

Summer 2016

Newsletter Summer 2016

Grant Center for International Education
Ouachita Baptist University

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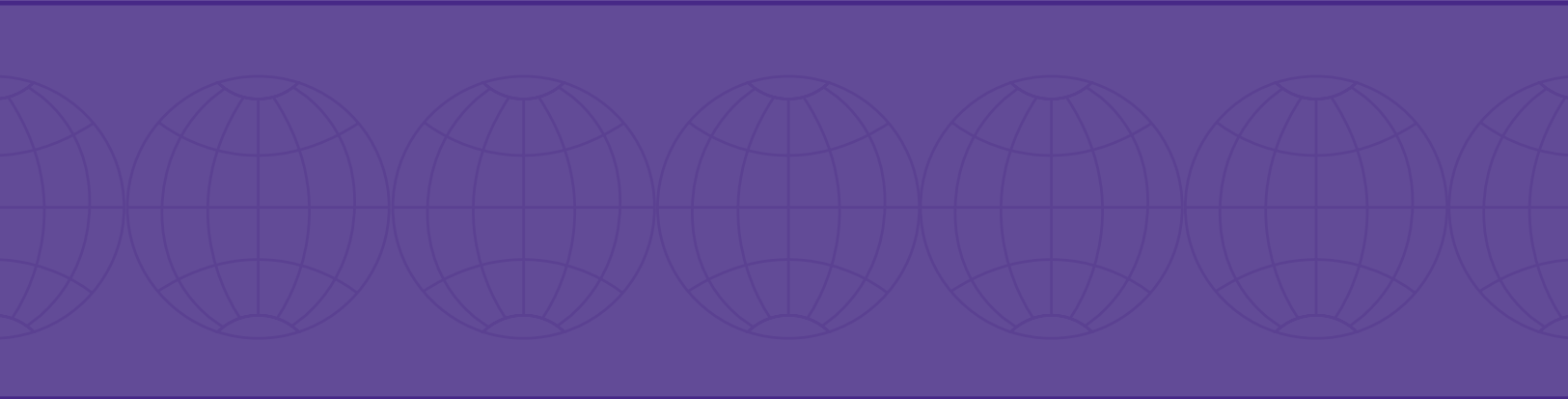
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DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SUMMER 2016



A WORD FROM BILL BULLINGTON,
PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS
OF THE GRANT CENTER

Dear Friends of the Grant Center,

The February meeting of the Friends of the Grant Center for International Education featured, as usual, great reports from students who had studied internationally and students from other countries, including MKs. These student exchanges open the door for international education that extends far beyond the classroom. Their reports confirm that cross-cultural experiences provide opportunities for personal growth that exceed anyone's expectations. Ouachita is an international campus with opportunities for all students to gain an understanding and appreciation for other peoples and cultures.

The International Food Festival was a special treat, as usual, giving participants an opportunity to eat foods that they may not have enjoyed in some time – or ever. Having eaten traditional foods in a number of countries while serving as an international missionary, I appreciate the extra effort of the students and others to prepare special dishes for this occasion. The food is never disappointing, even when the taste buds immediately identify something eaten as entirely new, different and never experienced before. Nothing like an international culinary education!

I went to Ouachita as a ministerial student thinking I probably would serve as a pastor in Arkansas, as many have been called of God to do. God had other plans. He used many campus influences and experiences to open my mind and heart to a larger vision that embraced the world's lost peoples, eventually placing me and my wife, Evelyn, in West Africa. Years later, the Ouachita family embraced and nurtured our sons, Kirk and Bryan, in a way that prepared them for kingdom service. I am grateful for the godly, international ambiance at Ouachita.



Bill Bullington
President,
Friends of the Grant Center



Representatives from the Consortium for Global Education, including OBU's Ian and Sharon Cosh (fifth and sixth from left), visited potential study abroad sites in March, including Rome, Italy, and Angers, France.

DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SUMMER 2016

FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR IAN COSH...



Continuing and creating partnerships
to further international opportunities

Ouachita is a founding member of the Consortium for Global Education (CGE) and continues to value, support and engage in its mission to disseminate the collective wisdom of the members regarding international education and mission opportunities for the benefit of the whole. It is my privilege to serve on the executive committee of the organization and to assist in guiding it under the leadership of Dr. Carolyn Bishop, president. It will also be a high honor for Ouachita to host the annual meeting of the organization on our campus September 14-16, 2016.

As an example of how the organization stimulates and refreshes the international education options available to member colleges and universities, a delegation was formed this March to visit two European universities (one in France and one in Italy) to explore their course offerings and locations as potential options for students at member institutions.

We visited the Catholic University of the West in Angers, France. It is located southwest of Paris – a 90-minute train ride from Charles de Gaulle Airport in a beautiful agricultural area. The town is clean, safe, modern, delightfully French in every way, and the university has a very strong French language program and an environmental science program.

We also visited John Cabot University in the heart of Rome. It is a fully accredited American university that offers all classes in English, so it has the potential to place students in a university that offers a wide variety of courses and provides all of the rich cultural opportunities of this historic city.

We continue to explore options for our students as we constantly work to build quality into all that we do to make the Ouachita educational experience a journey that embraces local and international engagement.



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



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2016 INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

- 1st Place: Scott Hartley, China
- 2nd Place: Tori Pierceall, Italy
- 3rd Place: Kayla Golden, England



MEET THE GRANT CENTER STAFF

"The director's dream team! It is my joy to work with three people whom I greatly respect professionally and personally," Ian Cosh noted. "They work with a sense of calling, care deeply about students and are faithful servants in the work of the kingdom."

Sharon Cosh: Sharon is the "dean" of our team, being the inaugural coordinator of our ESL program and longest-serving member. She is graduate of the Bulawayo Teachers College in Zimbabwe, a *summa cum laude* graduate of Ouachita and a graduate of Carson-Newman University in Tennessee. Sharon has traveled extensively and has lived and worked abroad. She is the mother of five Ouachita graduates and grandmother to 11 future Tigers. Sharon is an artist, loves to garden and enjoys spending time with her family. She is married to an Irishman who speaks with a strange hybrid accent and enjoys travel as much as she does!



Amy Gattis: Amy serves as assistant director and is our international, TCK & MK recruiting expert and provides guidance and support for their ongoing success. She is a graduate of Ouachita and of Wheaton College in Illinois. Amy lived and taught ESL in China for several years and studied abroad at Salzburg College as a student. Amy grew up on a farm, so she loves the outdoors. Amy likes to ride horses, enjoys her dogs and paddles her canoe whenever she gets the chance. She loves to travel for work and pleasure. Her husband, Brandon, shares her love for travel and is glad he married someone who shares his sense of adventure.



Tanya Jackson: Tanya serves as our office manager. She helps to make sure the trains run on time and that meetings are scheduled and student workers are supervised. Tanya is an expert in assisting the director with the detailed paperwork that is part of our study abroad program. She is the mother of four children and three grandchildren and is famous in the office for her unique sense of humor and her creative "Camp Mimi" summer program for her grandchildren. Tanya loves to spend time with her family and enjoys life to the full.



THE GRANT CENTER WELCOMES PRESIDENT SELLS

Ushering in a new era of leadership at Ouachita Baptist University, trustees unanimously elected Dr. Ben R. Sells as Ouachita's 16th president during a special called meeting April 7. He officially assumed the presidency June 1.



Dr. Sells, who has extensive leadership experience in higher education, fundraising and missions involvement, recently served more than nine years as vice president for university advancement at Taylor University in Upland, Ind.

His international experience includes participating in the Oxford Overseas Study Program as an undergraduate and serving as an English instructor at Huaiyin Teachers College in China as well as two roles with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. He served as coordinator of the IMB's International Learning Center and director of the IMB's International Centre for Excellence in Leadership.

Dr. Sells holds a B.S. from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and two degrees, an M.A. and a Ph.D. in higher and adult education, from the University of Missouri in Columbia. In 2012, he earned a certificate from Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management. Other higher education experience includes serving as vice president for admissions and student life and director of university ministries at Southwest Baptist University. He also has served as vice president for Avis Industrial Corporation and senior vice president of development for Enactus.

Dr. Sells' wife, Lisa, served most recently as executive director of Lift, an after-school faith-based initiative for elementary students. They are the parents of four children.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HONORED

Four international students were recognized at the annual University Community Service Awards, hosted by the Elrod Center for Family and Community. Jacob Moreno, a May 2016 dietetics and nutrition graduate from Mexico City, was honored as International Student of the Year. Moeka Fujita, a sophomore from Fukuoka, Japan; Haruko "Sunny" Nishida, a sophomore from Kumamoto, Japan; and Kanako Yasutake, a sophomore from Fukuoka, Japan; were recognized for their work in the English as a Second Language Program. Ben Lange-Smith, a May 2016 psychology graduate from Harare, Zimbabwe, was recognized at the university's Academic Awards Banquet as this year's Senior Outstanding Man, an honor selected by Ouachita faculty and staff.



Amy Gattis and Sharon Cosh congratulate students recognized at the annual University Community Service Awards (from left): Jacob Moreno, Kanako Yasutake, Gattis, Moeka Fujita, Haruka "Sunny" Nishida and Cosh.



Ben Lange-Smith (at right) from Harare, Zimbabwe, was selected as Senior Outstanding Man. Also pictured are Sara "Cat" Williams, Senior Outstanding Woman and Griffin Peeples, Overall Academic Achiever. Photo by Grace Finley.



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

The annual International Food Festival was held Feb. 16 in Walker Conference Center. More than 600 people had the opportunity to taste cuisine from all over the world. More than 70 students, faculty and staff shared food representing either their home country or a place where they had spent time. More than 20 countries were represented!

This year's theme was "East Meets West." In addition to the diverse cuisine, participants enjoyed a variety of music genres as several international students performed songs from their homelands.



The European Study Tour group visited the Colosseum in Rome.



More than 600 faculty, staff, students and guests participated in the 2016 International Food Festival in Walker Conference Center.



Vanja Bogetic, a junior musical theatre major from Serbia, was one of several international students who provided entertainment at the 2016 International Food Festival. Food festival photos by Grace Finley.