

Spring 2008

The Ouachita Circle Spring 2008

Ouachita Baptist University

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SPRING 2008



THE QUACHTTA CIRCLE



The Spirit of Service
Answering the Call



A WORD FROM OUACHITA

Consistency is defined as steadfast adherence to the same principles, course or form. The dictionary often gives examples of definitions, and I think Ouachita Baptist University would be a fine example of consistency. The word is true of our faculty, staff and students. For as long as Ouachita has existed there has been an effort, yes a consistent effort, to educate young men and women while maturing them as individuals as we hold fast to our Christian faith.

I wish it were possible to give an exhaustive list of all that our students are doing. Since it is impossible, I will provide a mere glimpse. Students currently are involved in research, creative studies and preparing for Scholars Day, as well as all kinds of athletics, concerts and plays. Hundreds were involved last month in Christian Focus Week. You will read more about our involvement during Christmas break with Habitat for Humanity projects in New Orleans. Children through senior adults are mentored and ministered to every week through the Elrod Center. I have challenged our students, faculty and staff to raise \$10,000 by April 29 to bring fresh water to an impoverished people in Zimbabwe. Our students and campus community are consistent in service.

On March 1, Terry Peebles and Trennis Henderson joined our staff. Terry is Vice President for Development. She graduated from Ouachita in 1983. She has served Baptist Health as Community Relations Director for 20 years. She will lead us in a great way. Trennis Henderson comes as our Vice President for Communications. Trennis was editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine for six years, and since 1999, served Kentucky Baptists as editor of the Western Recorder. Terry and Trennis are proof that Ouachita consistently finds people of great character and ability to lead our institution.

The physical changes have started with the initial stage of the new entrance to campus. We are still planning and praying to begin construction on new student housing in June. Our architects are pressing forward to have plans ready for bid in a matter of weeks. The north side of campus will be radically changed in the next two years.

You are reading this article because you have an interest in or a devotion to this great university. Because of that I would ask you to be consistent, too. Would you consistently pray for Ouachita, our students, faculty and staff? Would you consistently give? I often tell groups that we need large gifts, small gifts, but mostly we need to see an increase in consistent giving. You may want to join the Conger Club. For more information about this opportunity, contact Terry Peebles at 870-245-5169 or peeplest@obu.edu.

I have the wonderful privilege of being president of Ouachita. I hope to see many of you soon. If you are in our area, come by and allow us the privilege of saying hello and showing you what is happening here at Ouachita.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex Horne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rex M. Horne, Jr.



President • Rex M. Horne, Jr.

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photo by Wesley Kluck

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REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS



photo by Jeff Green



Most college students wouldn't call rising at 5:00 a.m., taking cold showers and sleeping on plywood bunks a vacation. While many college students were sleeping in or hitting the slopes over Christmas break, 37 Ouachita students took a week to contribute to the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. I was one of those students.

We left Ouachita's campus at 7:00 a.m. on Jan. 7 to strike out on the long road to New Orleans. None of us knew just what we were getting ourselves into; all we knew was there were people who needed our help and houses that needed to be built. We all saw an opportunity to show Christ's love in a way many of us never had. As children of the Bible belt, we were all used to going to Christian conferences and evangelical mission trips, but this trip was something entirely different. Even though we were charging into what was for many of us uncharted waters, our enthusiasm and excitement could not be stifled—even by the early morning hours.

James Guthrie, interim director of campus ministries, began thinking about this trip in the fall when Ouachita alumni Jerry Riggs ('78) came as a guest speaker to Refuge, the weekly student-led worship gathering. Riggs spoke about New Orleans and the needs the city is facing after the devastating hurricane in 2005. "Having pastored so long myself, our concern is that we look past missions in our own town, state and even country," Guthrie emphasized. "I've always enjoyed working with my hands, so this trip resonated with me."

By pursuing contacts Riggs provided, Guthrie eventually got in touch with First Baptist Church of New Orleans. "They were so helpful to us," Guthrie said. They helped organize our living and working arrangements through their contacts with area churches and their partnership with Habitat for Humanity. According to www.habitat.org, Habitat for Humanity International is "a

nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry seeking to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.” The Baptist Crossroads Program works with Habitat to rebuild areas of the city including the upper ninth ward where we worked for the week. According to Habitat’s Church Relations Department, this is the largest single project funded and built by a single sponsoring organization or denomination in the history of Habitat for Humanity worldwide.

We stayed at Oak Park Baptist Church in New Orleans where they provided us meals and lodging. Oak Park had converted its education building into a dorm-like setting to accommodate volunteer groups. Their members also make three meals a day for the visiting groups, including sack lunches that we took to our work sites.

We had breakfast every morning at 6:00 and by 7:30 had arrived at Habitat’s headquarters in what has been dubbed the Musicians’ Village in the ninth ward. The Musicians’ Village, conceived by Harry Connick Jr. and Branford Marsalis, was designed to provide homes for displaced New Orleans musicians and other qualifying Habitat partner families.

I have always wanted to work with Habitat, so I was especially excited to get to orientation on our first day. After prayer, a bagpipe-led rendition of “Amazing Grace” and safety instructions, we received our assignment for the week. As a part of the housing package, Habitat provides wooden sheds for the backyard of each home to encourage proper home and property maintenance. Our team’s job was to build these sheds for two blocks of houses—nearly 20 sheds, in all.

We worked over seven hours a day for four days. We worked hard. I watched girls who had never driven a nail before (myself included) put entire walls together in a matter of minutes. I watched boys work together 10 feet above ground to frame roofs. We worked with the sun beating on

our faces and the rain beating even harder on our backs. There’s nothing like good, hard manual labor to make you appreciate your bed at night.

Even with sore backs and aching arms, our group never lost its enthusiasm. Our site leaders, Matt and Ben, said at the end of the week that they’d never had a group as positive and hard-working as ours. Neal Ozmun, a sophomore mass communications major from Arkadelphia, agreed. “I have never been on a trip with so much smiling and laughter,” he said. “It was great to see Ouachita students having such a great time while still working very hard to complete our projects.”

That is not to say we didn’t run into a handful of undesirable circumstances. For example, our beds were made of plywood with a glorified kindergarten nap mat laid on top.

The showers were often so cold that it became a group joke whether you could make it through one without crying out in shock. It rained so hard one day that I couldn’t see to drive a nail. The supplies we were working with were unorganized and hard to handle.

Guthrie was proud of how the students responded to any obstacles thrown their way. “Watching young people adapt to difficult circumstances and respond in a very positive way was so refreshing!” he said. “I loved watching them bond, laugh and celebrate when they would finish a shed.”

There is something satisfying about working with other people to build something with your hands. The fact that we were using that manual labor to help others and show our Christian witness made the week that much more special. Ozmun said, “I often hear from non-Christians that Christians are all talk. Well, we were

able to back up our talk by sending students to help. We were able to minister to the people there by way of our actions and smiles.”

I’ll never forget the joy on one homeowner’s face when he found out we were building his shed. The man, who was probably in his 60s and was around five and a half feet tall, literally jumped up and down clapping when we told him we could build it wherever he liked. Suddenly the cold showers didn’t seem like such a big deal. As



Guthrie said, “A cold shower is nothing compared to what these people have been through. We tried to keep our perspective.”

By the end of our time in New Orleans, we had finished constructing the sheds for one block of houses, and we had begun work on a second block’s sheds. Some of our team had worked with other volunteer

groups by organizing their materials and teaching them to build the sheds. We left any unfinished sheds in their hands to complete.

Even though we built “just sheds,” I think everyone in our group left New Orleans feeling like we made a difference. Guthrie said he would strongly encourage campus ministries to take another group to help Habitat in New Orleans. “I would go again in a heartbeat,” he declared. “I would love it.”

This trip may have been something completely different than anything many of us had ever participated in, but it definitely made an impact. It made an impact on the people we came into contact with in New Orleans, and it made an impact on us. This was a mission trip that changed things in a very tangible way and that reminded us of an often-forgotten lesson: Missions can be more than tracts and Bible studies—work is also spiritual. • by Brooke Showalter



CAMPUS NEWS



Ouachita presented innovative performance of *The Tempest*

Ouachita Baptist University performed William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* Nov. 2-4, 2007.

The show was directed by Joe Graves, a Ouachita alum and the Artistic Director of Peking University's Institute of World Theatre and Film in Beijing, China. Alongside Graves in the cast were several Ouachita students, as well as students from Peking University.



Ouachita presented the English comic opera *Alice in Wonderland*

The Ouachita Baptist University Opera Theatre presented four performances of the English comic opera *Alice in Wonderland* by Robert Chauls on Nov. 15-18, 2007.

The OBU Opera theatre production featured a fully staged, costumed and lighted performance of the opera, accompanied by live orchestra. The cast featured 2006 Metropolitan Opera district ward winner Valerie Woodburn ('07) in the title role of Alice. The production was directed by Drs. Jon and Glenda Secrest and technical direction was provided by Joey Licklider.



from top to bottom - Christopher Straw in *The Tempest*, Valerie Woodburn and Christy Lord in *Alice in Wonderland*, Adam Wheat and Hannah Chapman in the One Act Play Festival and Samantha Parrish and Amy York in *Waiting for Godot*.

• all photos by Danny Brown

sor of music; and the Ouachita Handbell Ringers, conducted by Rob Hewell, assistant professor of music.

The School of Fine Arts presented the annual Festival of Christmas

The School of Fine Arts at Ouachita Baptist University presented the annual Festival of Christmas musical performance Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2007, in Jones Performing Arts Center.

For the past 17 years the School of Fine Arts has presented a Christmas Card to the community with their annual holiday production.

This year's show featured the Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble, Tiger Blast, Ouachita Sounds, Ouachita Singers and Praise Singers. Audiences were also delighted with cameos from students in the department of theatre.

Ten named to English honor society

Ouachita Baptist University inducted 10 members to Sigma Tau Delta, an International English Honor Society.

Inductees included: Rachel Dunna-hoe, a junior English major from Anaheim, California; Ian Whitlow, a sophomore English major from River Ridge, Louisiana; Emily Nye, a senior English major from Royal, Arkansas; JulieAnne Bowen, a junior English major from Benton, Arkansas; Megan Gentry, a sophomore English major from Little Rock, Arkansas; Amelia Buckmaster, a sophomore English major from White Hall, Arkansas; Erin Carpenter, a junior English secondary education major from Allen, Texas; and Marcie Bealer, a junior theater arts and English major from Branson, Missouri. Inducted in absentia were Reece Dodd, a junior English major from Edmond, Oklahoma, and Ashley Moore, a senior English major from Sherwood, Arkansas.

The inductees were chosen based on a set criteria established by Sigma Tau Delta. Students inducted are English majors or minors who have completed at least two upper level English courses with at least a 3.0 GPA in En-

glish, and must have obtained a rank in the top 35% of their overall class in general scholarship.

Saxophonist Kenneth Tse performed guest recital

Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University co-sponsored the presentation of internationally-recognized classical saxophonist Kenneth Tse's masterclass and recital in Arkadelphia on Nov. 13, 2007.

This was Tse's only central Arkansas appearance.

Trombonist Nitzan Haroz performed guest recital and masterclass

The Division of Music in the School of Fine Arts at Ouachita Baptist University hosted trombonist Nitzan Haroz on Feb. 24 in a guest recital in the McBeth Recital Hall of Mabee Fine Arts Center on OBU's campus. Haroz also presented a masterclass on Feb. 25 in McBeth Recital Hall, where members of the OBU Brass Studios performed while Haroz offered comments and critique.

Division of Music presented 10th anniversary commemorative recital

As part of the 10th anniversary celebration for the Mary Shambarger Competition for Singers, a commemorative recital featuring nine former winners of the competition was presented on Feb. 26, 2008, in the McBeth Recital Hall of the Mabee Fine Arts Center on the OBU campus. At the completion of the recital, the winners of the 2008 competition were announced.

Performers included Kirt Tomas ('07); Christopher Straw, a current junior musical theatre major from Little Rock, Ark.; Jessica Gartman ('06); Joshua Payne ('99); Heather (Baker) Napier ('05); and Stephen Ray, a current vocal performance major from Sherwood, Ark.

The performers were accompa-

nied by voice faculty members Anne Beloncik, lecturer in music; Cindy Fuller, lecturer in music; and Mary Worthen, assistant professor of music.

Ouachita presented Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*

Ouachita Baptist University performed the well-known absurdist play *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett Feb. 21-24, 2008.

Directing the show was senior theatre arts major, Shelby Hibbs. Hibbs took a unique approach by casting *Godot* with an all-female ensemble. Members of the cast included: Samantha Parrish as Vladimir, a sophomore musical theatre major from Forney, Texas; Valerie Martinka as Estragon, a junior theatre major from Dallas, Texas; Amy York as Pozzo, a junior musical theatre major from Dora, Ala.; Lauren Godfrey as Lucky, a sophomore musical theatre major from Rockwall, Texas; and Krysteena Koiner as Boy, a sophomore musical theatre major from Weatherford, Texas.

Nicole Stuart named to TRIO Hall of Fame

Nicole Stuart of Prescott, Ark., was the recipient of the Academic Enrichment Center (AEC) 2007 TRIO Hall of Fame award. A banquet was held on Feb. 15 at Ouachita Baptist University's Walker Conference Center, where Stuart was recognized and had an opportunity to address the students about how significant the TRIO program had been to her.

Gary Benson, a retired NBA official and Ouachita graduate, spoke at this event. Nicole was also recognized at the State TRIO Day Celebration on Feb. 23 at Arkansas State University at Beebe.

Students produced Play Festival

Ouachita Baptist University's play directing class hosted its annual One Act Play Festival Dec. 6-7 in Verser Theater on OBU's campus.

Six plays were presented featuring more than 30 students in acting roles and six different directors. The class is taught by Dr. Scott Holsclaw, dean of the School of Fine Arts.

The six student directors are Jennifer Jorgenson, a senior theatre arts major from Parker, Colo.; Marcie Bealer, a junior theatre arts major from Branson, Mo.; Laura Medford, a senior musical theatre major from Brinkley, Ark.; Amy York, a senior musical theatre major from Dallas, Texas; Emily Nye, a senior English major from Royal, Ark.; and Shelby Hibbs, a senior theatre arts major from Little Rock, Ark.

Stephen Ray named national finalist in MET Auditions

Stephen Ray, a senior vocal performance major from Sherwood, Ark., was selected as one of nine grand finalists for the 2008 edition of the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions.

Ray competed along with 25 other regional finalists for the right to move into the grand finals and sing with the Metropolitan Opera orchestra under the baton of Maestro Stephen Lord. As a part of this distinction, Ray received the \$5,000 Ellie Caulkins Award for his efforts.



photo by Danny Brown

Ouachita Welcomes Two New Vice Presidents

Terry Griffin Peeples, former community relations director for Baptist Health Medical Center in North Little Rock, has been named Ouachita's new vice president for development. Peeples will be responsible for guiding all fund-raising efforts of the university and managing the work of the development office staff.

"I am thrilled to have Terry Griffin Peeples join our team as vice president for development," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "Terry's passion for Ouachita is matched only by her demonstrated professionalism over the past 20 years with Baptist Health. Her leadership ability and personal commitment will lead Ouachita to great accomplishments in this exciting time."

A 1983 graduate of Ouachita, Peeples has served Baptist Health for the past 20 years as community relations director, where she was responsible for business development, community outreach, 13 wellness centers, volunteer programs, physician relations, sales

direction, and guided many of the successful programs and services in place today.

"Terry Peeples is one of Arkansas' finest," said Russ Harrington, chief executive officer of Baptist Health, Inc. "She is bright, organized, loyal and a tireless leader. She knows how to complete a task and work with people at all levels within an organization." Harrington added, "She is a person who daily lives out her Christian commitment. She will be a wonderful addition to the OBU family."

Peeples led in the creation of two favorite ministries at Baptist Health: Heaven's Loft, an incentive program for underserved expectant mothers; and Operation Care, a weekend of giving to the homeless and underserved of Central Arkansas.

"It is important to me that my occupation be a true ministry," said Peeples. "The transition from the healing ministry of Baptist Health to the ministry of Christian education through Ouachita Baptist University is a new calling

that I have answered. I am extremely excited about returning to the mission assignment of Ouachita."



Peeples and her husband, Daryl, also a 1983 graduate of Ouachita, reside in North Little Rock with their son, Griffin Paul, a student at Central Arkansas Christian. The Peeples have been members of Immanuel Baptist Church for more than 21 years.

Trennis Henderson, former editor of the Kentucky Baptist Western Recorder, has been named Ouachita's new vice president for communications. Henderson, who has been editor of the Western Recorder since 1999, has served more than 25 years in Baptist journalism. He previously was editor of the Arkansas Baptist News and managing editor of the Missouri Word & Way.



"I am delighted that Trennis Henderson will be joining our administrative team

at Ouachita Baptist University," Ouachita President Rex Horne declared. "Trennis is well known in Arkansas and across the nation as an outstanding Christian journalist," he added. "He is a gifted writer and a highly respected spokesman on matters of faith, ethics and the Christian life."

Henderson "understands the value of the educational opportunities offered by Ouachita Baptist University," Horne emphasized. "As Vice President for Communications, he will play a pivotal role with the public, prospective students, families, churches and others who are interested in supporting our important mission.

"I have known Trennis for many years," the Ouachita president noted. "He is a man of integrity, Christian compassion and strong character. I look forward to working alongside him. We welcome Trennis and his wife, Pam, to Ouachita."

"Although we will miss Trennis," said Bill Mackey, Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director, "we commend him to the Ouachita Baptist University family that will benefit from his communication skills, churchmanship, humor and his passion for family, missions and

excellence."

Henderson, a 1983 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, also is a graduate of the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri.

A former national president of both the Association of State Baptist Papers and Baptist Communicators Association, he has served since 2000 as a member of the Baptist World Alliance communications committee.

Henderson has earned numerous journalism, photography, and design awards from Associated Church Press, Baptist Communicators Association and Evangelical Press Association. He is a 2006 recipient of the University of the Cumberlands Moral Leadership Award.

"It is always both exciting and challenging to seek and pursue God's will and timing as we move into a time of major transition," Henderson noted. "I welcome the prayers of fellow Baptists as my wife, Pam, and I seek to make a positive impact on the Ouachita campus in the years ahead." Their two daughters, Emily and Audrey, are students at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.



Congratulations, December grads!

Fifty-seven students graduated on Dec. 15, 2008. As pictured, **right to left: Row 1** – Rachel Folk (Irving, TX); Christian Dowling (Gainesville, TX); Audrey Grenier (Bryant, AR); Aubrey Rutland (Moscow, Russia); Katie Webb (Crossett, AR); Kimmie González (Richland Hills, TX) • **Row 2** – Kimberly Hulan (Gurdon, AR); Holly Crouch (Grapevine, TX); Ashley Walla (North Little Rock, AR); Angela Franklin (Arkadelphia, AR); Valerie Woodburn (St. Cloud, FL); Amanda Berry (Little Rock, AR); Stacy Callas (Banning, CA); Ashli Zumbahlen Messina (Olney, IL) • **Row 3** – Audra Bayird (Paragould, AR); Christy Gatzki (Midland, TX); Aaron Malcolm (Moss Bluff, LA); Zach Townsend (Broken Arrow, OK); C. Bryan Cortimilia (Garland, TX); Philip Hinkson (Benton, AR); Megan Brown (Spring Creek, NV); Kristin Cortimilia (Garland, TX); Ilena Hatton (Magny-les-Hameaux, France) • **Row 4** – Sara Beth Peavey (DeQueen, AR); Kara Rainey (Poplar Bluff, MO); Kody Gibson (Edmond, OK); Aaron Craton (Jacksonville, AR) • **Row 5** – Brock McCorkle (Hope, AR); Matt Lemmond (Richardson, TX); Sarah Thane (Texarkana, AR); Amy Tippet (Jonesboro, AR); Jaclyn Bates (Texarkana, TX); TaJuan Wilson (Bearden, AR); Grace Borgan (Cáceres, Spain); Lisa White (Memphis, TN) • **Row 6** – Adam Kirby (Mesquite, TX); Darrick Lowery (Murfreesboro, AR); Marcus Jones (Arkadelphia, AR); Tomas Jecminek (Hnevovice, Czech Republic); Joan Costa (Barcelona, Spain); Aaron Tapiwa Gwekwerere (Harare, Zimbabwe); Amanda Ozment (Warren, AR) • **Row 7** – Jesus Parra (Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela); Samuel Williams (Des Arc, AR); Patrick Dixon (Greenbrier, AR); LaMont Fitts (Carson, CA); Chance Bankhead (Boise, ID); Doug Bryant (Marion, AR) • **Row 8** – Peter Lewis (Amsterdam, MO); Craig Brockhan (Cypress, TX); Sean Ruggles (Arkadelphia, AR); Damon Harris (Sherwood, AR); Ross Ellis (Midlothian, TX); Chris Francis (Irving, TX); Dwayne Graves (Red Oak, TX).

Class of 2008 Mardi Gras Feast

On Fat Tuesday (Feb. 5), the alumni team hosted a Mardi Gras-themed dinner for the Class of 2008. Emceed by Class President Monica Wood, the festive event gave the seniors an opportunity to fellowship as a class while learning more about the alumni community they will soon join. **Mica Strother ('94)**, Director of Communications for Arkansas Governor Beebe, served as the speaker and shared humorous and heartfelt stories of her successful career path and the Ouachita friendships that have sustained her along the way. During the dinner, Dr. Rex Horne and Dean of Students Keldon Henley presented the prestigious Who's Who awards to the 2008 recipients. Entertainment included a senior slide show and music by "Clark and the Fax Machines," a funk band led by senior Clark Johnson.

New this year, the alumni and career development teams co-hosted Senior Career Roundtables immediately before the dinner. The roundtable discussions were led by alumni and included the topics "Personal Financial Planning," "Insurance Do's and Don'ts," "Professional Etiquette" and "Christianity in the Workplace." The discussions allowed the seniors to garner inside tips from successful professionals, ask questions and begin planning for their upcoming graduation and career. Special thanks to **Aaron Green ('03)**, **Cindy (Allison '91) McDill**, **Roger and Kadre (Clark '01) Wingfield** and **Kendal Land** for leading these interactive discussions.

class notes

- 1943 **Walter S. Mizell** and his wife **Mary Jo (Lile) Mizell** ('40) celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, December 26, 2007. The couple married December 26, 1942.
- 1950 **Preston A. Taylor** is pastor of First Baptist Church in Zapata, Texas. He has written a book entitled Ephesians: God's Eternal Glory published by Xulon publishers.
- 1951 **F. W. Turner** of Princeton held a book signing to promote publication of his new book, The People of Princeton, published by Publish America of Frederick, Md. Turner, 83, taught in the Watson Chapel School District for many years. He entered private enterprise to operate a television business at Pine Bluff before becoming a gentleman farmer and golf course owner and operator.
- 1952 **Robert H. Smith** (fs) and his wife Sue (Winston) Smith celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 26, 2008.
- 1955 **Dr. Bill Arrington**, who is retired from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at Ouachita on Friday, October 12, 2007. Arrington lettered in five sports nine times while at OBU from 1951-1955.
- James T. Dunnam, husband of **Betty Sue Dunnam** celebrated his 60th year in the ministry as a southern Baptist pastor. They spent 44 years in Florida in full-time pastorates, and the remaining in Mississippi. Upon retirement in 2001, he and Betty moved back to Mississippi where they continue to stay busy in church work with him in Interim Pastorates and doing supply preaching.
- 1958 **Dan Beason** retired from the Arkansas Department of Corrections in 1998 and is now serving a men's Sunday School class at FBC in Geyer Springs, Ark.
- 1959 **Gerald S. Perry** and his wife **Betty Ann (Holloway) Perry** ('59) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 20, 2007. The couple married on December 20, 1957.
- 1960 **Winston Bryant** recently moved back to Malvern, Ark., reopened his law practice, and was elected to the Constitutional Convention.
- Valinda Jones** retired in 1993 after teaching for 33 years. She received her master's degree in library media in 1980 and opened a library-media center at Southside Elementary in Cabot, Ark.
- 1962 **Bob Bacon** is retiring from being pastor of FBC, Carlsbad, NM after a 22 year pastorate. He and his wife Sandy are moving to Lubbock, Texas.
- 1964 **Carol Joy Young** will present 26 paintings in her first solo exhibition in Hot Springs Village, Ark. Carol retired to Hot Springs Village three years ago and had the opportunity to study at National Park Community College in Hot Springs.

- 1965 **Nelson Wilhelm** recently retired as Director of Missions for Concord Baptist Association in Fort Smith. He and his wife **Elaine** (fs '65) live in Fort Smith, Ark.

marriage

- Dr. Ed Coulter** married Lucretia Norris on November 23, 2007 at Anthony Chapel at Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. The couple resides in Mountain Home, Ark.
- 1968 **Virginia (Patterson) Miller**, of Hot Springs, has been recognized as the 2007 National Middle/Junior High School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counseling Association. Miller was one of eight national award winners honored at a special gala at the ASCA's annual conference in Denver, Colo., on June 25, 2007.
- 1969 **Johnnie Johnson** was inducted into the Ouachita Baptist University Sports Hall of Fame Friday, October 12, 2007. During his career at OBU he ran for 2,403 yards in two seasons, a total that still ranks him in the top 10 among OBU career leaders. His total of 27 rushing touchdowns is fourth on OBU's all-time list.
- Brenda Branscum Key** is a Reading Coach for Augusta Elementary. She is beginning her 28th year of teaching and looking forward to retirement to spend time with her two grandchildren, Keyton (3) and Margaret Addison (1).
- 1971 **Dr. K. Randel Everett**, who has headed a seminary and served as pastor of prominent churches in four states, is the nominee for the executive director position of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.
- 1972 **Dr. Patricia L. (Greene) Griffin** maintains a private practice in Clinical Psychology in Little Rock, Ark. She is also an Assistant Professor of Psychology with Philander Smith College in Little Rock.
- Ken Jerome** recently completed an intentional interim pastorate at First Church of Dardanelle, Ark. He is available for interim ministry.
- Alana (Ichter) Greenwich** and husband **Ron Greenwich** ('70) have been happily serving as missionaries in Florianopolis, Brazil for almost 24 years. They work for a social service ministry with the purpose of spreading the gospel and building churches.
- 1974 **Kathy Vining DeLone** was recently hired as the executive director of Arkansas Well Child READS.
- 1976 **Michael B. Pryor**, President and CEO of Lenders Title Company in Little Rock, Ark., has been elected to the Board of Governors for the American Land Title Association (ALTA). He will serve on the Board as President-Elect.
- Mark Baber** and **Janie (Hankins) Baber** have moved to Wynne, AR, where he is the new agency manager of Cross County Farm Bureau Insurance. Janie is in her 14th year of teaching journalism at Marion High School in Marion, Ark., but has added some public relations duties for the district to her job description.

class notes

1977 **Kevin and Sharon ('76) Wieser** recently moved to Bryant, Ark., where Kevin serves as Assistant Principal at the Little Rock Christian Academy. Sharon teaches math at Bryant Middle School. Their youngest daughter, **Jill** (fs '07) is attending UAMS pharmacy school and is married to **Derek Franklin** ('07). Daughter **Jamie** (fs '02) is a dental hygienist in Rogers and is married to **Kyle Cook** ('03) who works for Jim Lindsey Management. Jay, their oldest child, is a practicing attorney in Fort Worth, Texas, and his wife Beth is a medical doctor specializing in family practice.

1978 **Melody Wise** recently accepted a position as the Dean of Arts and Humanities at the University of Arkansas Community College in Hope.

Faron Rogers is serving as pastor of Immanuel Church of El Dorado, Ark., coming there from Second Baptist Church of Arkadelphia, Ark..

Art Horne joined the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences office of development and alumni affairs as executive director of development for UAMS colleges.

Tom Calhoon has announced that he is seeking the District 6 position on the Clark County Quorum Court. Calhoon is a longtime resident of Clark County and owns and operates, with his wife Nina, Pioneer Abstract and Title Co.

Jeff Teague of El Dorado, Ark., was recently elected to the board of trustees at Ouachita Baptist University. He will serve at three year term as one of 24 members of the university's governing board. Teague is the owner of Teague Auto Group of El Dorado.

1980 **Rockey E. Starnes** was appointed pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Searcy, Ark. Dr. Starnes' first Sunday at St. Paul's was November 18, 2007. He is a member of the Search Rotary Club and a board member of the Southwest Arkansas Domestic Violence Center.

Sue (Powers) Shults was recently featured in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's Tri-Lakes Edition for her leadership as the principal at Benton Middle School.

1983 **Beverly (Ward) Frederick** recently finished her doctorate. She and her husband Steven have four children and live in Fort Smith, Ark, where he is the minister of music and education at Southside Baptist Church. Their oldest son, Steven, is a marine, daughter Anna is a freshman at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Ben (10) and Abbi (9) are attending Euper Lane Elementary in Fort Smith.

Terry Griffin Peeples, community relations director for Baptist Health Medical Center in North Little Rock, Ark., has been named to serve as vice president for development at Ouachita Baptist University.

1984 **Mr. Gary L. Corker** organized the Messiah Project which included a choir of 80 and 25 members of the Military Band of Cubatão, São Paulo, who performed the first part of Handel's Messiah in the Municipal Theater of Santos, Brazil.

1985 **Julie (Benafield) Bowman**, State Insurance Commissioner, was re-elected vice chairman of the southeastern zone of National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

1986 **Paige E. Smith** lives in Virginia Beach, Va., where she is the Holiday and Housewares Buyer for Lillian Vernon Catalog.

1988 **Margaret (Tresler) Foushee** married Rusty Foushee, Ph.D., on April 1, 2006. The couple resides in Birmingham, Ala., where they are both employed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

1989 **Kecia (Stuart) Sandusky** and her husband Mike have recently moved back to Arkansas after 12 years of serving in collegiate ministry in Idaho. Mike was hired by the Arkansas State Baptist Convention as Baptist Collegiate Ministry director at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia. Kecia began homeschooling their three daughters, Jessica (9), Mikayla (7), and Rebecca (3).

Paul White is running for the newly created circuit judge position in Saline County, Ark. White has been an attorney for 15 years. In 2001 he established his law practice in Benton.

1990 **Justin Gilbert** was named a 2007 Tennessee Super Lawyer. He practices employment law at Gilbert & Russell PLC in Jackson, Tenn. He and his wife, **Lynda Otwell Gilbert** ('91) have three children and a baby due this summer. Lynda is Assistant General Counsel with West Tennessee Healthcare.

Greg Stroud and his wife **Allison (Finley '92)** and their two children, Alex (10) and Caroline (4) are moving back to Arkansas. Greg has accepted a position with Denso Manufacturing in Osceola. They plan to live in Marion.

1991 **Ron Selby** has resigned from the staff of Geyer Springs First Church of Little Rock, Ark., as associate minister of music.

Jeffrey D. Hall, an attorney at Christian Legal Service and ministry leader at First Baptist Church of Clinton, Ark., recently began broadcasting Clinton High School sports over the radio for KHPQ 92.1 FM and streaming live on the internet at www.khpq.com. He also serves as a volunteer and board member for Ozark Health Medical Center Foundation and Life Choices, Inc. Crisis Pregnancy Center.

1994 **Bryan K. Bolton** and his wife **Erin (Berry) Bolton** (fs '94) have moved to Pippa Passes, Ky., where Bryan accepted a position as assistant professor of music at Alice Lloyd College. Erin is a part-time K-6 music teacher at the June Buchanan School. They have two children, Kaitlyn Elizabeth (7) and Keith Andrew (1).

Jared "Jay" Ham joined the staff of First Church of Russellville, Ark., as minister of church recreation and outreach. He previously served as minister of youth and families.

Denver Peacock has been named president of the Arkansas Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for 2008. He is currently employed as director of public relations for Little Rock-based advertising agency, Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods.

class notes

1995 **Holly Rusher** graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2007 with an M.A. in Women's Studies.

1996 **Chris Williams** recently received his Masters degree in business from the University of Phoenix. Chris has accepted a position as defensive coordinator for the football team at St. Joseph Catholic School in Greenville, Miss.

Dorothy Jo (McCarty) Sherwood received her Masters of Arts in Christian Education from Southwestern Seminary in December 2006. She married Brian Sherwood on May 19, 2007. The couple resides in Fort Worth, Texas.

1997 **Ilya Gordeev** recently completed his certified Financial Manager and Managerial Accountant requirements.

Melody Bigler married Dan Brown in Frisco, Texas, on November 17, 2007. The couple resides in Dallas.

1998 **Bedford J. Otey** lives in St. Louis with his wife Robin and their 1-year-old daughter Makayla. He and his wife are considering planting a church (perhaps in the Boulder, Colo., area) or taking an existing church that is in need of renewal.

Dr. D. Scott Walsh and colleagues recently opened Saline Orthopedics in Benton. Though most of his time is spent practicing medicine in Benton, he travels to Malvern every Friday and performs some surgeries and other clinical duties. He also volunteers at the Sports Medical Clinic in Malvern.

Liz (Evan) Smith and her husband Tim are currently stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala., while Tim is in flight school. He is training to fly Black Hawk helicopters. Liz is a stay-at-home mom to their son Nathaniel (1).

1999 **Chris E. Martin** is running for District Attorney of Freestone County, Texas. He and his wife **Cari (Goble) Martin** ('97) welcomed their second child, Sydney, on May 22, 2007. She joins big brother Eli (3). Cari is in her seventh year as head band director at Teague High School.

Jennifer (Middleton) Tolbert and husband **John Tolbert** ('96) moved to Rockwall, Texas. John works for Winstead, a law firm downtown and Jenn stays home with Chandler (9), Mary Madison (8), and Wesley (4). They celebrated 10 years of marriage this past year.

2000 **J. Carl Weatherford** is serving as pastor of First Church of Crawfordsville, coming there from First Church of Marion, where he served as minister of recreation and middle school.

Mark Andrew Baber and his wife Susanne have moved to Russellville, AR, where he practices oral and maxillofacial surgery. Susanne is a dental hygienist. Mark completed his residency at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, Va., in June 2007.

2000 **Danielle Raney** married Stephen Tyler on December 29, 2007, at Parkway Hills Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. The couple resides in Plano.

2001 **Jennifer Lyn Greer** was recently named Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance and Internal Affairs at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Scott M. Edge just concluded his first year at his new company called SkyGate Studios. He has been self employed since 2004, and this is his second business endeavor. He has completed a film project called "Masterpiece." He premiered the film at a theatre in Little Rock in early December 2007. (see p.24)

2002 **Joanne Gorecki** is living and teaching in China. She plans to obtain an M.A. in Intercultural Studies and TESOL from Wheaton through correspondence classes.

Rachel M. Sykes is living in Nashville, Tenn., where, for the past two years, she has been working for Wynonna Inc. as Wynonna Judd's personal assistant and as the nanny for her two children.

Whitney L. (Baker) White and husband **Chris White** ('02) have lived in Little Rock for five years. Chris is a Graphic Designer for Crye-Leike Realtors and was recently promoted to Lead Graphic Designer. Whitney is enjoying staying home with their daughter, Alyssa (3).

Barrett Baber (FS) recently married Sarah Fisher on November 10, 2007, at Anthony Chapel in Garvin Gardens, Hot Springs, Ark. Barrett received his degree in communications from UCA in 2006 and works as a marketing account executive for Signal Media's 103.7 The Buzz sports radio station in Little Rock. Sarah received her jurist doctorate in 2007 from UALR Law School and is employed by the Law Firm of Gary Green and Associates.

Laura Elizabeth Norris married Brent Landon Haywood on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark. The couple resides in Cabot, where Laura is the communications specialist at Southwest Power Pool.

Kimberly Kern married Stephen Hamblin on Saturday, September 28, 2007, at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church. The couple will reside in Little Rock, Ark.

Sarah Allison Gore married Brad Daniel Rushing on Saturday, December 22, 2007, at Central Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark. The couple will reside in White Hall.

2003 **Kristen Porter Jackson** finished her Masters degree in Educational Administration at UALR in May 2007.

Erica (Kimbrough) Ederington works as a hairdresser and makeup artist at Above and Beyond Hair Studio in Benton, Ark.

class notes

2003 **Luke Wakefield** is in seminary at Golden Gate, working full time and volunteering with international students at SFSU. He and his wife **Becca (Weynand) Wakefield** ('02) live in San Francisco, Calif.

Samuel Brett Williams's play, "The Woodpecker" will be staged off Broadway in March and April of 2008. The play is set in Arkadelphia. Williams was selected the Best New Playwright in Arkansas in 2003 and was a finalist in the 2006 Tennessee Williams One-Act Play competition.



Two members of the 67th CTD (Detached Training Unit), [unknown first name] Christensen and John Collette during a short stint at Ouachita College during WWI (1943).

Tamara Lynn Rossworn married Barry Paul Holloway on December 1, 2007 in Windsong Performing Arts Center in North Little Rock, Ark. The couple will reside in Little Rock.

Abby (Harrell) Hulst married Kurt Hulst on March 10, 2007. The couple resides in Grand Rapids, Mich., where Abby teaches preschool and Kurt is working on his social work degree.

Sean David Lowery married Kimberly Jo Stewart on Saturday, October 6, 2007, at Marvin United Methodist Church in Tyler, Texas. The couple will reside in Tyler.

Laura A. Flethcer married **Ryan G. Spears** ('04) on November 10, 2007, at First Baptist Church in Nashville, Ark. Laura is employed as a speech pathologist with Pediatric Specialty Care in Benton, and Ryan is a graduate student at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Deanna Tacker married Landon Wallace on August 19, 2007 in Memphis, Tenn. Deanna and Landon reside in Memphis where she works at the Veterans Hospital as a home care dietitian and he is attending Southern College of Optometry.

marriages

2003 **Blake Paul Johnson** married Rosamond Ann Felton on Saturday, December 22, 2007, at First Baptist Church in El Dorado, Ark. The couple will reside in Birmingham, Ala.

marriages

Katie Turner (FS) married Bill Welsh on March 18, 2007. Katie and Bill live outside Kansas City, Kan.

2004 **Laura (Bryant) Keene** and her husband **Gary** ('03) have a one year old son named Jamie. Gary is now the Head Pastor at FBC in Calion, Ark.

Aaron Hood married Kat Farina on July 21, 2007. She is a graphic designer at a firm in Arlington, Texas, that deals with well-known national accounts. Aaron is currently working at Carmax. They live in Fort Worth with their pets, Lacey the dog and Sketch the cat. They enjoy Christ Chapel Bible Church.

Rebecca Jean Dawson married **Bryan Christopher Jones** ('04) Saturday, October 6, 2007, at Holland Chapel Baptist Church in Benton, Ark. The couple will reside in Benton.

marriages

Lacey Elizabeth Bufford (fs) married Matthew Jason Rail on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at Windsong Performing Arts Center in North Little Rock, Ark. The couple will reside in Little Rock.

2005 **Hunter W. Johnson** was promoted to senior vice president, trust officer, and chief financial officer of Warren Bank & Trust Co.

Michael Neathery was promoted to senior accountant by BKD LLP's Arkansas practice.

Kimberly A. Coates married **Grant L. Harrison** ('04) on Saturday, October 6, 2007, in the Junior League of Little Rock Building. The couple will reside in North Little Rock, Ark.

Jennifer Patton married Daniel Jason Merritt on June 2, 2007. Jennifer began teaching high school art at the Distance Learning Center in Maumelle, Ark. She is also currently working on a master of arts degree in teaching at the University of Central Arkansas. Jennifer and Daniel reside in Conway, Ark.

marriages

Kristy Newton married Gabe Freyaldenhoven on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at First Baptist Church in Russellville. Kristy is the fifth grade music teacher at Russellville Upper Elementary Fifth Grade. Gabe is a physical therapist at River Valley Therapy and Sports Medicine. The couple resides in Russellville.

2006 **Melanie (Jones) Benjamin** and husband **Wesley Benjamin** ('05) live in Texarkana, Texas, where Melanie is a Speech Therapist for an elementary school. Wes is a District Executive for the Boy Scouts.

Meredith L. Grooms is currently attending the Kanakuk Institute in Branson, Mo., as part of a year-long program to equip students for a lifetime of ministry. She is also pursuing a master's degree in youth and family ministries from John Brown University through the K-Institute.

class notes

2006 **Stephen Myers** is the video producer for Pine Cove Christian Camps near Tyler, Texas. He is responsible for the summer production, hiring the summer staff, and designing motion graphics.

Whitney Elizabeth Sharp married Shea Ryan Furr on Saturday, October 6, 2007, at Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs, Ark. The couple will reside in Maumelle.

Maggie Hambrice married Brandon Sheridan on December 1, 2007, in Magnolia, Ark. They reside in Oakland, Tenn., where Brandon is employed with United Agri Products as the West Tennessee and Northeast Mississippi Agronomist, and Maggie is a local substitute teacher.

Molly Katherine Head married Joseph Paul Utter on December 29, 2007, in Village Bible Church in Hot Springs Village, Ark. The couple resides in Little Rock.

marriages

2007 **Mykal Riley** (fs) is a senior forward on the basketball team at Alabama. He started 20 of Alabama's 32 games and averaged 12.6 points and 4.6 rebounds per game.

Josh Burk has published his first book entitled "Saint Nick." He published the book through Maven and is selling it through his website, www.vocabcafe.com. He has also written a second book for what he has labeled the Vocabcafe series.

Karmen Hutchins married Ryan Smith on May 25, 2007.

Stephanie Jean Craig (fs) married Daniel Troy Edwards on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at The Peabody in Little Rock, Ark. The couple will live in Little Rock.

Casi Nicole Langford (fs) married John Matthew Runnels on October 27, 2007, at Great Expectations in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. The couple resides in North Little Rock, Ark.

Derek Robert Franklin married **Jill Renee Wieser** (fs) on Saturday, December 22, 2007, at First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, Ark. The couple will reside in Bryant.

marriages



Pictured above are Jackson and Carlisle Land, children of Lauren and Kendal Land.



As you read through the Class Notes pages, you'll see a special section entitled "Future Tigers." As we learn about these new babies born to fellow alumni, a special infant t-shirt and welcome letter is sent to each future Tiger. Please let us know if you have a new addition in your family! We would love to see photos of your precious baby in their Ouachita tee and we will try to print as many of these as we can in upcoming issues of The Ouachita Circle.

Email birth announcements and photographs to alumni@obu.edu.



class notes: future tigers

- 1992 **Savannah (Dyer) Sorrels** and husband Brent, daughter Lily Kate Sorrels, May 17, 2007. Joins brothers Nathaniel (19 months) and Mason (12 months).
- 1993 **Tara (Holmes) McLaughlin** and husband Jeff, daughter Hailey Grace, August 16, 2007. Joins sisters Megan, Jenny, Amber, and Kristen. Tara is a stay-at-home mom and Jeff is an electrician with A-1 Electric in Springfield, Mo.
- Cassie (Elmore) Cathey** and husband **Greg** ('95), son Gregory Alexander, August 14, 2007. Joins sisters Addison (8), Ashlin (6), and Avery (4). Greg and Cassie are currently living in Bentonville, Ark.
- 1995 **Daytral LaSha (Rogers) Demmings** and husband Ernest, daughter Kyla Alaine Demmings, July 23, 2007. Kyla is their first child.
- 1996 **Daniel W. Funderburk** and wife Heather, son Thomas Byron Funderburk, September 6, 2007. Thomas is their first child.
- Cristina (Egelhoff) McNatt** and husband Jimmy, son Camden Scott McNatt, September 28, 2007. Joins big brother Grant (3 ½).
- 1997 **Jay Southerland** and wife **Stephanie (Turnage) Southerland** ('96), son Parker Joseph Southerland, November 28, 2006. Joins sister Addison (3).
- Kathy (Truax) Ellis** and husband **Jimmy** ('97), son Matthew David, January 28, 2007. Joins sister Kate (4).
- 1993 **Bryan Allen Dykes** and wife Dara welcomed their first child, Carys Brynna Dykes, on October 10, 2007.
- Kim (Pessel) Jones** and husband **Shea** ('98), son Tyler Mason Jones, September 20, 2007. Joins big brother Will (2). The family resides in Louisville, Ky.
- 1999 **Jennifer (McKissak) McGuirk** and husband **James "Jed" McGuirk** ('01), twins Malcolm Douglas and Naomi Diane, October 25, 2006. The family recently relocated to Shreveport, La., where Jed is a middle school social studies teacher and Jennifer is teaching part-time for the Caddo Parish School Board.
- Mark Manning** and wife Caron, daughter Katelyn "Kate" Elise, December 11, 2007. Joins brother Gray.
- 2000 **Lisa (Taylor) Snell** and husband Chris, twin daughters Emma Grace and Sarah Elisabeth, April 8, 2007.
- Jenifer (Pierson) Gordon** and husband **Dan** ('99), son Micah Pierce Gordon, September 26, 2007. Joins big brother Grant (3).
- Luke Hollingsworth** and wife **Chrissa (Mansfield) Hollingsworth** (fs '02), daughter Kenzie Kay, June 21, 2007. Joins sister Kaedyn Reece (3). Chrissa is a self-employed court reporter and Luke works for FedEx services Inside/Sales.

- 2001 **Kadre Clark Wingfield** and husband **Roger** (fs '95), son Clark Austin Wingfield, August 23, 2007.
- Dayle (Cosh) Carozza** and husband **Tony** ('03), daughter Karoline Taylor, October 11, 2007.
- 2002 **Jill (Fodge) Brannon** and husband **Brad** ('02), son Eli Michael Brannon, July 11, 2007. Brad is currently working at Windstream in Little Rock, Ark., and Jill is enjoying staying at home with Eli.
- William Samuel Myrick** and wife Kim, daughter Ada Love Myrick, August 16, 2007. Ada is their first child. The family resides in Austin, Texas, where Sam is a pastor at Mosaic Austin and Kim is a massage therapist.
- Kristen (Hall) McCrary** and husband **Mark** ('03), daughter Ella Michelle, December 27, 2007. Joins brother Evan.
- 2003 **Nancy (Patton) Whitten** and husband **Michael** (fs '01), daughter Addison Marie Whitten, August 20, 2007. Addison is their first child. Michael works in Rogers, Ark., as a Structural Engineer and Nancy works for Greenland Public Schools as a Speech-Language Pathologist.
- 2004 **Amy (Hulett) Gustke** and husband **Mark** ('04), son Caleb, September 6, 2007. The family live in Little Rock, Ark., where Amy is an RN in the NICU at UAMS and Mark is finishing his last year of medical school at UAMS.
- Michael A. Scott** and wife **Kristi (Lane)** ('04), son Andrew Lane Scott, November 8, 2007. Andrew is their first child.
- 2005 **Alicia (Blevins) McGlone** and husband **Chris** (fs '05), daughter Maggie Adeline McGlone, January 16, 2008. Joins brother Andrew.

class notes friends we'll miss

- 1933 **Rachel Aleene Burns King** (FS), December 19, 2007. Survived by three daughters; Shirley Hammes, Lynda Fontaine (husband, Charles), Carol Hartman (husband, Frank); 10 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.
- 1935 **Gene Hoover**, January 24, 2007. Preceded in death by first wife, Frances Hoover, and a son, James Edward Hoover. Survived by second wife, Juanita Kauffman Thorpe Hoover; two sons, John R. Hoover, and Dennis Hoover; and two daughters, Margaret Stone and Pamela Holden.
- 1937 **Virginia Onstead Tackett** (FS), January 14, 2008. Survived by two sons, Richard and Fred Tackett, and five grandchildren.
- 1938 **Maude Sue Johnson Doyle**, December 10, 2007. Preceded in death by husband, **Charles E. Doyle JR. ('39)**. Survived by four sons, Charles E. III, James, Williams and John; two daughters, Mary Sue Johnston and Elizabeth Williams; 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

class notes: friends we'll miss

- 1940 **Flave Joseph Carpenter, Sr.** (fs), October 15, 2007, Searcy. Preceded in death by wife, Salene (Nipper) Carpenter. Survived by three children, Diane McKenzie, Jan Davis, and Flave Carpenter, Jr.; sister, Carolyn Jane Berry; 14 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Truman Lollar**, December 11, 2006. Survived by wife, **Margaret** (fs '41); daughters, **Rachel Halaby** ('79), **Margaret Anderson** ('63), Emily Wilson, and **Trudy Pearson** ('74); eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.
- 1941 **Lowell Gibbs**, February 5, 2007.
- 1942 **Louise Burns Gibbs**, October 2, 2007.
- 1943 **Mary Ann (Heath) Ward**, November 19, 2007, Louisville, Ky. Survived by husband, **Wayne Ward** ('43); three children, Larry Wayne, Rebecca Ann Fulgham and David Heath Ward; and four grandchildren.
- 1944 **Helen Crawford Fisher**, December 16, 2007, Little Rock, Ark. Preceded in death by husband, Jim Fisher, and brother, John Crawford. Survived by her children, **Kay Buffington** (husband, **Ed**, both '70), Bob Fisher (wife, Judy), Linda Fulbright (husband, John); brother, Robert Crawford; two sisters, Betty Rea Huneycutt and Sammye Greer; and five grandchildren.
- 1946 **Betty (Tatum) Ponders**, October 1, 2007. Survived by husband, **John H. Ponders** (fs '46); son, **J. Michael** ('75) (wife, Debbie); daughters, **Robin Ponders Miller** ('76) (husband, Kenneth) and **Joanie Ponders Skinner** ('87) (husband, Michael); and five granddaughters.
- Clara Miller McCaskill** (fs), October 26, 2007, Arkadelphia, Ark. Preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Gladys Fite and Nan Lewis Hunter; and four brothers, Neill Strong McCaskill, Claude Pryor McCaskill, Joe Edward McCaskill and William Wesley McCaskill. Survived by three sisters, Mary Louise Scott, Charlotte Furqueron and Pauline Lee, and several nieces and nephews.
- Dorothy E. Tucker**, January 14, 2008, Clarksville, Ark. Survived by two daughters, Jean May (husband, Robert) and Jane Clark (husband, Tom); three grandchildren; six great grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Nelle Smith; and several nieces and nephews.
- Sam Phillips**, January 4, 2008. Survived by wife, Gloria Phillips, and children, Ginny Phillips Allen, Martha Mundell, and Catherine Phillips.
- 1947 **Willen Jagers Crain**, November 6, 2007, Wynne, Ark. Survived by husband, Dr. Vance Crain; daughters, Brenda Caldwell (husband, Ronald), Jeanne Owens (husband, Tommy), Lynn Tutor (husband, Tony), and Joy Crain; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Rev. W.T. Byrum**, January 18, 2008. Preceded in death by wife Marcella Byrum. Survived by sons, Don Byrum (wife, Phyllis) and Jim Byrum (wife, Carolyn); one daughter, Laura Sue Stewart; eight grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.
- 1947 **Eleanor B. Jones McMennis**, January 13, 2008. Survived by children, **James E. McMennis** ('70), **Robert C. McMennis** ('73) (wife, Kathy), **Deborah Jefcoate** ('75) (husband, Rex), and **Barbara Teaster-Hancock** ('80) (husband, Jackie); one sister, Margaret Wann-Jacobs (Nelson); and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.
- Mary Bob Hammons**, January 14, 2008, Forrest City, Ark. Survived by husband, Glenn R. Hammons; two daughters, Kathy Slater (husband, John) and Lynette Watts (husband, Michael); sister, Verna Woods (husband, Kyle); seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.
- 1948 **Charles Roy Sanders** (fs), March 29, 2003.
- 1949 **Barbara Ann Smith Sitzes** (fs), November 23, 2007. Survived by husband, **Dr. Lester Sitzes Jr.** (fs '50); sons, **Dr. Lester Sitzes III** ('76) (wife, Marilyn), **Dr. Donald Sitzes** ('80), and **Dr. David Sitzes** ('79) (wife, Rhonda).
- 1950 **W. Bryan Langley**, October 8, 2007. Preceded in death by brother, Lavelle Langley. Survived by wife, Margaret Pritchett Langley; a daughter, Susan Langley; and a grandson, Colby Langley.
- Lula Jo Peebles Graves**, September 28, 2007. Survived by husband, Arthur C. Graves, Jr.; children, Arthur C. Graves III, Robert C. Graves, and Robin Jo Tallant; brothers, Dr. Raymond Peebles and Dr. George Peebles; sisters, Gladys Davis and Sammie Nottingham; eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.
- Correction: Dr. Phil Sims**, March 2, 2007. He attended Moody Bible Institute for a year of special studies. He was Music Librarian of the distinguished Music Library of the School of Sacred Music, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Survived by wife, Muriel Evans Sims; sister, **Carolyn Sims Kenyan** ('50); and two daughters.
- 1952 **Sam Pace**, October 23, 2007. Survived by wife, Margaret; three sons, Sam, Alan, and Scott; one daughter, Lydia; 13 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.
- 1954 **George Edward Cooper**, September 6, 2006. Survived by wife, **Elizabeth (Hargis) Cooper** (fs '54); son, Mark Cooper (wife, Karen); daughters, Janet and Lisa; and three grandchildren.
- JoAnn Harvill Ramey**, December 7, 2007, San Antonio, Texas. Preceded in death by husband, Edward Rodney Ramey. Survived by sons, Edward Ramey (wife, Claudia), John Ramey (wife, Lisa) and Andrew Ramey (wife, Nur); daughter, Rebecca Peterson (husband, Carl); five granddaughters; four grandsons and 17 nieces and nephews.
- 1956 **Julia Beth Downtain Bouldien**, September 12, 2007. Survived by husband, Dr. George Bouldien.
- Douglas Duane James**, January 18, 2008, Conway, Ark. Survived by wife, Rosemary (Pistole) James; daughters, Jan Wiley (husband, Darrell) and Dede Bryant (husband, Donald); and four grandchildren.

class notes: friends we'll miss

- 1960 **Rev. Walter J. Gilbreath**, September 28, 2007, Dumas, Ark. Survived by wife, Mary Gilbreath; children, Rev. Paul Gilbreath, John Gilbreath, Ann McGough, and Glenda Edwards; nine grandchildren; and one great grandchild.
- James Wiley Burleson**, January 5, 2008, Benton, Ark. Survived by wife, Shirley DuVall Burleson; children, Jim Burleson (wife, Darla), Marcy Talley (husband, John) and Christy Oliver (husband, Mike); two brothers, Robbie and Warren Burleson; and several grandchildren.
- 1961 **Ann Booker**, January 20, 2008. Survived by husband, Dale Booker; two daughters, Dana Burnett (husband, Ron) and Tonya Cox (husband, Grant); one brother, Wayne Couch; one sister, Debbie Muse; and nine grandchildren.
- 1963 **Oscar Joseph Burnett**, January 21, 2008, Benton, Ark. Survived by wife, Mary Jo Burnett; one son, Joseph Graves Burnett (wife, Ziao Qing); two daughters, Carolyn Wells (husband, David) and Kathi Somers (husband, Larry); one brother, William M. Burnett (wife, Nancy); one sister, Annabelle Powers; five grandchildren; six great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.
- 1965 **Clarence E. Rowe**, January 24, 2008. Survived by wife, Kay Rowe; children, Michael, Lynn Russell, Cheryl Howard; and six grandchildren.
- 1966 **Jessie Hice Bratton** (fs), October 29, 2007, Fort Smith, Ark. Survived by husband, **Clayburn C. Bratton** ('67); two daughters, Vicki Winkle (husband, Wayne) and Luann Williams (husband, Miles); four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.
- Dale Courtland Merritt**, November 17, 2007. Survived by wife, **Velma Jean Merritt** ('66); son, David C. Merritt (wife, Teresa); two daughters, Rebekah Hope Cranfield (husband, Dale) and Elizabeth Joy Merritt; brother, Richard Merritt, and five grandchildren.
- 1967 **Patti L. Pruitt** (fs), October 5, 2007. Survived by husband, Ron Pruitt; two daughters, Julie Eavenson (husband, Rick) and Neely Pruitt, mother, Helen Aclin; sister, Dana Pesnell; brother, Clinton Aclin; mother-in-law, Doris Pruitt; and two grandchildren.
- 1970 **Nolan Lee Putman**, November 24, 2007. Survived by wife, **Betty (Dafford) Putman** ('68); daughter, Dr. Vicky Putman; son, Robert Putman (wife, Rebecca); sisters, Irvaleen Harrison (husband, Junior), Wanda Dickson, and Marieda Sharp; and three grandchildren.
- 1972 **Anne Patton Coppenger**, November 23, 2007, Little Rock, Ark. Survived by father, Dr. Raymond A. Coppenger; brother, **Dr. Mark Thomas Coppenger** ('70) (wife, Sharon); her sister, **Susan Payne Coppenger Akin** ('75) (husband, Mike); and five nieces and nephews.
- 1974 **Paulo C. Barbosa**, November 26, 2007, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.
- 1978 **Willard D. Hughes**, December 16, 2007, Lewisburg, Tenn. Survived by wife, Sheila Shinn Hughes; son, Christopher Wayne Hughes; father- and mother-in-law, Milton and Arcielle Shinn; four sisters, Jeanette Burroughs, Margaret Hilderbrand (husband, Phil), Angelee Fisher, and Doris Richardson (husband, Mike); two brothers, Danny Hughes and Arnold Hughes (wife, Sherry), his father and one grandchild.
- 1981 **Lauren Lynn Duke Green Malone**, December 21, 2007. Survived by husband, Chris Malone; children, Will Green, Kyle Malone, Garrett Malone, Kasey Malone, Kaitlin Malone, and Karley Malone; parents, Bruce and Judy Duke; and brother, David Duke.
- 1983 **Barbara Lynn Byrd White**, January 16, 2008, Beebe, Ark. Survived by husband, John White; one daughter, Deborah White; two sisters, Betty Rye (husband, Eugene) and Patsy Brannon (husband, Vernon); mother-in-law, Mary White; and one granddaughter.
- 1988 **Paula Jan Edwards**, October 11, 2007, Dover, Ark. Survived by husband, John Edwards; son, John C. Edwards (wife, Meredith); daughter, Jan Peoples (husband, Brent); brother, Billy Jack Reynolds (wife, Kathy); two sisters, Gail Pendleton (husband, Rusty) and Cindy Innis (husband, Donnie); four step-sisters, Shelley Dixon, Connie Wells, Doris Wright, and Laurie Pilgreen; and four grandchildren.
- 2003 **Shannon Allen White** (fs), January 15, 2008. Survived by husband, **Michael White** ('03).

notes:faculty, staff and friends

Dr. William Viser ('70), associate professor of Christian ministries, was invited to speak at the Arkansas Baptist Children and Family Ministry Department retreat on Oct. 3-5, 2007, at Shepherd of the Ozarks.

Dr. Caroline Taylor, professor of music, was invited to perform at the 2007 Conference of the College Music Society held Nov. 15-18 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was also selected to participate in the College Music Society's Community Engagement program at Brighton Gardens Retirement Center in Salt Lake City.

Dr. Mike Reynolds, associate professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, made two presentations at the 35th annual Association for Experiential Education International Conference in Little Rock, Ark.: "Using the Climbing Wall to Extend Your Reach" and "Technology Usage in Outdoor Recreation."

Paul Bass, director of campus activities from 1990-2007, coach for the debate program from 2001-2007 and adjunct professor of Christian ministries and speech communications, was named a Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Fellow by the Oklahoma State University School of International Studies for his biography of Dr. Bennett, who was a 1907 graduate of Ouachita. Bass is currently the pastor of Anchor Baptist Church in Donaldson, Ark.

Kristin Grant, instructor of music, **Heather Bynum**, adjunct instructor of music and acting associate director of alumni affairs, **Lee Parham**, visiting instructor of music, and **Glenda Aldridge**, staff accompanist and adjunct instructor of music, were featured in a faculty recital on Jan. 29.

Dr. Caroline Taylor, professor of saxophone and double reeds, was invited to present at the 6th annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities on Jan. 11-14 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Taylor presented her research on building synthesis skills in the college applied music studio, as well as her continuing research on "comparative study of alto saxophone reeds through spectral and subjective analyses."

Dr. Raouf Halaby, professor of visual arts and English, was invited to exhibit 15 sculptures in the 17th annual Flower and Garden Show at the Little Rock Convention Center.

Dr. Barbara Pemberton, associate professor of Christian missions, had her article "Islam" published in The Apologetics Study Bible, which was released by Broadman and Holman in 2007.

Dr. Terry G. Carter, W.O. Vaught professor of Christian ministries, contributed his article "Preaching Biblical Sermons: God's Word for God's World" to The Minister's Manual, which was edited by Dr. Lee McGlone and published by Josey Bass in 2008.

Dr. David Ozmun, professor of communications and public relations associate, produced a documentary film, in collaboration with the Clark County Historical Society, titled Visit Historic Arkadelphia, which will be televised on the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) at 6:30 p.m. on March 27, 2008.

faculty, staff and friends we'll miss

Henry Earl Casey, retired professor of military science from 1971-1977, passed away August 29, 2007. He is survived by his wife Betty Casey, daughter Carrie Davis ('84 husband, Kevin), daughter-in-law Denise Purdy, three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.



As part of her work with Ouachita's Center for Education and Public Policy, **Dr. Terri Hardy** led an education forum at Forrest City Community College on Jan. 27 at the Forrest City Civic Center. The forum, primarily targeting high school students and their parents, included a panel discussion and question and answer session with figures involved in local and state education as well as college recruiters.

FROM THE FORMER STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

BY DOUG WEST (73), FSA PRESIDENT

As OBU Alumni, many of us have our own story about what Ouachita means to us. This was never more evident to me than recently when there was an Alumni Advisory Board Meeting the same day as a Tiger Friday.

The Advisory Board conducted its business, and then adjourned to lunch with a group of prospective students and their parents. Near the end of lunch, each Advisory Board member was asked to share their OBU story with the group. As alumni from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s each shared their story, I was struck by a commonality among the alumni regardless of their age, or the year each graduated. The common thread was that Ouachita is so

meaningful to each person who spoke.

The meaning varied a little from person to person. For some, personal relationships made their OBU experience meaningful. For others, the education they received made their OBU experience meaningful. Regardless of the reason, everyone expressed how meaningful it was to attend Ouachita and receive an education from a Christ-centered university.

My personal story has many aspects. One aspect is a story of legacy. My mother and several uncles are OBU graduates. Several other close family members are also graduates. One of my sons is a 2005 OBU graduate. My story also includes meeting my wife

of nearly 36 years while at OBU. It includes developing life-long friendships with social club "brothers" and others in my major area of study, and of course it includes a quality education in a Christian atmosphere.

What is your story? What could you share with prospective students and their parents to make them aware of how meaningful Ouachita is to you? What could you tell someone to encourage them to attend OBU? We all have our own OBU story. Share your story and your love for OBU with others. Encourage prospective students to attend Ouachita. They deserve an opportunity to develop their own OBU story to share with others in the future.

BARON BRINGS WILDLIFE AWARENESS

Some students may have been confused to hear the howls of wolves coming from McBeth Recital Hall on February 21. The reason for the ruckus was the Birkett-Williams lecturer, Shauna Baron.

Baron, resident instructor at the Yellowstone Association Institute (YAI), came to campus to deliver a lecture on a major experiment in conservational biology that has been underway for more than 10 years: the wolf recovery program in the Yellowstone ecosystem. She shared a brief history of the wolf and its place in North American history, explained the execution and effects of the recovery program, and discussed hopes for the wolf's future in North America.

Baron began working with the wolf program in 1996, a year after its inception. The program was designed to reintroduce wolves into Yellowstone in order to return stability to the

park's ecosystem, which had been unbalanced since the disappearance of the last Yellowstone wolf in 1926. Baron explained that bringing a large predator into the park has far-reaching effects from the strength of the beaver population to the quantity of wetlands in the park.

"Wolves have restored the biodiversity to Yellowstone once again," Baron said, "We have an intact ecosystem once again," Baron said.

Baron was invited to speak thanks largely to Dr. Joe Nix, professor emeritus of chemistry, who took the Winter Wolf class taught by Baron at YAI. Nix said, "I think one of the purposes of these lectures is to try to bring ideas to the campus which might not be covered in regular classes. And I think Shauna's presentation did just that."

Nix said that the audience responded well to Baron's informal style. "Shauna is an energetic and knowledgeable person. Her method of speaking is one which is easy to follow and is entertaining," he noted. "I

think people appreciate someone speaking at a level which they can understand even though they do not have a lot of knowledge in the area.

"Nature is composed of a system of relationships among many parts of the environment," Nix added. "For many years ecologists have taught that diversity makes any ecosystem more stable. The real beauty of this is that we are also a part of such a system. There is much to learn from watching others."



photo by Danny Brown

sports...in brief

It has been an excellent sports season at Ouachita Baptist University this past year, but there is always room for improvement.

In the fall, the football team went 4-6 and earned numerous postseason honors. The men's soccer team fell short of making it to the Gulf South Conference (GSC), while the women's soccer team exceeded expectations, reaching the Gulf South Conference Tournament semifinals. A trip to Tampa, Fla., awaited the women's soccer team, and they reached the NCAA Division II second round before being knocked out of the tournament by the eventual champion, Tampa University.

The volleyball team made some strides along the way. After starting the year with a struggling record, Ouachita Baptist bounced back and earned the final spot in the Gulf South Conference West Division to qualify for the conference tournament. A first-round exit ended the Lady Tigers' season.

The women's cross country team placed seventh in the Gulf South Conference Meet and finished 13th at the regional meet. Hannah Howard was honored as the GSC Runner of the Week on Oct. 13.

The winter brought added excitement to campus as the men's basketball team opened the season at Division I powerhouse Texas A&M in College Station, Texas. Despite opening the year with a loss to the then-ranked No. 15 Aggies, Ouachita Baptist bounced back and found themselves sharing the Gulf South Conference West Division title for

the first time in 30 years. Despite a heartbreaking two-point overtime loss in the quarterfinals of the GSC tournament, the Tigers earned their first trip to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

The women's basketball team started out struggling due to youth and inexperience, and found themselves in a rebuilding year.

Jim Dann has done an excellent job with the Ouachita Baptist swimming programs. The men finished second in the conference meet, while the women were third. There are 20 swimmers headed to Columbia, Mo., for the national meet.

The spring has started out great for the ranked Ouachita Baptist baseball team. A year removed from going 50-10 and hosting an NCAA Regional, the Tigers continue to be ranked in the Top 5 in Division II, and head coach Scott Norwood expects this group of young men to continue to lead by example with hopes of hosting yet another NCAA Regional. The softball squad started slowly, but anticipates being more competitive in March.

The men's and women's tennis teams are finally back on the court and excitement is building with the outstanding job done by Craig Ward and his men's tennis squad, which is ranked No. 9 in Division II. The women's team is young, but they are expected to challenge in the Gulf South Conference.

Postseason honors and weekly awards also have been significant as several sports have had numerous individual accolades.

In football, Willie Hopson earned Gulf South Conference Player of the Week honors on Sept. 10 and was named to the

All-Gulf South Conference first team, one of many awards for the senior running back. The accolades kept coming for Hopson, who was named honorable mention to the All-America team. He also was selected Daktronics All-Southeast Region First Team, NCAA Division II All-Southeast Region First Team by the Don Hansen Football Gazette and played in the Valero Cactus Bowl in Kingsville, Texas.

Julius Pruitt was also named to the All-GSC First-Team offense.

Craig McFarlin earned Specialist of the Week honors on Nov. 12 and was selected to the All-GSC Second Team. McFarlin was also named to the All-Southeast Region Third team. Zack Wright was named to the All-Gulf South Conference Second Team as well.

Defensively, Cliff Gardner, Channing Hill and Antwon Thompson all earned second-team honors.

Women's soccer not only went to a regional tournament, but also earned numerous accolades along the way.

Sarah Reed started this off by being named the GSC Defender of the Week on Sept. 4 and Joyce Hansen followed a week later by being named the GSC Player of the Week. Taylor Jordan twice earned the GSC Defender of the Week on Sept. 18 and Oct. 9.

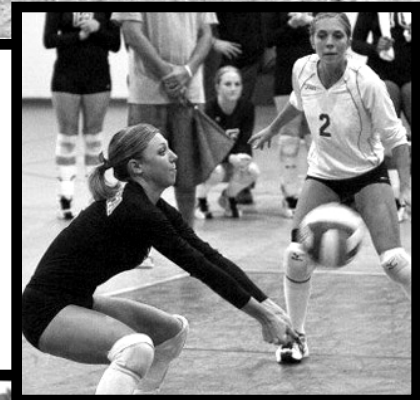
Reed and Hansen were named to the All-GSC First Team, while Jordan and Katie Swope were selected to the second team. Hansen and Reed, along with Lauren Pierce, were named to the All-South Region squad. Reed rounded out the honors by being named third team All-American.

In men's soccer, Kale Kammer became the first Ouachita Baptist men's soccer player to record a GSC honor as he earned Defender of the Week honors on Oct. 9. David Reyes captured the coveted GSC Freshman of the Year honors and also was named to the All-South Region Second Team.

Becky Cunningham captured the Gulf South Conference West Division Defender of the Week twice in volleyball, winning the awards Sept. 11 and Oct. 23. Breanne Garrett was named the GSC West Division Player of the Week on Oct. 2. She also was the lone volleyball player from Ouachita Baptist selected to the All-GSC squad. Garrett rounded out the accolades by being named to the All-South Central Region Second team.

One of the biggest successes of the athletic programs came when 50 student-athletes were selected to the Fall All-Academic Honor Roll in the Gulf South Conference. From men's soccer: Reid Adkins, David Cook, Ross Ellis, Chris Francis, Kellen Hamrah, Micah Johnson, Kale Kammer, Jake Maxwell, Barry McCaskill, Neal Ozmun, David Reyes, David Suderman, Kyle Sun, John Mark Tohlen and Aaron West. From football: Bryan Church, Eli Cranor, Chad Emmons, Alex Hargis, Brady King, Chris McAlpine, Brant Simpkins, Daniel Walker-Rice, Jesse Ward and Zach Wright. From volleyball: Stephanie Carrell, Brettney Cheatham, Becky Cunningham, Breanne Garrett, Cynthia Gonzalez, Kaitlyn Mitcham, Lindsey Pry, Bekah Stuart and Lauren Stuart. From women's soccer: Melissa Denman,

all photos by Wesley Kluck



Bethany Ebbert-Spears, Alicia Marshall, Jessica McNulty, Lauren Pierce, Kelsey Quitugua, Whitney Schellhammer, Katie Swope and Kimi Wright. From cross-country: Danielle Pickle, Hannah Howard, Brittany Norton, Aubrey Rutland,

Jessica Terrill, Hannah Wagley and Logan Whitlow.

Zach Wright and Lauren Pierce were named to the All-Academic teams in their respective sports.

• by Brian Howard

Answering the **Call**

In September of 2007, orthopedic surgeon **Trey Mitchell ('95)** traveled 9,000 miles to Bagram, Afghanistan. Upon his arrival, he emailed his wife, *"I think that I am going to like this time. I am really excited about the chance to do surgery and help folks here."* Trey's words gave **Julie (Shambarger '94)** renewed confidence that her husband's military deployment was a true opportunity to serve and that God was present and active throughout the journey.

While in Bagram, Trey served the U.S. Air Force at the Craig Joint Theatre Hospital, the top trauma center in Afghanistan. As one of only two orthopedists, his duties included taking care of both active duty personnel and civilians. Nearly 85% of all surgeries there are orthopedic in nature and most are the result of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and bomb attacks.

In just four months, Trey saw nearly 500 patients, most often local Afghans and nearly all male. Trey commented, "Afghanistan is a third world country. The women have virtually no rights and are rarely treated when injured."

During his deployment, Trey was able to call home daily and visit with family via emails and web cam. Julie often shared stories about their three young children, including a special pep-talk from their six-year-old son: *"Nick said the sweetest thing today. He said, 'Momma, since Daddy is in Afghanistan right now, why don't I take his place while he is gone."*



"I am really excited about the chance to do surgery and help folks here."

- Trey Mitchell

I will do everything Daddy does except for going to work."

Trey also communicated regularly with **Tom Phelan ('96)**, who plans to use his skills as a dentist to serve in the Middle East this fall. The opportunity to share with a fellow Christian and Ouachita alumnus gave Trey much encouragement. Trey said, "The military is a real cross-section of America and faith is not the priority it was during my days at Ouachita.

A Christian mentor or supporter would mean so much to fellow alumni serving in the military."

The Mitchells said the spouses and families left at home also need prayer and affirmation. When asked how the Ouachita circle can support military families, Julie said, "Pray for peace and perseverance for these families. That is what God gave me while Trey was deployed – a peace in knowing that I could do anything that came my way."

She shared an email written to a friend: *"On so many occasions, the Lord proved that He is in control. Originally, Trey had orders to go to Iraq. One evening, Trey and I stayed up talking about his deployment until 1:15 a.m. Trey sounded so concerned and down. You have to know Trey – he is never down. His cup is always half-full and looking for refilling! I continued to pray silently while Trey was sleeping. I felt so burdened by Trey going to Iraq and asked God to intervene if this deployment to Iraq was not in accordance with His will. The next morning, within 20 minutes of waking, Trey called me and said, 'I just received word that my orders have been changed from Balad, Iraq, to Bagram, Afghanistan.'*

"Amazing! Did I want Trey in Afghanistan? NO! But did God clearly tell me, 'You are praying. I am listening. I am in control of Trey.'

"YES! Do I now have peace, knowing that we are in God's will, God is in control, and He loves Trey even more than I? YES!"

Trey is currently serving at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. He will join the Collom & Carney Clinic in Texarkana in the coming months, marking an anticipated move home for the Mitchell family. • by Lauren Land



tornado RELIEF



photos courtesy of Union University

Fierce storms swept through Arkansas on Feb. 5, carrying with them life-changing tornados. Many people's lives were forever changed by those tornados, their homes were destroyed and many wondered if life would ever be normal again. Some, however, were impacted not because they were directly affected by the tornado, but because they were called upon in a time of need to lend a helping and hopeful hand.

"Beyond the typical commiseration, the people of the area have joined in virtually every aspect of rescue, recovery and rebuilding," said **Blake Langston**, a **1998** graduate of Ouachita Baptist University who is the pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church and Norfolk United Methodist Church in Cotter, Arkansas. When the tornados struck, his church was ready to step up to the plate. As the churches closest to the disaster, the American Red Cross and

local authorities requested their assistance, and they willingly accepted the challenge. Within 48 hours the churches had become the principal organizer of volunteer efforts, and had formulated both short and long term plans for the relief of those in the surrounding areas. The churches aided in both rescue and recovery, primarily assisting those affected by the storm by providing food, shelter and medical care. "We became the information-communications center, the volunteer coordination center, and in many ways, the locus of local aid for the community," Langston explained.

In addition to providing hot meals and shelter for the victims, the churches have been offering 24/7 access to nonperishable food, clothing, cleaning supplies and toiletries. "One of the most important points to reiterate is that this process takes a considerable amount of time," Langston noted. "Our message to the community is that since we are a part of this community, we will be intimately involved, not just present, in every aspect of its recovery. That lesson I learned during the recovery and rebuilding efforts following the tornado in Arkadelphia." The church members have done their best to provide accurate and up-to-date information for the victims concerning the relief effort, and are now instituting the long-term rebuilding plan that addresses the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the community.

Other members of the Ouachita community have pitched in to help with the much-needed relief effort. **Ken Sandifer**, a **1949** graduate of Ouachita and member of the Ouachita faculty for 35

years, and wife, Lucille, are volunteers with the Red River Association Disaster Relief Team and went to Atkins, Ark., shortly after the tornados. They were there for three days, and spent the majority of their time cooking the food the Red Cross supplied to help feed the volunteers and victims. They have been disaster relief volunteers for two years, but this is the first disaster they have been sent out on. "It was very rewarding, very spiritual," Sandifer said. "You met a lot of folks and a lot of people in need... We kind of had a feeling for what those people were going through," he said, reflecting on memories from when tornados swept through Arkadelphia. "It's just a privilege to be able to do this at this stage in our life, and we feel like it's a real spiritual uplifting in our life to be able to go do this."



photo by Stephen Jones

Current students at Ouachita have also played an important role in the relief effort. Groups of students have gone out to the areas that were hit hard by the storms and served with willing hearts, sharing hope in a time of hurt. Andrew Yates was one of 13 students who contributed to the relief efforts in Clinton, Ark. He said, "It was really cool because it was a way for me to act out what the bible says about serving him through serving others."

While these tornados were tragic, they have unified not only communities, but believers everywhere. "Being that we neither requested a tornado, nor could we avoid its disastrous winds," Langston said, "this event has provided us with the opportunity to share the Gospel and the love of God in a way that we would otherwise be unable."

• by Hannah King

Union Relief Efforts

Ouachita President **Rex Horne** led efforts at OBU to collect donations from university faculty and staff members. The relief initiative resulted in Horne mailing 200 Wal-Mart gift cards to Union President David Dockery for distribution to students as they replace items damaged or destroyed by the storm.

Jim Veneman ('75) is a member of the Union University faculty as instructor of communication arts and director of visual communications. He and his wife **Carol ('78)** were directly affected by the tornados that hit Union.

OUACHITA FACULTY profile

Danny Hays

Dean, Pruet School of Christian Studies

Danny Hays joined the Ouachita faculty in 1992. He has taught Old Testament, Hebrew, Biblical Exegesis and Ethics, and held the Elma Cobb Endowed Chair of Bible. He also teaches the CORE course Interpreting the Bible, for which he co-authored the textbook, *Grasping God's Word*.

In 2007, Dr. Hays became dean of the Chesley and Elizabeth Pruet School of Christian Studies.

An "Air Force brat," Danny calls New Mexico home. He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from New Mexico State University. His theological education includes a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Old Testament with a minor in Ethics.

Danny and his wife, Donna, also served as International Mission Board missionaries to Ethiopia. They have a son and daughter. Both Hannah and J.D. are Ouachita graduates.

His theological education includes a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Old Testament with a minor in ethics.



A message to alumni from Danny Hays...

"I look forward to seeing many of the Christian Studies/Religion alumni at two upcoming Christian Studies alumni banquets.

"On April 4 at 7:00 p.m. we will have an alumni banquet at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock, and on April 11 at 7:00 p.m. we will have an alumni banquet at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas.

"Tickets are \$5.00 at the door, but please call to let us know you are coming. (Call Mrs. Tracey Knight, 870-245-5599)."

CALLING ALL GOLD TIGERS!

All Gold Tigers (graduates of 50 years or more)
are invited to return to campus for the annual festivities on

**Friday, April 18th in the
Walker Conference Center.**

The Class of 1958 will be inducted into the Gold Tigers circle during the luncheon and will enjoy a special reunion on Thursday evening.

For more information, please contact Lauren Land at (870) 245-5111 or by e-mail at landl@obu.edu. Online registration is available at www.obualumni.org.

OUACHITA STAFF PROFILE

Lauren Land

Acting Director of Alumni Affairs

Lauren Land joined the staff of the Ouachita Alumni Office in July of 2006 and became Acting Director of Alumni Affairs in 2007.

She moved to Arkadelphia in 2006 from Kentucky when her husband, Kendal, was called to serve as pastor of Arkadelphia's First Presbyterian Church. In Kentucky, Lauren worked as operations manager for the Shaker Museum at South Union.

Lauren is a native of Hattiesburg, Miss., and a graduate of Louisiana State University. She met Kendal at LSU through mutual friends. Kendal was already familiar with the Arkadelphia area. While growing up in Shreveport, he spent summers from childhood through college years attending Camp of the Pines at Lake DeGray.

Lauren and Kendal became parents on June 17, 2007, when son Jackson and daughter Carlisle joined the Ouachita family.



Lauren on the Ouachita Online Community...

"The Ouachita Online Community is a secure web site *for alumni, by alumni* designed to build upon existing friendships and spark new connections. The current features include personal web pages, a searchable alumni directory and event registration. This spring, we will introduce the Career Center that will allow alumni to post current résumés, search for jobs and network with other alumni in a variety of fields. Get plugged in!"

Register today at www.obualumni.org

Save the Date

OUACHITA SHOWCASE & RECEPTION
GRAND FAMILY CHURCH, FT. SMITH, AR
FRIDAY, MARCH 28

GOLD TIGERS
FRIDAY, APRIL 18

SPRING COMMENCEMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 10

HOMECOMING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

BATTLE OF THE RAVINE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

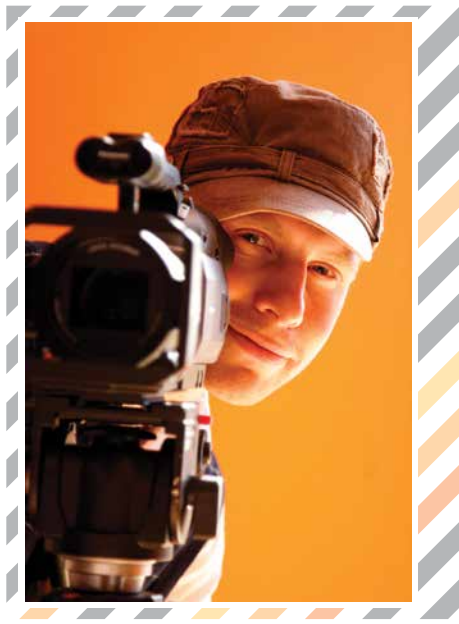
Living a Dream

As a child, Scott Edge spent his summers seeking to imitate special effects from his favorite movies with the family camcorder. This fascination with film turned into a passion that took him to his current role as creative director and producer of SkyGate Studios in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"I was on a Tim Burton kick back then," said Edge, a 2001 graduate of Ouachita, "and really noted how he would make the camera 'fly' around. I would mimic his shots. His were better of course! I would also make cartoons with the camera. I would draw each cell and try filming them one frame at a time."

While his love for film had not subsided by the time he reached Ouachita, his passion for working in the film industry had. Edge began his college career unsure of his future. "The next school year, I'll never forget coming back to OBU a week early for the fall semester of 1998. I met with Dr. (David) Ozmun to look at the communications department," Edge said. "When he opened the door to the studio, it absolutely changed my life! I walked in and saw the sets, the light grids, the cameras, the monitors and all the gear. I was so excited! Right then, all the passion and love for film flooded back to me! I was reconnected with that inner eight-year-old boy, and I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Nine years later, that dream came true when Edge founded SkyGate Studios in January of 2007. Prior to that launch, Edge had been working at a broadcasting company and also at another company he had founded, EDGEstar Industries. At EDGEstar he produced everything from highlight reels for student athletes to music videos for local bands to biographies for senior citizens. In 2004, he left his job at the broadcasting company to become self-employed full-time, launching yet another production company with a business partner. For the next two years Edge expanded both his companies and his experiences at



EDGEstar before turning to SkyGate.

"As we expanded, I found myself really craving to go beyond client work to do original work," Edge explained. "I desired to make films and TV shows. My partner was feeling like going in a different direction as well, so we had a graceful parting and thus, SkyGate Studios was born!"

SkyGate Studios is an assembly of producers, writers, editors and artists whose motto is, "The skies are no limit..." Everyone who works at the studio also has a full-time job outside of SkyGate, but believes enough in the company to contribute to Edge's vision. While EDGEstar clientele currently provides them with enough projects to pay the bills, Edge has even bigger dreams for SkyGate. In 2008, he plans to launch a series of shows that will be broadcast on TV, the Internet and iTunes. Also, Edge said, "I've initiated a business strategy designed to position SkyGate as a creative presence in the feature film industry within five years. So in five years, whether it's doing movie trailers, titles or pre-visualizing or posting a film, we're going to be involved!"

Edge's goal is for SkyGate to write, produce and post two short films a year. When Edge established SkyGate, he said he needed a challenging short film that would help kick start the production company. This challenge became "Masterpiece," a short film inspired by Edge's friend John Page that tells the story of a potter who is summoned to bring his best piece of pottery before the Master Potter. During his journey to the Master Potter, he discovers how flawed his piece is, and is embarrassed to show it to the Master. However, the Master Potter takes the flawed pottery and makes it a masterpiece. The short film communicates the message of God perfecting human flaws.

"In one sitting, I drew and edited 90% of the storyboard," Edge said. "It was the perfect film for SkyGate to do because it pushed all the barriers of short film. It was a period piece. It required not one, but two massive sets, its own costumes, a location shoot and some very innovative production tricks. Aside from all that, it was a story that grips you from the start and delivers a powerful punch at the end. Perhaps not the greatest story ever told, but it was a story that needed to be told. That sense of purpose just added to the resolve of the crew. It was personal on so many levels."

For Scott Edge, the skies really are no limit. For a child who was fascinated with the minutiae of movies to the college student who was awestruck at the sight of Ouachita's studio, his success is due in large part to his curiosity, dedication and opportunities. "Since graduating from the university," Edge said, "my experiences and opportunities have compounded exponentially. I'm very thankful for the knowledgeable instructors and opportunities I had while a student at OBU. They granted me a stable platform from which to launch a striving career."

For more information about SkyGate Studios, visit skygatestudios.com, and to watch the short film Masterpiece, visit www.masterpieceDVD.com.

• by Hannah King

OUACHITA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

A DIVISION OF THE DANIEL R. GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



Costa Rica August 1-8, 2008

On this tour we will visit Poas Volcano National Park, the LaPaz Waterfall including a huge butterfly garden, a hummingbird garden and an orchid garden with some 800 varieties found in Costa Rica. We will see the Selva Verde Tropical Gardens, the rain forest of Torguguero National Park, the Baldi Hot Springs, Arenal Volcano, a banana plantation, a Quaker village, Monteverde (known for its cheese-making), and the Pacific Beaches. Costa Rica is one of the world's richest countries in flora and fauna (especially birds). We should be there at the time the five species of sea turtles are visible as they perform their nesting habits. There are over 30 rain forest canopy tours in CR where you will see birds, butterflies, plants, flowers and all kinds of monkeys in their aerial habitat.

The Holy Land & Greece

(Co-hosted by President Rex Horne)

March 19-28, 2009

This tour will begin in Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We will travel north to Mt. Hermon & Caesarea Philippi, then through the Golan Heights past Gadara and Capernaum and on to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus. There we will visit a living museum showing an authentic first century village. We will visit Sepphoris, traditional home of Mary, and stop at the River Jordan. Bet She'an is Israel's largest active archeological dig, and after spending some time there, we will climb Mt. Carmel. We will see the ruins of Megiddo, and then to Herod, the Great's city of Caesarea. In and near Jerusalem, we will visit the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Mt. Zion, and end the day at Bethlehem. We will see the current Parliament building and the Shrine of the Book Museum where the Dead Sea Scrolls are on exhibit. We will walk through the Old City, visit the Western Wall and the Davidson Center. We will travel past Jericho and stop at the Mount of Temptation; then to Qumran and on to Masada (a UNESCO World Heritage site). We will end our Jerusalem visit with an inspiring service at Gordon's Calvary and the Garden Tomb. We will fly to Athens and tour the city, including a visit to the Parthenon and Mars Hill, then travel on to Corinth, Paul's beloved city. We will end our Grecian visit with a tour of Mycenae, Greece's most important archaeological site.



Egypt & the Nile Cruise • April 4-16 • Sorry, this tour is already filled

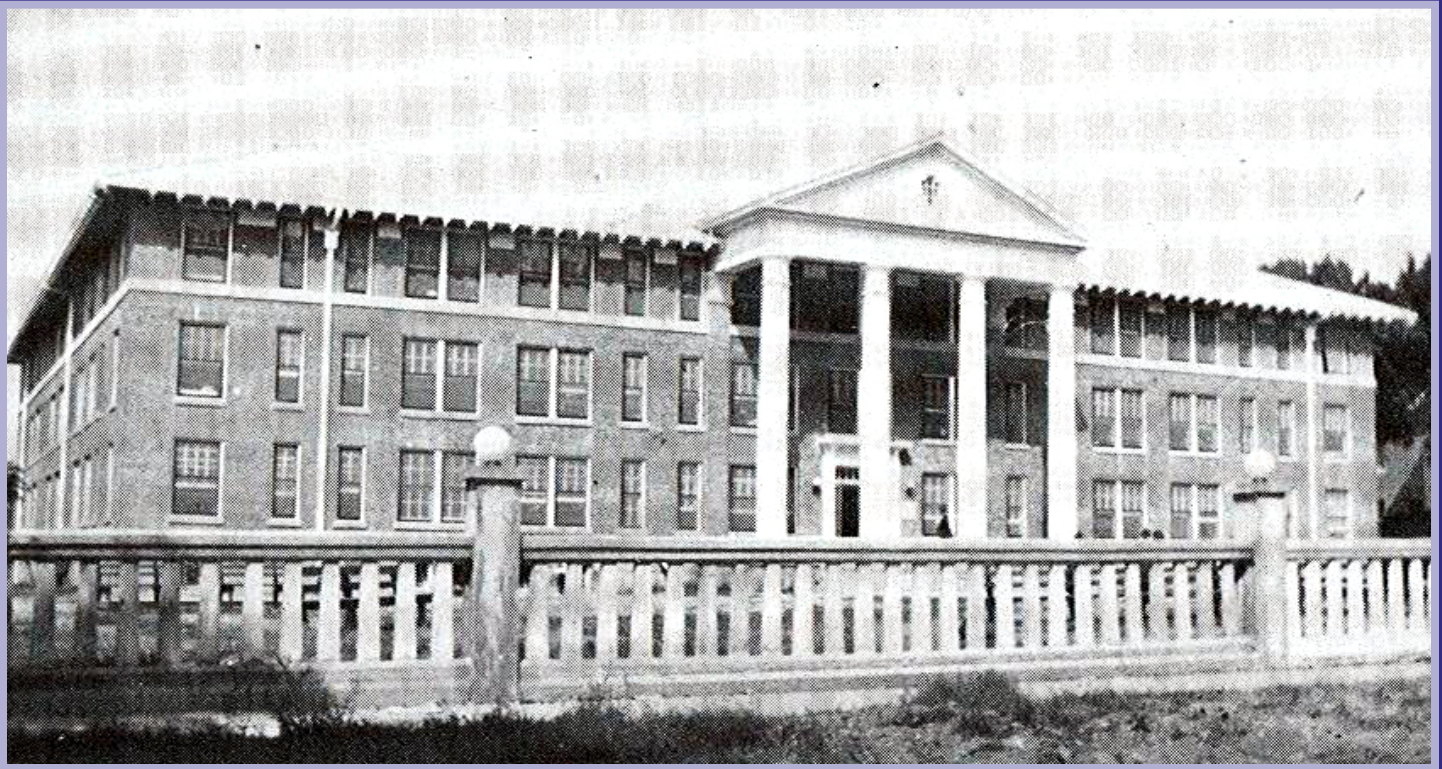
Other Tours for 2009: Indonesia (tentative) • Iceland and Scandinavia
• The Annual China Tour (Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Guilin, Xian and Beijing) • Ireland

ALL TOURS WILL BE HOSTED BY BILL DIXON, EMERITUS VP FOR STUDENT SERVICES.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES: CONE-BOTTOMS, CA. 1950



This image of Cone-Bottoms Hall is from the photography archives created during the 1970s. Although the date of the photo is not known, it predates early 1954 when the stucco fence that lined the sidewalk along Ouachita Street had been removed and a row of trees was planted along the sidewalk immediately in front of Cone-Bottoms, the old President's Home and the J. R. Grant Memorial Administration Building.

On May 10, Cone-Bottoms Hall will become the focal point of a new tradition at Ouachita when Spring Commencement exercises are conducted on the lawn in front of Ouachita's oldest remaining structure.



The Ouachita Circle
Ouachita Baptist University
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001

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