

Summer 2014

Newsletter Summer 2014

Grant Center for International Education
Ouachita Baptist University

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Where can one find international cuisine from Chinese dumplings (jiaozi) to beef jerky (biltong) from Zimbabwe in Arkadelphia? At the International Food Festival, of course!

The annual festival was held Feb. 18 in Walker Conference Center and was attended by more than 600 guests. International students and Mks as well as students and faculty who have spent time living and studying abroad prepared cuisine from around the world. A fair trade market and music from a variety of cultures also contributed to the evening's festivities.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Grant Center,

In April, Brooke Zimny of our Office of Communications received a national award for her design of the Legacy Wall in the recently remodeled Grant Center for International Education. The display was created to illustrate the history of the center and to acknowledge the contributions of Dan and Betty Jo Grant to the program. Brooke's design includes graphics, photos and text highlights from more than 90 years of international education at Ouachita.

The Legacy Wall graces the entrance to the Grant Center, located on the lower level of Lile Hall, which is home to our programs for students from other countries and to our study abroad programs throughout the world. These lovely new facilities will enhance these programs and help give them the prominent place they deserve as part of Ouachita's mission to make a difference in our world today and for years to come.

I am grateful to Charlie and Cindy Fuller for the gift which made the renovation of the Center possible, to Bill and Carolyn Grant Walton, who provided the Legacy Wall, and to numerous other donors who contributed to the endowment of the center. Be sure to visit the Grant Center the next time you're on campus.



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

DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SUMMER 2014

From the desk of Director Ian Cosh...



International Education: Shaping identity and molding character

There are at least two aspects of international education that are of particular interest to me. The first is the power of an international experience to shape a person's sense of identity and the second is its power to increase a person's capacity to enjoy life and appreciate it fully.

In the early 1990s leadership experts introduced the acronym VUCA, which stands for Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity. This acronym highlighted the modern reality faced by leaders in which they are called upon to make decisions in an environment characterized in such a way. The experience of international travel involves engagement with each of these elements. Students develop a comfort level with making decisions that are characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. This in turn serves to mature them and to instill in them a newfound confidence to lead.

Leadership formation is clearly a goal that we have in mind when we encourage students to become engaged in their world. It is a journey that involves tears of joy as well as tears of frustration, but the outcome produces students who understand themselves better and can lead others more authentically.



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

DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SUMMER 2014

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DINNER FOR INTERNATIONALS AND MKs AT THE HORNES' HOME

We are grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Horne for graciously opening their home to our internationals and MKs for a special dinner in their honor in February. Dr. Horne is seen here with Tim Ferris of Zimbabwe.

2014 INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNER: "GREECE" BY TYLER ROSENTHAL



Zimbabwe & South Africa Recruiting Trips

Zimbabwe and South Africa have been the focus of recent recruitment efforts for the Grant Center. As a follow up to last year's trip to Zimbabwe, Sharon Cosh and Amy Garrett led a trip to Zimbabwe in late May. Working with current students and their parents (including Craig Martin and Ben Lange-Smith, below), they spoke in numerous schools and churches, arranged meetings with parents and prospective students and even hand-delivered acceptance materials to one student who will attend Ouachita this fall.

Despite challenging economic realities, Zimbabwe continues to have a strong education system, and Ouachita is delighted to have a steady stream of Zimbabwean students on campus. We anticipate the arrival of a dynamic new cohort from Zimbabwe on campus this fall.



After recruiting in Zimbabwe, Sharon joined Ian in South Africa for a recruiting effort there. Working alongside Dr. Herbie Staples, who visited campus and spoke in chapel this spring, the Coshes spoke with a number of prospective students and their parents and established relationships with the headmasters of several schools.

In both countries, working with EdUSA, a branch of the U.S. Department of State, has proved beneficial. EdUSA serves as a liaison between American universities and prospective students from the respective countries in which they operate, with the goal of encouraging students to pursue higher education in the United States.

Time spent recruiting new international students has reinforced the value of being on site and available for questions. One of Ouachita's greatest strengths is the emphasis on personal connection, and it was helpful to meet with prospective students and parents face-to-face.



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www.obu.edu/intedu



OBUGrantCenter

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Thoko Zulu

- Harare, Zimbabwe, native
- 2010 OBU Grad (Accounting)
- Grants Administrator & Associate Comptroller at Clinton Foundation in Little Rock, Ark.



OBU was a phenomenal place, and I could write an entire newsletter on my experience. When I think of OBU, three phrases come to mind: high quality education, genuine and true friendships and fun.

The quality education offered at OBU provided a strong foundation for my career, which increased my confidence when I joined the workforce.

Through friendships at OBU, I became a part of a larger family that was loving and kind, a characteristic that I continue to experience even today when I encounter OBU alumni. Through these friendships, wisdom continues to be poured into my life and continues to mold and shape the person I have become today.

Finally, OBU was fun y'all – and yes this Zimbabwean girl just said y'all. OBU was a fun, warm, Christ-centered campus. One of the things I loved and miss the most is chapel. I loved how our lives were intentionally interrupted to spend time with our Savior. There was always something interesting happening on campus from late-night study groups all over campus to boys serenading. FUN! FUN! FUN!



Hornes and Coshes visit Austria

Salzburg College is one of OBU's oldest partners in international education. Since the early 1990s, more than 80 OBU students have been shaped by their time in Salzburg. Whether students are interested in photography, Austrian history and culture or the German language, their education in Austria is deeply rooted in experiential learning.



To celebrate the significance of a partnership that has been fostered over two decades, the Coshes accompanied President and Mrs. Horne on an official visit to Salzburg this spring. It was President and Mrs. Horne's first visit to Austria, where they visited with current Ouachitonians and their host families, sat in on classes, tried the local cuisine and toured some of the world's finest art and architecture in Vienna.



MEN'S TENNIS WINS CONFERENCE TITLE FOR 3RD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Congratulations to the Men's Tiger Tennis Team on their newest Great American Conference title! In an exciting close to the season, Maciej Bracizwecz's match point produced a win for the Tigers. Maciej, a student from Poland, was joined on the court to celebrate by teammates Nathan Street (Arkansas), Marko Boskovic (Serbia), Andres Stefano (Brazil) and Teodor Anghel (Romania).

CGE AT LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

Ian and Sharon Cosh (below right) represented Ouachita as the Consortium of Global Education flagship university during a recent visit with various CGE university representatives. The purpose of the visit was to introduce CGE members to Liverpool Hope University as part of the resource-sharing aspect of the consortium. Ouachita has had a successful study abroad program with LHU over the past four years and a number of faculty members have spent part of their sabbaticals at LHU engaging in research.

