

Summer 2008

The Ouachita Circle Summer 2008

Ouachita Baptist University

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University, Ouachita Baptist, "The Ouachita Circle Summer 2008" (2008). *Alumni Magazine*. Book 3.
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SUMMER '08

THE OUAUCHITTA CIRCLE



College World Series
Building for the Future



WORD FROM OUACHITA

Proverbs 29:18 in the King James Version reads, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Many of you have heard this verse referenced in many lessons and sermons. I have used it more than a few times myself through the years. I have found that vision is important in all areas: the church, family, business and at Ouachita.

Vision is defined as the act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be. This is not far from the usage of the biblical word which speaks of sight or revelation. People need a vision, something to anticipate. One of my joys is to cast and communicate a vision for Ouachita.

Reality is something that constitutes an actual thing. There comes a time that we need to be able to touch with our hand what we have seen in our mind or spoken with our tongue. I have been seeing and speaking about the grand construction projects here on campus. I am pleased to report that soon you will not only hear the story, but be able to see steel. Our new entry is well underway. Bonds have been sold, the contractor selected and our student housing project has begun.

Brick and mortar are the easiest “actual things” to see. There is more to our vision than these vital structures. It is not as easily measured as the cost of a construction project or the number of students housed on campus. The impact, however, goes beyond the life expectancy of an institution or individual. I am writing of the worth and influence of the students, faculty and staff here. These committed people will actually influence eternity. That, as the commercial reminds us, is priceless.

We have a great mix of outstanding, long-serving men and women here. We also have a significant number of new faculty and staff who will add an outlook, gifts and experience that will enhance our vision. Our commitment remains to excellence in academics and to our faith.

Without vision, people disperse or even perish. The vision of Ouachita is worthy of your participation. We do need your prayers and financial support. We want to recruit young men and women from your family, church, schools and communities. Send us their names.

I hope you will plan to visit campus soon. There is much to see. We are fortunate at Ouachita to live with a vision while also seeing part of it become reality. We will wait until the end to see all of the impact of the Ouachita family

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex Horne". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rex M. Horne, Jr.

the
**Ouachita
Circle**

Summer 2008

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The Ouachita Circle is a publication of

Ouachita Baptist University

OBU Box 3762

Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001

Vice President for Communications/

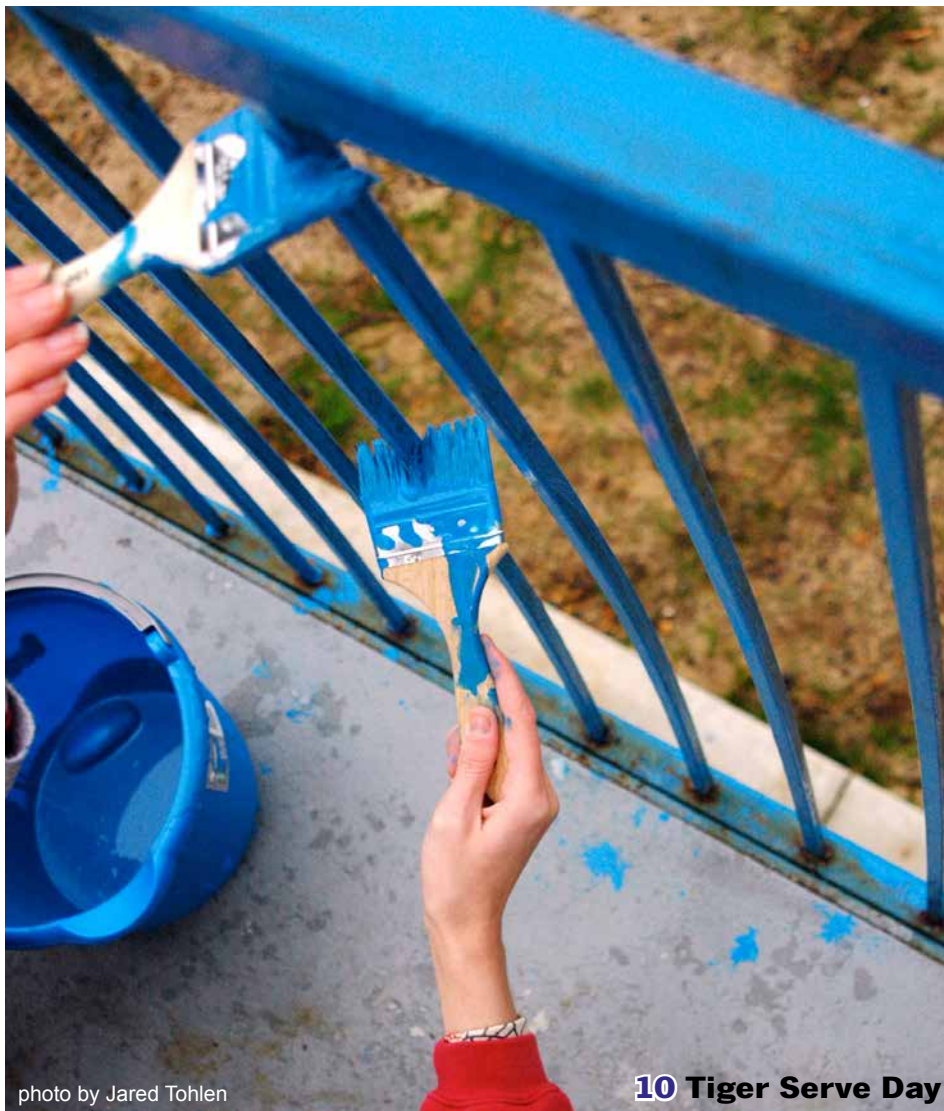
Editor • Trennis Henderson

Graphic Designers

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Printed by Twin City Printing and Litho, Inc.



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Cone-Bottoms Commencement

Ouachita honors 196 graduates amid new campus tradition

By Hannah King
OBU Class of 2008

Light rain during the opening moments of Ouachita Baptist University's 2008 spring commencement failed to put a damper on the university's first outdoor commencement ceremony in recent years.

Reestablishing a campus tradition with a new twist, university officials held the May 10 ceremony on the lawn in front of historic Cone-Bottoms Hall. A reception in the campus' central plaza area immediately after the ceremony capped the day of celebration for the 196 graduates.

"Those involved in the ceremony have been working very hard and are excited about the change and the new traditions that will start with this commencement," Judy Jones, Ouachita's registrar and director of admissions, noted prior to the ceremony. "How special that the grads will all walk down the 'senior sidewalk' as they approach the commencement



ceremony."

Ouachita President Rex M. Horne, Jr., proposed the new tradition after attending an outdoor graduation ceremony elsewhere. The lawn of Cone-Bottoms was chosen because it could provide all of the guests a good view of the ceremony and because it is considered one of the most beautiful areas of campus.

"I am excited about this year's class beginning a new tradition with graduation being held in front of Cone-Bottoms," Dr. Horne reflected. He said the ceremony was "enhanced by the beauty of the campus and by being in the center of our academic buildings."

Delivering the commencement address, Dr. Horne told the graduates, "You are difference makers. You are winners. You are prepared for the next step in your life."

Acknowledging that "today is tinged with emotion," he said, "There is a measure of sadness because you are leaving friends and professors; you

are leaving a place that has become a second home to you. But I hope more than that, you feel a sense of accomplishment and anticipation for what the future holds.

"Your family, your professors and you yourself have high hopes and daring dreams," he declared. "God applauds this and has even greater plans for you."

Integrity, service, vision

Citing Ouachita's commitment to integrity, service and vision highlighted on the university seal prominently displayed on a banner draped between the columns of Cone-Bottoms, Dr. Horne emphasized that while such words "are beautiful on the fabric of that banner, they are more beautiful when they are imprinted and ingrained in the very being of your life. Be a person of integrity, service and vision."

While many of the graduates may not know what that next step in life will be, many of them agreed they are leaving Ouachita prepared for wherever God leads them.

"The biggest lesson I learned during my time at Ouachita was that with passion you can do anything,"

noted Tyler Ellis, a middle school education major from Allen, Texas, who was named Ouachita's 2008 Senior Outstanding Man by university faculty.

"I watched many of my professors exemplify a life filled with passion for their subject," Ellis said. "I know that if I can simply follow my passions, I can be a fulfilled person. Ouachita has prepared me to be a person centered on loving God and His creation. I know that because I was educated at OBU, no matter what I do or where I live, as long as I love God and His creation I can fulfill my purpose."



Difference makers for life

President Horne encouraged each graduate to continue living the life of a difference maker, emphasizing that the education they have received is a blessing.

"True learning is more than [learning] from textbooks and late night cramming," agreed Corey Wallis, a psychology major from McKinney, Texas, who was named Senior Outstanding Woman. "It is the result of willful and intrinsically motivated introspection and the investigation of books, people, ideas, yourself and most importantly, the world."

"Ouachita is more than just an education, it is a community," said Will Smethers, a Christian studies, philosophy and history major from Hot Springs. Smethers read the Scripture passage for the ceremony, an honor reserved for the graduating senior in the Pruet School of Christian Studies with the highest overall grade point average.

"The people of Ouachita become your family," Smethers reflected. "They adopt you and integrate you into their lives. This includes the professors. What does Ouachita mean to me? People."

Concluding his commencement address, Dr. Horne said, "Graduates, you are forever bound to Ouachita. I exhort you to represent your alma mater and Almighty God in a worthy, honorable way. ... We commit to you our undying support, our prayers and our pride in you. Congratulations to the class of 2008."

Among the spring graduates, 86 students were recognized for exemplary academic achievement, including 14 who graduated summa cum laude, 32 who graduated magna cum laude and 40 who earned cum laude honors.



WORLD SERIES CONTENDERS

Tigers set OBU record with 51-win season

Putting together a historic run at the end of the season, the Ouachita Tigers baseball team concluded the 2008 season as national championship runners-up in the NCAA Division II College World Series. The team also won the South Central Regional Tournament to advance to the World Series.

The Tigers ended the season with a 51-16 record, posting the most wins in school history. The championship game also marked the final game for head coach Scott Norwood, who accepted a similar position at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Norwood, who has an overall record of 289-140, concluded his four years at Ouachita with a 158-77 mark.

Reflecting on the past season, Norwood said, "What a great run these kids have given me and themselves. We are proud of them and proud of how far they came and what they've accomplished."

New head coach named

Chris Modellmog was named to replace Norwood, according to David Sharp, Ouachita's director of athletics. Modellmog, 36, previously coached at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.

Modellmog "brings a very strong background in recruiting," Sharp noted. "He will also bring a very aggressive style in the way he coaches the game. Also he has a good record of recruiting quality young men with the aspiration to attain a college degree."

The World Series "was a great experience and exposure for the entire university. It was just outstanding," Sharp emphasized. "It brought a great amount of pride from the standpoint of an institution of our size being able to compete for a national championship."

Among the outstanding performances during the postseason was the pitching of senior ace Steve Smith of Texar-



kana, Ark., who was named the World Series Most Valuable Player. Smith, who posted a 10-1 season record with a 2.00 ERA, struck out 14 batters in the regional tournament final to help earn Ouachita's World Series berth. He also went 1-0 in two World Series appearances.

Smith, who recorded 143 strikeouts this season and 313 for his four-year career, also was named Honorable Mention All-American, All-Gulf South Conference First Team, All-South Central Region Tournament Team and Daktronics All-South Central Region First Team.

One of Smith's biggest moments came a few weeks after the series when he was drafted by the Cleveland Indians, making him the second-ever Ouachita baseball player to be drafted by Major League Baseball. Randy Lamb was the first Ouachita player drafted in 1976.

Reflecting on the World Series experience, Smith noted, "Every year we start, out that's our

goal – to make it to where we made it to. To be able to play for a national title, we were very humbled and very fortunate to be there.

"It was a great year and it was great the way the team stayed together. That was really the key to our success," Smith added. "We really went out and played like we had something to prove."

Describing his selection as World Series MVP as "a complete shock," Smith said, "It caught me off guard, to be completely honest." He quickly added, however, that "I would give up the MVP any day of the week to win the championship. But it was a great honor."

Smith drafted by Indians

In addition to his outstanding year and baseball career at Ouachita, Smith said being drafted by the Cleveland Indians is "a dream come true."

"To be able to have an opportunity to do something that you love makes the job that much sweeter," he declared. "I didn't know what was going to happen after the season. It was one of those things left up in the air. God was in control and I knew if I had thrown my last pitch during the World Series, I was okay with that, even though I still wanted to play. It's a relief and a blessing when hard work like that pays off."

Several other Tigers players also earned a number of honors for their play. Ouachita players joining Smith on the World Series All-Tournament Team were Destan Makonnen, Justin Pennell and Jim Streicher. Makonnen and Pennell also were named to the All-South Central Region Second Team.

Makonnen, who played first base for Ouachita, signed to played baseball for the Kalamazoo Kings in the Frontier League. Batting .338 for the Tigers, he had 75 hits, including a Gulf South Conference leading 22 home runs. He also was named the All-GSC Co-West Division Player of the Year.



Swimmers earn Top 10 finishes in Dann's final season

By Brian Howard

OBU Sports Information Director

Ouachita's 2007-2008 swimming season featured Top 10 finishes for both the TigerSharks and the Lady TigerSharks.

The end of another successful season also marked the retirement of longtime head coach Jim Dann. During Dann's 27 seasons as head coach, he guided the men's team to 18 Top 10 finishes, including three Top 4 finishes. On the women's side, he led the Lady TigerSharks to four Top 10 finishes.

David Sharp, Ouachita's director of athletics, affirmed Dann's coaching and recruiting skills "not just this past season, but over his 27-year coaching career" at Ouachita.

"The quality of athletes he brought to the institution and their ability to compete at such a high level over a long period of time is a tribute to him and his coaching," Sharp added.

The TigerSharks and Lady TigerSharks had a remarkable run throughout Coach Dann's final season which featured several highlights, including knocking off rival Henderson State



University twice.

Rachel Watson and Nelson Silva grabbed National Collegiate Swimmer of the Week honors after the first meet with Henderson State as Watson won the 200 Free and the 100 Fly. Silva won the 200 Back and 200 Fly and placed second in the 500 Free.

Ouachita achieved an impressive double victory on Nov. 2 by both teams capturing first at the Hendrix Classic. Both teams also took their talents to the NSISC Championships as the TigerSharks placed second behind Missouri S&T, while the Lady TigerSharks were third, behind Truman State and Delta State.

Radu Badalac earned top honors, including National Collegiate Swimmer of the Week by College-Swimming.com and NSISC Swimmer of the Year.

At the NCAA Division II National Championships, the Ouachita men placed fourth, while the women were ninth.

Silva raced to first in the 200 Back with a time of 1:47.31. Badalac placed second in the 100 Free in 44.47 and Vincente Condorelli was 16th in the 1,650 Free in 16:07.78. In the 400 Free

Relay, the team of James Riddle, Ryan Rundle, Hal Eubanks and John Mark McLain were 12th in 3:05.00.

Sarah Watson captured the top spot in the 200 Back with a time of 1:59.39. The 400 Free Relay team of Rachel Watson, Sarah Watson, Trina May and Lauren Vickroy placed seventh in 3:29.22.

"We had a very successful season," Coach Dann noted. "We started out so strong and seemed to get better with each meet. I am proud of how our swimmers responded to the long and hard season."

Dann, who began coaching at Ouachita in 1981, has produced 17 individual national champions and three Olympians, including two who won gold medals. Despite retiring from coaching, Dann will remain at Ouachita as an assistant professor of kinesiology.

Assistant coach Ryan Killackey will take over Ouachita's swim program. Killackey, who is a graduate of Ouachita, brings a wealth of experience to OBU's already talented swim program.

Tennis team gains Top 10 national ranking

2008 was another successful year for the Ouachita Baptist men's tennis team as it continued its dominance in the Gulf South Conference and finished the season with a Top 10 national ranking.

The Tigers, who won their seventh consecutive Gulf South Conference West Division crown, opened the GSC tournament with back-to-back 5-0 victories over West Alabama and North Alabama. But Ouachita fell just short in the championship, bowing out to No. 2 Valdosta State, 5-3.

Despite the setback in the title match, Ouachita reached the NCAA Division II National Championships in Pensacola, Fla. The Tigers defeated Tuskegee 5-0 in the opening round, but their season came to an end in the second round with a 5-2 loss to No. 3 West Florida.

"I felt like we had a very good season," Tigers Coach Craig Ward said. "Playing in the Gulf South Confer-

ence gives us plenty of good competition and gets us tournament ready. We had a good run and played several top schools competitively."

Ondrej Vana, who was named the Gulf South Conference West Division Player of the Year, wrapped up the season ranked eighth in singles play and fourth in doubles. Vana, Till Heilshorn Jan Plewinski and Jakub Smid were named to the All-Gulf South Conference First Team. Plewinski also earned the Gulf South Conference Freshman of the Year honors.

Vana also was named to the All-Gulf South Conference Spring Academic Team. Smid, Vagen Akapian and Adam Hurst were selected for the All-GSC Academic Honor Roll.

The final ranking was released with the Tigers finishing ninth in the nation. Ouachita was one of three Gulf South Conference schools in the Top 10.

Tiger Football Schedule

Sat., Sept. 6	vs. FORT LEWIS
12 noon	A.U. WILLIAMS FIELD
Sat., Sept. 13	vs. WEST GEORGIA
7 p.m.	A.U. WILLIAMS FIELD
Sat., Sept. 20	vs. VALDOSTA STATE
6 p.m.	Valdosta, Ga.
Sat., Sept. 27	vs. DELTA STATE
3 p.m.	Cleveland, Miss.
Sat., Oct. 4	vs. ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO
1:30 p.m.	A.U. WILLIAMS FIELD
Sat., Oct. 11	vs. HARDING
6 p.m.	Searcy, Ark.
Sat., Oct. 18	vs. SOUTHERN ARKANSAS*
1:30 p.m.	A.U. WILLIAMS FIELD
Sat., Oct. 25	vs. SOUTHWEST BAPTIST
1:30 p.m.	Bolivar, Mo.
Sat., Nov. 1	vs. WEST ALABAMA**
1:30 p.m.	A.U. WILLIAMS FIELD
Thurs., Nov. 6	vs. HENDERSON STATE
7 p.m.	Arkadelphia, Ark.

* Homecoming game
** Hall of Fame game

McKinney named dean of OBU business school

By Trennis Henderson

Vice President for Communications

Bryan McKinney, who began serving June 1 as dean of Ouachita Baptist University's Frank D. Hickingbotham School of Business, is clear about his motivation in his new role.

"My focus will be the students," he declared. "As an undergraduate-only institution, we have the luxury of focusing exclusively on our students. I am convinced that our best students can compete with anybody so it will be my pleasure to invest in them."

McKinney, who has served at his alma mater since 1997, is an associate professor of business law and former chair of the department of business administration. A 1993 graduate of Ouachita, he also holds a juris doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Ouachita President Rex M. Horne Jr. noted that during the search for a new dean, McKinney "revealed to

everybody that he is ready for the role." Affirming McKinney's leadership skills, Horne added, "One of the things he brings to the position is a real desire to make a difference in this role."



McKinney succeeds Dr. Phil Rice who served 15 years as dean of OBU's business school. Noting that Rice has agreed to teach a full load of courses in the coming year, McKinney said he is "very excited to have the opportunity to have accessibility to his wisdom and insight in the issues I will face as dean."

Echoing McKinney's perspective, Horne emphasized that Rice "was the right man at the right time" as he led the business school to gain accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and guided the school's "signature event of building Hickingbotham Hall," a state-of-the-art business school facility completed in 2006.

Looking to the future, McKinney remarked, "I think I am very much a university-focused guy. I want to see

the university increase.

"The school of business has so much support," he added. "It is such a great opportunity with a brand-new facility. ... We have a wonderful faculty and tremendous students. We've got friends and alumni out there who are eager to help us."

"I love the intersection of Ouachita as a liberal arts university with the combination of liberal arts, faith and business," McKinney emphasized. He said his goals include "trying to develop students into grads who are servant-minded, problem solvers and big picture individuals."

McKinney, 37, is a member of the American Bar Association and the National Association of College and University Attorneys. He also has made presentations to such groups as the Association of Southern Baptist College and Schools and the Arkansas Academic and Research Network.

McKinney is married to the former Leigh Anne Spivey, also a Ouachita graduate. They are the parents of Colson, age 5, and Mason, 3.

School of Social Sciences named in honor of Sutton

The name of William H. "Buddy" Sutton, a prominent Little Rock attorney, has long been associated with Ouachita Baptist University. Recent action by Ouachita's board of trustees makes that connection official.

Trustees voted June 12 to name the university's School of Social Sciences in Sutton's honor. Adopting a resolution that declares Sutton "has demonstrated consistent and generous support for Ouachita ... and has readily lent his name, reputation and influence to strengthen the standing of the university," board members voted to "authorize the naming of the W.H. Sutton School of Social Sciences in his honor, with sincere appreciation for the life and service of their dear friend and colleague."

Sutton, who served 10 years as chairman of Ouachita's trustee board, also is a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He served in private practice for more than 45 years with the Arkansas law firm of Friday, Eldredge & Clark until his retirement in 2005. He also is a longtime member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock where he has served for decades as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

"Buddy is a rare individual who brings a blessing to whatever he touches and whatever he is part of," emphasized Ouachita President Rex M. Horne Jr.

Horne said the trustees' decision to link Sutton's name

with the School of Social Sciences will allow Ouachita "to continue to benefit from the influence and character Buddy has now and for generations to come."

Hal Bass, dean of the W.H. Sutton School of Social Sciences, enthusiastically affirmed the board's decision.

"Nothing is more precious than a good name and I can't think of a better name than Buddy Sutton," Bass said. "It conveys professionalism, decency, integrity - all the things we want to exude as a school."

"What we want to do in the social sciences is emphasize learning beyond the classroom; the world is our lab," he added. "The Sutton name will give us entrees for various settings beyond the classroom into the broader world."

Acknowledging that the honor "is a humbling event in my life because of the love and respect that I have for Ouachita," Sutton said he is deeply committed to Ouachita's mission of providing students "a solid and excellent education in the Christian environment that is so important to family life and Christian life."

In addition to honoring Sutton's life and work, Horne said the school's new name will "help strengthen a fine school in our university." Horne said he is working with Sutton and Vice President for Development Terry Peoples to enhance endowed scholarship funds for the School of Social Sciences.



Difference Makers:

Ouachita alum recounts role in helping capture Saddam Hussein

By Trennis Henderson

Vice President for Communications

Recounting his role in helping track down and capture former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Steve Russell said his 21-year military career was motivated by “love of country and the American way of life.”

Russell, a 1985 Ouachita graduate, returned to his alma mater March 25 to speak in chapel and present an evening lecture hosted by Ouachita’s Elrod Center for Family & Community.

Ian Cosh, director of the Elrod Center, noted that Russell’s campus visit was “in keeping with President Horne’s focus on difference makers at Ouachita,” adding that Russell was invited “to share his personal faith journey as well as his insights on this interesting story of the capture of Saddam Hussein.”

During his chapel message, Lt. Col. Russell posed the question: “How does a soldier resolve that belief that life is God-given and sacred and yet serve in a profession where his training involves taking another life?”

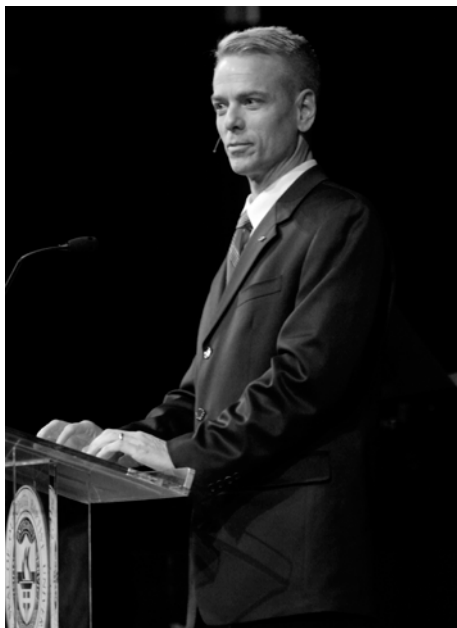
Describing David’s epic battle with Goliath in contemporary military terms, Russell reminded the chapel crowd, “God is the judge. He puts down one and He sets up another, David said.”

Pursuing peace & justice

“I do believe God has used me to lead men in battle and our battle has made life better for millions,” Russell added. “People find hope when tyranny is removed. The object of war is to uphold peace and create justice.”

Speaking that evening at Ouachita’s Walker Conference Center, Russell emphasized that he views his military role as “a calling.” A highly decorated Army officer, he has earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge and the Valorous Unit Award.

Detailing the events leading up



to Saddam Hussein’s capture, he explained, “It was the result of six months of very hard work on the part of regular soldiers. ... We learned from local Iraqis about how Saddam operated his security.”

Their efforts eventually led them to focus on a small farm on the banks of the Tigris River. Russell led a battalion that was part of the more than 800 soldiers who formed a huge cordon around the area. As other soldiers searched the farm’s buildings, they discovered the small hole where Saddam was hiding and immediately took him into custody.

“I was just stunned” when word came that the Iraqi dictator has been captured, Russell recalled. “We had been on these raids – many of them. ... I began to reflect on the blood, sweat and tears our soldiers had endured.”

“I thank God for giving us the victory that night,” he added. “It will always be one of the proudest days of my life.”

“We must never ever be apologetic as Americans for taking a stand against evil,” he insisted. “There are still things worth fighting for. ... We must not lose heart; we must prevail.”

Parapak seeks to make spiritual impact among Indonesian students

Serving as a difference maker half-way around the world, Jonathan Parapak was honored last fall by Ouachita trustees with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Parapak, who serves as rector of the 9,000-student Universitas Pelita Harapan (Light of Hope University) in Indonesia, also has been a longtime leader in business, government and Christian ministry. Among his pioneering ministry efforts, he has helped establish and lead Habitat for Humanity of Indonesia, Intersociety Fellowship of Indonesia and the Scripture Union of Indonesia.

During a recent visit to Ouachita, Parapak noted that Pelita Harapan was founded 14 years ago. “It is very much an education vision,” he added, “but it really is a means of spreading the gospel, preparing future leaders for the country, of really influencing society with Christian principles.”

While an estimated 85 percent of the population practices Islam, “legally we are able to share the gospel with anyone, but practically there is a lot of opposition from the majority religion,” he explained. “You have to be very smart to find ways of reaching out.”

Among his goals is to expand a partnership with Ouachita through faculty and student exchanges. Two Ouachita professors, Dave Ozmun and Bob Webster, are teaching this summer at Pelita Harapan as part of that effort.

“I’m always excited about being able to travel and learn from different cultures,” noted Ozmun, a mass communications professor.

Teaching a course on script writing for electronic media, Ozmun said his goals include “getting to know their students and finding out about their culture and interests.”

Ouachita “has a long history and has been able to maintain a strong Christian presence,” Parapak affirmed.

Acknowledging that his university is “still trying to consolidate our identity,” he said, “We would like it to be built on the very firm foundation of Christian principles with the prayer and hope that it will be like Ouachita.”

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Dr. J. D. Patterson
Dr. Nell A. Pickett
Howard and Pauline Powell Estate
Mr. and Mrs. David P. Price
Rose Ray Estate
Mr. Joseph T. Robbins
Rogers First Baptist Church
Rogers Foundation, Inc.
Russellville First Baptist Church
Second Baptist Church, Camden
Second Baptist Church, Little Rock
Bernes and Tommie Sue Selph Estate
Mr. and Mrs. Larry M. Smith
South Side Baptist Church, Pine Bluff
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Spradling
Mrs. Betty Stagg
Mr. William H. Sutton
Mr. James B. Taggart
Mr. and Mrs. Jack S. Taylor
Mr. Jeffery and Dr. Sarah Teague
Third Street Baptist Church, Arkadelphia
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Thrash
Union Hill Baptist Church, Brownsboro, Texas
Vilonia First Baptist Church
Bill Walton and Carolyn Grant Walton
West View Baptist Church, Paragould
Dr. and Mrs. Richard D. Wilhelm
Billy C. Williams Estate
R. E. Lee Wilson Trust
Miss Bobby A. Woods
Miss Juanita M. Woods
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Yarnell
George & Fay Young Foundation, Inc.

*Gifts given from June 1, 2007, through May 31, 2008.

A complete donor report is available at www.obu.edu by clicking the "Gifts to Ouachita" link.

From vision to reality



Work gets underway on major campus construction project

By Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

Ouachita Baptist University's state-of-the-art student housing construction project is gradually beginning to move from vision to reality.

University officials took a major step toward launching the project when trustees voted in March to approve a \$45 million bond issue to underwrite major construction costs. In addition to approximately \$33 million for a two-phase construction plan that will provide housing for more than 500 students, related projects include a new campus entrance, pedestrian bridge and maintenance facility as well as expansion of the university's Evans Student Center and renovation of the Sturgis Physical Education Center.

Describing the trustee action as "a bold, historic move," Ouachita President Rex M. Horne, Jr., said, "We're a Christian ministry and that carries with it that we're saved by faith and serve by faith. We believe God is going to help us accomplish the task."

The student housing development on the university's north campus will feature a village-like environment in which the three residence halls are visually separated into 17 residentially scaled four-story "houses." Each house will include eight suites and accommodate up to 32 students. Each facility also will include fitness rooms, game rooms, study rooms and laundry facilities.

Phase one is expected to be completed by December

2009, with the second phase to be completed the following year, according to construction coordinator Brett Powell, Ouachita's vice president for administrative services.

"We had hoped to open the first phase of the housing in August 2009 and we're not going to make that," Powell explained. "Our plan with the contractor is for them to complete the first two buildings by Dec. 1, 2009. That would allow students to move in for spring of the next year. We're still negotiating the timeline for the third building, but we hope to have it complete by August of 2010."

Noting that residence hall construction is set to begin this summer, Powell added, "We already have contractors working on the entrance and that should be complete sometime in the fall. All the other pieces will fall into place over the next couple of years."

Once completed, the new housing will replace more than one-third of Ouachita's current residence hall facilities.

The project "will move student housing from a sore spot to a strength," Horne emphasized. "It's going to say with a loud voice that this is one unique place – and it is going to enhance what we already are."

Describing the new facilities as "cutting-edge," President Horne said Ouachita's investment in the project "sends a clear signal to prospective students and their parents that we're doing something very substantive for student life."

He said the new residence halls "will be comfortable for today's students but will endure for decades for future Ouachita students."



CAMPUS NEWS



Spring Tiger Serve Day is record-breaking success

More than 520 student and community volunteers took part in Ouachita's 11th annual Spring Tiger Serve Day.

"Ouachita's student body really stepped up this spring for Tiger Serve Day," said Sam Bushey, logistics chair of the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team. "It was a record number for spring TSD!"

With a total of 780 volunteer hours among 63 teams and 74 projects that included raking yards, painting houses, doing brush work, cleaning and doing construction, it was both an eventful and successful day.

"We had great involvement from sports teams, social clubs, academic clubs, organizations and ministries," said Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center and coordinator of the Leadership Team. "I am really proud of our student body, faculty and staff. These folks genuinely care about others and want to serve."



More than 40 OBU students minister during BeachReach

More than 800 college students from across the United States, including more than 40 from Ouachita Baptist University, participated over a three-week period in BeachReach, a ministry organized by LifeWay Christian Resources.

Ouachita has been sending groups to participate in this spring break mission trip since 2003, with a total of 44 Ouachita students serving this year in Panama City, Fla.

While at BeachReach, students hand out information cards on free van rides and serve pancake breakfasts to fellow students on the beach. They provide van rides until 2 a.m. and serve pancakes at 10 a.m. An estimated 8,000 van rides were given and 50,000 pancakes were served this year.

Alex Hargis, a sophomore biology major from Camden, Ark., said he enjoyed providing the van rides because of the gratitude expressed by those who

accepted the rides. "They wanted to know why we were doing this, so that really opened the doors for a lot of conversation and allowed us to share Jesus Christ with them," he noted.

Seth Richardson honored as Ouachita Pew Scholar

Seth Richardson, a Christian studies and theology major from Hot Springs, Ark., has been named a Pew Scholar by the Pew Advisory Board of Ouachita Baptist University.

"To be named a Pew Scholar, a student must exhibit the highest level of academic achievement with the goal of serving Christ and the academic community," explained Dr. Doug Sonheim, professor of English and coordinator of Ouachita's Pew Scholars Program.

At Ouachita, Richardson has been consistently named to the President's List. He is involved in Campus Ministries as a leader for Refuge, a weekly student-led worship service, and is a K-Group leader for Fellowship Baptist Church of Arkadelphia. He plans to attend Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to pursue a master's degree in New Testament.

English crowned Miss OBU, promotes children's hospital

Lauren English was crowned Miss OBU on March 13 and was named first runner-up at the 2008 Miss Arkansas pageant in Hot Springs.

English, a sophomore mass communications and psychology double major, is the daughter of Dr. Tim and Cindy English of Hot Springs. She is a member of the EEE Women's Social Club and the Ouachita Student Foundation, and participates as a mentor in the Big Sister program. English's critical issue platform for the pageant was "Changing Children's Lives: Promoting Partners for Arkansas Children's Hospital."

First runner-up was Jennifer Neely, a freshman music education major from Warren, Ark. Second runner-up was Melissa Collier, a freshman Chris-



From top to bottom: Students gathering for Tiger Serve Day. Boys Group - Beach Reach. Girls Group - Beach Reach. Lauren English is crowned Miss OBU.

• photos by Jared Tohlen, Whitney Burger, Danny Brown

tian studies major from Longview, Texas. Third runner-up was Audrey Anna Harrell, a junior communication sciences and disorders major from Russellville, Ark.

Ashley Duvall selected as 2008 Ouachitonian Beauty

Ashley Duvall, a junior Christian studies major from Arkadelphia, was named the 2008 Ouachitonian Beauty. Contestants were judged in interview, poise and beauty.

Duvall is a member of the EEE Women's Social Club, College Republicans, Campus Ministries and Theta Alpha Kappa, and has been named to the Dean's List and President's List. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Scott Duvall.

First runner-up was Sarah Johnson, a sophomore political science and theology major from Brazil. She is a member of the Tri Chi women's social club and Student Senate. She is a sophomore class officer and has been named to the Dean's List.

Second runner-up was Kristen Glover, a freshman chemistry major from Stuttgart, Ark. Glover is a member of Tri Chi women's social club and College Republicans and has been named to the Dean's List.

Stark chosen as OBU's most recent University Scholar

Sarah Stark, a freshman English and French double major from Arkadelphia, has been named a University Scholar by Ouachita's College Society Advisory Board.

To be named a University Scholar, a student must exhibit the highest level of academic achievement with the goal of serving Christ as a scholar in the university community.

Stark is a member of Alpha Chi, participates in campus intramurals, has written for *The Signal* campus newspaper and coaches the TigerSharks Aquatic Team, a club swim team that practices at OBU.

Ouachitonian, Signal staff earn state, national awards

The Ouachitonian yearbook and *The Signal* newspaper were each awarded the Gold Medalist rating from the Co-

lumbia Scholastic Press Association of New York City. The Gold Medalist rating is the highest award given in CSPA's annual critique of college yearbooks and newspaper from across the nation.

The publications also won a total of 22 awards at the annual meeting of the Arkansas College Media in Jonesboro, Ark., including third place in general excellence for *The Ouachitonian*.

Yearbook judging was based on the 2007 Ouachitonian, which was edited by Lauren Farabough, a 2007 graduate from Dumas, Ark. The adviser is Dr. Deborah Root, chair of OBU's mass communications department. The editor of *The Signal* is Chloe O'Conner, a senior mass communications major from Louisville, Colo. The adviser is Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the school of humanities.

Ouachita presents annual Virginia Queen awards

Ouachita hosted the 31st annual Virginia Queen Competition on April 25. The event is named in honor of Virginia Queen, a former faculty member, who served for more than 40 years.

Winners in this year's competition included: First place to Carrie Brown, a sophomore piano performance major from Knoxville, Ark.; second place to Molly Rose, a senior music education major from Keithville, La.; and third place to Emily Adams, a senior music education major from Germany, and to Grant Turner, a sophomore music major from Fort Worth, Texas. Kristen Cordell, a junior piano performance major from Fort Smith, Ark., was the recipient of the Little Rock Musical Coterie Virginia Queen Piano Award.

DeWitt, lecture series speaker, offers "Christian Perspective on Environmental Stewardship"

By Brooke Showalter
OBU Class of 2008

Environmental scientist and author Dr. Calvin B. DeWitt visited the Ouachita campus on April 15. He was invited to campus as part of the Birkett Williams Lecture Series to present "A Christian Perspective on Environmental Stewardship."

DeWitt spoke at chapel, talked with students in several zoology classes and met faculty, staff and students at an evening meal and reception. His visit culminated in his presentation of the Birkett Williams Lecture.

During the lecture, DeWitt discussed the biblical principles of earth-keeping, fruitfulness, sabbath and conservation. "This world is God's creation – period," DeWitt said. "It's because of Him that all these things exist. Environmental stewardship means that we image God's love for the world.

"Being enthusiastic for God's creation means you will not have to do it alone," DeWitt added. "We are a Christian community."

DeWitt serves on the faculty of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. A noted environmental

scientist, lecturer and award-winning teacher, he is the author of *Earth-Wise: A Biblical Response to Environmental Issues*, a practical handbook for discussing Christian environmental stewardship in the church. He holds degrees in biology from Calvin College and in biology and zoology from the University of Michigan.

DeWitt has been influential in many collaborative efforts among evangelicals, scientists and politicians, including the Evangelical Climate Initiative, a statement calling for concerted action to battle global warming.

Dr. Mike Reynolds, associate professor of kinesiology and leisure studies at Ouachita, served on the committee that invited DeWitt to campus. He noted that DeWitt "stressed that part of our mission as a Christian liberal arts institution is to consider not only the human global impact of our decisions, but the environmental impact as well."

Ouachita's Birkett Williams Lecture Series honors the late Birkett Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, a 1910 graduate and benefactor of Ouachita. In 1977, Williams established a generous endowment to extend the concepts of a liberal arts education beyond the classroom environment.

class notes

- 1932 **Frances Benton Meador** celebrated her 80-year high school class reunion. Meador, 98, was salutatorian of the Fordyce High School class of 1928. Meador and classmate Eloise Hamilton remain close friends.
- 1933 **Eloise Abernathy Hamilton** celebrated her 80-year high school class reunion. Hamilton, 97, was valedictorian of the Fordyce High School class of 1928.
- 1939 **James H. "Jim" Ramay** of Georgetown, Texas, toured Australia and New Zealand in March and April 2008. He visited his daughter and son-in-law in Tasmania. While he was there he celebrated his 90th birthday.
- 1942 **Frances (Overton) Royston*** and her husband, Arthur, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary May 10. The couple was married May 8, 1943. Mrs. Royston retired from the public relations office of Winthrop Rockefeller. Royston retired as senior vice president of Darragh Co. They have two children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.
- 1948 **Robert "Red" Nelson** was honored March 1 at Benton High School for his contributions to the athletic program. He starred in football and basketball.
- 1949 **Rev. James D. Reed** has written a book titled *Over 200 Questions and Answers*. The book is a collection of biblically based answers to questions from the general public to a website. The book is available on the Internet.
- 1950 **Dr. Alton Butler**, pastor emeritus of Myrtle Grove Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., and his wife, Nelle, were recently honored by the church with the dedication of Butler Chapel. The chapel will house the growing Hispanic congregation as well as a new Russian language congregation. Alton is the former president of the Florida Baptist Convention.
- 1951 **Jo Joyner Spinks*** and her husband, Heyward, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. Jo is retired from the Department of Human Services and Heyward is retired from United Technologies.
- 1952 **Wayne A. Lawson** has been serving as Midwest Regional Director for the volunteer group nationally known as Mended Hearts, Inc. for the past 3 years. Previously he was a Midwest Assistant Regional Director for nine chapters in the Missouri area.
- 1953 **Charles R. Edwards** celebrated his 80th birthday on Feb. 7. His family honored him with a party at the Acadian Baptist Center on Feb. 9.
- 1956 **Roby Bearden** recently presented a lecture at the University of Alberta at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The lecture, part of the D.B. Robinson Distinguished Speaker Series in the Department of Chemicals & Materials Engineering, dealt with a novel technology for refining Canada's heavy crude oils.
- Lou Etta (Smith) Marley** and her husband, Charles ('55), who both retired from Texarkana College in 1995, celebrated 50 years of marriage on Aug. 1, 2007.
- 1957 **Gwen (Hamilton) Miller*** and her husband, Joe, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 9 with a reception at the North Little Rock Woman's Club. The couple was married March 8, 1958, in Camden. Joe retired as a locomotive engineer after 42 years with Union Pacific Railroad. Gwen retired as a unit secretary after 12 years with the former Baptist Memorial Hospital in Little Rock. The couple has three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
- 1958 **Edward Gnau*** and his wife, Patsy Elswick, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 19 at DeGray Lake Resort State Park. The couple has three children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
- 1959 **Jim Braden** and his wife, **Ella Reed (Blackmon '58)**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Seaside, Fla., with their three children and eight grandchildren.
- Dr. John Crawford**, professor emeritus of Henderson State University, has published his third volume of poetry, *French Quarter at Eight*, through Publish Now Press of Maryland.
- 1960 **Nannette (Webb) Lites** and her husband, Milton, retirees from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, are living in Arlington, Texas.
- Jim Massey** and his wife, **Ann (Reynolds '60)**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14 at First Baptist Church of Searcy, Ark. They were married June 13, 1958. They have three children and one grandchild.
- John Ward** has retired as a circuit judge in Little Rock. He joined the Gideons International in 1987 and was elected to the International Cabinet, serving as International Chaplain. In his travels with the Gideons, he has visited 31 countries and every U.S. state.
- 1961 **Billy Kite** is serving as intentional interim pastor of Lake Ouachita Church of Mount Ida.
- 1962 **Kenneth Wayne Blackmon** and his wife, Lillian, celebrated 38 years of marriage in August 2008. Ken and Lillian spent 30 years working in Germany, Italy, England, Japan, Scotland, Cuba and Belgium. They retired in 2000 and settled in Arkadelphia. They have three daughters and two granddaughters.
- 1964 **Julie Cobb Sanders***, who retired as managing partner of Clark County Abstract & Title Co. in Arkadelphia after a 20-year career, is now living in Fayetteville, Ark.
- 1966 **Wanda M. Rice** retired from the Sheridan School District after 35 years in public education as a third grade teacher and media specialist. She also worked two years at St. Edwards as a media specialist.
- 1967 **Mary Ann (Briscoe) Campbell**, adjunct instructor in the University of Central Arkansas' Department of Family & Consumer Sciences, completed her Ph.D. at Iowa State University in fall 2007. She graduated with a doctoral degree in Family & Consumer Sciences Education with an emphasis on family finance.
- James R. Jordan** was inducted into the Arkansas Officials Association Hall of Fame on July 11.
- 1968 **Linda (Temple) Acrey** (BSE '68, MSE '75) has retired after 40 years of public classroom teaching. She taught second grade at Lonoke Primary since 1972. Linda received the Golden Apple Award in May from Craig O'Neal and THV. Her plans include traveling with her college friends from Ouachita, completing a book and substitute teaching at school.
- Lane Strother**, a local attorney in Mountain Home, was named as special associate justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas.
- 1969 **Henry Morgan** and his wife, **Veda (Ross '67)**, of Arkadelphia, were featured in the June 1 Tri-Lakes section of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The couple's safari-themed home and its inspiration were the subject of the article.

class notes

1969 **Frank Vines** was inducted into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame on July 11. Vines coached Alma's football team from 1976-2006 to a record of 270-98-4 and to state championships in 1980, 1997 and 1998.

1970 **Ken Reece** is serving as pastor of First Church of Mayflower, going there from Fairfield Bay Church.



Friends from the classes of 1969 and 1970 gathered for their annual reunion trip. Standing (left to right): Claudia Johnson Martin, Cherie Ellis Cone, Janet Sims Corcoran, Nell Dickerson Ponder, Nancy Winburn Alexander, Mary Trickey McMorran, Vickie Toland Gill and Brenda Branscum Key. Seated: Kay Overton, Pat Coulter Jones, Janie Reece Russell and Connie Stewart Campbell.

1971 **Randall Everett** was recently named the new executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Dr. Bob Huckabee is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. Previously he worked in the Criminology Department at Indiana State University. Lt. Col. Huckabee has been asked to serve in Baghdad, Iraq, at Camp Victory as a biometrics officer.

1972 **Ken Jerome** is serving as intentional interim pastor of Markham Street Church of Little Rock.

Neal Sumerlin was recently honored with Lynchburg College's Elsie Bock Citizenship Award, given annually to recognize outstanding service to the college and surrounding community by a faculty member. He also was named an honorary alumnus. Neal spearheaded an effort to build an observatory at the college's Claytor Nature Study Center. The result is a \$450,000 facility featuring a 20-inch reflecting telescope. Neal and his wife of 34 years, Jane, have two children, Daniel (24) and Anna (20).

1973 **M. Linda (Moore) Kean** retired from the El Paso County Department of Human Services in Colorado Springs, Colo., after 29 years of service. She worked in child protection, including the past 12 years as the staff development manager. Linda and her husband, Bob, live in the Colorado Springs area. They have two children, Chris and Melissa.

1974 **Kalla (Knight) Byrd** is retiring this year after 29 years as a secondary math teacher.

1975 **Denise (Chamberlin) Garrett** and her husband, Bill, celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on June 26. Denise is active in the prayer ministry and does volunteer work in the church library at First Baptist Church of Clover, S.C.

Dana Doster Horn will join Henderson State University's Family and Consumer Sciences Department in August as an assistant professor. Dana taught FACS at Kirby High School for 35 years.

Keith Taylor, director of pastoral care at Hardin Memorial Hospital in Elizabethtown, Ky., and Commander, U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps, was recently recalled to active duty for one year at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

1976 **Rebecca L. Clark** has moved back to Arkansas and is now living in a 1928 bungalow, featured on HGTV's "National Open House" in the Historic District of Hot Springs. She has launched a professional organizing business - Creative Convenience.

Brenda D. Keisler recently received the Arkansas Adult Education Teacher of the Year Award by the Arkansas Association for Adult and Continuing Education Conference in North Little Rock. Brenda has worked for 22 years in adult education at Ouachita Technical College in Malvern.

1977 **Dr. Jeff Pounders** recently presented a paper at the Oklahoma Justice Association meeting alongside **Dr. Jamie (Dick) Burns ('99)**. Jeff presented "Parental Alienation Syndrome: Best Practices" and Jamie presented "Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program: Exploring Issues of Crime and Justice Behind the Walls." Jeff is an associate professor of sociology at Oklahoma Baptist University and Jamie teaches criminal justice at East Central University in Ada, Okla.

Kevin Wieser and his wife, **Sharon (Ferguson '76)**, 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 ('08)** is attending UAMS pharmacy school and is married to **Derek Franklin ('07)**. Their daughter **Jamie ('02*)** is a dental hygienist in Rogers and is married to **Kyle Cook ('03)**. Their oldest son Jay is married and working as an attorney in Fort Worth, Texas.

1978 **R. Keith Byrd** of Mountain Home has joined the staff of Kirby & Family Funeral Services as an after-care director and pre-necrologist. Byrd and his wife, Jane, recently returned to the Twin Lakes Area after working 15 years as missionaries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Laurie (Ray) Fryklund recently joined the staff of Quail Springs Baptist Church as the children's ministry associate.

1979 **Ted Barker** has been named director of business development & advertising sales for Dallas-based Beckett Media LP. The company, founded in 1984, is the leading publisher of sports and specialty market collectibles in the U.S.

Steve Halpin, longtime athletic director and head football coach for Mesquite High School, announced his plans to retire at the end of this school year, citing health reasons. Halpin, president of the Texas High School Coaches Association, will complete his third term in July 2008.

James K. McCully* has served as a National Endowment for the Arts On-Site Evaluator of Professional Opera and Music Theater Companies and their Young Artists Training Programs for more than a decade. He has judged numerous vocal competitions including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, as well as the National Opera Association's Vocal Competition. He has served as general director of the Marjorie Lawrence International Vocal Competition and as chairman of the 43rd National Opera Association Convention in Washington, D.C.

1980 **James Walker Burleson** is the school liaison and campus pastor for Faith Academy, a large Christian high school in Atlanta, Ga. He and his wife, Darla, celebrated their 25th anniversary in June 2007. They have three children, Ashley, Weston and Austin.

Teresa Tidwell is the new president of the Central Arkansas chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

class notes

- 1980 **Naccaman Williams** of Bentonville is the new vice chairman of the Arkansas Board of Education.
- Rosalind M. Mouser** of Pine Bluff was named president of the Arkansas Bar Association.
- 1981 **Tamra (Prince) Lambert** was named an Arkansas Teacher of the Year finalist. Tamra teaches at Bryant Middle School.
- Steve Patterson**, soccer coach and teacher for Arkadelphia High School, was named 5A SW Coach of the Year and has been nominated to coach in the All-Star game.
- Dr. Greg Smith** is executive director of LUCHA Ministries and serves with the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. His wife, **Sue (Nutt '81)**, graduated from Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond in May with a Doctor of Ministry degree. The couple has two children, Jason [current student], and Kyle, who will be a freshman at OBU in the fall.
- Tab Turner**, Little Rock-based attorney, and his famed lawsuit are set to be the focus of a film titled "Tragic Indifference" directed by and starring Michael Douglas. The film chronicles the class-action suit against Ford Motor Co. for roll-over accidents caused by the design of its Ford Explorer and faulty Firestone tires used on the SUVs. The film is set to be released later this year.
- 1982 **Barbara (Vogel) Childress (MSE)** and her husband, Charles, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 12 at Bancorp Farm House. The couple was married April 6, 1958. They have three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
- Wayne Fawcett** of Bald Knob has been named superintendent of the Drew Central School District. He previously served as high school principal and athletic director at Marion, superintendent of the Bald Knob School District and facilities manager for the Great Rivers Educational Cooperative in Helena-West Helena.
- Randy Fontaine** completed his second year as the U.S. director for Christ for the City International. CFCI is an urban mission agency working in Latin America and is now branching out into the States. He and his wife, **Nadine (Marshall '83)**, have been married for 26 years and have four sons.
- 1983 **Vance** and **Sandy Cortez-Rucker ('83)** are in their seventh year in Alaska. Vance has completed his doctorate from Texas A&M and is currently a superintendent of Chatham School District. Sandy is the director of state and federal programs at the same school.
- Angel Davis** has been teaching at Little Rock Central High School for 12 years. She attends Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, where she has taught preschoolers for 18 years. She is married to Larry Cross.
- Sandra Johnston Dillin** is working as a licensed psychological examiner with Methodist Family Health AR Cares Program. Sandra and her husband, George, have three children, Russell (17), Erin (13) and Sam (10). They are active at Trinity Baptist Church in Searcy.
- Lt. Col. Walter Dodd** was promoted to Colonel on May 18. Dodd has served in the Army Reserves for 26 years, most recently as commander of the 7th Battalion 95th Regiment, 4th Brigade, and 95th Division in Dallas. He is currently deputy chief of staff G8 for the 90th.
- 1983 **Marty McDaniel** is a Farm Bureau insurance agent for Pope County and his wife, **Mary (Dixon '83)**, teaches K-3 Science at Pottsville. They have two children, Megan (16) and John (10).
- Paul Jacobs** recently had two articles and a book review published. The articles were published in the *Criswell Theological Review* and the *American Theological Inquiry*. The book review was published in the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*.
- 1984 **Robert Jayroe** and his wife, **Janis (Helms '85)**, have two sons. Robby is a current student at Ouachita and Clint is a sophomore in high school. Robert works for Jayroe Litho and Janis is a junior high teacher.
- 1985 **Dr. Roger O'Neel** recently received a promotion and tenure at Cedarville University in Ohio. He has been a faculty member since 2002 and was promoted to associate professor of church music.
- Kent Street** began work as village manager for Village of Deerfield, Ill., in September 2007.
- Wes Sutton** was elected to the Easter Seals Arkansas board of directors.
- 1989 **Kathy (Emmerling) Frady** founded The Creative Dramatist in 2006. She has developed 18 different characters for ministry. She performs at speaking engagements for both Christian and secular audiences.
- Lisa (Lynch) Hill** was awarded the Distinguished Toastmaster on Jan. 18. The award is obtained through completion of the Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership program. Lisa has been a member of Toastmasters since August of 2003.
- Marla Reeves Maxson** resigned as a preschool music teacher at First United Methodist Church of Heath, Texas, in September 2007. Since her husband's death in August 2007, she has taken over the insurance agency. She sings in the choir and does solo work at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. She is also a member of the SAI Dallas Alumni Chapter and the Musical Arts Club of Dallas. She has two children, Bailey (11) and Audrey (8).
- Janean (Fitts) Cardenas** is a teacher at Xenia Community School in Xenia, Ohio, and she has three daughters: Christy, Jessica and Teresa.
- 1990 **Dr. Miranda Childs Bebee**, was recently featured in the High Profile section of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Dr. Childs, a dentist in Arkadelphia, is the founding mission chairman of the Arkansas Mission of Mercy, which helped under-insured Arkansans get free extractions and fillings in May of 2007.
- Cynthia (Baldwin) White** continues to serve as associate pastor of Ashland Church in Toledo, Ohio, and volunteers as the library coordinator at her children's school. Her husband, Rob, is serving as a youth pastor at the church as well as working full-time as a branch manager for Fifth-Third Bank. They have two children, Benjamin (9) and Abigail (6).
- 1992 **Ashli (Ahrens) Davis** currently serves as vice president of finance on the board of the Arkansas Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators.
- Kyle Hollaway** works as a technical executive at Acxiom and has been building custom homes in the Central Arkansas area for the past two years. His wife, **Rebekah (Kinney '93)**, continues enjoying homeschooling their seven children.

1992 **Scott Spainhour** has accepted the position of superintendent of the Greenbrier School District. He previously was superintendent for the Sheridan School District.

Janet (Ellis) Watson was recently promoted to account executive with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Oklahoma's Tulsa Group Marketing Department. Janet has been with the company for seven years. She and her husband, Jeffrey, have two children, Megan (13) and Jeff (10).

Toby Talley, former pastor and now staff member at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, was featured in the April 17 issue of *Arkansas Baptist News*.

1993 **Robert "Tony" Christensen** is now working as a tool crib manager at an aerospace/military parts manufacturing plant in Euless, Texas.

Russ Files accepted a position as minister of music at Chambersburg Baptist Church of Chambersburg, Pa. He began work there in September 2007. He and his wife, Stephanie, celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in February. They have three sons, Zachary (8), Joshua (6) and Alexander (3).

Ashley (Spann) Francis was named Teacher of the Year at Hugo Elementary School in Hugo, Okla., where she has taught third grade for 14 years. Her husband, **Shawn ('94)**, is president of First United Bank in Hugo.

Andy Jayroe and his wife, **Holly (Clark '93)**, have three children: Denver, Melody and Addison. Andy is working for Jayroe Litho and Holly has her own photography company.

Mark Kehner was named the head football coach at Glen Rose High School. He was previously the defensive coordinator at Glen Rose.

Jason McCullough graduated with an Ed. D. from Stephen F. Austin State University in December 2007 with a degree in educational leadership. He is currently working as the deputy superintendent for Mt. Pleasant ISD.

Mike Sossamon is a lighting and audio engineer with Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., and his wife, **Katherine (Hopper '93)**, is a loan processor with First Community Bank of the Ozarks. They have one son, James Parker.

1994 **William "Kipper" Clarke** is a corporate consultant in the Wal-Mart Supplier community and Holly is blessed to stay home with their four children.

Niki (Ranchino) Jackson and her husband, **Brent ('95)**, of Arkadelphia own Camp Winnamocka.

Denver Peacock currently serves as president of the Arkansas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. Peacock is the director of public relations for CJRW in Little Rock.

1995 **Tammy (Northcutt) White** joined the staff of Twin Rivers Respiratory as the marketing representative.

Brandie (Clark) Kirkpatrick teaches physical education at Cabe Middle School in Gurdon. She also serves as a coach at both Cabe Middle School and Gurdon High School.

1996 **LaRissa Warren Kemp** and her husband, **Shawn ('95)**, have been serving at Hagerman Baptist Church in Sherman, Texas, for the past seven years. They will be launching a new church in Anna, Texas, in September.

1997 **Jeremy Lemons** was recently featured in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Tri-Lakes Edition as one of 20 People to Watch in 2008. He is a parks and recreation director and former president of the Bryant Chamber of Commerce.

Mark A. Lenow started a landscape company in south Florida. The company is doing well and Mark will go full-time once the company is well established.

Matt Buffalo is finishing his second year at Indiana University for his MFA in acting. This summer Matt has been cast in productions at the Utah Shakespearean Festival in Cedar City, Utah.

Kristen M. Johnson is currently working as a speech pathologist in Nashville, Ark. She has one daughter, Maci Grace (4).

Nathan Andrew Bagley is a faculty member at Phillips Community College. He was recently selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend a weeklong workshop at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio.

Jennifer Tolbert Byrd and her husband, **Lannie ('97)**, recently moved to Memphis where Lannie is the online contact editor for the *Commercial Appeal*. Jennifer is a homeschooling stay-at-home mom to their three children, Caleb (9), Elizabeth (7) and Phillip (2).

Michelle Nicholson is now serving as the prayer ministry coordinator at Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Michelle (Parham) Rudolph* is married to Rev. Robert Rudolph, pastor of Calvary Church of God in Christ in Malvern. She serves as the director of the Women's Department, the Young Adult Choir and the Young Ladies of Excellence and is the teens' Sunday School teacher. She is employed with the Arkansas Department of Health Sciences.

Viranga Heshan Demel married Rozanne Perera in Sri Lanka in 2006. Heshan works for a web-based company in Little Rock and Rozanne is getting her MBA at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Both serve at Fellowship Bible Church of Little Rock.

1998 **Marcus Walker Brown**, who graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2001, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Jenny Lind, Ark. He and his wife, Amy, three have children: Nathan (6), Sarah (5) and Peter (2).

Tony A. McCreery has been a pastor for seven years. He graduated from Logsdon Seminary in May 2007 with a Master of Divinity degree. He and his wife, Leeann, have two daughters, Karys (8) and Kylan (3).

Drew McDaniel and his wife, **Sara (Wheeler '98)**, have moved to Salt Lake City where Drew is a chemical operations manager for Clean Harbors Environmental Services and Sara is an account associate with Compass Learning Educational Software.

Joshua Ulery is an IT instructor for the Department of Defense at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock and his wife, **Shari (Provence '97)**, is a corporate recruiter at Acxiom Corporation in Conway. They have two children, William and Cooper.

marriage

class notes

1999 **Jason Evers*** received a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in May. He began teaching elementary school this summer and will start working this fall toward his master's degree in administration. Jason and his wife, Nicole, have two sons, Joshua (5) and Andrew (infant).

Jed ('01) and **Jenny (McKissack) McGuirk** recently moved to Shreveport, La., where Jed is a middle school social studies teacher and Jenny teaches part-time for the Caddo Parish School Board. They are the parents of twins Malcolm Douglas and Naomi Diane born on Oct. 25, 2006.

Jon Mark Parker* and his wife, **Lora (Brown '00*)**, live in Bryant, Ark., with their sons, J.T. and Michael. Lora is an RN and unit clinical instructor for 3-Gold at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Jon is a health/PE teacher, head basketball coach and assistant football coach at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

J. Daniel Robertson and his wife, Anne, celebrated their second anniversary in June. Anne graduated in May from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where Daniel is also studying and plans to graduate next year.

Kelly Marie Tonti announced her engagement to Shariff Riad. Kelly is a government underwriter for Franklin American Mortgage Co. in Dallas and Sharif is an installation technician for Dallas Sight and Sound.

2000 **Donnie Burrow** has joined the staff of Hot Springs Church as senior high youth pastor. He previously was the youth minister of First Church of Sherwood.

Katherine (Franz) Polczynski was promoted to vice president/mortgage loan officer of Summit Bank. She began her career at Horizon Bank in 1996 and joined Summit when it opened in 2000.

Chris Turnage was recently featured in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Tri-Lakes Edition as one of 20 People to Watch in 2008. He is city president of Regions Bank in Arkadelphia. He is also on the board of the United Way, Boy Scouts and the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce. He is the secretary of the South Arkansas Community Development Board and a member of the Arkadelphia Rotary Club.

marriage
2001 **Christina LuAnn Williamson** married Douglas Raymond Dietz on Dec. 29, 2007. The couple is building a house in Texarkana, Texas.

Doug Connell and his wife, **Jessica (Coleman '00)**, live in Istanbul where Doug helps manage a coffee roasting business and Jessica stays home with their four children.

Brent S. Gambill was recently promoted to senior producer for Major League Baseball at XM Satellite Radio. He produces Baseball Beat, MLB Post Season and XM Hot Stove as well as Fantasy Focus.

Katie (Jackson) Holland teaches adult education part time and her husband, Sean, is a cattle rancher. They have two children, Kennedy (3) and Scott (20 months). Katie also does choreography and consulting with cheerleading squads in their area.

Cristen C. (Curtis) McClure and her husband, **Jon ('01)**, moved to Waco, Texas. Jon graduated from dental school in May and began his practice in June. Cristen is an LPC intern working toward her full counseling license.

Kris Jayroe and his wife, Zan, have a one-year-old daughter, Belle. Kris works for Jayroe Litho and Zan is a nurse.

2001 **Kelly M. (Krueger) Miller** and her husband, **Ray ('01)**, have two children, Kaelynn (2) and Brayden (1). Ray is working for Vermeer Equipment of Texas and Kelly does bookwork for their logging business, R&K Logistics, LLC.

2002 **Chris Baker**, a graphic designer for a regional real estate company, recently left to focus full time on his web and graphic design company, 3wiredesigns.com. His wife, **Whitney (Baker '02)**, is helping Chris build the company and is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom to their daughter Alyssa (3).

Kaylan Christopher graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2005 with an MA in Communications. He currently serves as the editorial manager at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tenn.

Holly (Almond) Elledge has joined the staff of Ascent Children's Health Services as a therapist.

Joanne Gorecki is teaching English in China. She plans to obtain an MA in TESOL from Azusa Pacific University through correspondence classes.

Jennifer L. Smith is the news editor of the *Hot Springs Sentinel-Record*.

Erin (Pittman) Vaughn received her Doctor of Medicine degree with highest honors from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in May. She and her husband, **Mark ('02)**, are moving to New Haven, Conn., where Erin will do her residency at the Yale University Medical Center. Mark has been accepted at Central Connecticut State University where he will work toward a Master of Science degree in construction management.

2003 **Ronald Glass** works for KPMG in Dallas and his wife, **Shannon (Sangster '03)**, stays home with their children, Peyton (2) and Luke (1).

Karen (Sines) Rudolph and her husband, Greg, are leaving Arkadelphia this summer and moving to Waco, Texas, where they will both start new jobs. Karen will begin work as the coordinator of public information at McLennan Community College and Greg will be a football coach and teacher at Waco High School.

Kristi L. Shirley has accepted the position of executive director with the Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Amber Deanne White married Kyle Jon Hendrickson on March 30 at Marlsgate Plantation. The couple will reside in Vancouver, British Columbia.

marriage
2004 **Jamie Griffin** married **Ali Chong ('06)** on May 26, 2007, in Naples, Texas. Jamie and Ali currently reside in Coppell, Texas, where Jamie works as an elementary ESL teacher and Ali is an accountant with Grant Thornton in Dallas.

Chason Laing recently received his Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary and continues in media production with his business, Blue Paradigm. His wife, **Cassie (Androes '04)**, has been teaching special education for two years. They have one son, Kohen.

Kathryn S. Black Allen graduated in May with a doctorate of pharmacy from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy. She and her husband, Shawn, are moving to Colorado where she has accepted a position with NuQuest to work as a nuclear pharmacist.

class notes

2004 **Kevin Brewer** graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry in May. He is moving to Jacksonville, Fla., where he will enter a graduate residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He will spend one year at Shands Hospital in Jacksonville and will then move to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida Medical School.

Iris Le Epting and her husband, Ricky, recently opened a funeral home in Bentonville, Ark. Ricky has been a funeral director since 1996.

Dustin Lollar and his wife, Stephanie (Sangster), are working as petroleum researchers for XTO Energy, Inc. based in Fort Worth, Texas.

Brooke (Smith) Ramsey and her husband, **Robert ('03)**, live in Cabot, where he is the associate pastor of music and worship at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. Brooke has been involved with the Miss America Organization for more than 10 years and has held numerous titles in Arkansas state pageants. She is currently a dance instructor at Page and Co. Dance Academy in Cabot.

Cheryl Kaye Russell is currently completing a Master of Law and Taxation degree at the University of Denver and was admitted to the Colorado Bar in October 2007 and the Arkansas Bar in April. She is married to Russell Darren Harper and resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.

April (Reeder) Smith teaches music for Pea Ridge Elementary K-6. Her husband, Richard, is a deposit counselor at Arvest.

Cheryl Kaye Russell married Russell Darren Harper on March 15 at Fianna Hills Baptist Church in Fort Smith. The couple resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Angela (Ward) Cox married Daniel Cox and the couple resides in Wynne, Ark. Angela just returned from a two-year journeyman term in North Africa. Daniel is serving our nation in Iraq.

Lindsey Choate married Bill Reis on May 3 at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. Lindsey is working for Chase as an employee communications manager and Bill is in medical sales.

2005 **Tiffany Eurich** graduated with a master's degree in communications and public history from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Michael P. Rodriguez graduated in May with a master's degree in divinity in education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He began serving in June as a youth minister at First Baptist Church of Andalusia, Ala.

Heather Babb married Matt Blanton on May 10 at the Hamilton House in Hot Springs. The couple lives in Benton, Ark.

Robin Dann married **Jake Chaney ('06)** on May 10 in St. Augustine, Fla. The couple will live in Melbourne, Fla.

2006 **Stephanie A. DeVoss** works in Prague, Czech Republic, doing ministry and administration in a two-year position.

Aaron Rodgers is the student pastor at Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Smith, Ark. Aaron and his wife, **Kristen (Cunningham '06)**, have one son, Korben.

Tiffany Nicole Dodson married John David Plumlee on Dec. 29, 2007, at Lake Valley Community Church.

2007 **Amanda S. Ozment** is working as a children's minister at Second Baptist Church in Huntsville, Texas.

2007 **William Chance Bankhead** married Heather Leigh Sweat on April 19 at Watson Chapel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark. The couple will reside in Pine Bluff.

2008 **Ashton Berry** married **Austin Samuelson ('08)** on June 14 in Berry Chapel at Ouachita Baptist University. The couple will reside in Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Cliff Conine married **Leanna Legg*** on March 15 in Anthony Chapel at Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs, Ark.

marriage

future tigers

1988 **Mary (Dougherty) Handiboe** and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son, Jonathan Michael, on March 19. He joins siblings Christopher Cook (13) and Zachary Handiboe (10).

Carole (Clark) Wright and her husband, Jimmy, announced the birth of their son, Jimmy C. Wright, on March 21. He joins big sisters, Monica (24), Gracie (2), and brother Christopher (17).

1992 **Tricia (Murphree) Biggers** and her husband, **Bobby ('92)**, welcomed a son, Grant Thornton, on May 7. Grant joins siblings, Allison (11), Leah (10), Jenna (7) and Lilly (4). Bobby is pastor of Stamford Baptist Church in Stamford, Conn.

1993 **Mike Sossamon** and his wife, **Katherine (Hopper '93)**, welcomed a son, James Parker, on March 18, 2007.

Michelle (Smith) Elmore and her husband, **Jeff ('94)**, welcomed son Carter James on March 3. He joins big brother Wyatt (2). The family lives in Jacksonville, Ark.

Rebekah (Kinney) Hollaway and her husband, **Kyle ('92)**, welcomed a baby girl, Keren Elisabeth, on Feb. 25. She joins Moriah (13), B.J. (12), Andrew (10), Eden (8), Lydia (4) and Joshua (2).

1994 **Lark (Eads) Smith** and her husband, **Raphael ('94)**, welcomed their second daughter, Makenzie. She joins big sister Morgan.

William "Kipper" Clarke and his wife, Holly, welcomed son Benjamin Wayne on May 7, 2007. He joins sisters Audrey (9), Grace (7) and brother Ty (5).

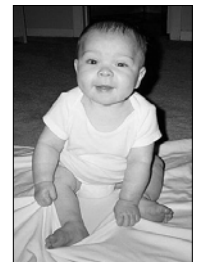
Shauna (Bauer) Leicht and her husband, Keith, welcomed a daughter, Tara Rose, on Jan. 9. She joins big brothers, Nathan (6) and Slade (3).

Alexandre Lima and his wife, **Lidia (Oliveira '95)**, welcomed Marcella (2).

1995 **Brandi (Byrd) Womack** and her husband, **Richard ('97)**, welcomed daughter Rachael Lynn on June 4. She joins siblings Richard (9), Rhett (7), Ross (5), Reid (4) and twins Bella and Maria (3).

1996 **Rebecca (Briggs) King** and her husband, Jason, welcomed their first child, Mary Katherine Sawyer, on Aug. 29, 2007. The Kings reside in Houston, Texas.

1997 **Ilya Gordeev** and his wife, Jennifer Atkins-Gordeev, welcomed daughter Nadia Susanna on March 14. She joins big brother Nikolai (5) and sister Jaden (13).



Mary Katherine King

marriage

marriage

class notes : future tigers

1997 **Marci (Phillips) Rogers** and her husband, Allen, welcomed a baby girl, Georgia-Kate Michael Rogers, on Feb. 26. She joins big brother Benjamin [2].

Corey Gilbert and his wife, Kelly, welcomed a son, Blaize Michael, on April 12. He joins big brother Alex [2].

Jason Greenwich and his wife, **Allyson (Denton '00)**, welcomed their third child, Jason Pruitt, on April 29.

1998 **Michelle (Crim) Wickliffe*** and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their second child, Jaxson Cooper, on April 1. He joins big sister Payton [4].

Cynthia (Moore) Jones and her husband, **Kevin ('96)**, welcomed their baby girl, Emery Louise, on April 25.

Leigh Ashley (Groce) Breedlove and her husband, Mike, welcomed a son, James Pierce, on Jan. 18. James joins big brother Tucker [4].

Julie (Abbott) Parker and her husband, **Joshua ('98)**, welcomed a son, Robert "Jackman" Wallace, on May 4.

Jodie (Matthews) Daniell and her husband, Mike, announced the birth of their son, Brady Clinton, on May 21. He joins big brothers Colby and Tyler.

Joshua Ulery and his wife, **Shari (Provence '97)**, welcomed a son, Cooper Stephen, on May 7. He joins big brother William.

Caroline (Reddin) Butler and her husband, Lance, welcomed their second son, Carson Steven, on Jan. 3. He joins big brother Landon [2].

1999 **Chris Cox** and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Caitlin Olivia, on March 12.

Jason and **Nicole Evers** welcomed son Andrew Dean on Nov. 16, 2007. He joins big brother Joshua Paul [5].

Andrew Granade and his wife, Joy, welcomed a son, Noah Andrew, on June 11.

Stacy (Wood) Hart and her husband, Paul, welcomed a son, Spencer Reed, on Jan. 8. He joins big sisters Avery [4] and Morgan [20 months].

Emily (Matthews) Johnson and her husband, Anthony, welcomed a baby girl, Jules Lumae, on Sept. 18, 2007.

Noah Lee and his wife, Sarah, welcomed a son, Matthew Christian, on June 26, 2007. He joins big sister Abigail.

Jason Owens and his wife, Jenny, welcomed their first child, Katie Grace, on March 3.

2000 **Ashley (Stacy) Bell** and her husband, Joshua, welcomed a daughter, Audrey Olivia, on Jan. 25. She joins big brother Evan [2].

Jessica (Coleman) Connell and her husband, **Doug ('01)**, welcomed their fourth child, Silas James, on March 20. He joins big brothers Ethan [6] and Baxter [4] and big sister Maranatha [2].

Rachel (Hageman) Grose and her husband, Shannon, welcomed their second son, Sutton Kyle, on April 3. Sutton joins big brother Jackson Brooks [5]. The family lives in Oklahoma City.

Lori Armstrong Machen and her husband, Kyle, welcomed twin daughters Lanie Marie and Lindy Claire on July 31, 2007.

2000 **Jeffrey B. Verlander** and his wife, Rebecca, welcomed Carson Daniel on Feb. 27. He joins his two older brothers, Jacob [4] and Spencer [2].

Derek Watts and his wife, Kelly, welcomed their first son, Noah William, on Aug. 17, 2007. The family lives in McKinney, Texas.

Elaine (Barry) Wheat and her husband, **Warren ('01)**, welcomed a son, William Thomas, on March 29, 2007.

2001 **Laura (Fraser) Andrews** and her husband, **Daniel ('03*)**, welcomed a son, Ezekiel "Zeke" Fraser, on May 10, 2007.

Courtney (Lipscomb) Bishop and her husband, **Beau ('00*)**, welcomed a daughter, Audrey Ann, on April 21.

Kristin (McKelvey) Black and her husband, Josh, adopted a son, Tucker Owen, on May 15.

Julie (Carter) Carothers and her husband, **Jonathan ('01)**, welcomed a son, Aiden Mark, on Aug. 28, 2007.

Rachel DeBusk Norton and her husband, Matthew, welcomed a son, Noah Webb, on Sept. 23, 2007. He joins brothers Ethan [5], Andrew [4] and Jadon [2]. The family lives in Pine Bluff, Ark.



Addison Blakely & Maddox James Pierce

Emily (Tapson) Pierce and her husband, Brent, welcomed twins Addison Blakely and Maddox James on Jan. 14.

Regina (Brawner) Proctor and her husband, **Kyle ('02)**, welcomed a baby girl, Taylor Addison, on Sept. 12, 2007. She joins big brother Landon [2].

Ashley (Sutherland) Steele and her husband, Brent, welcomed a baby boy, Eli Andrew, on May 27, 2007.

2002 **Misty (Rosinbaum) Dupree** and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their third child, Jacob Alexander, on Jan. 17. He joins siblings Elizabeth [2] and Andre Logan [1].

Anna (Reese) Heuer and her husband, John, welcomed a son, Braun Conrad, on May 23, 2007.

Heidi (Schneider) Yates and her husband, Jack, welcomed son Jackson Chase on Feb. 4.

2003 **Ronald "Ryan" Bush** and his wife, **Amanda (Aldridge '04)**, welcomed a baby girl, Sophia.

Shannon (Sangster) Glass and her husband, **Ronald ('01)**, have two children Peyton [2] and Luke [1]. The family lives in Dallas.

Dustin Slaton and his wife, Melody, welcomed their first child, Preston Lyle, on April 1.

Sam Cross and his wife, **Becca (Capper '03)**, welcomed a baby boy, Nathan Samuel, on March 13. He joins big sister Kyla Lee [2].

Brandi (Dodson) Gutierrez and her husband, Alejandro, welcomed a daughter, Ana Bella, on Sept. 14, 2007.

future tigers : friends we'll miss

2004 **Rita (Ebson) Nickell** and her husband, **David ('06*)**, welcomed son David Tyler on Feb. 1.

Michelle Langford and her husband, **Craig ('05)**, welcomed a son, Edan Parker, on June 26, 2007. He joins big brother Kael.



Edan Parker Langford

Laura Marie (Bryant) Keene and her husband, **Gary ('03)**, welcomed son Joshua Noah on April 17. He joins big sister Jamie. The family lives in Calion, Ark.

Chason Laing and his wife, **Cassie (Androes '04)**, welcomed a son, Kohen Alexander, in May.

Alison (Daniel) Buscher and her husband, Darin, celebrated the birth of a baby girl, Zoe Grace, on July 18, 2007.

2005 **James "Jay" Carpenter** and his wife, Lindsay, welcomed a daughter, Mallory Ann, on March 12.

2006 **Kristen (Cunningham) Rodgers** and her husband, **Aaron ('06)**, welcomed son John Korben on March 10. They reside in Fort Smith, Ark.

friends we'll miss

1932 **General Edward J. Hopkins**, 1911-2008, passed away on Feb. 5. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred, on Nov. 12, 1996. He is survived by two sons, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

1936 **Marie Braden Whitten**, 91, of Arkadelphia, passed away on April 24. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dolphus Whitten, Jr. Survivors include her daughter, Suzanne Marie Whitten, and one grandchild.

1937 **Virginia Pollard Gibson Jernigan King**, 90, passed away April 10. She was preceded in death by her husband of 30 years, Brig Gen. (Dr.) James Powell Jernigan; and her husband of 27 years, Duane Shepherd King. She is survived by her children, Judith Jernigan Gupton; James Powell Jernigan, Jr.; Janet Jernigan; and stepdaughter, Carolyn King Jacobsen; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

1938 **Major General Lewis E. Lyle** of Hot Springs passed away April 6. He is survived by his wife, Betty Lyle; children, Lynda and William Harrod, and John Lyle; and two grandchildren.

Dr. Vester Wolber, Professor Emeritus of Religion, passed away on May 24. He taught at Ouachita from 1958 until his retirement at the age of 72 in 1985. Dr. Wolber is survived by two sons, Eric and Noel and their families.

1940 **James B. Amason** passed away March 21. He was preceded in death by two brothers, **Alton Vergil Amason ('43*)** and **Carl Raymond Amason ('47)**. He is survived by his wife, Lydia; two daughters, Rebecca Riner and Claire Kuhn; a son, Tommy; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

1941 **Ruth Lynn Neal***, 86, of Hot Springs, passed away on March 1. She is survived by her two sons, Larry Neal and Douglas Prichard; two daughters, Kai Theaderman and Susan Biggs; brother, Norris Giles; two grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

1941 **Ann M. Wollerman**, of Menifee, Calif., passed away Feb. 15. She spent 34 years in Brazil as a missionary. Memorial services were held at Canyon Lake Community Church in Canyon Lake, Calif.

1942 **Clarence S. White**, 95, of North Little Rock, died April 2. He was preceded in death by his wife, DeLois Curry White. He is survived by a son, Michael White; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Julius Richard Chitwood, 86, passed away on April 21. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Aileen Newsom Chitwood.

1943 **Dr. Loreen "Phyl" Overstreet***, 82, formerly of Fayetteville, died Jan. 26. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Dan Overstreet, and her son, Marcus Overstreet. She is survived by her daughter, Sara Jane, and her sister, Sallie Bostwick, and four grandchildren.

Dorothy Mae Williams, 86, of Fort Worth, Texas, passed away Feb. 9. Survivors include her husband, Wilton Williams; children, Kay Maloney and Theril Williams; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Evelyn De Loach Thompson passed away June 4, 2007.

Alton Vergil Amason* passed away June 30, 2007. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia, and his brother, **Carl Raymond Amason ('47)**.

1944 **Juanita (Lewallyn) Drumm**, 88, of Murieta, Calif., formerly of Hot Springs, passed away May 5. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Drumm. She is survived by her daughter, Lynda Zecca; two grandchildren; and one sister, Marian Lewallyn Wisely.

1946 **Ella Geraldine "Gerry" Shaw Matthews***, 84, of Little Rock, passed away March 16. She attended Ouachita Baptist University and then transferred to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She is survived by her husband, Kay L. Matthews; two sons, Robert and John Matthews; and one daughter, Susan.

Virginia Leigh Swaim White, 82, passed away on March 14. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, John White Sr.; daughter, Virginia Swaim White Pessaud; son, John White Jr.; one granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren.

1947 **Wright Taylor Byrum Jr.**, 91, of Lonoke, died Jan. 18. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marcella Byrum. Survivors include Don Byrum, Jim Byrum and Laura Sue Stewart; eight grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

1948 **James Nolan Bennett***, 79, of Conway, passed away on March 15. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty, and two daughters, Megan Ann Bennett and Mary Elizabeth Duppslaff; and is survived by his wife of 21 years, Donna (Walley) Bennett; two daughters, Charlotte Wilcoxson and Amy Cowling; a stepson, Robert Spivey; stepdaughter, Margaret Reinold; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Eva Ann Flanagan Park* passed away on April 5. She is survived by her husband, **Aubrey ('48)**; children, John H. Park and **Sarah Ellen Preston ('81*)**; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

1949 **Williams David Millsapps**, 86, passed away in February. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Anne Sue Lee Millsapps; a daughter, Sheri Millsapps Farmer; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

class notes : friends we'll miss

- 1949 **Gloyd G. Huckabee**, 83, of Arkadelphia, died March 15. Survivors include his wife, Iris Eskew Huckabee; son, Robert George Huckabee; and one granddaughter, Deanna Minnich.
- Asa Doyle Harrelson** passed away April 18. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 46 years, Mary Juanita Harrelson, and a son, Gregory Trawick Harrelson. He is survived by his wife, Jessie Faye Scruggs Harrelson; children, Pat Hirst, Jan Harrelson and Gary Doyle Harrelson; and one grandchild.
- 1950 **Owen Horton Kersh** passed away Dec. 27, 2007. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Hazel Kersh; daughters, Nancy Walzel and Cindy Spurlock; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
- Pauline Neeper Treadwell**, 88, passed away on May 2. She is survived by a sister, Helen Ann Neeper Hooker, and many nieces and nephews.
- 1953 **Rev. Charles Earl Hall**, 84, passed away Feb. 23. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine Cravens Hall; a sister, Hazel McPherson; and twin sister, Charlotte Pearl South.
- David Pendergrast** passed away on Aug. 27, 2007. He was preceded in death by his wife, June Pendergrast, on July 17, 2006.
- 1955 **Ferrell D. Morgan Sr.**, 78, of Fort Smith passed away April 10. He is survived by his wife Margie Morgan; two daughters, Janet Williamson and Brenda Pendergrass; one son, Dee Morgan; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
- Billy Gene Williams**, 75, of Arkadelphia, passed away June 12. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Norma Stephens Williams; his son, Dr. Michael R. Williams; his daughter, Dr. Karen P. Bullington; and five grandchildren.
- 1958 **Alice M. Kerr**, 76, of Little Rock, passed away April 30. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Andy Kerr. She is survived by a son, Larry Kerr; daughters, Charlotte Casey Starkey and Tina Overton; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
- 1960 **Harrison Benjamin Butcher**, 74, of Hot Springs, died March 1. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Shirley Moore Butcher; one daughter, Lisa Garrison; a son, Eric Butcher; one stepdaughter, Patricia Kneller; one stepson, Paul Hughes; and six grandchildren.
- Harold H. Green**, 71, of Fayetteville, passed away May 29. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Joyce A. Green; two sons, Perry Glenn Green and Kevin Harold Green; two daughters, Debbie Welch and Donna Hicks; 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.
- 1961 **Pat McDonald**, 68, passed away May 6. Survivors include: her husband, Ed; son, Stephen McDonald; daughter, Judy Coleman; and three grandchildren.
- Ann Booker**, 68, of Emmet, passed away Jan. 20. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Dale Booker; two daughters, Dana Burnett and Tonya Cox; and nine grandchildren.
- 1962 **Doyle William Daniel, Jr.**, 68, of Little Rock, passed away on April 20. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rosalie Gay Daniel; two sons, David Arthur Daniel and Joseph Clint Daniel; one daughter, Katherine Gay Daniel; and two grandchildren.
- 1963 **Charles W. Nix**, 66, of Benton, passed away May 3. He is survived by his wife, Ann Bell Nix; a daughter, Shannon Brooks; son, Bryan Nix; and one grandchild.
- 1965 **John R. Thomason** passed away Feb. 24. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Dora "Dee" Thomason; children, Melissa Crawford, Veronica Thomason, Gloria Thomason, Lisa Peyson, Eugene Thomason, Tommy Thomason, John Paul Thomason, Charles Thomason and Cecil Thomason; and six grandchildren.
- 1966 **Dr. John R. Williamson**, 65, died Feb. 22. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Diane Williamson; sons Brett and Chad; and five grandchildren.
- 1969 **Marcella Rauch (MA)** passed away May 1 in Fort Smith. She is survived by her husband, Ralph Rauch, and two daughters, Roberta Richardson and Rev. Marilyn Rauch.
- 1970 **Cynthia M. (Crews) Craig** passed away Jan. 26. She is survived by her husband, Gary Craig.
- 1971 **Charles Gary Clark**, 66, of Conway, passed away Feb. 2. He was born April 22, 1941. Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Gail (Humphrey) Clark; his daughter, Christa Suzanne Clark; and his son, Charles Gary Clark II.
- 1974 **Rev. E. J. Outley** of Maumelle passed away Feb. 20.
- Roscoe Stidman** passed away March 21. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, David Morris, Sara Morris Willis and Rebecca Stidman; and two grandchildren.
- 1983 **Frances Earlene Hendrix Morrison Wilson (MSE '83)**, 72, of Cabot, passed away Feb. 11. She is survived by her husband, Keith E. Wilson; one daughter, Dana Kay Morgan; one son, Keith Morrison; and five grandchildren.
- 1993 **James Scott Burns***, 39, a Texas State Trooper, was killed in the line of duty on April 29. He is survived by his wife, Michaela, and 5-month-old child.
- 1995 **DeWitt Alan Roark**, 35, of Jonesboro, died April 28 from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle accident. He is survived by his wife of 12 years, **Julie Merrick Roark ('96)**; one daughter, Grace Roark; two sons, Alex and Merrick Roark; his parents, Wendell and Janice Roark; and one sister, Janine Eubanks.
- 1997 **Sgt. Alan Burton Sisson*** of Fort Hood, Texas, died June 13 of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. He is survived by his parents, **Mac ('69)** and **Donna Sisson ('70)**, and sister and brother-in-law **Stephanie ('01)** and **Jared Green ('01)**.
- 2007 **Audra Marie Bayird** of Paragould passed away May 26. She is survived by her father, Doye Bayird, Jr.; her mother, Debbie Bayird; three brothers, Brock, Tyler and Seth; and one sister, Emily. She is also survived by her grandparents, Doye and Judy Bayird and Anniece Young. She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Sterling Young.

friends, faculty and staff

Dorothy Price Moore, 97, passed away on April 9. She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Lee Moore Paige; son, Robert S. Moore Jr.; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

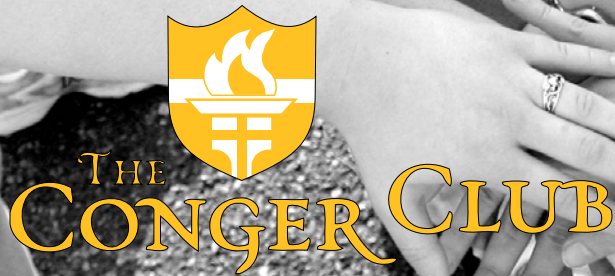
Willastein Odom, 92, of Maumelle, passed away on May 22. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jess P. Odom. She is survived by two sons, Michael Odom and Paul Odom; two granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

H.E. "Pete" Raines, 80, died June 11. He served 18 years on the Quachita board of trustees. He was preceded in death by his wife, Juanita. Survivors include a son, Doug Raines; daughter, Melanie Raines; and one grandchild.

* denotes a former student



Membership has its rewards



**When you join The Conger Club, you become
a Ouachita difference maker.**

**You enable students to reach higher, dream bigger
and reach out to the world around them.**

You help make Ouachita's future a reality.

**Each year you are a part of equipping
today's students for tomorrow's challenges.**

**The Conger Club is an annualized giving opportunity
that is open to alumni, former students and friends of Ouachita.
Gifts may support schools or departments, the athletic program
or presidential priority projects.**

**For more information, please contact
Ouachita's Development Office at 870-245-5169.**

Ouachita Faculty Profile

Dr. Barbara Pemberton Associate Professor of Christian Missions

During Ouachita's spring Academic Banquet, Dr. Barbara Pemberton was recognized by the student body as Ouachita's "Most Inspirational Professor."

For Amy Welch ('08), a recent graduate and a member of Pemberton's popular "Pruett Sisterhood" discipleship group for Christian Studies women, her professor's recognition is much deserved.

"Dr. Pemberton has both a hunger for learning and a deep passion for her students," Welch noted. "She combines both of these in a way that the students know she is pouring her own knowledge and wisdom into them, yet also feel they are learning alongside her.

"It is no surprise to hear of the deep respect and appreciation Dr. Pemberton's students have for her," Welch added. "I know it continues to ring true for me."

Dr. Pemberton joined the Ouachita faculty in 2002. She received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mississippi with a double major in philosophy (comparative religion) and radio/TV production. She went on to obtain her Master of Arts in Theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and her Ph.D. in world

religions from Baylor University. She is married to John Pemberton and they have three grown sons: Patrick, John and Beck. They also have two grandsons, Jackson and Luke.

Pemberton currently teaches a number of key Christian Studies courses, including "Interpreting the Bible," "Contemporary World," "World Religions" and "Discipleship in the Church."

Filled with her typical enthusiasm, she declared, "I love the opportunity to train students to disciple others in the 'Discipleship' class. But then there's 'Interpreting the Bible' where they develop skills that will serve students for the rest of their lives. Wow! Does it get any better than that?"

This fall, Pemberton will teach a new course on Islam. "We have lots of students who feel called to work in parts of the world where knowledge of Islam will be an important part of their preparation," she explained.

Dr. Pemberton has had extensive opportunity to study and observe in the heart of Islam in preparation for this new course: Her husband, Jim, is a chemical engineer working for Saudi Aramco and his job allows her to visit



Saudi Arabia during the summer and holiday breaks.

Describing how alumni can get involved in supporting current students, Pemberton said, "Remember our students when you are planning retreats, Disciple Now weekends, etc., for your churches and when you are looking for interns. Our Christian Studies students are devoted followers of the Lord and great role models. They receive great training at Ouachita but need opportunities for experience. Also, remember our missions students when planning mission trips and consider helping our students finance Ouachita mission opportunities.

"Finally, we love to hear from alumni in any area of ministry or who are in seminary or grad school. Really!" she emphasized. "Come back and visit with us and tell the students what life is like 'outside the bubble.' This is a very important part of preparation for ministry of every kind."

Save the Date

**AUGUST 27
CLASSES BEGIN**

**SEPTEMBER 25
PRUETT SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES
PASTORS' CONFERENCE: "STUDIES IN EXODUS:
LIVING IN AWE OF GOD."
CONTACT: KNIGHTTE@OBU.EDU**

**OCTOBER 13-18
HOMECOMING: "TOTALLY TIGERS!"**

**NOVEMBER 6
BATTLE OF THE RAVINE**

**DECEMBER 5 & 6
FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS**

Ouachita staff profile

Keisha Pittman

Director of Admissions Counseling

Keisha Pittman ('04) joined Ouachita's admissions team as a pre-senior recruiter immediately after her graduation from OBU. Today, Pittman serves as the director of admissions counseling and leads a team of seven counselors as they help build the future of Ouachita.

Her position draws upon her marketing strengths and creativity as she works enthusiastically to plan events for prospective students, design recruitment pieces and shape the message that students and their families hear about the Ouachita experience.

Describing what continues to attract her to student recruitment, Pittman's explanation is simple and heartfelt: "It is an honor to tell our story every single day. I love telling families about the people I met here, the professors who invested in me, the community of Arkadelphia and the traditions that make us unique. I love talking about the value of a Ouachita education and walking a family through the importance of making good investments. It's my personal story, it's how I got here and I love sharing it."

Pittman is currently serving as the



Vice President of Membership and Finance for the National Association of Baptist Enrollment Professionals and was recently honored with the National Association of Christian College Admissions Professionals' 2008 Midwest Region Service Award. She also works closely with the Ouachita Student Foundation, the Tiger Network Leadership Award and will serve as co-chair of the Miss OBU Pageant.

PITTMAN OUTLINES THREE SIGNIFICANT WAYS OUACHITA ALUMNI CAN HELP THE UNIVERSITY:

■ **Tell your story.** "While campus may not look exactly as it did during your days in the 'bubble,' the most important components stay the same. We are still a university committed to academic excellence and challenge; our people still treat you like family; and our campus community continues to serve Christ. Your story is unique and is part of the rich fabric of Ouachita – share it!"

■ **Share names.** "As you share your story and find students who are interested in Ouachita, let us know! We want to talk to every single student who you think would be a good fit for Ouachita. We want to work with them personally on acceptance requirements and financial details.

"Do you remember who shared Ouachita with you? For me, it was an alumni couple, my Sunday School teachers. They loved their time at Ouachita and knew that it was a place where I could shine and grow. They began talking to me about college when I was in 10th grade and persisted in their encouragement to give Ouachita a try. Your help is vital in connecting the admissions team to students who you know need to be at Ouachita."

■ **Pass on your legacy.** "If you have a child nearing college age, encourage them to take a look at Ouachita. Legacy is at the heart of the Ouachita tradition and working with the children of alumni is a priority. Bring your kids to campus for a tour and share your stories with them – we hope they will feel called to create Ouachita stories of their own!"

Fall Recruitment Events

September 13:

Preview Day

October 16-17:

GROW

(Get Ready for Ouachita's
World)

November 6:

**Battle of the Ravine
Tailgate Party**

November 7:

Tiger Friday

December 5:

Tiger Friday

For more details or to register
online, visit [www.obu.edu/
admissions/dates/](http://www.obu.edu/admissions/dates/)

Homecoming 2008 highlights "Totally Tigers" celebration

Ouachita's alumni and friends are invited to make plans to come home to Ouachita on Oct. 13-18 for a "Totally Tigers" celebration of Homecoming 2008.

The Ouachita Alumni team's Homecoming committee is introducing a number of new events during this year's Homecoming festivities. New events include Saturday's OctTIGER Fest, a campus-wide drop-in featuring social clubs, organizations, academic departments, faculty and more. In honor of the 30th anniversary of Tiger Tunes, we are hosting a celebration dinner for alumni, parents and friends at 5 p.m. in the Walker Conference Center and will also offer a limited simulcast of the Saturday show in Verser Auditorium if all tickets sell out. Returning events include the Clark County Alumni Dinner, U.S. Bank Homecoming Golf Scramble, Tailgate Party, the presentation of the Homecoming court and the Homecoming football game.

If it's a reunion year for you, be sure to make Homecoming plans. The classes of **2008, 1998, 1988, 1983, 1978** and **1968** will celebrate class reunions during the Tiger Tailgate Party and several classes have activities planned on Friday evening. Contact Lauren Land at landl@obu.edu or (870) 245-5111 with any questions or visit www.obualumni.org for the latest details.



Tiger Tunes tickets

Tiger Tunes is a special project of the Ouachita Student Foundation. Alumni are invited to purchase Tiger Tunes tickets online (www.obu.edu/tigertunes/) beginning on Friday, Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Monday, Sept. 8.



Former Student Association renamed Ouachita Alumni

Beginning Aug. 1, Ouachita's Former Student Association (FSA) will be known by the new name **Ouachita Alumni**. All graduates and former students are included in the Ouachita Alumni circle and are invited to be part of Ouachita's interactive online community (www.obualumni.org). The online community is *for alumni, by alumni* and features a searchable directory, personal web pages, event registration and a new career center.

You will see some additional changes as well. The tagline for Ouachita Alumni is *Connecting the Circle* and the monthly e-news blast is *Ouachita Alumni 360°*. We also extend thanks to **René Zimny ('08)** for designing our new logo.

Additionally, the FSA Advisory Board is now the Ouachita Alumni Advisory Board and new President **Tiffeny Thompson Crow ('95)** will take leadership in the fall. Special thanks to current President **Doug West ('73)** for the guidance he has provided throughout the past year. If you would like to send a question or suggestion to the Ouachita Alumni Advisory Board, please e-mail alumniboard@obualumni.org. You can view the full board list online at www.obualumni.org.

Ouachita Alumni staff team expands and reorganizes



Chris Babb ('99) joined the Ouachita Alumni team on June 1 as the new External Director of Alumni. Chris will be working with alumni throughout the nation to plan regional events, reunions and chapter activities. He will take the lead on the new Young Alumni Advisory Committee, alumni volunteer activities and major school spirit events. Chris, who previously served as an OBU development officer, will also continue to support the growth of the new Conger Club and other university fundraising programs.



Lauren Land, who has been serving as Ouachita's Director of Alumni and Special Events, is the new Internal Director of Alumni and will handle alumni programming, alumni communications and on-campus events. She will continue to take the lead on the Ouachita Online Community, the Tiger Network Leadership Award and work closely with *The Ouachita Circle* alumni magazine.

HOUEACHITA
HOME
COMING 2008



totally
tigers

MONDAY

- Lunch on the Lawn (noon)
- Clark County Alumni Dinner (5:30 p.m. Walker Conf. Center)
- Deck the Halls

WEDNESDAY

- Chamber of Commerce Community Coffee (9:30 Arkadelphia Town Hall)

FRIDAY

- U.S. Bank Homecoming Golf Scramble (9 a.m. Glenwood Country Club)
- Tiger Tunes (5 and 8:30 p.m. JPAC)

OCTOBER
13-18 '08

TUESDAY

- Homecoming Chapel (JPAC)

THURSDAY

- GROW
- Tiger Tunes (7:30 p.m. JPAC)
- Tiger Prowl (Amphitheatre, 10 p.m.)

SATURDAY

- OctTIGER Fest (10-11 a.m. Campus)
- Tiger Tailgate Party (11-1 p.m. Crews Practice Field)
- Football Game (1:30 p.m.)
- Tiger Tunes 30th Anniversary Dinner (5-7 p.m., Walker Conf. Center)
- Tiger Tunes (7:30 p.m. JPAC)

FROM THE ARCHIVES: DANIEL HALL, 1967



Daniel Hall, which was completed in 1967, is shown under construction on Ouachita's North Campus. The dorm, which was built during President Phelps' administration, has been home to Ouachita students for more than four decades. It is among the residence halls scheduled to be torn down next year to make way for the university's new student housing complex which is currently under construction.



The Ouachita Circle
Ouachita Baptist University
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