

Spring 2009

The Ouachita Circle Spring 2009

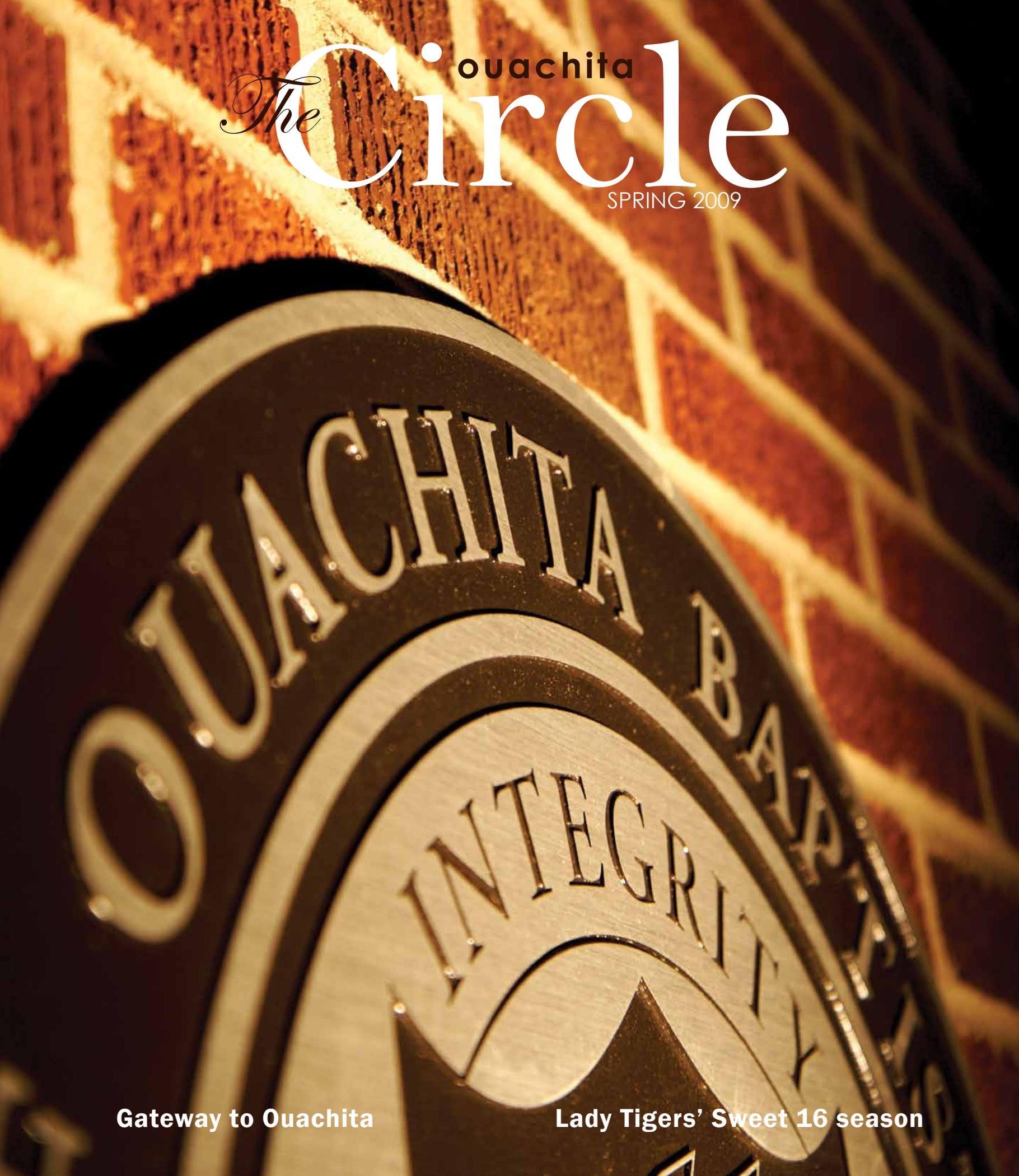
Ouachita Baptist University

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A close-up photograph of a brick archway. The bricks are reddish-brown with light-colored mortar. A dark metal plaque is mounted on the arch, featuring the word 'OUACHITA' in large, raised, serif letters. Below it, the word 'INTEGRITY' is also visible in a similar font. The lighting is warm, creating a golden glow on the bricks and the metal.

The **ouachita**
Circle
SPRING 2009

Gateway to Ouachita

Lady Tigers' Sweet 16 season

Exploring the art of integrity

Integrity is somewhat like a great work of art – it’s difficult to define but you tend to know it when you see it.

Integrity often is described as “doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching.” In fact, it is that and much more. It involves a consistent, committed lifestyle that impacts every aspect of an individual’s daily actions and attitudes.

As *The Ouachita Circle* continues to explore the three watchwords of “vision,” “integrity” and “service” displayed on Ouachita’s university seal, this issue focuses on the principle of integrity. The word “integrity” applies to a variety of topics, ranging from the structural integrity of buildings to academic integrity in the classroom to personal, professional and spiritual integrity.

In the area of personal integrity, a page 2 feature by Dr. Byron Eubanks offers an insightful perspective about the process of developing integrity. Dr. Eubanks, chair of Ouachita’s department of philosophy, also is director of the university’s William H. & Peggy Sutton Center for Integrity.

As Dr. Eubanks clearly and succinctly explains in his article, “Becoming a person of integrity happens as we make daily decisions, whether momentous or mundane, about right and wrong.” Wherever you are on your individual journey of integrity, I commend his views to you for personal challenge and reflection.

Spiritual integrity also remains a significant emphasis on Ouachita’s campus. That truth was driven home during this semester’s annual Christian Focus Week. Affirming the theme verse, “We fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18), the week’s keynote speakers cited the importance of pursuing spiritual commitment, growth and integrity.

Urging Christians to “live in integrity in all areas of life,” Ouachita alum Wes Hamilton reminded the university community, “What we do outwardly — clean hands — cannot happen unless there is a pure heart.” An overview of the week’s activities and insights is featured on page 4.

Structural integrity continues to be a daily object lesson on campus as phase one of the Student Village construction project remains on schedule. The recent dedication of a beautiful new university entrance and the opening of Ben and Betty Elrod Boulevard also point to the integrity of Ouachita’s long-term vision as well as the lifelong integrity of Dr. and Mrs. Elrod and other leaders and supporters of Ouachita Baptist University.

As you read this issue of *The Circle* and reflect on the call to integrity, take a moment to thank God for Ouachita’s ongoing commitment to institutional integrity for the sake of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.



Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

“Integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do.”

Don Galer

“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

“Our integrity is never worth so much as when we have parted with our all to keep it.”

Charles Caleb Colton

“Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you.”

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

“Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High.”

Psalms 7:8



4



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2 Pursuing personal integrity

Dr. Byron Eubanks, director of Ouachita's Sutton Center for Integrity, examines the process of developing personal integrity.

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OBU's annual spiritual emphasis challenges the campus community to "fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen."

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Developing integrity:

Integrity is one of those words that is tricky to define, partly because its meaning varies with context. For example, anticipation is growing on campus this year as construction on the new residential village has progressed from concrete foundations to steel framework to brick exterior. The architects, engineers and builders might speak of the structures' integrity and have in mind the buildings' soundness and solidity, their trustworthiness as homes for students.

Integrity of character is a little harder to pin down. Oh, we recognize its absence in stories of investment gurus who swindle clients out of billions of dollars or governors who attempt to sell Senate seats to the highest bidder. For most of us, though, questions of integrity come with far fewer zeros attached, but they do come and they keep on coming throughout life.

For example, consider the student who stayed after class to ask a question about a summer job opportunity. Rob (not the student's real name) applied for a ministry position with a national organization and was excited about the prospects of going to another state far from home for the summer. His answers on the application, however, raised some red flags for the hiring organization. Let's imagine that Rob once had a body piercing. (This is not the real issue either, but the point

is the same.) Later, he decided that because of health risks, he would remove the jewelry and let the piercing heal over. Though the Bible does not mention piercings, and he does not think piercings are inherently sinful, Rob personally chooses not to have any.

Now imagine that this organization's official policy prohibits hiring employees with body piercings and requires all employees to sign a statement of principles that includes a section prohibiting them from having or condoning body piercings. Rob really wants this job but cannot in good conscience sign the document. What should he do?

In his book *Integrity*, Stephen Carter proposes that integrity requires three steps. First, we do the hard work of discerning what is right. Second, we act on what we have discerned to be right, even when such action results in some personal loss. Third, we explain openly what we are doing and why. One way to fail the first step is to unquestioningly follow tradition or cave in to peer pressure. Selling out is one name for failing at the second step. Letting others interpret our actions and motivations while we remain silent would surely mean falling short on the third step. If we are honest, of course, our own experience provides many other ways of failing each step.

A personal perspective

by Byron Eubanks

The story told in Acts 3-4 provides a great biblical example of fulfilling these three requirements of integrity. After Peter and John healed a crippled man, temple officials arrested them and jailed them over night. Ultimately, the officials ordered Peter and John to stop teaching and preaching in Jesus' name. Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20, NIV). Clearly, they had thought through their situation and discerned what was right. They also announced their intention to act and, once released, followed through. Given the recent crucifixion of Jesus, by refusing to heed the officials' ruling they risked serious personal loss, even death.

By comparison, Rob's decision seems hardly worth debating. But even though the stakes were much lower, his integrity was on the line – literally. Signing would allow him to serve God's Kingdom in new ways and new places. But it would mean betraying his conviction about piercings. Not signing would mean no job, or at least no dream job. He would, though, likely have other job

opportunities, other ways and places to serve God's Kingdom. Still, not signing would result in personal loss. Telling the recruiter why he would not sign might limit Rob's future opportunities with the organization, too, though the risk of that is probably small.

Some might say that Rob is making a mountain out of a molehill here. After all, body piercing is hardly a central concern of Rob's theology! What is the harm in signing and moving forward with the summer job? This was,

whom we agreed on every issue, few of us would ever vote.

The point of telling Rob's story is not to pass judgment on any particular organization or to question the right of ministry organizations to set criteria for hiring. The point is to remind us that becoming a person of integrity happens as we make daily decisions, whether momentous or mundane, about right and wrong. Think again of the new residential village on campus. Builders could cut corners in thousands of ways. Any one of those

cut corners might have little effect on the integrity of the structures.

Collectively, though, cut corners

enough and the result would be like building a house on sand – not a good place to call home.

Rob did not tell me whether he would sign and take that summer job of his dreams or start looking for other employment. He did, though, recognize that this decision would both reflect his character now and affect his character in the future. One of the joys of teaching at Ouachita is sharing life with students and watching them grow, graduate and move on to positions of leadership and service. Like so many OBU students, Rob is well on his way.

“Becoming a person of **integrity** happens as we make *daily* decisions, whether **momentous** or **mundane**, about *right* and *wrong*.”

in effect, what the recruiter suggested Rob do. He even hinted to Rob that he had similar perspectives about piercings but since signing was required for his job, sign he did.

Surely wisdom and experience suggest we have to choose our battles carefully. And keeping one's integrity does not mean that we can never compromise. Which of us ever agrees with our employer's every policy or decision? And, in another context, if we limited our votes to candidates with



Dr. Byron Eubanks, professor and chair of Ouachita's department of philosophy, also is director of OBU's William H. & Peggy Sutton Center for Integrity.



photos by Danny Brown

Christian Focus Week: Annual campus event urges spiritual commitment and growth

by Trennis Henderson

Why does a Christian university with weekly chapel services, a vibrant Campus Ministries program, student-led services such as Noonday and Refuge and dozens of other mission and ministry opportunities need an annual Christian Focus Week?

“I really think we’re no different than the rest of the world – we get wrapped up in our schedules,” explained James Taylor, Ouachita’s Campus Ministries director. “Christian Focus Week can help us refocus and gain some perspective amid our busy lives.”

According to Wes Hamilton, a 1994 Ouachita alum and one of this year’s CFW keynote speakers, “I think Christian Focus Week should be an affirmation of what’s always being taught and what is already happening here.”

And that is precisely what occurred during Ouachita’s 2009 Christian Focus Week. With a focus on “*aionios*,” the Greek word for “eternal” or “everlasting,” CFW leaders chose 2 Corinthians 4:18 as the week’s theme verse: “We fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

The Feb 9-13 spiritual emphasis on the Ouachita campus featured such

diverse activities as prayer breakfasts; morning and evening worship; an athletic challenge; a coffeehouse; a Psalms and Meditations service led by Covenant, Ouachita’s worship arts team; and a concert by Shawn McDonald and Christian rock band Leeland. The schedule also included seminars on such topics as “Art and Worship,” “Being a Part of God’s Mission,” “Life after College” and “A Christian Perspective on America’s Economy.” In other words, the week offered spiritual growth opportunities designed to suit virtually anyone’s needs and interests.

“Focusing on things eternal is recognizing all of our lives should be seen in relation to Christ,” Taylor noted. “Everyone, no matter your profession, is called to be a follower of Christ and to impact eternity.”

He said the annual emphasis also provides an additional opportunity for students to “hear and respond to the gospel” and hopefully “gain a more biblical vision in their life.”

Trinka Newman, a senior Biblical studies major from Monticello, Ark., was among the student leaders who helped plan and coordinate this year’s Christian Focus Week.

“Our goal and purpose for the week was that we wanted to see our

peers develop a deep love and devotion to Christ,” she said. “Everything we did centered on this purpose.”

The week’s activities started with a devotional led by Ouachita President Rex Horne during CFW’s opening prayer breakfast.

Reflecting on “defining moments in life,” Dr. Horne described defining moments as “crucial times when a choice you make or don’t make impacts the rest of your life.”

Citing such pivotal life decisions as choosing a vocation or a spouse, Horne said, “Defining moments make you the person you are. A defining moment also reveals who you are and something about your life.”

Beyond one’s high-profile life decisions, “most defining moments are known only to you and God,” Horne pointed out. “Every one of you has had and will have defining moments. One might just be around the corner today.”

Affirming that “Christian Focus Week can be a defining moment for dozens, if not hundreds, of students,” he encouraged those attending the prayer breakfast to “ask the Lord to make this week a very special time.”

During the Monday morning worship service, Hamilton warned about the pitfalls of legalism. Declaring that “we have to constantly fight against the pull of legalism in our lives,” he asked, “Why are we still the same selfish and broken people we’ve always been? The law can dress up the outside but it can’t change the inside. The law can’t change who we are.”

Hamilton, the teaching pastor at Lake Point Church in Rockwall, Texas, emphasized that legalism always finds the fault, takes the credit, lowers the bar and misses the point. “Legalism always makes more of man and less of God,” he cautioned. “What we do outwardly — clean hands — cannot happen unless there is a pure heart.

“We’re not seeking conformity to a system or a law,” he concluded. “It has to be an inward transformation — something that takes place on the inside that finds its way to the outside.”

During a Q&A session with students, faculty and staff, Hamilton noted that Ouachita “was influential in giving me a much larger worldview.”

“I love this school,” he added. “It really did get me started on the right foot in many ways.”

Reminding students that “calling can be just as significant to a career as

to a ministry,” Hamilton urged them to embrace the perspective that “you are called to your vocation because God is about redeeming all of culture.”

Challenging fellow believers to pursue lives of ethical and spiritual integrity, Hamilton said, “Christian education was never intended to hide us from culture; it was intended to equip us to engage culture.

“There’s this constant tension on a Christian campus when we remove ourselves from the world,” he acknowledged. “There’s a formative time in

the college years when that can be a good thing to prepare you to face the deeper challenges of life. Students need to appreciate what they have, but not be content with it. Be salt. Be light.”

Affirming the call for Christians to “live in integrity in all areas of life,” Hamilton said, “As you prepare yourself for life and work and career, realize you are preparing yourself, wherever you might go, for ministry.”

Matthew Bailey, a 1999 Ouachita grad, and his wife, Lizi, led praise and worship sessions throughout the week. Bailey, who serves as worship leader at FaithBridge Church in Houston, told students, “Success is just knowing God and being His child and being faithful wherever He puts you.

... The Christian life and Christian walk is about

loving God and loving people.”

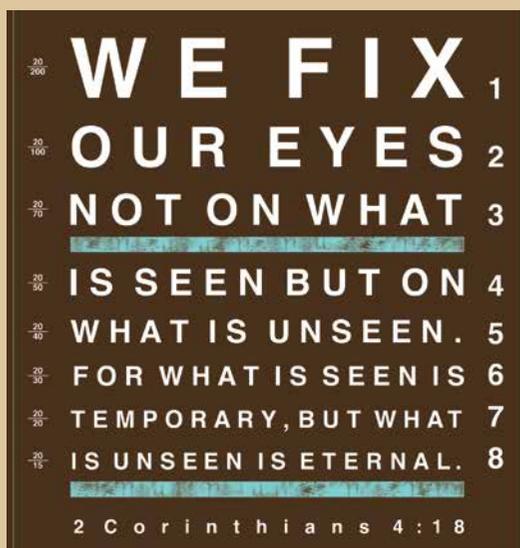
Odus Compton, director of church relations for Oklahoma Baptist University, also was a CFW keynote speaker. Recounting Jesus’ parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15, Compton said, “Our understanding of who God is and how He relates to us makes all the difference in the world.

“When we’re lost, when we’re wayward, Christ goes looking for us and pursues us,” he emphasized. “God’s desire when we are in the worst possible place, when we rebel against Him, is not to beat us up but to invite us back into relationship with Him.

“Remember that God is a God who wants to restore you,” Compton urged. “What He desires is that we have true relationship and true fellowship with Him.”

Ian Cosh, director of Ouachita’s Ben M. Elrod Center for Family & Community, said Christian Focus Week offers students “the opportunity to go beyond the routine events to be challenged as Christians.”

“I felt like the messages and music really did meet students’ needs,” he said, adding that the annual campus emphasis provides “a very powerful way to remind us all about our Christian calling and our focus on Christ.”





Entrance boulevard honors Ben and Betty Elrod

photo by Danny Brown

Ouachita Baptist University Chancellor Ben M. Elrod and his wife, Betty Lou, were honored March 12 with the dedication of a new university entrance and boulevard on the Ouachita campus.

Dr. Elrod, Ouachita's 13th president, served in that role from 1988 until his retirement in 1997. He previously served as OBU's vice president for development. During his administration, major campus construction projects included the Jones Performing Arts Center, Anthony and Maddox residence halls, Katie Speer Pavilion and Gardens, International Flag Plaza and Fountain, and Harvey Jones Science Center.

In addition to Ouachita's new Ben and Betty Elrod Boulevard, the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family & Community was named in his honor in 1997.

"I am so proud that we have named the boulevard in honor of Dr. Ben and Betty Lou Elrod," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "No one loves Ouachita more. Their lives of service and devotion to Ouachita are exemplary."

The outdoor dedication ceremony, held at the university's new entrance located off Highway 7 in Arkadelphia, was scheduled in conjunction with Ouachita's March 12 Board of Trustees meeting. Cold, rainy weather failed to dampen the spirit of the celebration as Dr. Horne, Dr. Elrod and other participants shared brief remarks about the entrance and boulevard project.

"Our entrance provides a beautiful door to a campus home of students, faculty and staff who personify great hope and promise," President Horne emphasized. "The entry drive is meaningful for a great impression to first-time visitors and a sense of home for those who live here."

"We're here today to honor Dr. and Mrs. Elrod for the gift they have made both toward this boulevard, but even more so toward this university across a lifetime of devoted service and commitment," Dr. Horne told the crowd. "I can think of no better people we could name this boulevard after than Ben and Betty Elrod."

Citing Dr. Elrod's "tremendous leadership and commitment" to Ouachita before, during and since his tenure as president, Dr. Horne declared, "Ben and Betty Elrod love Ouachita Baptist University and they are committed to it." He said Elrod Boulevard will stand as a testimony that the Ouachita community is "thankful to God for the contributions these have made to our lives and to this institution."

"Betty Lou and I are really proud to have this boulevard named for us," Dr. Elrod responded. "We're always pleased to be associated with Ouachita in any way and this is a very special way."

Reflecting on more than 62 years of association with Ouachita, Dr. Elrod said during their time as OBU students, he and Mrs. Elrod "became engaged about where this drive is" when he proposed to her during a picnic on the grassy hillside.

"Ouachita is such a great institution and the people make the institution, both those who are here and those who have been here," he said. "It has been the great embellishment and joy of our lives to have all of you as friends. ... It has been a marvelous journey."

Brett Powell, OBU's vice president for administrative services, is coordinating Ouachita's ongoing construction efforts. Sharing an overview of the current project, he said the entrance and boulevard reflect "a new beginning to the Ouachita campus literally and figuratively," noting that "our redevelopment of the North Campus starts right here where we are today."

Emphasizing that "none of this would have happened without a partnership with Arkadelphia," Powell introduced Arkadelphia City Manager Jimmy Bolt.

Affirming the Elrods' "sense of service above self from a Christian point of view," Bolt said Elrod Boulevard "creates a positive image for our community." He described the project as "a beautiful addition to the gateway of our city."

J.D. Patterson gift honors legacy of professor and mentor E.A. Provine

by Rebecca Jones

Dr. J.D. Patterson ('47) of Searcy has made it his life's work to "plant trees under whose shade he never expects to sit." Ouachita Baptist University and many of its students have been the beneficiaries of Patterson's philosophy for many years.

Patterson, a member of Ouachita's Board of Trustees since 2005, most recently funded an endowed chair of chemistry named in memory of Dr. E.A. Provine, a longtime professor of chemistry at Ouachita and one of Patterson's former instructors.

Patterson said he chose to honor Provine because of his kindness and willingness to assist students in their academic journeys. Citing a couple of personal examples, Patterson said Provine selected him to be a lab assistant and also allowed him to make up a test that Patterson missed due to illness. "He was just extra nice to me," Patterson reflected.

He also affirmed his interest in providing support for Ouachita's J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences which was named in his honor in 2002. Noting that his academic background in the sciences equipped him to go to dental school, Patterson said becoming a dentist has allowed him worldwide ministry opportunities or "missions adventures" as he calls them in his biography, *The Doorman*.

Patterson's adventures have taken him to 20 nations, including Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Panama, Somalia and Tanzania. His travels have largely focused on providing dental care and ministry to people living in Third World conditions.

When he goes on a mission trip, he takes all his own supplies with him so that all he needs upon arrival are the most basic necessities: a table and chair, water, and a patient. Concerning the scarcity of modern dental conveniences and technology in many settings, he says, "I just do the best I

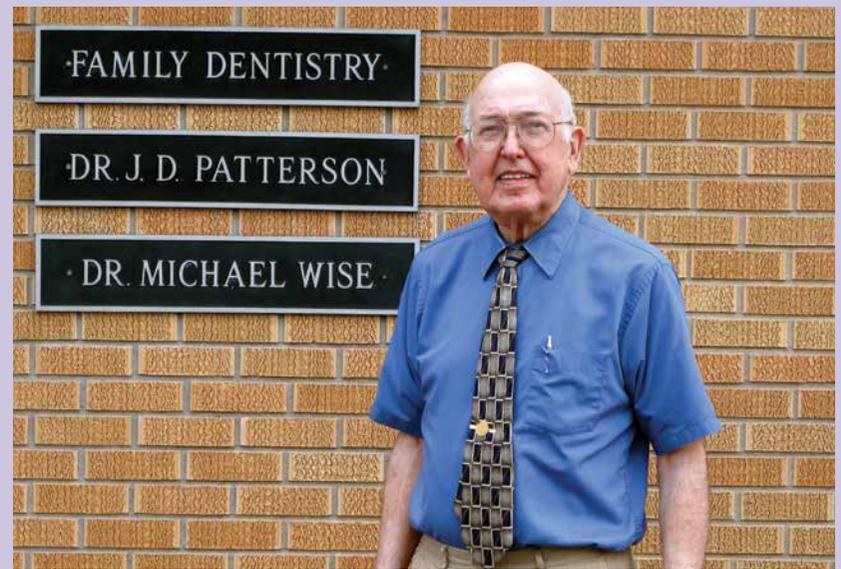


photo by John Baker

can. I can handle the situations where I have nothing."

Patterson, a 1984 recipient of OBU's Distinguished Alumnus Award, has taken a number of Ouachita students with him on international mission trips. Doing so, he explained, allows the students to see and experience places they might never have otherwise visited.

Similarly, Patterson said he hopes his gifts to Ouachita enable students to gain exceptional learning opportunities. Funding the E.A. Provine Chair of Chemistry fits with that objective as Ouachita attracts and retains excellent faculty members who can focus on teaching, research, and, like Provine, helping students achieve academic success.



Rebecca Jones ('96) is a development officer at Ouachita.

1907 alum Fenna Rogers impacts Ouachita a century later

by Rebecca Jones

More than a century after his graduation from Ouachita, William "Fenna" Rogers has made a meaningful difference for his alma mater.

The university received a recent gift of \$800,000 from the Rogers Foundation of Fairfax, Va. The foundation was established in the 1980s by Rogers' son, William F. "Bill" Rogers, Jr., to honor his father's life and legacy. It has historically supported several Christian organizations significant to the Rogers family, including Ouachita.

When the foundation's leaders determined it was time to dissolve the organization late last year, Ouachita officials were invited to submit a proposal for funding. The Rogers Foundation granted Ouachita's request and provided its final gift to the university to support the renovation of a section of Lile Hall that will house the speech communication department. In recognition of this significant gift, the department has been named in honor of the senior Rogers; his wife, Emily; their son, Bill Rogers Jr. and Bill Rogers' second wife, Ethel, who led the family foundation after her husband's death.

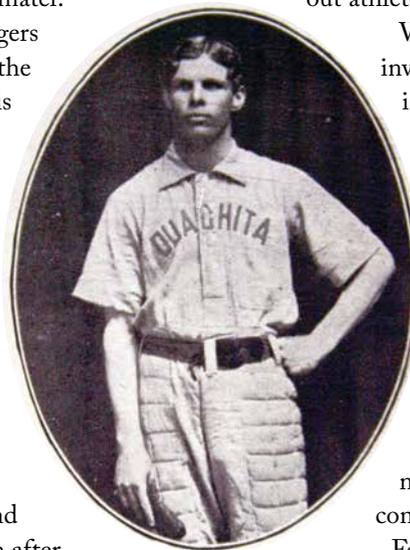
Naming the department for the family will enable current and future members of the Ouachita community and the Rogers Department of Speech

Communication to come to know the story of a young Fenna Rogers, a stand-out athlete, scholar and a man of strong beliefs.

While he was a student in the early 1900s, Rogers was actively involved on campus. The very first Ouachita yearbook, printed in 1907, features a number of pictures of Rogers. He was an orator and an athlete who stood up for his convictions and won the nickname "Preacher" because he refused to play baseball on Sundays.

After graduating from Ouachita in 1907, Rogers went on to play professional baseball for one year for the Pittsburgh Nationals. He later earned a master's degree in theology from Princeton University. He became a respected teacher and served for many years as a Presbyterian minister. His interest and experience in teaching, ministering and speaking will be cultivated in many of the students who pursue presentational and relational communication skills at Ouachita.

Fenna Rogers' life was positively impacted by his time at Ouachita. More than 100 years later, his family has returned the favor with a generous gift that will impact the lives of countless students who will study in the Rogers Department of Speech Communication.



President's class lectures affirm servant leadership

by Leah Garavelli



photo by Callie Phelps

Dr. Rex Horne, president of Ouachita Baptist University, has been teaching a leadership class during the 2009 Spring semester. The leadership class is not new to Ouachita, but this is the first year Dr. Horne has taught it.

“One of the things that is really important to me as the president of Ouachita,” Horne said, “is that students are the most important asset that we have here, and that I want to be involved periodically and intentionally in the lives of our students.”

Horne said his schedule is busy but because the class meets for only one hour, one day a week, he could fit it in.

Horne’s students expressed excitement about having their university president as a professor.

“It’s a privilege,” said Josh Groves, a junior biology major. “It’s been interesting. You’ve got the president of the school who’s open for prayer, open for discussion, just however he can influence students. He’s taking those small steps to do whatever he can to have an impact in students’ lives and make more leaders.”

Horne uses the book, *Leadership Gold: Lessons I’ve Learned from a Lifetime of Leading* by John C. Maxwell, as well as his own leadership experience to teach the class. He said he feels that telling about his own leadership experience helps illustrate some of his points to the class. His students get to hear firsthand how he handled real-life situations in his positions of leadership.

“What I really hope students enjoy the most, because it’s what I enjoy,” Horne said, “is the interaction we can have — and not just as president of the university but someone who is interested in our young men and young women and is willing to open up a little bit to show some transparency in some of my own life work that hopefully will benefit them in whatever they do and wherever they go.”

Katelyn Smith, a freshman biology major, recalls a day she almost decided not to attend class and almost missed one of Horne’s stories.

“He told us the coolest things,” Smith recalled. “He was the pastor of

the church that [former President] Bill Clinton attended, and just how that impacted his ministry and his life and how he dealt with that as a leader. It was really cool, and I was like, ‘I can’t believe I almost didn’t go to class today.’”

Horne said he seeks to impress on his students the importance of being a servant leader.

“We talk about all of this is to be in the context of Christ being our greatest example of servant leadership,” Horne emphasized. “Because of that, we do approach leadership somewhat differently than what you might say a leader is in the secular marketplace.”

Horne said he teaches his students that there are different types of leaders and different ways to go about being a leader. He noted that leaders are not always the ones “that are popular on campus or hold positions.”

“There are many people who have leadership abilities that are going about it quietly,” Horne added, “that are going about it effectively, that when 10 years pass and we look back you’ll see them in leadership positions throughout the country and throughout the world.”

His students are learning that seemingly ordinary people in their lives are actually servant leaders.

“Grandmothers are servant leaders,” Groves said. “People in the community who you don’t hear anything from — they don’t have to be big names — can be leaders in small ways.”

Horne said he has enjoyed teaching the class this semester and the conversations he has had with his students. He also said he would like to continue taking the opportunity to use his past experiences to teach.

“I’m very open to it,” Horne said. “I do hope it becomes a regular part at least one semester out of the school year.”



Leah Garavelli is a freshman mass communications major from Olive Branch, Miss.

Ouachita named to '09 Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service

Ouachita Baptist University has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary community service.

The recent honor by the Corporation for National and Community Service is "another recognition of Ouachita's commitment to service," noted Ian Cosh, Ouachita's assistant to president for community development and director of the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family & Community. "This award allows us to measure ourselves against a national benchmark."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

The national recognition "speaks of service at Ouachita across the board," Cosh pointed out. He said Ouachita's community service efforts range from Tiger Serve Day, TranServe and disaster relief to America Reads, America Counts, ElderServe and volunteer mission projects.

Cosh said more than 1,300 Ouachita students have been involved in various types of community service during the past year, including more than 370 who have logged at least 20 hours of service per semester.

Noting that the launch of Ouachita's Elrod Center more than a decade ago has helped "change the culture at Ouachita by intentionally highlighting community service," Cosh said, "When students discover the joy of service, you know that we really have achieved the ideal."

"College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges," said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "We salute Ouachita Baptist University for making community service a campus priority."



Freshman Nate Wade works at a Habitat construction site in New Orleans. photo by Matt Engelking

OBU students return to New Orleans to work on Habitat housing projects

by Megan Lindsey

Sometimes an experience is so powerful and rewarding that you long to relive those moments. For a group of Ouachita Baptist University students, that feeling was the joy of ministering to families impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

During Ouachita's 2008 winter break, Campus Ministries led a group of 37 students to work with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. In January of this year, a second group of 17 students also felt compelled to go to New Orleans and help make a difference in one of New Orleans' struggling and rebuilding communities.

After hearing the buzz around campus that several students wanted to pay a second visit to Louisiana, James Taylor, OBU's Campus Ministries director, contacted Baptist Crossroads, a group that works with Habitat for Humanity to organize rebuilding efforts. He also arranged with Oak Park Baptist Church in New Orleans to provide housing and meals for team members.

On Jan. 5, the students, along with Taylor and Terese Cox, assistant director of Campus Ministries, climbed into vans and headed to New Orleans with two goals in mind: their mission to help the people of New Orleans create housing opportunities and to grow together by serving and encouraging one another in Jesus' name.

The group's primary project involved fulfilling Habitat-assigned tasks for the five houses the volunteers worked on during the trip. Their tasks included painting, building fences and landscaping. Some students also had the

opportunity to build porches and flower gardens.

"One afternoon a man that lived and worked in the neighborhood in which we worked came by and we visited with him for a few minutes," said Barry McCaskill, a junior physics major from Arkadelphia who participated in both trips. "The conversation was a reality check. People are still struggling in the recovery process. Talking with him showed me that our contributions were important and much appreciated."

"It amazed me how selfless our group was during the trip," said Drew Harper, a sophomore biology major from White Hall, Ark. "Even when we would be tired at the end of the work day, we would encourage one another to keep going. Several of the people we were around asked why we were working so hard, which opened up opportunities to share Christ with them."

On Jan. 10, the group packed up their belongings and said another goodbye to the New Orleans community they had grown so close to in the span of five days. "I gained a lot of respect for these students who would spend part of their short Christmas break serving Christ by helping out complete strangers in a city that's not even their home," Taylor reflected.

As team members surveyed their work and its impact on the people they were serving, they knew it had been a week well spent.



Megan Lindsey is a junior mass communications major from Camden, Ark.

Lady Tigers' 23-win season features Sweet 16 finish

Ouachita's Lady Tigers basketball team compiled one of the program's most successful seasons ever this year.

How successful? According to head coach Garry Crowder, "When you know where we came from and where we got to, you have to appreciate that it was a great year."

For starters, the dramatic turnaround included rebounding from a 5-22 win-loss mark a year ago to an impressive 23 wins and only nine losses this year. That set a school record for the most victories in a season by the Lady Tigers.

But the success didn't end there. Also during the season, Coach Crowder set the record for the most career victories by a Lady Tigers coach, senior Haley Griffin of Arkadelphia scored her 1,000th career point and the team set a school record for three-point baskets with 18 three-pointers in a 108-104 conference win against Harding. Griffin concluded her four-year basketball career at Ouachita with 1,014 points.

The Lady Tigers' success continued in the post-season with their first-ever invitation to the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament. They won their first two tournament games, beating No. 2 seed Fort Valley State 69-55 and No. 3 seed Tampa 77-74.

In the South Regional championship game, the Lady Tigers narrowly lost to top seed Delta State on a Lady Statesmen basket in the game's final seconds that gave Delta State a 50-49 victory. The one-point loss in the Sweet 16 cost



Haley Griffin scores her 1,000th career point during the opening round of the NCAA Division II tournament.

Ouachita a trip to the tourney's Elite Eight, one of the few disappointments in a stellar season.

"During the season, we defeated four conference champions," Crowder pointed out.

"We advanced to the national Sweet 16 in the first time we had ever made it to the NCAA national tournament."

In addition to their team accomplishments, post-season recognitions included NCAA All-South Region Team honors for freshman guard A'Laeshia Adams of Little Rock and sophomore guard Gabby Coleman of North Little Rock.

Coach Crowder, who set the Lady Tigers' career victories mark with 214 wins, ended the season with 222 career victories. He was named the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* Coach of the Year for the Gulf South Conference and Adams was named Freshman of the Year. Ouachita also was ranked 25th nationally in the season's final *USA Today/ESPN* Division II Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

Reflecting on the season, Crowder said, "God blessed our program; I don't think there's any doubt." Noting that the team had to address some tough disciplinary issues the previous year, he added, "The significance is that if you do the right thing in your program and make those difficult decisions, good things can come from it in the end. We went from the worst year we've ever had since I've been here to come back and have the best team Ouachita has ever had.

"This group of players was extremely special in a couple of ways," he said. "They were a very committed and determined group. They were fun to coach. They got to where they got not just on their talent, but the fact that they worked so well together as a unit made them even stronger."

TigerSharks set national relay record, 23 school records

In his first year as head coach of the TigerSharks swimming and diving teams, Ryan Killackey guided the men's team to a 5th place finish nationally and the women's team to 6th place in the NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Championships.

During the season, the teams set 23 school records – a season record itself. The men's 200 medley relay team of Nelson Silva, Hal Eubanks, Max Heinze and Radu Badalac set a national record of 1:27.25, cutting more than 2.6 seconds off the previous mark set two years ago. Badalac also earned first place nationally in the 100 backstroke.

The women's 400 medley relay team of Sarah Watson, Jenny Christensen, Ksenia Gromova and Trina May also set a national record of 3:45.36 during the event's preliminary round. They improved their mark to 3:44.44 in the finals, but finished second to Drury University which broke Ouachita's record with a new NCAA Division II time of 3:43.11.

While the men's strong tournament showing was anticipated, Killackey said the women's team was not even picked to finish in the Top 10. "They surprised a lot of people and came together and swam hard," he emphasized.

Killackey, who served the previous two seasons as assistant coach under longtime TigerSharks coach Jim Dann, earned multiple All-America honors and was a conference record-holder during his years as an OBU swimmer.

This year's team included 17 students who earned All-America honors and 12 Academic All-Americans with a combined team GPA of 3.4, one of the top team GPAs in the nation.

Affirming the strong foundation established by Coach Dann, Killackey said he is seeking to continue the tradition of academics first and athletics second for the TigerSharks and Lady TigerSharks. He said primary goals of the program include striving to "train as a team, compete as a team and succeed as a team."



82 grads honored during final fall commencement

A total of 82 graduates received degrees during Ouachita Baptist University's final fall commencement ceremony held Dec. 20 in Jones Performing Arts Center.

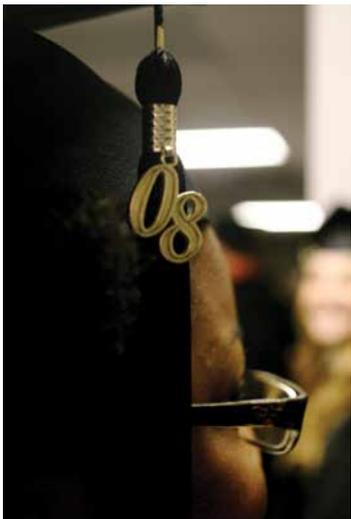
Ouachita officials conferred 69 Bachelor of Arts degrees, eight Bachelor of Science degrees, three Bachelor of Music Education degrees and two Bachelor of Music degrees.

"The work that you do will earn a living, but it is your life that will build a legacy," Ouachita President Rex M. Horne Jr., told graduates during the commencement address. "We are excited about what you will do and what will be accomplished in your lives."

A total of 20 honor graduates were recognized during the ceremony, including four who graduated summa cum laude, six who graduated magna cum laude and 10 who earned cum laude honors.

For most of the past 120 years, OBU held only one commencement ceremony each year. In 1999, a second ceremony was added in the fall to relieve crowding of the spring ceremony. Last year's change of venue to an outdoor spring commencement eliminated the crowding issue, allowing a return to a single ceremony.

"We are merely returning to our longstanding tradition of having only one ceremony per year," explained Judy Jones, OBU registrar and director of admissions. In the future, fall graduates will be invited to take part in the spring commencement ceremony.





Cheerleaders place 8th in national competition

Ouachita Baptist University cheerleaders placed eighth in the nation in their division during this year's College Cheerleading National Championship in Orlando, Fla. Competing in the Division II co-ed squad category, Ouachita was among more than 200 squads at the national event held Jan. 16-18 at Disney World. The event marked the first time any Ouachita cheer squad had competed on the national level.

"It was a great feeling knowing these men and women were embarking on something no other previous squad at Ouachita had done," said Brian Bridges, head OBU cheerleading coach and former University of Arkansas cheerleader.

Shortly before leaving for Orlando, the cheerleaders performed their routine, which consisted of tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids, basket tosses and dance, during halftime of an OBU basketball game.

"I was more nervous performing here than at nationals," said the squad's captain, Stephanie Glenn, a senior biology major from Little Rock. "It was an amazing feeling getting to help lead the squad to nationals. The experience was definitely a success."

Bethany Whitfield crowned 2009 Miss OBU

Bethany Whitfield, a sophomore history major from Bryant, Ark., was crowned Miss Ouachita Baptist University on Feb. 28. She will represent Ouachita at the Miss Arkansas pageant July 15-18 in Hot Springs, Ark. She also won the People's Choice award and the swimsuit and talent categories of the pageant.

"I am thrilled to go to Miss Arkansas as Miss OBU," Whitfield said. "I love this university and everything it represents. It has impacted my life tremendously. I look at this opportunity as an honor, a privilege and a huge responsibility."

Whitfield is the daughter of Donny and Tanya Whitfield of Bryant. She is a member of EEE women's social club and serves as the club's song leader. She also serves as secretary of OBU's College Republicans as well as sophomore class president on OBU's Student Senate. Whitfield's critical issue platform for the pageant was "Manage for the Future: Personal Finance."

First runner-up and winner of the interview portion of the pageant was Bethany Briscoe, a junior graphic design major from Plano, Texas. Second runner-up and evening gown winner was Kristen Glover, a sophomore chemistry major from Stuttgart, Ark. Third runner-up and congeniality winner was Melissa Elliot, a freshman from Little Rock.

Carrie Brown wins state piano competition

Carrie Brown, a junior piano performance major at Ouachita, was named the Arkansas State winner in the Piano Category of the National Federation of Music Clubs Biennial Student/Collegiate Auditions, held Feb. 7 at Henderson State University.

Brown, from Knoxville, Ark., received a \$200 prize and was invited to perform at the Arkansas Federation of Music Clubs state convention. An accompanist for the Ouachita Singers, she also is a vocalist and a cellist.

"I was really nervous before they announced the winner," Brown said. "I wasn't sure if I was going to be named a winner or not, but when they called my name I was really excited."

A full recital of music including compositions from the baroque, classical and romantic periods, an etude and a significant American composition was required of all entrants in the piano category.

"It takes dedication and a strong desire to perform in public," said Dr. Ouida Keck, OBU professor of music and Brown's piano teacher. "Carrie is a very talented pianist with a great deal of musicality."



photo by Sarah Hillyer

Students help in recent disaster relief effort

A team of 21 Ouachita students and faculty traveled to Fayetteville, Ark., to help with disaster relief efforts after a massive ice storm hit the area in January. The trip was coordinated through Ridgeview Baptist Church in Fayetteville. The participants were divided into teams of four, with each team working on three to six houses. The OBU disaster relief group cleaned a total of more than 20 locations.

In addition to clearing away debris, participants took time to get to know the families affected. They prayed with the homeowners and even gave away some Bibles. They listened to the individuals' stories and gave them an opportunity to talk to someone.

"One of our homes was that of an elderly lady named Norma whose husband had died only a few months ago," said Kathryn Merrill, a junior speech pathology major from Keller, Texas. "She still didn't have power after 12 days, and she lived all by herself. I felt like it was important to listen to her talk about her life and love and grief. Listening to her story put a face and heartbeat to our work for the rest of the day for me."

During the past year, the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family & Community and OBU Campus Ministries have enlisted student, faculty and staff volunteers to respond to six disaster relief needs, including hurricane damage in New Orleans and Smith Point, Texas, and damage from tornados in Arkansas.

Kolby Harper inducted into TRIO Hall of Fame

Kolby Harper, a senior Spanish and political science major from Gurdon, Ark., has been named to the TRIO Hall of Fame by Ouachita's Academic Enrichment Center (AEC). She also represented OBU's AEC at the Arkansas TRIO Day ceremonies Feb. 28 in North Little Rock.

Harper was introduced to the TRIO programs by participating in the

Educational Talent Search program at OBU, a program that provides academic, career and financial counseling to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in grades 6-12. She also has been active in the Upward Bound program as both a participant and a program assistant.

"The experience of being with the students has been life-rewarding," Harper said. "I am able to talk with students that are from the same background that I have, and I can show them that yes, there is a way for one to continue an education."

In addition to her involvement in the TRIO program, Harper is a member of Tri Chi women's social club and the Ouachita Student Foundation. She is also a member of the Southern Bancorp Student Advisory Board and has been named to OBU's Dean's List.

Molly Throgmorton named a University Scholar

Molly Throgmorton, a senior English major from Jonesboro, Ark., has been named a University Scholar by Ouachita Baptist University'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.

Throgmorton has been the president of the Campus Activities Board, a member of Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society, Alpha Chi Honor Society and has volunteered with the ElderServe program. She has also been named to the President's List and is a member of Ouachita's Carl Goodson Honors Program.

"This honor will bolster my resume and show that I am committed to serving Christ and His community, especially the academic community," Throgmorton said. "If you are passionate about Christ, serving Him and serving others, and if you think you may want to teach at the college level, then you should definitely apply to be a University Scholar."

class notes

connecting the circle

—1940s—

Walter Ramsey ('42) and his wife, **Martha (Whiteley '41*)**, celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary with a cruise to Hawaii. The Ramseys have two children, **Walter Ramsey Jr. ('67)** and Rebecca Bane, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Sally (Hayes) Kubovich ('45*) would love to hear from any former classmates who remember her and her husband, **Howard ('46)**, who passed away in 1981. Her e-mail address is LaszloNo1@aol.com.

Doris (Cornell) Knight ('47) and her husband, Edwin, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 28, 2008. The Knights moved back to Arkansas in 2005 after nearly 20 years as educators in New Jersey. They have three children, Dr. Ed Knight, **Pam Elliff ('76)** and Kalla Byrd ('74), and nine grandchildren.

—1950s—

Mamie Ruth (Stranburg) Abernathy ('52) has served as the Sunday morning organist for Central Baptist Church in Hot Springs since 1994 and previously served Second Baptist Church for 41 years. She will celebrate her 90th birthday in October.

Jack J. Bledsoe ('52) and his wife, Myrta, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 15. He is a retired Arkansas Baptist minister.

Dr. John Crawford ('59), professor emeritus of Henderson State University, was honored by the International Biographical Centre of London as an Iconic Achiever and awarded the International Shakespeare Award for literary achievement.

Preston A. Taylor ('59) was recently awarded first place in the Theology category of the 2008 Christian Choice Awards for his book *The Eleven Commandments*.

—1960s—

Ralph Williams ('61) recently was inducted into the Arkansas Golf Hall of Fame.

Rev. Don Reed ('62) recently completed service as interim director of missions for the Oahu Baptist Network in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is returning to retirement. He and his wife, **Wanda (Stephens '62)**, will relocate to Overland Park, Kan., where she will continue her home-based Juice Plus business.

John B. Moore ('65) served as a history teacher for 26 years, retiring in 2004 from El Dorado High School. He now lives in Stephens, Ark., with his wife of 27 years, Linda. He has three daughters, three stepchildren and four grandchildren.



Eli Hicks, 6, son of **Mica Strother ('94)**, and Wyatt Gilbert, 7, son of **Jodi Strother ('90)**, pose in their Ouachita shirts provided by Granddad **Lane Strother ('67)**.

Jim Larkin ('68), a full-time potter, has operated Fox Pass Pottery for 35 years with his wife, **Barbara (Battle '68)**. They live in Hot Springs.

—1970s—

Olan "Butch" Reeves ('73) was appointed to the Arkansas Public Service Commission by Gov. Mike Beebe. Reeves is a former deputy attorney general for Arkansas and served as counsel to former **Gov. Mike Huckabee ('76)**. Reeves and his wife, Sue, live in Bryant, Ark.

Janis Percefull ('75), director of the Ouachita Springs Region Historical Research Center in Hot Springs, recently published a historical fiction book for children, *Three Strangers Come to Call*.

Miriam (Wagner) Ketron ('78) retired in May 2008 after teaching elementary school in Rogers, Ark., for 30 years. She lives in Rogers with her husband, Steve. The couple has a son, Chad, a daughter, Micah, and three grandchildren.

Robert McCallum ('78) was sworn in as the Circuit Judge for Clark County, Ark., in January. He and his wife, Diann, live in Arkadelphia.

Grandy Royston ('79) was featured in the *Graphic* newspaper for his work in teaching sign language to elementary school students. Royston, who is deaf, is a popular art teacher at Pyron Elementary School in Clarksville, Ark.

Dr. Edward Spann ('79*) recently published *Presidential Praise: Our Presidents and Their Hymns*. Spann, a hymnologist, is the retired dean of the college of fine arts at Dallas Baptist University and also taught at Houston Baptist University. He also founded the department of sacred music at the Baptist seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil, while serving as a music missionary.

—1980s—

Dr. Jeffrey Bearden ('82), a family practice physician, recently joined the medical staff of Northwest Family Care in Rogers, Ark. He is married to **Ellen (Kirk '85)** and has six children.

Nate Rose ('84) is the Texas director for the Better Dads Ministry, a parenting skills program that empowers both men and women to lead and serve in their families and communities.

Julie (Benafield) Bowman ('85) recently accepted the position of director of regulatory affairs for UnitedHealthcare. She previously served as the Arkansas insurance commissioner.

Steve Quinn ('86) is the new head football coach at Benton (Ark.) High School.

Dr. Fitz Hill ('87), president of Arkansas Baptist College, was named Communicator of the Year by the Arkansas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators.

Billy Strickland ('87) was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Alaska School Activities Association. He is the Dean of Students/Activities Director at Bethel Regional High School in Bethel, Alaska.

Laura (Bridges) Loughridge ('88) is a senior sales representative for Carlton-Bates in Little Rock. She is also a published poet. Loughridge lives in Maumelle with her husband, Curt, and daughter, Anna, age 8.

Todd Turner ('88) was recently elected chairman of the Democratic Party of Arkansas. Turner is also a partner with the Arkadelphia law firm of Arnold, Batson, Turner & Turner. He is married to **Becca (Arnold '95)** and has two children, Harper and Cannon.

-1990s-

Dr. Miranda Childs-Beebe ('90) received the American Dental Association's ADA Foundation Bud Tarrson Access to Oral Health Award for her leadership in coordinating an Arkansas-wide Mission of Mercy dental access program for underserved individuals. She is married to Jimmy Beebe and has a dental practice in Arkadelphia.

Gary Johnson ('90), director of the Hope Visitor Center and Museum since 1996, recently accepted a position to serve with the youth ministry of Calvary Baptist Church.

Doug Schmidt ('91) is the student pastor at Firewheel Church in Garland, Texas, while his wife, **Kelly (Spivey '91)**, continues to teach fifth grade for Garland Independent School District. They have three children, Ashli (17), Brooke (15) and Beaux (11).

Chris Walls ('93) owns his own business in Hagerstown, Md., and is the pastor of Life Connections at Smithburg Valley Church. He is married to Michelle and has three children, Elizabeth (7), Carson Christopher (3) and Hudson Samuel (1).

Duane Green ('94), owner of Foundation Fitness Systems in Arkadelphia, was presented with the 2008 Health and Fitness Club Award by the Arkansas Governor's Council on Fitness and Baptist Health.

Anthony Orr ('94) married Kelly Kunkel on Jan. 31 at Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. The couple resides in Little Rock.

Ouachita adds antique firearm to collection

By Rebecca Stone

Four feet long with 32-inch barrels and a walnut stock, a rifle that was handcrafted in Arkadelphia, Ark., has now returned home 140 years after it was made.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Lawrence B. "Larry" Smith donated the gun to Ouachita Baptist University to be added to the Riley-Hickingbothom Library's special collections. It joins other memorabilia significant to the university, to Clark County and to Baptists as well as historical documents and political papers from the late Sen. John L. McClellan, former Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Rep. Jay Dickey.

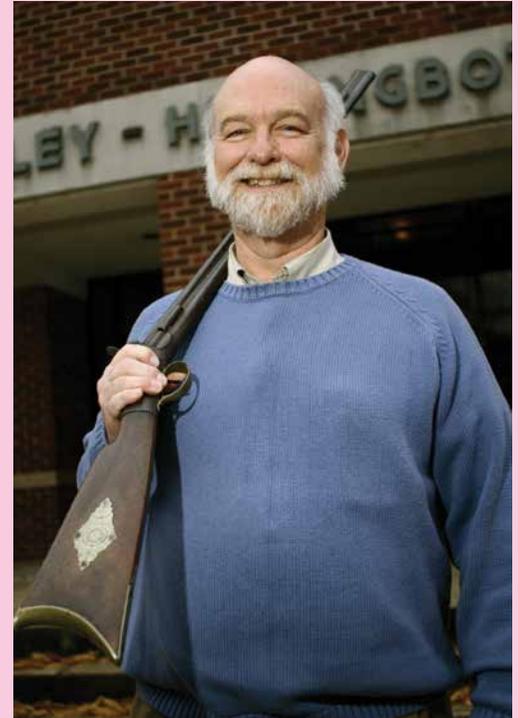
"Homecomings are always special events, and this is no exception," said Dr. Ray Granade, Ouachita's director of library services. "We're grateful to Larry Smith for making it possible."

Smith's father acquired the rifle in 1966 from a family member and displayed it in his home office until his death in 1989, when Smith took possession of it and moved it into storage.

The firearm was crafted by Barney Paynter, who moved to Arkadelphia in 1853, at the age of 25. He was an artisan who taught at least two others his craft sometime before his untimely death in 1869. Paynter was the only gunsmith in Arkadelphia at that time, and he became the technician in charge of the Arkadelphia (Confederate) Ordinance Works.

"In all likelihood, he made this hunting piece prior to the outbreak of hostilities in 1861, when all his efforts were directed toward ensuring that the two companies of Confederate soldiers enlisted in Arkadelphia had sufficient weapons with which to fight and that they all worked properly," Granade explained.

Once university officials have restored the firearm, they will put it on public



Dr. Ray Granade, director of library services, displays the rare firearm. photo by Danny Brown

display. Other examples of Paynter's work are in various private collections as well as museums. However, this is the only over-under rifle by this artisan that is in a collection available for public viewing.

"While this firearm may or may not be unique, it is certainly a rare example of the work done by a skilled gunsmith in Arkadelphia about a century and a half ago," Granade noted. "Artifacts like this help us recapture life as those who came before us lived it, help us understand life's continuity over the ages in this place and help us grasp the sense of hope and faith in the future that such a perspective offers."



Rebecca Stone is a sophomore mass communications major from Rison, Ark.



Major Michael Spraggins ('93) recently returned from his second tour in Iraq. First Baptist Church of Hope, Ark., honored Spraggins for his service with a community-wide celebration service on Jan. 7. He and his wife, Janis, live in Hope.

Kyle Wiggins ('94), an attorney with the Memphis law firm of Thomason, Hendrix, Harvey, Johnson & Mitchell PLLC, recently spent two weeks in Virginia Beach, Va., volunteering as a deputy field organizer for the Obama-Biden presidential campaign. Wiggins also serves as vice president and president-elect of the Young Lawyers Division of the Memphis Bar Association.

Shannon (Littman) Brown ('96) attained her California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential in 2007 and now teaches first grade in Napa, Calif. She has one daughter, Bailey Ann (3).

Cynthia Black ('96) married Tom Thompson on Nov. 1, 2008, at Little Rock's Church at Rock Creek. The couple resides in Little Rock.

Brett Bettis ('98) recently accepted a position as a State Farm insurance agent in Allen, Texas.

Shelley (Buck) Hughes ('98) and her husband, **Josh ('97)**, recently opened the Java Roasting Cafe on Central Avenue in Hot Springs.

Brent West ('98) was recently hired as the director of accounting for the Arlington Independent School District. He taught ESL courses in Taiwan before earning his master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and working with Pickens Snodgrass Koch LLP as a senior auditor.

Jada Wilson ('98) married Jackie Jerome Richardson on Dec. 6, 2008, at Second Baptist Church. The couple resides in Little Rock.

Terry (Williams) Lewallen ('99) and her husband, Kyle, recently moved to DuPont, Wash., to lead a church plant. She continues to teach online science classes for Arkansas Virtual High School. The couple has two sons, Kade (2) and Ryne (infant).



Janice Hart ('99) married Daniel Richbourg on Nov. 1, 2008, in Tyler, Texas. She is the director of audiology for a major ear, nose and throat practice in Tyler.

Jennifer Salazar ('99) is the head drama instructor and competitive speech coach at North Pulaski High School in Little Rock. She has one daughter, Alexa.

Brandon Warner ('99) and his wife, Torie, were appointed by the International Mission Board to serve as missionary apprentices in Botswana.

—2000s—

Gary Miller ('01) is the Community Outreach and Education Director for UAMS in Texarkana. His wife, **Terri (Grinage '03)**, is completing her master's degree in education through Southern Arkansas University.

Melissa Bragg ('02) married **Denver Peacock ('94)** on Dec. 13, 2008, in Ouachita's Berry Chapel. The couple resides in Little Rock.

Courtney (Ray) Brewer ('02) is an admissions counselor at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Her husband, **Luke ('99)**, earned his master's degree in 3D animation from SCAD in 2008. They also operate a wedding and portraiture business in Savannah, Ga.

Jarred Seamans ('02) recently changed jobs from Burnett Junior High School in Wylie, Texas, to Blue Ridge High School in Blue Ridge, Texas. He is married to Dorrie and has one daughter, Jaelyn.

Marcus Costner ('03) is working as a critical care pharmacist at Little Rock's VA Hospital. He is married to **Brandie (Kolb '07)** and they have one son, Nathan.

Emily Daniell ('03) graduated from Texas Wesleyan School of Law in December 2008.

Jill Davis ('03) married Brett Wait on Nov. 15, 2008, at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock. The couple resides in Little Rock.

Josh Floyd ('03), head football coach for Shiloh Christian School, led his team to the Class 4A Championship victory in 2008. He lives in Springdale, Ark., with his wife, **Kate (Elliot '04)**, and son, Peyton.

Jeremy Miller ('04) was promoted to Captain this summer in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He serves as the installation chaplain for Camp Robinson in Little Rock. His wife, **Beth (Bennett '04)**, is a dental hygienist in their hometown of Greenbrier, Ark. They have two children, Bennett (2) and Blair (infant).

Kristin Lindsey ('05) completed her Master of Divinity degree from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School. She lives in Birmingham, Ala.

Bethany Murray ('05) is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Nutrition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

For more ways to connect with your Ouachita Circle, visit
Ouachita's Alumni Online Community at www.obualumni.org



Calli (Hammett) Sampson ('05) is an accountant at Murphy Oil Corporation in El Dorado, Ark. She and her husband, Jonathan, have one son, Callen (2).

Stacie Mackey ('06) earned a Master of Community Counseling degree from Henderson State University in August 2008 and now works with Arkansas Counseling Associates in Benton.

Amber (Reineck) Satterwhite ('06) and her husband, **Chris ('04)**, live in Greers Ferry, Ark. He is the youth minister at West Side Baptist Church and she teaches elementary music and choir at South Side School in Bee Branch, Ark.

Kody Gibson ('07) and his wife, Juli, married on Nov. 15, 2008. The couple resides in Louisville, Ky., where he is attending seminary.



Preston and Charisse (Armstrong) Huffstutler ('07) spent two weeks in the United Arab Emirates visiting her parents for Christmas. They were joined by her siblings **Benjamin Armstrong ('05)** and his wife, **Julia (Farmer) Armstrong ('07)**, **Julianne Armstrong ('09*)**, and **David Armstrong (current student)** as well as their youngest brother John, who attends boarding school in Germany. Huffstutler is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree in Collegiate Ministry at New Orleans Theological Seminary while his wife teaches kindergarten at Louise S. McGehee School.

Emily Frazier ('08) married Jeffrey Blohm on Jan. 3 at First Methodist Church of Maumelle, Ark. The couple resides in Springfield, Mo.

Ashley Jones ('08) and **Rushing Mayes ('05)** were married on May 17, 2008, at First Baptist Church of Sheridan, Ark. The couple now resides in Little Rock.



photo by Danny Brown

Inventor returns to speak at alma mater

Scott Bonge, inventor of the GoateeSaver, returned to his alma mater, Ouachita Baptist University, on Dec. 10 to speak to students and guests about his experiences developing his product and building his small businesses.

Bonge was accompanied by his three children and his wife, who is President and CEO of The GoateeSaver Company, LLC, the company he officially established in February of 2008. He serves as the company's Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

After earning his bachelor's degree at OBU in 1992 and his master's degree at Henderson State University, Bonge worked in the stock market and pharmaceuticals before publicly releasing the GoateeSaver in June of 2008. He unveiled the product at Inpex, America's largest trade show for new inventions, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Bonge said it took him two years to develop the GoateeSaver, a shaving template "designed to give you the perfect goatee every time you shave." Working with his wife and a host of engineers, he slowly progressed from the PlayDoh and Popsicle stick prototype to the plastic and chrome

mouthpiece design being sold today. "It is not the most beautiful thing, I'll give you that," Bonge says of the mouthpiece, which has been compared to something Hannibal Lecter wore in "Silence of the Lambs." "But the function of it is perfect."

Bonge told students that, ultimately, the secret to his success is passion and determination. "You need to follow your heart, and you need to follow your passions. ... The money will follow," he said. "A lot of things in life you've got to be determined to make things happen."

Dr. Jay Robbins, OBU lecturer in business administration, invited Bonge to speak to his small business management classes. "It is important for the students to listen to speakers who have been successful and have that entrepreneurial spirit," he said. "That spirit and that passion is the backbone of our economy. That's what we're trying to teach."

Currently, the GoateeSaver is available online and at the Drug Emporium in Little Rock. Bonge is also in the process of getting it into WalMart stores in southwest Arkansas. For more information about the GoateeSaver, visit www.goateesaver.com.

Faculty Update

Webster receives research award

Dr. Bob Webster, Ouachita's George Young Professor of Business, was recently awarded the Allied Academics Distinguished Research Award for his manuscript, "Does a Market Orientation Strategy Exist toward Business School Students? A View from Three Levels of Academic Administrators." The article was co-authored by Dr. Kevin Hammond of the University of Tennessee at Martin and will be published in an upcoming edition of the *Academy of Marketing Studies Journal*.

Reynolds presents research

Dr. Michael Reynolds, OBU professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, was selected to make a presentation titled "Improving Our Fit and Our Image: Using Place-Based Education to Advance the Kinesiology and Leisure Studies Department" at the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education conference.

Pruett professors present papers

Three faculty members of Ouachita's Chesley and Elizabeth Pruet School of Christian Studies presented papers at the Evangelical Theological Society's national conference in Providence, R.I.

Dr. Scott Duvall, J.C. and Mae Fuller Professor of Biblical Studies, presented the paper, "Integrating Biblical Studies and Spiritual Formation: A Practical Proposal from a 'Spiritual Formation' Outsider." Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruet School and professor of Biblical studies, presented "The Old Testament Prophetic Theme of Justice and a Narrative Reading of Luke 18:1-19:10." Dr. Joey Dodson, assistant professor of Biblical studies, presented a paper titled "Personification, Solution and Plight in the *Book of Wisdom* and the Letter to the Romans."

Curlin and Wink share poetry

Dr. Jay Curlin and Dr. Johnny Wink visited Wichita State University in Kansas March 25 to give a public poetry reading hosted by the university's creative writing program. Curlin is Ouachita's Kathryn Maddox Professor of English and Wink is the Betty Burton Peck Professor of English.



Kimmie Kay Gonzales ('07) married **Danny Brown (CS)** on Jan. 3 at South Side on Lamar, a registered National Historic Landmark in Dallas. The couple resides in Arkadelphia.



Preston and Charisse (Armstrong) Huffstutler ('07) were married on June 7, 2008, at Wynne Baptist Church. The couple resides in New Orleans, La.

future tigers

—1990s—

Bentley Blackmon ('94) and his wife, Sydney, welcomed son Bentley "Ben" Edward Blackmon, Jr., on May 9, 2008.

April (Works) Kappler ('94) and her husband, Brad, welcomed daughter Casie Ann on Oct. 5, 2008. She joins big brother Dustin (9).



Kelly (Martin) Stamps ('95) and her husband, Scott, welcomed daughter Harper Brown Stamps on Jan. 16.



Kathy (Simms) Berry ('92) and her husband, **Dr. Trey Berry ('84)**, welcomed daughter Berkeley TaiMei Berry into their family on Jan. 5. Berkeley was born in China on March 20, 2008. She joins big brother Tanner (11).

Mark and Shannon (Atwood) Edds ('97) welcomed son Parker Thomas on Sept. 17, 2008. He joins big brother Jackson (5).

Kristen (Tache) Mizell ('97) and her husband, Maj. John Mizell, welcomed son Paden Walter on Aug. 9, 2008. He joins big brother Luke (2).



Clint Rickett ('97) and his wife, **Crystal (Kesler '97*)**, welcomed son Ryan Coke on Oct. 25, 2008.

Allison (Coates) Davis ('98) and her husband, Chris, welcomed son Connor Coates Davis on April 1, 2008. He joins big sister Ella Marie (5) and Cole (2).

Melissa (Rogers) Jones ('98) and her husband, **Davey Jones ('97)**, welcomed daughter Josey Laine on Sept. 2, 2008. She joins big brother Grady (5).

Ferris and Becky (Hatcher) Williams ('98) welcomed son Spencer James on Nov. 15, 2008.

Terry (Williams) Lewallen ('99) and her husband, Kyle, welcomed son Ryne William on Dec. 30, 2008. He joins big brother Kade (2).

—2000s—

Jeremy Conrad ('00) and his wife, Sarah, welcomed son Asher in 2008.

Dr. Andrew Fisher ('00) and his wife, Clara, welcomed son Anderson Micheal on Jan. 14.



Clay Glasgow ('01) and his wife, **Rebecca (Bruce '03)**, welcomed daughter Grace Lillian on June 6, 2008.

Shelly (Montalbano) Statton ('01) and her husband, **Nathan ('02)**, welcomed twin daughters Avery and Alexis on Oct. 1, 2008. They join big sister Kaleigh (3).

Rebecca (Zellmer) Atcherson ('02) and her husband, Samuel, welcomed daughter Calleigh Grace on Aug. 24, 2008.

Jarred Seamans ('02) and his wife, Dorrie, welcomed daughter Jaelyn Beth on April 19, 2008.

Capt. Jeremy and Beth (Bennett) Miller ('04) welcomed daughter Blair on March 30, 2008. She joins big brother Bennett (2).



Brandon and Kristi (Ellison) Berry ('02) welcomed son Grayson Thomas on July 16, 2008.

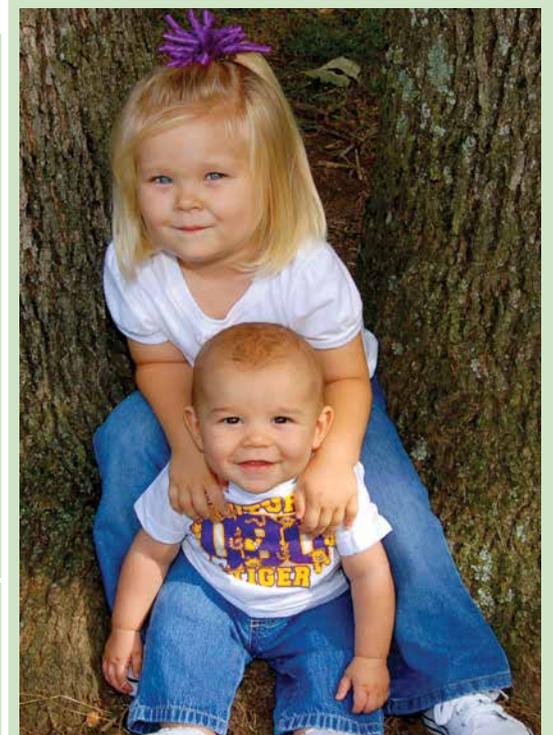


Eric and Rachel (Payne) Harrison ('02) welcomed daughter Addelyn Ryne on June 10, 2008.

Shawna (Whitley) Meyers ('06) and her husband, Chase, welcomed daughter Isabella Faith on Dec. 1, 2008.



Pamela (Stone) Hookstra ('03) and her husband, Kyle, welcomed daughter Lois Hazel Belle on Nov. 27, 2008.



Sam and Rebecca (Capper) Cross ('03) welcomed son Nathan Samuel on March 13, 2008. He joins big sister Kyla Lee (3).



Nathaniel and Mary (Kirkpatrick) Doddridge ('04) welcomed daughter Charlotte "Lottie" Moon Doddridge on Aug. 19, 2008.

in memoriam

—1930s—

Floyd B. Sloat ('38) of Manhattan, Kan., passed away on Dec. 13, 2008. He is survived by children David E. Sloat and Ruth Markos, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

James L. "Jimmy" Powers ('39) of Benton, Ark., passed away on Nov. 21, 2008. He is survived by son Leigh Dale Bratton, daughter **Sue (Powers) Shults ('80)**, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

—1940s—

Lillian (Howington) English ('42) of Falls Church, Va., passed away on Feb 5.

Carl B. Allen ('43*) of Benton, Ark., passed away on Nov. 8, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Vivian Grace Allen, son Mike Allen, daughter Carla Bennett, one granddaughter and one great-grandson.

Rev. James Wooten Johnson ('45) of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Jan. 30. He is survived by his wife, Marie Johnson, stepchildren and a number of foster children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lynell (Sandifer) Corley ('47) of Arkadelphia, Ark., passed away on Jan. 10. She is survived by her husband, **Dr. Don Corley ('47)**, daughters **Betty Corley ('72*)** and **Dr. Cindy Viala ('77)**, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mamie Ray Duff ('47) of Fort Thomas, Ky., passed away on Dec. 4, 2008. She is survived by her husband, J. Kenneth Duff, children Ray Ann Best, Peggy Kelly, J. Kenneth Duff, Jr., David Duff and Luis Caballero, 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Bernice (Smith) Bridgman ('49) of Memphis, Tenn., passed away Feb. 4. She is survived by daughter Stephanie Ann Bridgman, son Gary Bridgman and one grandson.

Ardell Jennings ('49) passed away on Oct. 23, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Marlon.

William Clarke "Brother Bill" Smith ('49) of Clovis, Calif., passed away on Nov. 13, 2008.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Maxine Smith, five daughters, Carolyn Aldama, Virginia Bennett, Barbara Logan, Rebecca Tully and Patricia Bingham, and two sons, Donald Smith and Dwight Smith, 20 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Douglas Watkins ('49) of Ruston, La., passed away on Nov. 1, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **Dorothy "Dot" Wright Watkins ('49*)**, daughter Gayle Barnard, sons Alan Watkins, Mark Watkins and Jim Watkins, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

—1950s—

Margaret (Pearce) Anderson ('50) of Knoxville, Tenn., passed away on Nov. 14, 2008. She is survived by children Byron DeWitt "Dee" Harrison, Jr. and Margaret Clay Harrison and two grandchildren.

Robert J. Edwards ('50) of St. Louis, Mo., passed away on Aug. 1, 2008.

Rev. Charles Hobson ('50) of Dunnigan, Calif., passed away on Feb. 22. He is survived by his wife, **Wanda (Nave '52*)**, and children **Bobby Charles ('75*)**, **Mary Janice Walton ('73*)**, **Rebecca Wheeler ('75)**, Daniel and Stephen.

Rose Marie Gandy Burch ('52*) of Hughes, Ark., passed away on Oct. 14, 2008. She is survived by daughter Melinda Burch Patrick, son Joey Burch and three grandchildren.

Rev. Eddie McCord ('52) of Mount Ida, Ark., passed away on Jan. 20. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Margie, sons **Bob McCord ('69)** and **David McCord ('85)**, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Viva Thrash Brown ('54) of Hope, Ark., passed away on Jan. 3. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, **Hugh Brown ('56)**, son **Nick Brown ('81)**, daughter **Lisa Thomas ('77*)**, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

William "Bill" Gill ('56*) of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 11, 2008. He is survived by son Jeffrey, daughter Dedi and four grandchildren.

Patricia Clem ('57) of Batesville, Ark., passed away on Jan. 23. She is survived by son Dr. John Clem, daughter **Cheryl Wadley ('83)** and six grandchildren.

—1960s—

Dr. D. B. Allen ('61) of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 1, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Lynda, son Brooks Allen, daughters Erin Schoen and Lane Shreeve and eight grandchildren.

Rev. Bob Pinkerton ('61) of Blockton, Iowa, passed away on Aug. 30, 2008. He is survived by his wife, **Betty (Lee) Pinkerton ('61*)**.

Dewey L. Hall ('62) of Biscoe, Ark., passed away on Aug. 18, 2008. He is survived by his wife, **Della Kay (Mason '63)**.

Celia Ann (Conwell) Pyle ('62) of Carthage, Texas, passed away on Aug. 24, 2008. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, David Pyle, sons Craig Pyle and **Vince Pyle ('88*)** and four grandchildren.

Floyd M. Yates ('63) of Fuqyay-Varina, N.C., passed away on Dec. 15, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Charlene, and son Brett.

Paul H. Stallings ('67) of Paragould, Ark., passed away on Oct. 8, 2008. He is survived by his wife, **Phyllis (Moseley) Stallings ('66)**, and children Kevin, Michael, Natasha and **Clay Stallings ('03)**.

Rev. Robert Parker ('68) of Batesville, Ark., passed away on Jan. 17. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Thelma, children Robert Parker, David Parker, Kathryn Blackwell, **Suzanne Burgess ('84)**, Ellis Parker, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Michael Haynes ('69) of San Antonio, Texas, passed away on Nov. 14, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Dianne, sons Jon and Jarrod, daughter Lindsey and one grandson.

—1970s—

Johnny Reid Horn ('70) of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 12, 2008.

Marjorie O'Cain ('70) of Montgomery, Ala., passed away on Jan. 13. She is survived by son Mike O'Cain, daughter Cheryl Timm and three grandchildren.

Jamie Spargo Gibbs ('71) of Sheridan passed away on Nov. 13, 2008. She is survived by

daughter Johni Beth Gibbs and sisters **Dr. Linda Spargo ('70)** and Nancy Spargo DeLamar.

Milton McKinley Davis ('73*) of Little Rock passed away on Nov. 27, 2008. He is survived by children Milton Jr., Torrance and Contina and five grandchildren.

Sybil Bradshaw Rutherford ('74*) of Mablevale, Ark., passed away on Jan. 13. She is survived by son Claud Rutherford, daughters Patricia Rutherford, Pamela Crawford and Roben Brooks, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Cheri Medlin ('75*) of Crossett, Ark., passed away on Oct. 31, 2008.

Sarah Alice Foster Grant ('76) of Little Rock passed away on Nov. 22, 2008. She is survived by daughters Beverly Grant Ruffin, Rosalyn Grant Warren, Lilla Yvette Preyer, son LeRoy Grant, Jr., four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Joey M. Zinamon ('78) of Little Rock passed away on Nov. 15, 2008. He is survived by his wife, **Mary (Sockwell) Zinamon ('76)**, sons Denisio-Va-Shawn Pickens Zinamon and Michael Zinamon and seven grandchildren.

Corliss (Cobb) Smith ('79) of Beaumont, Texas, passed away on Jan. 17. She is survived by her husband, **Dr. Randy Smith** (former Ouachita faculty member), and sons Ben and Tyler Smith.

Faculty, Staff & Friends

Sybil Callaway Barksdale of Curtis, Ark., passed away on Dec. 6, 2008. She served as an OBU Foster Grandparent for four years and as O.C. Bailey's dorm mom from 1986-1999.

Betty F. Glover of Little Rock passed away on Oct. 20, 2008. She served as the president's secretary in the 1960s. She is survived by her husband, Tommy Glover, son Keith Glover, daughter Alison Joyner and four grandchildren.

Sherwin O. Williams, Sr., of Arkadelphia passed away on Nov. 14, 2008. He was a former member of Ouachita's Board of Trustees. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **Wanda (Qualls) Williams ('69)**, son Sherwin Williams, Jr., daughter Kristi Perser and two grandchildren.



40 OBU students named to Who's Who

Forty Ouachita students were recently selected for inclusion in the 2008 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

The following students were chosen by OBU's faculty, staff and senior class for Who's Who based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success:

Tracey Beckett, an early childhood education major from Garland, Texas. **JulieAnne Bowe**, an English major from Benton, Ark. **Danny Brown**, a mass communications and speech communications major from Mesquite, Texas. **Whitney Burger**, a Biblical studies and Christian ministries major from Texarkana, Ark. **Judah Burk**, a mass communications major from Hurst, Texas. **Sam Bushey**, an accounting and business marketing major from Stuttgart, Ark. **Paige Cate**, an early childhood education major from Alexander, Ark. **Laura Cox**, an English major from Hot Springs, Ark. **Heather Ferguson**, a biology and Spanish major from Hot Springs, Ark. **Andrew Ford**, a political science and business marketing major from Arkadelphia, Ark. **Jeff Garner**, a Biblical studies major from Plano, Texas. **Amanda Glenn**, a Biblical studies major from Little Rock. **Daniel Graham**, a business management major from Richardson, Texas. **Alan Greenwood**, a mass communications major from Arkadelphia, Ark. **Brittany Gubser**, a Christian studies major from Mount Juliet, Tenn. **Grant Gubser**, a Christian studies major from Denver, Colo. **Lucas Hawthorne**, an accounting major from Scottsdale, Ariz. **Audra Hinson**, a Spanish and mass communications major from Little Rock. **Adam Hurst**, a biology major from Jonesboro, Ark. **Cori Cable Kidder**, a musical theatre major from Wynne, Ark. **Rowan Ledbetter**, a business management and accounting major from Little Rock. **Brittany Cosh McClain**, a graphic design major from Arkadelphia, Ark. **Dillon McClain**, a mass communications and Christian studies major from Arkadelphia, Ark. **Sarah Monroe**, an accounting major from White Hall, Ark. **Matt Morrison**, a Christian studies major from Plano, Texas. **Chloe O'Connor**, a mass communications major from Louisville, Colo. **Andrew Pyle**, a Russian language and speech communications major from Mountain Home, Ark. **Braeden Rogers**, a mass communications major from Garland, Texas. **Brittney Selvidge**, a mass communications and speech communications major from Hot Springs, Ark. **Christopher Straw**, a musical theatre major from Little Rock. **Nicole Stuart**, a mass communications major from Prescott, Ark. **Sara Ann Terlecki**, a psychology major from Hot Springs, Ark. **Alan Thomas**, a music major from Redfield, Ark. **Hayden Tucker**, a Biblical studies and mass communications major from Arkadelphia, Ark. **Landon White**, a church music major from Benton, Ark. **Allison Winn**, a Christian studies major from Bryant, Ark. **Becca Woodall**, a Biblical studies and theology major from Bryant, Ark. **Ashley Duvall Wright**, a Christian studies major from Arkadelphia, Ark. **Lindsey Wright-Forga**, a mass communications and musical theatre major from Glenwood, Ark. **Amy York**, a musical theatre major from Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Randall Wight, Chairman, Department of Psychology

With a Ph.D. from the University of Memphis freshly in hand, Dr. Randall Wight began his career at Ouachita in 1986. Since that time, thousands of students have come through his psychology and biology classrooms and have been impacted by his insight, as well as his willingness to listen.

One former student affirmed, “Dr. Wight is one of the best things about OBU – he is a hidden gem, so to speak. One of the most intelligent, intuitive and generous professors I have ever had.”

Such traits made Dr. Wight a natural fit to assume leadership of the university’s formal self-study process. Dr. Wight explained that the university is required to conduct a self-study every 10 years to remain in compliance with national accreditation standards. This time around, campus leaders plan to do more than simply satisfy core requirements. They are seeking to involve the entire Ouachita community in an intensive and creative period of reflection and strategic planning.

Dr. Wight added that a number of elements are converging which make the current self-study both timely and imperative. Those elements include a challenging economy and its impact on the university, Ouachita’s 125th anniversary in 2011 and the need to invest today in a vibrant and secure future for Ouachita.

“There will be growing pains,” Dr. Wight acknowledged, “but this is also an opportunity to bring our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges into the open and figure out how we can and will thrive.”

Preparation for the self-study began early last fall. With the full support of President Rex Horne, Dr. Wight is now working with an official committee of faculty and staff members to lead the university community in the self-study process.

One element that has already grown out of the process is the development of a new university mission, vision and values statement. Those documents will be presented to the OBU Board of Trustees this summer and should be introduced to the public in the early fall, thus affirming the university’s guiding principles and unique identity.

As the self-study process continues, “all ears are open for input,” Dr. Wight declared. “We plan to spend a large amount of time listening to our campus community, our alumni, our students, parents and constituents.”



photo by Callie Phelps



photo by Lauren Land

Ouachita alumni team honors Class of '09

The Ouachita Alumni team hosted the annual Senior Dinner on Feb. 24 for the graduating Class of 2009. **Katie Kirkpatrick ('03)**, an attorney with the Little Rock firm of Friday, Eldredge & Clark, served as the dinner’s keynote speaker. **Dr. Rex Horne** and Dean of Students **Dr. Keldon Henley** presented the 2009 Who’s Who Awards. Students, faculty and staff vote to select the Who’s Who winners each year based on academic achievement, leadership, community service, and potential for continued success.

During the dinner, the senior class was also given the opportunity to register for the Ouachita Online Community (www.obualumni.org) and begin networking with the university’s alumni. The alumni team gives special thanks to **Clark Johnson ('08)** and his band, Clark & the Griswalds, for providing the entertainment and to Senior Class President **Jeff Garner** for serving as the evening’s emcee.

During the afternoon, the students were offered real-world tips and professional do’s and don’ts during the Alumni Career Panel. Topics of discussion included human resources, personal financial planning, insurance tips and professional etiquette. Special thanks to this year’s panelists: **Beau Bishop ('00*)** of Alliance Insurance Group, **Katie Kirkpatrick ('03)** of Friday, Eldredge & Clark, **Mac Stroud ('74)** of Cranford, Johnson, Robinson, Woods and **Chris Turnage ('02)** of Regions Bank.

Brett Powell, Vice President for Administrative Services

staff *profile*

Recent visitors to campus have no doubt seen both an updated skyline and strategic piles of dirt and debris. Under the day-to-day leadership of Brett Powell, Ouachita's vice president for administrative services, the university's North Campus is undergoing a transformation that is a tangible investment for student life as well as campus visibility and accessibility.

Construction efforts currently underway include a state-of-the-art residential village and the recently completed university entrance and Ben and Betty Elrod Boulevard. Powell noted that the residential village is a top priority for university officials because "the way that universities think about housing has changed dramatically and Ouachita needs to provide our students with the apartment-style living they have come to expect. Our new residential village will exceed their expectations and give students yet another piece of Ouachita that they can be proud of."

Working in tandem with Ouachita's North Campus construction project is a campus-wide emphasis on environmental stewardship. Detailing Ouachita's efforts to "go green," Powell said, "What began as a cost-cutting emphasis quickly became a discussion about 'How do we equip Ouachita for the future?'" Powell said his interest in environmental stewardship was also piqued by 2008's Birkett-Williams guest lecturer, Dr. Calvin DeWitt, who spoke to the Ouachita community about the importance of caring for creation from both a biblical and ethical standpoint.

Believing that now is the time to put environmental stewardship into action, Powell formed a committee comprised of students, faculty and staff to explore ways the campus could conserve energy. Results of the committee's work include a campus-wide recycling program and well-publicized energy conservation guidelines for all offices, classrooms and residence halls. The committee also advocated the addition of an energy conservation manager to oversee all projects with funding for the position provided through energy cost savings.

Powell emphasized he is adamant that all current and future building efforts will be energy efficient. He has worked closely with architects and contractors to include such energy-saving measures as florescent lighting, natural lighting sources in public areas, motion sensors to turn off lighting in vacant areas, and efficient heating and cooling systems.

To learn more about Ouachita's North Campus construction projects and energy efficiency efforts, visit www.obu.edu/northcampus.



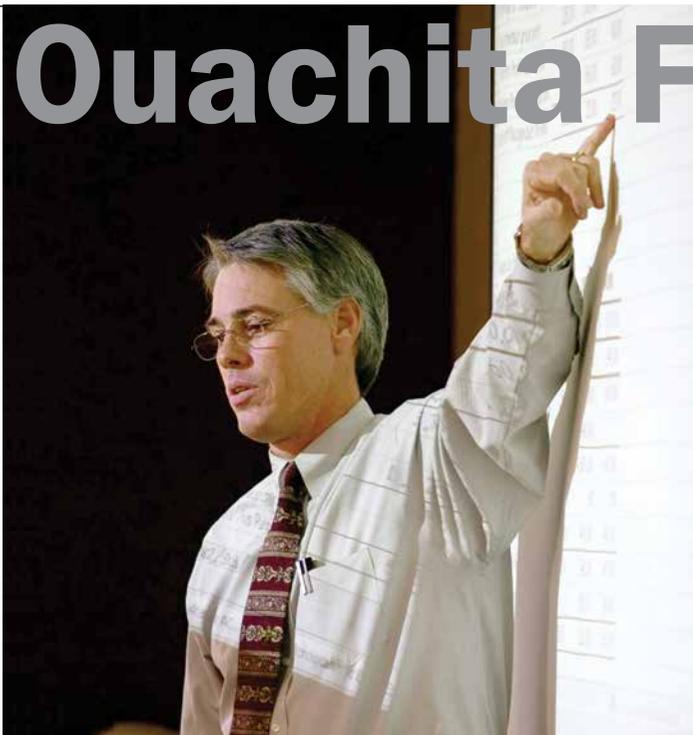
photo by Danny Brown

Ouachita Faculty

We dedicate the 2008-2009 Annual Fund Campaign to the continuing legacy of Ouachita Baptist University's faculty — made possible by the generous support of alumni and friends for over 120 years.

Honor your favorite professor and make it possible for even more students to connect with Ouachita's outstanding faculty!

A list of honored faculty will be posted at www.obu.edu/development and on the Ouachita Alumni Facebook page.



**for over 120 years...
challenging
caring
investing in students**

Integrity is vital in every facet of life

The new format of *The Ouachita Circle* is being very well received. The articles on integrity in this issue are both challenging and encouraging.

Since public speaking has been a large part of my adult life, I am drawn to words. Integrity is a strong word, though somewhat weakened when overused or misused. It is a popular word as it applies to people in all ranks and positions of life. Few people would use the word to describe themselves. Integrity means to be unimpaired, entire, undiminished, to adhere to moral and ethical principles. No wonder we would shrink from personal use.

We do see, however, individuals who are entire in their devotion, commitment and walk. Perfection is not possible for us, but it sure is inspiring to see people of commitment

already distinguished themselves as principled people. These friends are people of integrity.

One thing we all know is that these are challenging times. I know no one is exempt from trying times, but when you think about the economy please remember the incredible challenge that Ouachita faces as a private, Christian university. An educational institution can also have or lack integrity. We are committed to serving Ouachita Baptist University properly and effectively.

One of the opportunities I cherish as the years go by is the privilege of repaying debt. I am not writing of mortgages or other payments. I am thinking of debts to people and places that have marked my life. Most times a call or note that says “thanks for what you have meant to me” is payment enough.

“I am blessed to know and serve with people of integrity in a place of undiminished fervor and noble principles.”

and consistency. I am thinking today of Mom Chu and Alex Nisbet. Between the two of them, they have served Ouachita for nearly 90 years! Mom Chu has served 43 years and Dr. Nisbet some 46. Many of you who read the *Circle* have distinct memories of these two. They have been faithful, dedicated and have gone beyond expectations. They both have announced their retirement. They will be missed. We will never forget them.

A few weeks ago we dedicated our beautiful university entrance. You must come see this. The road has been named the Ben and Betty Elrod Boulevard in honor of our 13th president and first lady. During the dedication, Dr. Elrod remarked that Ouachita has been a part of their lives for more than 62 years. Ouachita has been so blessed by the contributions of people like Mom Chu, Dr. Nisbet and Dr. and Mrs. Elrod.

I could list others who have served here 25 or 30 years or more. There are others who have served less than five years who have

I have always found joy in contributing to the Lord's work through the local church and through Ouachita. It could be that there is some confusion about how this university has money to accomplish our mission. Let me make sure you know that money does not fall from heaven into the business office (or even in front of Berry Chapel!). The Bible does state that God will open the windows of heaven and bless the faithful giving of people. Our gifts come as God works through people like you and me. Please accept my thanks for what you have done and will do.

We must strive to be people of integrity in every facet of life. I am blessed to know and serve with people of integrity in a place of undiminished fervor and noble principles.



Rex Horne



Zach Wright
**Sydney & Bentley Blackmon
International Business Scholarship**



Andrew Curtis
Fran Coulter Scholarship



Daniel Graham
**James E. & Joyce N. Crittenden
Endowed Scholarship**



Holly Koder
**Gail Delaughter Pennington
Scholarship**



Katie Strickland
Jeral & Betty Hampton Scholarship



Marvin Gilmore
Heflin Family Scholarship



Rachel Swayne
**Austin L. Ingram Chaplaincy
Scholarship Fund II**



Madison Pierce
Taylor & Terri King Scholarship



Brittany Dunn
Robert & Betty Oliver Scholarship

We'd like to say thank you

to those who have established endowed scholarships at Ouachita.

These funds make a difference every day in the lives of our students.

For a complete listing of endowed scholarships, visit www.obu.edu/development



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New residential village scheduled to open in fall 2009

