

Winter 2014

## Newsletter Winter 2014

Grant Center for International Education  
*Ouachita Baptist University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/gcnewsletter>

 Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [International and Comparative Education Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Grant Center for International Education, "Newsletter Winter 2014" (2014). *Grant Center Newsletters*. 13.  
<http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/gcnewsletter/13>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Daniel & Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Grant Center Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact [mortensona@obu.edu](mailto:mortensona@obu.edu).

## DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
WINTER 2013

From the desk of Director Ian Cosh...



There is a mountain of research that affirms the profound impact that an international experience has on the development of students. Let me pick 10 random, but well accepted, outcomes that accrue for those who choose to engage internationally:

1. They become cross-culturally competent
2. They become more self-confident
3. They understand their home culture better
4. They become more socially intelligent
5. They strengthen their listening skills
6. They understand more about the importance of body language in communication
7. They learn to love public transportation
8. They learn from new teaching methods
9. They learn about the importance of situational awareness
10. They learn to solve problems and think more creatively

As a liberal arts university, we provide an education that addresses the whole person and seeks to produce students who will become comfortable with being citizens of the world. Developing new capacities to learn and enjoy all that is beautiful and given for our joy is a part of the Ouachita experience, and the Grant Center is pleased to play a small part in the overall Ouachita experience.



Ian Cosh  
VP for Community &  
International Engagement  
Director of the Grant Center

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Grant Center,

For decades, the Ouachita campus community has been enriched by the presence of international students who have come from around the globe to study at Ouachita for a semester, a year or long enough to earn a degree.

Currently there are students enrolled at Ouachita from 18 different countries. They are pursuing degrees in 15 academic programs, competing in 5 intercollegiate sports and participating in more than a dozen student organizations and activity programs.

God is bringing the world to Ouachita, and we are pleased to invest in the lives of international students to share Ouachita with the world. Thank you for your interest in supporting our mission with international students.



Dr. Rex M. Horne, Jr.  
President,  
Ouachita Baptist University



## Ouachita Adding New Evangelical MK Discount

Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, Ouachita will begin providing a \$1,500 scholarship to MKs whose parents serve with evangelical organizations other than the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The addition of this scholarship will in no way change the University's long-standing commitment to providing separate scholarships to dependents of IMB workers.

OUACHITA  
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
410 Ouachita Street • Box 3777  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71998-0001



DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER  
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
WINTER 2013

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LITTLE ROCK, AR  
PERMIT #211

Jennifer Wixom, spending the academic year at Seinan-Gaukuin University in Fukuoka, Japan



THE VALUE OF STUDYING ABROAD

"Experiencing another culture and language really helps a person to grow. I think it also helps to make that person more confident and settled into what they think, because meeting a new 'normal' will make someone think about those kinds of things. The challenge is really incredible and more than worth it."

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Save the Date

The theme for the 2014 International Food festival is "Taste Our World." Come join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship on Feb. 18, 2014, in OBU's Walker Conference Center. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Fall break trip to New Orleans

Every fall, the Grant Center takes a group of students on a cultural excursion for Fall Break. From Oct. 24-26, students and faculty from OBU explored the history and culture of New Orleans. A visit to Oak Alley Plantation provided a glimpse into the antebellum South. During a swamp tour on the bayou, students enjoyed getting to pose with a baby alligator named Elvis. Students had the opportunity to learn about the rich history, culture and food of New Orleans during a tour of the French Quarter.



Friends of the Grant Center for International Education

Ouachita Baptist University

The FGCIE supports the advancement of international education at Ouachita. Members receive a newsletter, invitations to events, opportunities for involvement and a complimentary ticket to the annual **International Food Festival**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Joint Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Individual Membership

I am enclosing a gift of \_\_\_\_\_ to support international education at Ouachita instead of or in addition to my membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to **Ouachita Baptist University**  
 Mail check and form to: **Development Office, OBU Box 3754, Arkadelphia AR 71998-0001**

Online Option: [www.obu.edu/give](http://www.obu.edu/give) • Choose "Friends of the Grant Center" as the designation.

Opening Minds to the World



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Grant Ragland

- 2004 Studied in Reading, England, as an OBU student
- 2005 Graduated from Ouachita with a BA in English
- 2005-2007 Spent two years teaching English to college students in Zhengzhou, China
- 2009 Studied law in Beijing for a semester
- 2010 Graduated from the University of Arkansas Law School
- 2013 Worked for the United Nations in the Khmer Rouge trials

**Q** How do you see that your experience of studying abroad affected your decisions to teach and study in China, travel the world and work in Cambodia?

**A** I think studying abroad brought to my attention the many different ways we can travel through life. My time in England was enlightening, though not always easy. I expect most of us who have studied abroad share this tension. From the classes to dorm life, I often felt my world was upside down. I returned to OBU, however, feeling as if the world was a little more familiar. Certainly I was more comfortable in the world.

I think Dr. Greer sensed this and encouraged me to teach in China after graduation. I listened. In some ways I think my time in England made my transition to life in China much easier. Certainly, my time in England gave me the confidence to travel alone to an unknown country.

**Q** What were your job responsibilities in Cambodia?

**A** Earlier this year I had the opportunity to travel to Cambodia to work for the United Nations in the Khmer Rouge trials. I assisted the Trial Chamber—Judges and Legal Officers—by researching various points of law, drafting legal memoranda and attending court proceedings.

Letter from Mel Thrash, FGCIE President

What a great and blessed year this has been for the Grant Center for International Education. With new offices and exciting opportunities, this has been a very busy year for the staff at the Grant Center.

We want you to share in this excitement by attending our annual FGCIE meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 4 p.m. This, of course, will be followed by the International Food Festival, which is always an outstanding event. Mark your calendar now and join us for an evening of information and fun. May you have a very blessed Christmas season.



Ivana Trouve (right), exchange student from the University of Orleans, spending the semester at Ouachita

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Ivana Trouve

"My time at Ouachita completely changed me. When you meet people from all over the world you'll never be the same after that. American people particularly changed my view of the world because they are so different from what French people think. They are very good people, devoted to the community and the rest of the world. I didn't expect that and it was a very good surprise."

ESL FIELD TRIPS

Providing students with opportunities to apply English outside the classroom while engaging in the local history and culture

ESL students had the opportunity to visit the Senate floor at the Arkansas State Capitol during a recent visit to Little Rock.

Students had the opportunity to participate in fall activities like pumpkin carving, making s'mores and going on a hay ride.

