have presented each of them with the demand to respond in some sacrificial or sacramental way. If they did so, they were themselves transfigured into something new and holy. Thus even in the cradle Jesus called those whom he encountered to redefine themselves in his own image, as he continues to do for all who genuinely encounter him."

Mitchell approached Jim Brown, OBU professor emeritus of music, to draw an illustration for each poem. Steven Hicks, OBU professor of art, provided a calligraphy rendering of the biblical Scripture which carries the theme of each entry.

The first volume of the book was released in 1990 and sold out. The second edition was released in 1998 and included additional poems with the corresponding illustrations and calligraphy. For an expanded third edition in 2000, the publisher suggested a paperback format which required an additional 100 pages. Mitchell went to his files and added poetry, paraphrases, dramatic monologues and ballads based on Scripture. That volume was titled "Voices of the Advent and Other Voices."

Mitchell retired from OBU in 1996. Two years later, his wife, Dorothy, died. They had been married 49 years. Mitchell was ordained as a minister at age 68, and he served as a pastor for several years.

Eleven years ago, he married Mae, who had been widowed after 50 years of marriage. She served alongside him in his pastorates in Colorado and Oklahoma until he retired. They have joined the First Baptist Church of Shawnee, where Mitchell first joined in 1958. If God calls them, they are willing to be back in church ministry.

In the meantime, Mitchell's ministry continues through the release of his heartfelt book.

"I will be 79 shortly, and I find myself reworking earlier themes in the collection, so I suspect this will be the final edition," Mitchell said. "I really want (the collection) to survive for the sake of the illustrations. Jim's illustrations are so striking and so sensitive to the tone of each poem.

"What I have learned is that the incarnation of God in Jesus the Christ is the statement of all Scripture, the

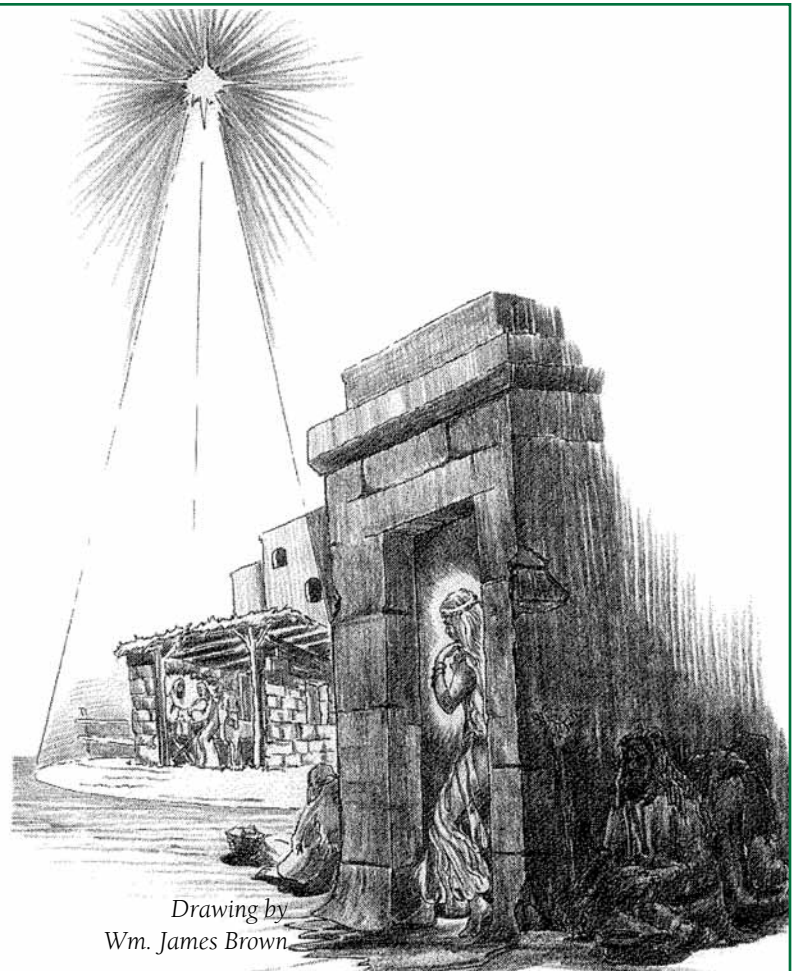
source of peace and strength in human experience, the essence of God's purpose toward his creation, especially toward his human children," he wrote in the fourth edition's afterword.

"Tribute to the Advent" is available for purchase online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [crosstimbersbooks.com](http://crosstimbersbooks.com), where Mitchell's autobiographical work, "My Life Before the Fire," and his novel, "Finding Amy," also are on sale. ♦

## Epiphany

*Within the sound of Mary's song,  
the harlot huddled in a door,  
who had forgotten hope so long  
she never would remember more –  
the beggar slept in the windy street,  
swaddled in rags, against the wall,  
and never thought that near his feet  
a king slept in a cattle stall.  
He sold his pride by bits for drink,  
she sold her body for her bread –  
and no one gave them any thing.  
The seeds of life and joy are dead –  
buy as they will, they cannot earn  
sufficient misery to think  
where in the maze of grief to turn –  
what is that grace, who is that king,  
whose flesh is broken in their stead.*

- William Mitchell



Drawing by  
Wm. James Brown

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# Trash Bags, Lilies, Race Cars and Annuities

OBU alums Gaylon and Maurine Dighton experience life in full – and give back generously.

When Gaylon arrived on Bison Hill in the mid-1950s, it did not take long for the Colorado boy to find chemistry with a lovely brown-eyed girl named Maurine Smith. Born in Seminole, Okla., but raised in Colorado, Gaylon returned to the Sooner State during his college years to avoid the cold Rocky Mountain winters.

While visiting Immanuel Baptist Church in Shawnee, Gaylon sat by Maurine, gave her his class ring on the way back to campus – and eventually married her.

More than half a century later, the chemistry they developed has produced a lifetime of unique experiences and a commitment to help others enjoy the opportunities God provides.

Gaylon and Maurine each found a niche at OBU. Gaylon appreciated the conservative atmosphere. He was a part of College Players theatre group, Sigma Tau Delta English honor society and the group which petitioned for the founding of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society.

Maurine's pastor in Vinita, Okla., stressed attending OBU, where she could get a \$100 scholarship. It also gave her the opportunity to have a new experience away from home, "a whole new world, experiencing different people," she said. She also enhanced the university library by typing all the cards in the card catalog as a student worker.

Three years and a summer later, Gaylon completed work toward a degree in chemistry in 1958, technically graduating in 1959. After embracing her love for sewing, Maurine changed her major from business to home economics. She graduated in 1958. The couple moved south to even warmer temperatures for a better chance of avoiding snow.

Gaylon earned a master's degree in biochemistry from Baylor University in 1960, and then went to work with

Dow Chemical. The couple moved south of Houston to Lake Jackson, Texas, where Gaylon worked in the high-pressure polyethylene business developing mechanical and chemical processes.

With the birth of two sons, Maurine worked as a "domestic engineer" in the Dighton household. When Gaylon's work as an engineer took the family to the Netherlands and Spain to design and build plants, she served as the boys' schoolteacher. She also worked as a seamstress in handicraft tatting, smocking and constructing suits.

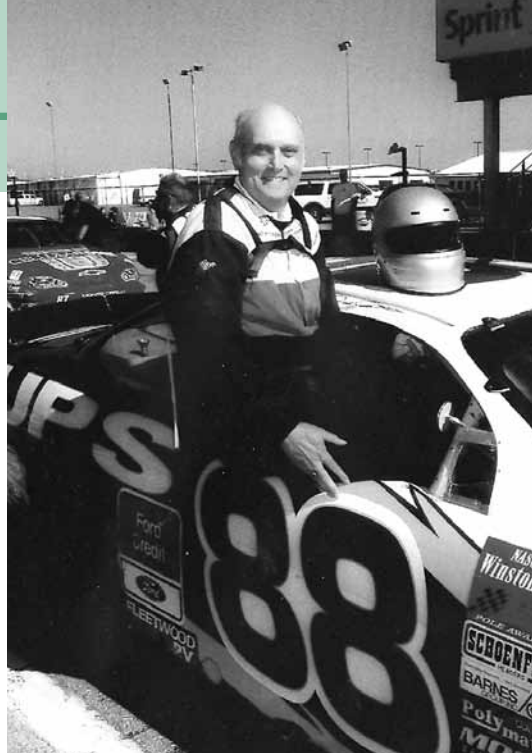
"The Bible says a good wife is from the Lord," Gaylon said, complimenting his wife's efforts and noting the family's environment was not always common. "While we lived in Spain, we were the only American family in our area south of Barcelona."

European life proved exciting for the Dightons, who embraced the opportunity for a lot of sight-seeing as well as memorable events such as crossing the Avenue des Champs-Élysée in Paris, France, and driving in rush hour in Rome, Italy. Eventually the family settled in Baton Rouge, La.

Gaylon's work created opportunities for the engineer to design a wide variety of processes, both mechanical and chemical, which he later patented – obtaining 12 U.S. patents in all. One of his patents affects the average American household every day: the process of making the film in plastic trash bags.

"The patents are representing different stages of my somewhat checkered past," Gaylon said, referring to his various roles at Dow in engineering and project management.

In 1982, Gaylon received OBU's Alumni Achievement Award, considered the highest honor bestowed by the OBU Alumni Association. The award is given in recognition of outstanding life service which has brought honor to the individual's alma mater. Gaylon credits the Bison Hill influences of several faculty



granddaughter when she was 10 years old (she's in college now). He continues to write his newspaper column, and he also has been published in *Mature Living* magazine.

The couple expresses their adventurous side through Elderhostel Inc. (now

members for helping prepare him for a successful career: Dr. Forbes Yarborough, who taught religious education from 1925-58; Dr. Robert Laessig, who taught German from 1948-62; Dr. William Neptune, who taught chemistry from 1954-82; and Opal Craig, who taught speech from 1947-74.

After 31 years, Gaylon retired from Dow in 1991 and began the next chapter of his life – as an author. After years of writing a column every other month for a local newspaper, he compiled the daily inspirations into a book titled “Consider the Lilies,” published by WinePress Publishing in 1996. No longer in print, the book is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

In his second book, “LIGHT,” Gaylon takes a look at the role of Jesus Christ as “the Light,” but from a scientific point of view which discusses infrared, lasers, Xrays, holograms and other technology at a basic level. Published in 2003, the book is available at [www.winepressbooks.com](http://www.winepressbooks.com).

Gaylon's third book, “Lights Along the Shore,” is a second anthology of inspirations. The 80 devotions provide insights from daily life. Published in 2006, the book also is available at [www.winepressbooks.com](http://www.winepressbooks.com).

Gaylon enjoys telling stories to his children and six grandchildren, especially about biblical characters. “Abigail's Tale,” his fourth book, soon to be published through WinePress Publishing, tells the story of a donkey that carried a woman named Miryam to Bethlehem. Gaylon created the story for his

Exploritas), a program which creates opportunities to participate in educational travel such as going to space camp, driving race cars, flying airplanes, acting out Shakespeare and much more. And while the Dightons continue to participate in lifelong learning personally, they want to create initial higher education opportunities for young people who might not otherwise be able to attend OBU.

“I'm a strong believer in Christian education,” Gaylon said. “OBU was a high point in my life because of the Christian nature. It's important to maintain a university that puts Jesus Christ first.”

Gaylon said he and Maureen started giving to their alma mater because a lot of students cannot afford to attend OBU, just like the Dightons could not afford to attend OBU years earlier. They have established four gift annuities – one for each of their grandchildren – using retirement funds. They also set up another gift annuity and five scholarships: one with preference for students preparing for Christian service; one with first priority for students from Louisiana; one for junior and senior science majors; one for students pursuing an education in early childhood education; and one for elementary teachers.

“It's amazing what you can continue to do if you set aside a little each year,” Gaylon said.

“In everything, we give the glory to the right person: Jesus Christ. Whatever we've been able to accomplish has been through God's provision.” ♦

# MP3: A New Era in Musical Enjoyment

By Tyler Parker



Music changes. Not only has the style of music changed, but the way we acquire and listen to music has changed. Vinyl, although it has made a comeback in recent years, is a novelty at this point; something that is a rare commodity but not the most practical of ways to listen to your favorite songs. Cassette tapes, as quickly as they came, are now nothing more than attic rediscoveries that lead to five minutes of nostalgia, only to be put back in a box to be rediscovered again in another 10 years. The same is true for eight-track tapes and players. Even CDs, most likely your media of choice to listen to music, are taking a hit along with the rest of the music industry. All these music choices are taking a melodic backseat to the new wave of music: mp3 files, downloads and players.

An mp3 is a patented digital audio encoding using a form of data compression. It is a common audio format for consumer audio storage, as well as the standard of digital audio compression for the transfer and playback of music on digital audio players. In essence, it is a little file, filled with a song that is downloaded to your computer, and in turn able to be placed onto a personal mp3 player. Many companies offer mp3 players in varied sizes, shapes and colors. Apart from personal style considerations, when you are seeking an mp3 player, you may want to consider a few key aspects, including how many songs the unit holds, ease of use in playing the unit, readability of the display, and how user-friendly the unit's software is to operate. Most mp3 players offer software programs for your

computer which will allow you to transfer songs from the computer to the player.

We do not endorse any particular brand of mp3 player. However, Apple's iPod is the market leader. Just like Kleenex facial tissues and Band-Aid adhesive bandages, the iPod brand name has become synonymous with the product in general. For the purposes of this article, we will look at how an individual would enter the world of mp3 playback with an iPod.

Like other mp3 players such as the Microsoft Zune or Sandisk's Sensa, the iPod can be purchased at many stores and online businesses which sell technology products. To capitalize on the digital music craze, Apple operates Apple Store locations in larger shopping malls around the country. In these stores, well-trained salespeople can answer most questions about using their products.

Setting up an iPod starts with a visit to [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com). At the top-middle of the page, a tab labeled "iPod + iTunes" leads to a link to download iTunes, Apple's software for mp3 playback. After clicking the "Download Now" button, the download of iTunes will begin. Once iTunes is downloaded, it will be on your computer, and you can set it as your default music player.

You can add music to iTunes and sync the iPod with the computer program at any point. Apple sells songs through the iTunes Store, with prices ranging from .89 to \$1.29 per tune. The iTunes Store also offers links to

speeches, lectures, television programs, movie files, and an array of other content. Many people use their mp3 players to hear popular pastors and Bible teachers. The iTunes podcast section gives individuals a wide range of programs to download and many are free-of-charge.

As winter hits, you might choose to stay inside where it's warm and listen to some of your music. So we'll walk you through how to download a song. Let's say you're in the mood for "Ol' Blue Eyes" himself, Frank Sinatra. You're a fan of his rendition of "Moon River." Simply go to the search bar in the upper right part of your screen and type in the song title, then press enter. Many songs will pop up that you will be able to download. Simply click on the heading labeled "Artist," and iTunes will put the artists in alphabetical order. Scroll down until you find Frank Sinatra and then click the "Buy Song" button. iTunes will then ask you for your e-mail address and the password you used when you set up your iTunes account. Then the song will download onto your iTunes.

While many songs and programs are available for purchase, you are not limited to what you can buy. It is easy to move your own CD music into your iTunes program so you can add those songs to your mp3 player. All you have to do is insert the CD into your computer and follow iTunes instructions for importing the disk's content.

When putting new songs on your iPod, you have two options. You may either instruct your iPod to automatically sync (or update) with all the songs on your music library. Another option is to manually update your music (we recommend this). To select this option, when your iPod is connected to your computer, go to the iPod home screen and check the "Manually update music" box located on the lower half of the screen. Next, go into your music list on the iTunes library, click on the song you wish to put on your iPod, and without releasing your finger from the mouse, drag the song onto the area of the screen that has your iPod's image. Your song is now on your iPod.

You can also make a "Playlist" within iTunes. To make a playlist, go down to the bottom of the screen in the lower left portion. There will be a "plus" symbol. Click on it, and you can name your new playlist, something

such as "Songs for 2010." Then you start to choose songs you'd like to put in your playlist by going into your music library, clicking on the song, and then dragging it into the playlist like we explained earlier.

When you are updating an iPod for the first time, you might want to ask a family member or friend who is familiar with updating mp3 files to walk you through the steps. After you have updated your iPod a few times, or made a few online shopping trips to the iTunes store, you'll be enjoying this new medium for music in no time at all. ♦

## About the Writer

*Tyler Kale Parker is a senior majoring in strategic communication. Parker, who calls Fort Gibson, Okla., his home, selected OBU to pursue a Christian liberal arts education and to get a chance to be a part of a winning basketball tradition.*



*Parker is a two-time recipient of the Al Tucker Memorial Scholarship, and he has been a four-year member of the men's varsity basketball team. He also has been involved in the Campus Activities Board, acting as both an emcee and a member of the stage band for student productions.*

*He currently is a columnist for the Bison newspaper. He also serves as the sports editor for the Centennial Yahnseh yearbook. He was a finalist for Best All-Around Man in the University's 2009 Harvest Court. Academically, Parker has been named to the Dean's Honor Roll.*

*A member of First Baptist Church in Muskogee, Okla., Parker is active as a camp and missions trip counselor for the church's youth group. He enjoys the opportunity to be a positive role model for middle school and high school-aged students, and to work with young athletes.*

*Parker's hobbies include basketball, writing, drinking Mountain Dew and hanging out with his friends. He hopes to one day become an author.*

# Providing Light For Future Educators

by Dr. Pam Robinson

*Dean, OBU College of Arts and Sciences*

Within the College of Arts and Sciences lie many treasures. One of those treasures is the Division of Teacher Education, which is charged with the preparation of classroom teachers.

OBU has long been recognized for its preparation of effective teachers. Achieving national accreditation through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education was a noteworthy achievement in 1968 for a small liberal arts institution. Since then, the program has continued to stay on the forefront of education so that teacher candidates are prepared for the ever-changing classroom environment.

The Division of Teacher Education houses early childhood education, elementary education, and special education. In addition, the division oversees preparation in the areas of art education, instrumental music education, health/physical education/recreation, secondary English education, secondary mathematics education, secondary science education, secondary social studies education, Spanish education, and vocal music education.

The division is housed in OBU's oldest building, Shawnee Hall, which was remodeled in 1995 to provide offices and specialized classrooms for the teacher education program. Various small improvements continue to be made to the classrooms, such as permanent storage cabinets and ceiling-mounted projection systems. More recently, through specially donated funds, the division was able to purchase a SMART Board™ which will assist in preparing candidates for current classrooms.

The history of the program dates back to OBU's early years. A University catalog from 1925 lists William Lee Rector, A.B., A.M., as professor of education. He had been on the faculty since 1922. The same catalog lists requirements for such teaching certificates as a State Life High School Certificate, a two-year or five-year Elementary Certificate, and a five-year High School Certificate. While the education program today is located

in the Division of Teacher Education, the 1936-37 catalog lists a School of Education. The catalog states, "It is the purpose of the department to put into practice the principles of modern education in the training of teachers. Students are required to do apprentice work in the type of teaching they plan to do later in the public schools of the state."

Although wording is vastly different, the teacher education program continues to provide instruction that addresses current principles in education today. For accreditation purposes, each teacher education program must articulate its purpose in a concise phrase or theme statement. The statement's intent should permeate every aspect of the program. The current theme statement clearly identifies the purpose and intent of the overall program. "The teacher is a professional who demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to facilitate learning in diverse settings for all students. Within a Christian context which emphasizes the worth of the individual, the life-long search for truth in an environment of free inquiry, and the ability of the human community to positively address societal needs and concerns, the OBU teacher education student develops the intellectual, social, moral, and spiritual commitment that marks the professional teacher."

The intricacies and complexities of teaching cannot be reduced to content applied to knowledge and skills alone; effective teaching emanates from a teacher's disposition and Christian ethics, as well. This is reflected in the visual representation of the OBU philosophy, the lighthouse.

The four supports along the walkway of the lighthouse are the liberal arts curriculum; the essential knowledge which undergirds the teacher education curriculum (both professional and specialty studies); current research; and sound professional practice.

The lantern room is the portion at the top of a lighthouse tower that encloses the lens which, in turn,

surrounds a single lamp. The lamp represents God's eternal truths. The lens are represented by the triquetra, a design consisting of three equal arcs that emphasize equality among the three Persons of the Trinity. The interwoven arcs represent unity among God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The unbroken circle represents eternity.

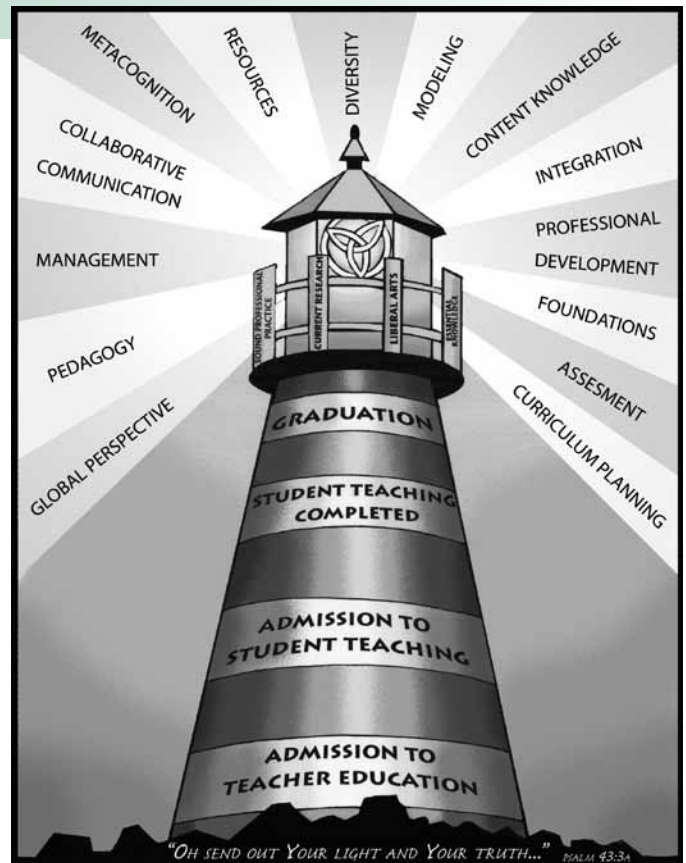
The radiating beams of light represent the 14 areas of focus delineated in the goals of the OBU teacher education program: content knowledge, pedagogy, modeling, integration, curriculum planning, metacognition, management, collaborative communication, foundations, resources, diversity, assessment, global perspective and professional development.

The circular designs found in the supporting base of the lighthouse represent the academic structure undergirding the program model. They focus on those points in the candidate's career when general assessment occurs to assure that the student is succeeding in meeting the requirements for the beginning teacher.

Finally, the lighthouse represents the learning of the candidate. The program exists to produce teachers who are able to sustain themselves in a professional world dedicated to helping students learn. The beginning teacher is one who has learned how to learn so that he or she can teach others how to learn as well.

Having a sound philosophy is only one aspect of OBU's teacher education program. Professional and dedicated faculty are critical to the success of the program. Currently, the Division of Teacher Education has six faculty members, all of whom possess a terminal degree in their field of expertise. Each of these faculty members possesses a minimum of three years of experience in the public school system as well as other direct experience with students. Because of the program's dedicated faculty, it has maintained continuing accreditation.

Most graduates of OBU's teacher education program become classroom teachers. In fact, of those who choose to teach, OBU boasts a 98% placement rate. OBU-prepared teachers can be found in all of



Oklahoma's surrounding states and from California to New Jersey. Some choose to teach for a year or two at the Moscow Economic School (MES), a non-government school in Russia with whom OBU developed a partnership in 1995. Graduates from OBU continue to serve at MES. Several graduates find themselves called overseas to teach in Africa, England, or China.

*Have you ever been at sea in a dense fog, when it seemed as if a tangible white darkness shut you in and the great ship, tense and anxious, groped her way toward the shore with plummet and sounding-line, and you waited with beating heart for something to happen? I was like that ship before my education began, only I was without compass or sounding line, and no way of knowing how near the harbor was. 'Light! Give me light!' was the wordless cry of my soul, and the light of love shone on me in that very hour.*

– Helen Keller

Graduates of the OBU teacher education program are ready to teach wherever God calls them. Theirs is a mission field ripe with harvest. ♦

**OBU Legacy Newsletter**

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FOR OBU'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



**Centennial Founders' Day**  
*Wednesday, February 10, 2010*

**Centennial Founders' Day Convocation**  
10-11:30 a.m., John Wesley Raley Chapel

**Founders' Day Worship Service**  
6:30 p.m., John Wesley Raley Chapel

For details on these and other Centennial activities, visit [www.okbu.edu/100](http://www.okbu.edu/100).