



**2025-2026
OBU Alumni Board
Handbook**

CONTENTS

General Information

- OBU Alumni Association Mission Statement
- Why Alumni Matter
- OBU Multiply Strategy Overview
- Shape the Future Campaign Information
- OBU Phone Numbers
- OBU Websites

OBU Alumni Board Members

- Current Roster
- Member Expectations
- Officer Job Descriptions
- Sub-Committee Information

Constitution and By-Laws

OBU Alumni Honors & Awards

- Alumni Achievement Award Guidelines
- Profile in Excellence Award Guidelines
- Graduate of the Last Decade Award Guidelines

Travel Expense Reimbursement Information

OBU Alumni Association Historical Information

- Historical Overview (*written by former OBU Alumni Director, Kay Henry*)
- OBU Renovation Projects (since 1970)
- Hymn to the Alma Mater

Mission Statement

The OBU Alumni Association strives to uphold the following mission:

We CREATE engagement and connection opportunities.

We PROMOTE continued spiritual growth and life-long learning.

We BUILD relationships that inspire philanthropy.

Why Alumni Matter

- Alumni are the living proof that OBU matters. They ARE shaping futures. They HAVE shaped futures.
- Alumni are the salt and light all over the world and in all disciplines.
- Alumni are still members of the OBU family and make up the largest part.
- Alumni have a resource OBU can't get from any other source, which is affinity-based investment.
- Alumni can be OBU's strongest ambassadors.

The Multiply Strategy

The OBU Alumni Association is committed to the [Multiply Strategy](#), which is an OBU strategic initiative that seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Reach Students and Families
- Realize Financial Potential
- Refocus the University and Shape the Future

10 critical projects have been identified and teams have been assigned to each of the following areas:

1. Recruitment, Enrollment, Marketing Process
2. Price Structure
3. Academic Focus
4. Scholarships and Endowment
5. Student Experience and Facility Enhancement
6. Academic Alignment and Enhancement
7. Alumni Relations
8. Professional Development
9. Streamline Processes to Improve Effectiveness
10. Visioneering

Shape the Future Campaign

On Bison Hill, we consider the past, embrace the present and focus on the future in our prayers, passion, and plans for “the herd.” OBU students are encouraged to go beyond, approaching everything with excellence. Faith and knowledge blend together harmoniously to develop critical and analytical thinkers who can write, speak and communicate clearly, persuasively and with confidence. Despite the challenges of the most devastating natural disaster in our 115-year history, we are moving boldly into the future with a radical faith that God will provide for the work begun here as we focus on three key areas:

Academic Investment

Invest in creating additional leading-edge programs for our students and provide greater financial support to our students through endowed scholarships, providing more students the opportunity to be shaped by a world-class education rooted in Christ.

Facility Improvement

Repair, improve and enhance our facilities where our students are transformed by an educational experience that continues for a lifetime

Campus Life Enhancement

Provide students additional opportunities to build relationships through investments in athletics facilities, clubs and organizations, as well as provide additional enhancements in food service options

Shape the Future Campaign - Phase 1 Building Projects

- Shawnee Hall
- Thurmond Hall
- Raley Chapel
- Wood Science Building

Make a Gift Here:

<https://www.okbu.edu/giving/shape-the-future/give.html>



OBU PHONE NUMBERS

(area code 405)

OBU Advancement and Alumni Office

Tim Rasnic, VP for Advancement585-5412
Debbie Alt, Admin Assistant, Advancement and Alumni.....585-5413
Lea Ann Quirk, Director, OBU Alumni..... 585-5429
Faith Buss, Coordinator of Programs & Events.....585-5413

Campus Switchboard

.....878-6000

OBU Websites

OBU homepage: <https://www.okbu.edu>

OBU Alumni homepage: <https://www.okbu.edu/alumni/index.html>

Contact Us web page: <https://www.okbu.edu/alumni/notes.html>

OBU Employee Directory web page:
<https://www.okbu.edu/directory/index.html>

OBU Athletics homepage: <https://obubison.com>

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

President: Lisa Roth, Class of 1992

Vice-President: Jeremy Smith, Class of 2000

Secretary: Chris Justice, ex. 1995

Term Expires 2026

Jordan Cleveland, Class of 2008

Austin Manger, Class of 2014 – 2nd term (past-president role)

Lisa Roth, Class of 1992 – 2nd term

Term Expires 2027

Lauren Buss, Class of 2014

Ronda Cooper, Class of 1992

Heather Dean, Class of 2011

Naaman Henager, Class of 2022

Jordan Knutson, Class of 2023

Paige McLain, Class of 2016

Anna Pumphrey, Class of 2019

Judy Robinson, Class of 1974

Jeremy Smith, Class of 2000

Jennifer Williams, Class of 1998

Term Expires 2028

Katelyn Burks, Class of 2024

Gonzo Garzon, Class of 2015

Cynthia Gates, Class of 1987

Chris Justice, Non-Grad, ex. 1995 – 2nd term

Mandy Kniskern, Class of 1998 – 2nd term

Mandi McDonald, Class of 2012 – 2nd term

Drew Posada, Class of 2016

Deanna Wilder, Class of 1997 – 2nd term

Jayme Wood, Class of 1998

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

In keeping with the goal of the University to teach students to live up to the high calling we have in Jesus Christ, we expect all Board members to live a life that reflects Christ.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are expected to be a positive representative for OBU in their communities, churches, places of business and everyday life.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are expected to be somewhat knowledgeable about its history, current campus life, activities and upcoming events. Members should be familiar with the OBU Alumni Association's upcoming events, strategies and goals and be able to answer basic questions if asked.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are expected to serve one three-year term, with the option of serving an additional term as determined by the OBU Alumni Director.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are expected to attend all scheduled board meetings and sub-committee meetings, whether in-person or in a virtual setting. If a current board member misses two or more meetings within an academic year, the OBU Alumni Director, with counsel from the Executive Committee, will determine if that board member should be asked to step down from the board. Participation is crucial to our success!

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are expected to serve on one sub-committee each year of their term. Members are expected to attend any and all of their sub-committee meetings and be proactive in dividing up the tasked work and achieving the goals set by and for each sub-committee.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are expected to attend and support as many OBU Alumni events and activities as they can, with special emphasis on attending The Weekend each year and the Harvest Dinner, which serves as an OBU Alumni Board meeting.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board may be asked to represent the OBU Alumni Association at various events throughout the academic year. These events may include, but are not limited to, OBU Admissions events, OBU Club events, The Weekend events and affiliation events such as the annual Oklahoma Baptists' meeting or "OBU Day" in local churches.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are encouraged to help recruit and nominate future board members and are encouraged to nominate other alumni for our alumni awards, presented during The Weekend each year.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are encouraged to help recruit and direct prospective students to OBU.

Members of the OBU Alumni Board are expected to support OBU financially, in whatever capacity makes sense for them and their families. A great way to do this is through the OBU Annual Fund.

Why the OBU Alumni Board Matters

- **It Represents OBU with Purpose**
Members serve as positive ambassadors in their communities, churches, and careers—living out the mission of OBU and pointing others to Bison Hill.
- **It Supports the Vision of University Leadership**
Board members publicly and actively support the President and university leadership, helping to champion OBU’s strategic direction and Christ-centered mission.
- **It Builds Bridges Between Alumni and Campus**
The Board helps alumni stay connected to current campus life, events, and initiatives—strengthening lifelong ties to their alma mater.
- **It Fuels Alumni Engagement and Growth**
Whether attending events, serving on committees, or promoting OBU in their circles, Board members play a hands-on role in growing alumni involvement.
- **It Recruits Future Bison and Alumni Leaders**
From nominating award recipients to encouraging prospective students, Board members help identify and inspire the next generation of Bison.
- **It Models Commitment Through Service and Support**
By giving their time, talents, and financial resources, Board members lead by example—demonstrating a deep commitment to OBU’s present and future.

OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The officers are elected for one-year terms by the OBU Alumni Board. The officers are the president, the vice president, the secretary, the past president (if applicable), and the executive director (not elected). The terms of the office will coincide with the academic year, beginning with the first meeting after the end of the spring semester. The selection process of the officers is defined in the bylaws.

PRESIDENT

Duties and responsibilities are:

- Serves as chief executive officer of the OBU Alumni Association.
- Presides at all regular and called meetings of the OBU Alumni Board and Executive Committee.
- Serves as Association representative when called upon by the University.
- Assists Executive Director with appointing board members to four standing committees and to ad hoc committees.
- Works with Executive Director to coordinate activities of board and association.

VICE PRESIDENT

Duties and responsibilities are:

- Assists president.
- Assumes duties and responsibilities of president in his/her absence.
- Serves as Association representative when called upon by the University.
- Serves as a member of Executive Committee.

SECRETARY

Duties and responsibilities are:

- Coordinates record-keeping at board meetings and Executive Committee meetings
- Provides minutes of previous meeting at each board meeting.
- Serves as Association representative when called upon by the University.
- Serves as a member of Executive Committee.

PAST PRESIDENT

Duties and responsibilities are (as able):

- Serves a one-year term as advisor to successor president and Board of Directors
- Serves as Association representative when called upon by the University.
- Serves as member of Executive Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEES & GUIDELINES

Committee names, definitions, and purposes will be changed as needed by the Director to support University needs and goals.

Community Relations & Networking

- Works closely with Alumni Director in planning and promotion of annual calendar of alumni activities
- Assists and participates with staffing at OBU Alumni events
- Assists in identifying and contacting potential event sponsors
- Currently helping to find ways to engage the Shawnee community in The Weekend

Bison Serve

- Working towards creation of a volunteer network that can help identify, guide and promote future volunteer opportunities for alumni and friends in any city or state.
- Working towards collaboration with current students and volunteer projects already organized by the university.
- Currently seeking creative ways to serve the OBU community and the Shawnee community.

Student Recruitment & Family Involvement

- Works with OBU Admissions office in supporting recruitment efforts.
- Attends and supports OBU Admissions and Recruitment events and activities.
- Currently working with new VP to explore tangible ways to support recruitment efforts and involve alumni parents in recruitment efforts.

Strategic Connections

- Seeks to involve a greater number of alumni in the financial support of the University.
- Assists the OBU advancement team with identification of major donor prospects.
- Assists with matching gift projects and other special donation projects.
- Currently learning about ways to actively participate as ambassadors for annual Giving Day.

CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS: OBU Alumni Association

*Adopted August, 1983
Amended October, 2021
Amended February, 2025*

Article 1: Name and Purposes

Article II: Membership

Section 1. The membership of the OBU Alumni Association shall be comprised of those persons who shall have attended Oklahoma Baptist University as students for at least one semester, referred to herein as "Members" and "Alumni." Associate members shall be those persons who are not alumni but who are presently serving or have served Oklahoma Baptist University as members of the Faculty or Administration. Honorary Membership may be designated and conferred as prescribed by the By-Laws of the Association.

Section 2. Rights, duties and obligations of the Membership shall be as hereinafter prescribed or as prescribed by the By-Laws of the Association.

Article III: Board of Directors

Section 1. The Advisory Body of the OBU Alumni Association shall be vested in a Board which shall consist of no more than thirty-four (34) members: twenty-four (24) representing Oklahoma members, nine (9) representing designated regional groups and one (1) Past President, if he/she is not a current Board member. Each regional group shall have at least one representative on the Board. Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Director with assistance from the president of the Association and is subject to the approval of the Board. A vacancy shall occur when a Board Member dies, resigns, or moves from the region elected to represent or is asked to step down on moral grounds.

Section 2. Board members shall be elected for terms of three (3) years, such terms to commence at the meeting following the end of the academic year in May. Up to eleven (11) members shall be elected each year, eight (8) Oklahoma representatives and three (3) regional representatives. Nominations may be made by any member of the Association, by an organized alumni club recognized by the Board, or by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall seek out persons interested in serving on the Board. Nominations shall be closed by March 15.

The election is to be conducted by the Executive Director of the Alumni Association, or the Vice President of Advancement's appointee. The Executive Committee of the OBU Alumni Board will meet and discuss all potential candidates based on phone or virtual meeting interviews that were previously conducted. The Executive Committee will then decide the candidates to put forward for a vote of the board at the spring meeting.

Section 3. The Board shall have at least two scheduled meetings each year. One meeting shall be on a date associated with The Weekend and Harvest Dinner. The Board shall meet at the call of the President or at the written call of any four (4) members of the Board.

Section 4. The Board shall be organized into four standing committees. Additional ad-hoc committees may be designated by the Executive Director of the Association. The standing committees shall work with the Executive Director of the Alumni Association in providing meaningful programs and work in each area of responsibility.

Section 5. Members of the Board shall contribute financially to the University annually.

Article IV: Executive Committee

Section 1. The executive authority of the OBU Alumni Association shall be vested in an Executive Committee which shall be comprised of the Officers of the Board who shall be appointed by the Executive Director and approved by the Board. The Vice-President of Advancement of OBU or his appointee shall be an ex-officio member.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Executive Director of the Alumni Association, the Board President or upon written request of any three (3) members.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Governing Body between regularly scheduled meetings of the Board but must submit decisions made between Board meetings to the Board for final approval.

Article V: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Board shall be elected for a term of one year by the Board. Officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Past President, (if applicable), and Executive Director of the Alumni Association (not elected).

Section 2. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall have the following duties:

(i) The President shall preside alongside the Executive Director at all regular and called meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee of the Board.

(ii) The President shall represent the Association in and at all functions and activities required by the office, by the needs and purposes of the Association and by the request of the University.

Section 3. The Vice President shall assist the President in whatever capacity shall be required and shall, in the absence and direction of the President, assume the duties and responsibilities of the President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall supervise the keeping of minutes of the meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee of the Board.

Section 5. The Past President shall advise the President and Board concerning Association policies and procedures. The Past President's term of office shall be one year and shall immediately succeed their elected term.

Section 6. The rotation of the officers shall be the President moves to Past President. The Vice-President moves to President. The secretary moves to Vice-President. In case of a vacancy, the positions above shall move up to complete the term and continue with their next term. A new secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Alumni Association.

Section 7. Executive Director of the Alumni Association shall be appointed by the University and shall serve in whatever capacity required by the University and the Association.

Section 8. Prior to the spring meeting, the Executive Director shall nominate a person for the role of secretary to be voted on by the full Board.

Article VI: Annual Meeting

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the OBU Alumni Association shall be conducted on a date designated by the Board but on a date associated with The Weekend, traditionally at Harvest Dinner.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Board shall be held at the call of the Executive Committee or upon the written request of ten (10) members of the Board to be held in-person or through virtual means.

Section 3. Notice of any meeting of the Board shall be distributed to the members by electronic communication/notification no later than fifteen (15) days prior to said meetings and shall contain information stating the authority for the meeting and the proposed agenda thereof.

Section 4. Fifty (50) members of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII: Awards

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall serve as the nominating committee for awards bestowed by the OBU Alumni Association including the annual Alumni Achievement Awards, Graduate of the Last Decade awards, Profiles in Excellence Awards, and other awards determined by the Association.

Section 2. Nominations for all awards may be submitted by any member or associate member of the Association and shall be made to the Executive Committee. The EC will review the applications, review and reduce the nominations to a list of suggested winners and submit those names to the Board for confirmation.

Section 3. The Board shall approve all awards made by the OBU Alumni Association.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution of the OBU Alumni Association may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of the Membership of the Association present and voting at the Annual meeting or any special meeting called for such purpose of by mail response or electronic notification polling the total membership. The vote shall be tallied by a committee of tellers appointed by the Officers of the Association.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to and considered by the Membership of the Association in July prior to the voting on the proposed amendment.

Article IX: By-Laws

Section 1. By-Laws of the OBU Alumni Association shall be adopted or amended by the majority of the Membership present and voting at the Annual Meeting or any meeting including the text of the proposed By-Law on the published agenda or by mail or electronic response polling the total Membership. The vote shall be tallied by a committee of tellers appointed by the Officers of the Association.

Section 2. Proposed By-Laws shall be submitted in writing to the Director of the Alumni Association, or the Vice President of Advancement, or his appointee and shall be subscribed by two (2) members of the Association.

By-Laws

Section 1. Honorary Membership. Honorary membership to the OBU Alumni Association may be bestowed on such persons as shall be designated by the majority of the Board of Directors present and voting.

Section 2. Committees. Committees shall be appointed by the Executive Director and approved by a majority of the Board present and voting.

Section 3. The regional boundaries of the OBU Alumni Association shall be determined by the Executive Director with the approval of the Board.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

It is the intent of the OBU Alumni Association to honor outstanding alumni each year for their special achievements and loyal service in their specific fields of endeavor by publicly recognizing their contributions. This is the highest award given by the Alumni Association, and it is judged to that standard. There are less than 200 winners of this award in its history. The award, though not expressly stated, is usually conferred for a lifetime of work. The Committee will often move nominations with less than 20 years of work into the Profiles in Excellence Award category and consider them there.

ELIGIBILITY

The recipient must be a former student, not necessarily a graduate.

The alumnus/alumna must have demonstrated outstanding achievement in his/her profession, business, vocation, or life service of such nature as to justify pride on the part of the OBU community for its part in the contribution.

The alumnus/alumna must have evidenced continuing interest in OBU in such manner as to merit receipt of the award. It is not intended that the amount of financial contribution should be a determining factor.

Documentation of the nominee's contributions and achievement should be in the form of a resume. Other supportive data indicative of the nominee's achievements on the community, state, or national level may accompany the resume, e.g., newspaper or magazine articles, media tapes, letters of recommendation, citations, awards, etc.

NOMINATION

Nominations may be made by any member of the OBU Alumni Association or any other person and/or organization. Nominations must be made on or before April 14 to be considered for the same calendar year.

Information concerning the nomination procedures, eligibility criteria, and deadline for nomination should be published periodically in university and alumni publications.

SELECTION

The selection committee shall be composed of the executive committee of the OBU Alumni Association as indicated by the constitution. The executive committee is comprised of the officers of the Association and the chairpersons of the standing committees as appointed by the President and approved by the Board.

The selection committee shall present the award finalists to the Alumni Board of Directors no later than September 1 for their approval by a two-thirds majority of the Board members voting.

As a guideline the Board of Directors shall select no more than three award recipients. The selection committee shall make every attempt to choose award finalists from a variety of fields and professions.

PRESENTATION

The award presentations shall be made during The Weekend. Recipients are required to be present at The Weekend to receive the award.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The top ten candidates not selected will be automatically considered as nominees for one subsequent year without re-nomination. Rankings will be determined by the selection committee. A candidate will be considered only for a two-year period without re-nomination.

PROFILE IN EXCELLENCE AWARD Guidelines

PURPOSE

The Profile In Excellence Award is a means of honoring alumni of Oklahoma Baptist University. It is supplemental to the Alumni Achievement Award. This award is conferred on those that are still active in their field or have retired. Past awardees of this award have covered a wide spectrum of vocations. The key here is “excellence” in what they do.

ELIGIBILITY

The recipient must be a former student, not necessarily a graduate.

The alumnus/alumna should have demonstrated recognizable accomplishment in his/her profession, business, avocation, or life service in such a way as to bring pride and honor to the University.

Nominees for the Alumni Achievement Award who have been considered twice and who have not been selected for that award shall be automatically considered for the Profile In Excellence Award upon the next occasion for its selection.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations must be received by July 1 and be consistent with nomination provision made in the Alumni Association Constitution.

Documentation of the nominee’s worthiness need only be represented by a letter of nomination, but supplementary documentation is welcome.

SELECTION

The recommendation shall be made by the Honors and Awards Committee of the OBU Alumni Board. The Committee will be presented with a list of nominees by the Alumni Director no later than February 28. Approval must then be made by a two-thirds majority of the Board members voting.

It is not mandatory that the award be made each year. Any number of awards may be presented in any one year.

PRESENTATION

The presentation of this award must be made within the twelve (12) months period following its selection. All other matters regarding the place, time, and nature of the presentation will be at the discretion of the Alumni Director.

GRADUATES OF THE LAST DECADE AWARD

GUIDELINES

(May, 2000 Origination date)

(May, 2011 amended (bold, italicized, underlined))

(October, 2024 amended)

PURPOSE

It is the intent of the OBU Alumni Association to honor outstanding young alumni each year for their special achievement and loyal service in their specific fields of endeavor by publicly recognizing their contributions. This award recognizes a graduate that has made outstanding strides in their field of work within the first 10 years of their graduation. With only one awardee among over 2,500 potential graduates in the past 10 years, the nominee needs to have achieved a great deal to be selected.

ELIGIBILITY

The recipient must be a former student, not necessarily a graduate, within the last decade.

The alumnus/alumna should have demonstrated recognizable accomplishment in his/her profession, business, or avocation, in such a way as to bring pride and honor to the University.

NOMINATIONS

Information concerning the nomination procedures, eligibility criteria, and deadline for nomination should be published periodically in university and alumni publications.

Documentation of the nominee's worthiness need only be represented by a letter of nomination, but supplementary documentation is welcome.

SELECTION

The recommendation shall be made by the Honors and Awards Committee of the OBU Alumni Association Board of Directors. The committee will be presented with a list of nominees at the Spring meeting. Approval must then be made by a two-thirds majority of the Board members voting.

It is not mandatory that the award be made each year. However, the maximum number of awards presented in any one year will be three.

PRESENTATION

The presentation of this award will be made during Homecoming weekend. Recipients are required to be present at Homecoming to receive the award.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Other candidates not selected will automatically be considered as nominees the subsequent year with re-nomination, as long as they continue to fit the criteria (GOLD).

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

OBU ALUMNI BOARD

Alumni Board members are valued volunteers. Your time and participation is important to us. When needed, please allow the OBU Alumni Association to assist with your travel expenses or answer any questions you may have regarding expenses. Here are some helpful guidelines:

- Travel expenses for OBU Alumni Board activities should be submitted to the OBU Alumni Association via email to leaann.quirk@okbu.edu Information should include:

Full Name

Mailing Address, City, State, Zip

Meeting Date

Round-trip Mileage Amount (see first bullet point below)

List of Meals with Receipts (email picture of receipts)

If you wish to donate your total travel expense amount to OBU (see last guideline below)

- If travel is not a significant expense to a board member, it is helpful to the university for the board member to handle the travel expense personally. If the expense causes hardship, reimbursement is provided for round-trip mileage to OBU Alumni Board meetings and for other alumni-related travel as approved by the Executive Director. We will need your starting destination, time you left, miles driven, ending destination and time of arrival submitted via email.
- Overnight accommodations are provided for an OBU Alumni Board Members when attendance is needed for a night Board-related meeting or when a Board member must travel 125 miles or more (one-way) to attend an early-morning meeting. This may also apply when OBU Alumni events are taking place the same weekend as an OBU Alumni Board meeting and the Board member wishes to help with the event.
- If you wish to donate your travel reimbursement to OBU, your reimbursement will be recorded in your name as a charitable contribution to OBU and can be designated as you indicate. Let the OBU Alumni Association know of your wishes if you decide on an option.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation on this.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Strides made through the years by the Alumni Association of Oklahoma Baptist University can be traced through the work of alumni leadership, the impact of alumni programs, and the record left through alumni publications.

From the genesis of Oklahoma Baptist University in 1910 and through the following decades, alumni leaders have found opportunities for expression of the Bison Spirit through fellowship with other alums and through service to the University. Although no structured alumni program existed during the early years of OBU's history, groups of alumni shared memories and a mutual desire to work together to promote the educational impact and Christian influence of the University. Likewise, faculty and administration helped maintain contact with alumni and contributed to the visibility and identity of alumni.

THE WORK OF ALUMNI LEADERSHIP

More than fifty individuals have served as president of the alumni association since 1919:

1919	G.R. West, '18	1980-81	Kay Vandevier Henry, '69
1920	T.L. Bailey, '19	1982-83	James E. Reynolds, '60
1921	W.T. Short, '11	1984-85	Gerald Robinson, '61
1922	Courts Redford, '20	1986-87	Phil Sampson, '64
1923	Bill Smith, '22	1988	Darrel F. "Doc" Ware, '73
1924	John Anderson Brett, '22	1989	Karen Henson, '76
1925	Roy McKnight, '23	1990	Michael Ross, '83
1926	Lewis E. Solomon, '20	1991-93	Ralph Massey, '68
1927-28	John A. Yarbrough, '25	1994	C. Mark Williams, '81
1929-30	H. Lynn Randels, '28	1995	Terry Ward, '63
1931-33	John Roy Harris, '29	1996	Monroe Palmer, '53
1934-36	Bill Smith, '22	1997-98	Elizabeth Howell Dillard, '60
1937-39	R.C. Howard, '32	1999	Kirsten A. McIntyre, '91
1940-42	Porter Routh, '34	2000	Julie Schock Dilbeck, '88
1943-45	Ira Peak, '35	2001	Robert Kellogg, '84
1946	Max C. Stanfield, '35	2002	Claudine Franks Dickey, '60
1947-49	Homer Cook, '41	2003	Ronda Shelton Mikles, '75
1950	J. Adrian Gregg, '36	2004	Jerry L. Billingsley, '72
1951-53	Ray U. Northrip, '32	2005-06	Phillip Beck, '78
1954	Judge J. Knox Byrum, '23	2007	Ray Griffin, '93
1955	Max Stanfield, '35	2008-09	Jay Sampson, '93
1956	Robert D. Alcorn, '52	2010	Carl Storm, '99
1957-67	Ralph E. Smith, '42	2011	John Cullison, '85
1968	James Barrett, '59	2012	Bart Newsom '00
1969-71	John E. Cleek, '56	2013-14	Kim Landers '97
1972	J. Adrian Gregg, '36	2015-16	William Ware '68
1973	James Howell, '56	2017	Jason Lee, '97
1974	Willa Ruth Garlow, '50	2018	Shelley Levisay, '07
1975	A. Vernon Day, ex '56	2019-21	Michael Williams, '04
1976	Willa Ruth Garlow, '50	2021-23	Laura Hillman, '90
1977	John Kinslow, '63	2023-24	Chuck Lawrence, '82
1978	Bob Matthews, '56	2024-25	Austin Manger, '14
1979	James Craig, '58		

Although early records indicate that officers were elected to represent alumni and to plan alumni activities during the 1920s, it was not until 1932 that an alumni board of 11 members was formed. In 1932 a constitution was attached to the minutes of the “Alumni and Former Students Association of Oklahoma Baptist University.”

In 1935 the name of the OBU alumni organization became the “Bison Association,” at the suggestion of Bill Smith, ’22, alumni president at the time. The present name, “Oklahoma Baptist University Alumni Association,” became the official name of the association in 1976.

The constitution received extensive revision in 1966 through the leadership of James Barrett, ’59, who served as alumni president in the late 1960s. The constitution was amended in 1962 and 1972, with additional revisions occurring again in 1976 and 1983.

The mid-60s brought the reactivation of the board of directors governing system, allowing for 15 members. A revision of the constitution in 1983 increased to 24 the number of Oklahoma directors. The system of regional representation was initiated through the constitutional revision in 1976. With the efforts of Vernon Day, ex ’56, alumni director at the time, groundwork was established for a national network of alumni leaders.

Positions for nine regional representatives nationwide, serving three-year terms, were created in 1976. By-laws for the organization of local alumni chapters also were approved, and chapter officer enlistment received priority during the late 1970s and the decade of the 1980s. By the end of 1992, chapter organizations holding charters numbered 25.

The priority given by Alumni Director John Parrish, ’89 honorary, to the organization of chapters in the early 1980s, and continued work by the succeeding Alumni Director C. Mark Smith, ’75, further developed the nationwide network of alumni involvement. Smith began publishing *Green & Gold*, a bi-monthly newsletter for alumni leadership and chapter officers, in 1986, following initial chapter newsletter efforts recommended by the Alumni Board of Directors in 1985. Under the leadership of Kay Vandevier Henry, *Green & Gold* became a quarterly publication.

Efforts to maintain records of alumni occurred early, and an alumni list in catalog form was first published in December 1928 in the *Oklahoma Baptist University Bulletin*, XIII, No. 4. In June 1937, the *Bison Alumni News* listed 360 alumni with current information. In 1953, and again in 1977, alumni directories were published. OBU published its most extensive alumni directory in 1994 and employed the same extensive research process for production of the directory in 2000 and 2007.

Creation of an alumni staff position salaried by the University occurred in 1947. Eunice Short served as the first salaried alumni executive secretary, as well as maintaining other University responsibilities. She began work on an information retrieval system which Bob Alcorn and subsequent alumni directors have continued to develop, giving the University access to current data on more than 20,000 graduates and former students.

Since 1947, ten executive directors have been employed by the University to provide direction to the work of alumni volunteer leadership:

1947-62	Dr. Eunice Short, '31
1962-64	Charles Whaley, '49
1964-75	Robert D. Alcorn, '52
1975-79	A. Vernon Day, Jr., ex '56
1979-86	John W. Parrish, '89 honorary
1986-89	C. Mark Smith, '75
1989-91	Kay Vandevier Henry, '69
1991-96	C. Mark Smith, '75
1996-05	Martin L. O'Gwynn, '58 honorary
2005-17	Lori Renegar Hagans, ex '83
2021-Present	Lea Ann Fannin Quirk, '02

Alumni offices through the years have been housed in a number of campus locations, including Owens Hall, Watts Hall, Brittain Hall, Montgomery Hall, Shawnee Hall, Thurmond Hall, Geiger Center, and Raley Chapel. In 1987, Jent Apartments was beautifully renovated to become the Jent Alumni Center.

During 2013, the president's home, through a generous gift to OBU, underwent construction to complete the second floor and other structural changes. In 2014, the offices of Alumni and University Advancement made their new home in the *Sara Lou and Bob Cargill Alumni and University Advancement Center*. It was beautifully renovated into office space and serves as a reception center for alumni as well as a place to host events for alumni, donors, and the OBU community. As of 2022, it is now referred to as the **Cargill Alumni Center**.

Through the groundwork and efforts of the alumni presidents, volunteer leadership, and alumni directors, the organization of alumni work at OBU has grown significantly through the years to become one of the finest alumni associations to be found.

THE IMPACT OF ALUMNI PROGRAMS

As early as 1928, alumni leaders were urging fellow classmates to "Join the 100 Club" by contributing dues of \$3.50 to provide the funds to publish a monthly alumni bulletin. In 1929, Hale V. Davis, '25, alumni treasurer, urged alums to pay dues of \$2.50 annually to provide funds for the monthly bulletin and to support the work of Walter Emery, '29, the alumni field representative serving the University for the summer as a student recruiter.

Although alumni were asked in the early decades to pay dues to support alumni work for the University, the concept of alumni dues was never very successful, and in a 1948 board meeting, the charging of fixed membership dues was questioned. In August, 1957, however, a "Loyalty Roll of 1956-57" was published listing those with paid-up memberships (\$5) in the Bison Association.

Aside from dues, which later were suspended, alumni financial support for the University has continued to grow through the years. In 1951, an alumni scholarship fund was established, and in the mid-70s attention was given to the endowment of scholarships awarded by the Alumni Association.

In 1958, 850 persons made contributions to the Bison Alumni Fund. Alumni donor participation set a record number of 3,828 alumni contributors in 1992. Alumni contributions exceeded \$1 million during the 1988-89 year for the first time in University history. Alumni gifts topped the \$2 million mark for the first time in the 1996-97 year.

Currently, approximately 4 percent of OBU's graduates and former students contribute annually to the University. Programs promoting alumni giving during the 1980s and 1990s included continuation of an extensive annual alumni phonathon; the annual alumni fund emphasis to generate funds for University operations; and a series of successful alumni campaigns, including the Vision for Excellence Campaign, the Bridging the Centuries Campaign, and the record-setting Foundation for the Future Campaign. The Foundation for the Future Campaign alumni victory goal was \$3 million. At the conclusion of the alumni phase in 1997, alumni had pledged more than \$3.8 million. In 1993, OBU launched a class reunion giving campaign program designed to encourage support from members of the various Homecoming reunion classes. On-going financial support from alumni has been a factor in growing national recognition for the University.

Through the years, a number of alumni programs have been developed, beginning in the late 1940s, to honor outstanding alumni. In 1949, the first Alumni Achievement Award was presented, and this award has been the Association's most distinguished honor throughout subsequent decades. During the early 1980s, the Alumni Board of Directors initiated the Profile In Excellence Award, now presented annually up to twelve alumni. In 2000, the OBU Alumni Association board of directors approved creation of a GOLD Alum of the Year Award, to be presented to an outstanding graduate from the previous decade. The first GOLD Alum of the Year honor was presented at Homecoming 2000.

Programs promoting alumni fellowship on campus have occurred from the earliest days. In 1928, for example, the football game with the University of Tulsa was the big event promoted for alumni. Not until the decade of the 1950s, however, was organization and stability brought to alumni programming through the efforts of Alumni Executive Secretary Eunice Short, '31. Such alumni programming included an Alumni Day on campus, with an annual baby show and contest award for the largest family attending.

In 1947, the Association sponsored a high school speech tournament on campus, and in 1948, Bison Clubs in local communities were emphasized, with 25 clubs established that year. The first annual June Jamboree for high school juniors and seniors was sponsored by the Association in 1949. In 1953, Founders Day was co-sponsored by the Student Council and the Bison Association.

Alumni Directors Eunice Short and Bob Alcorn, '52, were responsible during their tenures for the OBU Placement Bureau, a career and job placement service for seniors. During his tenure, Alumni Director Vernon Day brought additional programming expertise to Homecoming and off-campus alumni dinners and fellowships. He established several out-of-state alumni clubs which became the foundation for the current chapter structure that is in place. More than two dozen alumni fellowship dinners, receptions, and events are now offered each year at various locations across the nation.

Over the years, Homecoming has been held at various times. It has been scheduled in conjunction with Founders' Day in February, linked to Commencement in May, held during the annual state Baptist convention, and held during Harvest Court festivities in December. The tradition of Homecoming on the second weekend in November was established in the 1950s and continued through 2016. Beginning in 2017, Homecoming was always in October. Homecoming usually includes 11 class reunions and more than 50 special reunion events. Homecoming 2013 saw the return of football as part of the weekend activities. Homecoming 2021 introduced the concept of The Weekend, allowing for multiple audiences to be reached and participate at the same time. These audiences include alumni, current students, prospective students and the Shawnee community.

The work of the Alumni Association is given direction by four standing committees of the Alumni Board of Directors: Promotion and Planning, Regional Involvement, Student Recruitment, and University Support. An Executive Committee composed of the officers and committee chairs, serves as the Honors and Awards Committee for the Association.

THE RECORD OF ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

A number of University publications have served alumni through the years. As early as 1925 the *Oklahoma Baptist University Quarterly Bulletin* (Volume X, No. 4, Pictorial Edition) contained information of interest to alumni, including information concerning faculty, student leaders, and proposed building projects. The *Alumni Bulletin of Oklahoma Baptist University* was published during the 1920s. The June 1929 issue contained the article, "It Is Time To Go To Work," urging alumni support for the University.

An impressive issue of the *Bison Alumni News* was published in June 1938, featuring an article on J. Edgar Hoover, upcoming OBU commencement speaker. The magazine also included a Bison sports review and current Bison births, address changes, and notes about the classes of 1911-1937. The August 1957 issue of *The OBU Magazine*, published quarterly by the OBU department of publications for alumni and friends of the University, also featured campus and alumni news, and listed 160 pledges for Chapel Memberships to fund construction of the Chapel.

The University Anvil, published three times in 1962-63, pre-dated the alumni tabloid, *The OBU Anvil*. *The University Anvil* was edited by student Milton Ford, and featured fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and items of alumni interest. In 1964, Dr. James Ralph Scales, OBU president, assigned Bob Alcorn, alumni director, and John Parrish, director of publications and publicity, the task of designing and publishing a bulletin for alumni.

In January, 1965, the first issue of *The OBU Anvil* was printed, and publication continued on a quarterly basis until the fall of 2003. Eight persons served as editors of *The OBU Anvil*. They included Parrish; Bob Cox, OBU news bureau director from 1965-67; Eddie Ashcraft, '74; Jerry Pogue, public relations director from 1981-82; Kathy Palen, '78; Larry Brumley, public relations director from 1986-91; Martin O'Gwynn, public relations director from 1991-96; and Charlie Warren, public relations director from 1996-99. O'Gwynn resumed editorship of the publication in the fall of 1999.

The OBU Anvil was replaced by *OBU Magazine* in the fall of 2003. The full-color magazine is distributed to approximately 20,000 OBU alumni and friends. The publication's managing editor is Paula Gower, '87, Vice President for Marketing and Communications.

The OBU Alumni Association has a strong history of maintaining a communication flow with alumni around the world. The association is committed to using available communication methods to continue assisting alumni in maintaining contact with their alma mater and one another.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE BISON SPIRIT

Through the years, alumni leadership, alumni programs, and alumni publications have promoted fellowship and support among alumni for the advancement of Christian education at OBU. The Bison Spirit has been evident in every decade and has grown as the ranks of OBU alumni have increased.

In an effort to describe this Bison Spirit, Uncle Jimmy Owens in his book, *Annals of OBU*, has said: "Nobody can put his finger on the Bison Spirit. It's part of the faith in God which comes through fellowship with Christian classmates, the straight thinking of the teachers, the reverence of traditions, the freedom of mind and spirit, and the love for one another. It is intangible, everlasting and its influence is unlimited."

The influence and potential of the OBU Alumni Association is as unlimited as the Bison Spirit. And the Bison Spirit will continue to influence the future of the Alumni Association through the ongoing work of alumni leadership, the impact of meaningful alumni programs, and the permanent record of alumni publications.

**OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
RENOVATIONS & PROJECTS (SINCE 1970)**

1970	Geiger Center (University Center) built
1971	Warren M. Angell Center for Fine Arts, Raley Chapel completed; Shawnee Hall basement and Computer Center in Thurmond Hall renovated
1976	Mabee Learning Center completed
1977	West University Apartments opened and president's Home renovated
1978	New Physical Plant Building acquired
1980	Brotherhood Dormitory and WMU Dormitory renovated
1981	Ford Music Hall renovated
1982	Noble complex completed and Clark Craig Fieldhouse, Worten Track and Shawnee Hall renovated
1983	Burns Married Student Housing completed
1984	Parkway Apartments renovated
1985	Devereaux Married Student Housing acquired (Midland Manor) and Cobbs Married Student Housing completed
1986	Wood Science Building and Sarkeys Telecommunications Center completed
1987	Williamson Nursing Education Center (ground floor Thurmond Hall) and Jent Alumni Center completed
1988	Six additional units of Devereaux Married Student Housing completed
1989	Geiger Center snack bar area and game room renovated
1990	Mail room and copy center moved to Geiger Center; Montgomery Hall completed; Thurmond Hall ground floor renovated for business offices; 16-unit addition to West University complex for women completed; 16-unit MacArthur Drive Apartments for men completed
1991	Renovation of Kerr Residence Hall begun, with first stage completed; Renovation of Oval fountain completed
1992	New Carillon system installed in Raley Chapel; Business Building started

1993	Bailey Business Center completed
1994	Reconstruction of Shawnee Hall steps and remodeling of lower level. Oval landscaping project. Restoration of quadrangle clock and installation of park benches
1995	Laura Scales Dining Hall remodeled; W.P. Wood Planetarium opened; installation of elevators in Thurmond Hall and Ford Music Hall
1996	Class of 1996 gazebo and park dedicated
1997	Doris and Jim Taylor Residence Center completed, Howard Residence Complex
1998	Bob and Nelle Agee Residence Center rededication and renovation
1999	Raley Chapel entrances remodeled, faculty offices and Yarborough Auditorium
2000	Major renovations to Potter Auditorium, Agee Residence Center, and the Art bldg
2001	Renovations to Potter Auditorium and the Art building completed; Dorland Theater renovated
2002	Millennium Park completed; Craig-Dorland Theatre renovation completed; Storer wing of Agee Residence Center renovated; security cameras installed around campus; intramural field lighted for night games
2003	Geiger Center first floor renovated
2004	Oval walkways renovated; varsity soccer fields created
2005	Parking lots NE of Jent building leveled, resurfaced, added road to Geiger Center; Upgraded internet capabilities by moving from a pair of T1 lines to a DS3
2006	Clark Craig Fieldhouse was removed. Construction began on the new 59,000 square foot Wellness Center; the track, intramural fields and baseball field were all moved and under construction at year end
2007	Recreation and Wellness Center completed and dedicated at Homecoming 2007. The Noble Complex was expanded. Construction of new baseball field and track facility began
2008	Completion and dedication of the Bison Field at Ford Park. Opening of Coates
2009	Baseball/Softball building and work continued on the track facility Complete renovation of WMU dorm; closed during academic year 2008-09

2010	Renovation of several West University Apartments
2011	Completion of Lady Bison softball field and JV baseball field; dedication of Jay P Chance Track Building; Keck Indoor Practice Facility
2012	Broke ground on two new student housing units; official dedication of the Eddie Hurt Jr Memorial Track Complex
2012-13	Renovations made to the Eddie Hurt Jr. Memorial Track Complex to prepare for football
2013	Completion of 2 student housing units; removal of houses on Frank Buck Dr. to make space for additional student housing units; renovation of Cargill Alumni and Advancement Center began (former president's home)
2014	Renovation on Cargill Center completed. Broke ground on 2 new student housing units, with 1 unit opening for the Fall of 2014, and the other projected for the Fall of 2015. Broke ground and completed the Mathena Center, (athletic training and sports medicine facility) broke ground on Jane E. & Nick K. Stavros Hall, College of Nursing building
2015	Completion of Jane E. and Nick K. Stavros Hall, College of Nursing building; completion of buildings 3 and 4 of the residential village
2016	Replacement of roof on the Raley chapel; updating of the seating in the Noble Complex.
2017	Renovation of Pizza Hut restaurant to house the Marriage and Family Clinic. Ford Music Hall renovated. Renovation of Ford Hall.
2018	Renovation of lower GC to house the Dick and Sue Rader Office of Student Life and Women of Vision Center for Spiritual Life. Agee Resident Center renovations completed.
2019	Renovation of room inside of Bailey Business Center to house the Collaborative Learning Space. Acquired the former St. Gregory's University, now known as The Green Campus, from Hobby Lobby and the Green family.
2021	Renovation of Shawnee Hall room 205, which is specifically designed for Teacher Education students. State of the Art classroom with flexible seating and current technology.
2022	Sarkey's renovation. Howard dorm and apartments renovations. Taylor dorm refresh. Art Annex repainted. Raley renovation first floor. Campus-wide tree surgery after ice storm and deep freeze effects.

- 2023 On April 19, 2023, the OBU campus was hit by an F2 tornado, impacting every building on campus. Multiple renovation and renewal efforts are underway including Shawnee Hall, Raley Chapel, Bailey Business Center, Wood Science Building and more. Work is also being done on Thurmond Hall to house the new Engineering program beginning in fall, 2023.
- 2024 Continued renovations on Shawnee Hall, Thurmond Hall, Raley Chapel and Wood Science Building. This is all part of Phase I of the Shape the Future campaign, which officially kicked off during The Weekend, October 17-19, 2024.
- 2025 Shawnee Hall reopens for classes and business.

Hymn To Alma Mater

(Written in 1939)

Mary Ann Tisinger

Warren M. Angell

O. B. U. all hail thy name! Sons and daugh- ters hon - or thee.
When the shades of eve - ning fall through the hush of fad - ing day

May thy stand - ard green and gold lead e - ter - nal - ly.
si - lent voi - ces praise thy name. Hearts look up to pray.

Proud - ly stand on Bis - on Hill 'neath the wind - swept sky;
May thy spir - it guide thy sons, keep thy daugh - ters true.

Al - ma Ma - ter we will praise thee as the years go by.
Loy - al to our Al - ma Ma - ter God bless O. B. U.