

Fall 2009

The Ouachita Circle Fall 2009

Ouachita Baptist University

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The ouachita
Circle

FALL 2009

DISCOVERY

The Chilean connection

Remembering Dr. Coppenger

Discovery expands horizons

Discovery is an essential ingredient in Ouachita's educational process. Whether it is academic discovery in the classroom, spiritual discovery through diverse ministry opportunities or personal discovery through countless growth experiences, Ouachita's commitment to the love of God and the love of learning provides an ideal environment for students to discover and explore new horizons.

Highlighting the university's call to "Discover the Ouachita Difference ... academically, spiritually, personally," this issue of *The Ouachita Circle* is dedicated to the pivotal role of discovery in the lives of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Ouachita.

The Circle's lead article by Dr. Lori Hensley, assistant professor of biology, emphasizes that "discovery begins when we admit what we don't know." By recognizing that knowledge and understanding are "processes more akin to puzzles than road maps," she adds, "we learn to persist through challenge and welcome the joy inherent in ongoing discoveries of ourselves and our world."

Discovery at Ouachita ranges from discovering the inviting setting of the new Student Village (pages 5-6) to lessons learned by a team of students involved in a recent mission study trip to Santiago, Chile (page 8). Affirming the impact of the international missions experience in the lives of students, faculty sponsor Ray Franklin said, "Trips like this enable students to learn things which cannot be taught in the classroom: culture, language, travel, ministry, etc." And that is the essence of discovery.

On a practical level, the pages of *The Circle* also enable Ouachita alumni to discover details about one another's lives and to reconnect with friends from bygone days. Such was the case for Hapi Wanje ('85), a facilitator for Mission of Mercy Kenya, who was among alumni featured in the Summer 2009 issue of *The Circle*. "I want to thank you for the story in the magazine," he wrote. "I have been able to connect with a few friends with whom we have not been in touch for years." He added that the article "helped my friends learn about Mission of Mercy, which is a plus." Such moments of discovery are significant indeed.

For our faithful readers of *The Ouachita Circle*, allow me to share one other note about the magazine. *The Circle* recently was honored by the Arkansas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators with a pair of Bronze Quill Awards of Merit – one for general excellence and one for publication design. This follows our earlier announcement of *The Circle* earning national recognition from Baptist Communicators Association. We are pleased to produce an award-winning publication aimed at helping readers "Discover the Ouachita Difference."



Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

"Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought."

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

"The beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand."

Frank Herbert

"All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."

Galileo Galilei

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."

Mark Van Doren

"Make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding. ... Then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God."

Proverbs 2:2, 5



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2 Discovering new worlds of learning

Dr. Lori Hensley, assistant professor of biology, explores how the process of research and discovery produces a valuable sense of accomplishment.

4 Student Village ushers in “new era”

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8 Hands-on missions in Chile

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Discovery helps open doors to new worlds of learning

by Lori Hensley

As a mother of two young boys, I am a witness to ongoing discovery. My 2-year-old asks “What’s that?” hundreds of times a day, and I marvel at the precious light in his eyes as he learns new words and gains understanding of the world around him. That

Unfortunately, this can make us unwilling to take chances and face failure. We learn to play things safe. However, by recognizing that knowledge and understanding are processes more akin to puzzles than road maps, we learn to persist through challenge

missing?” or most simply “What *is* that?”

We want our students walking away with more than a degree. We want them to gain a sense of understanding of themselves, their times and the world in which we all live. In the “getting” of life, the “getting” of understanding

“If our students leave here unable to see the world with

motivates me to ignite that same light in the eyes of my students.

Discovery begins when we admit what we don’t know. This questioning admission opens doors to more questions and eventually to understanding.

Yet we have all come of age in a culture that puts a premium on being right. For example, when as students we focused on making a grade rather than acquiring understanding, we are treating knowledge and discovery as events rather than processes. The subtle messages conveyed are that reward only follows right answers and reward emerges externally rather than internally.

and welcome the joy inherent in ongoing discoveries of ourselves and our world.

Aristotle observed that all people desire to know; Ouachitians would agree. The art of teaching, in many ways, models and instills a life of inquiry. Modeling and instilling discovery allows students to recognize that fear and frustration accompany the process alongside the desire to solve the problem. We search for understanding, it eludes us, we search again and again and search again. Thus the term *re-search*. The path of discovery leads to understanding and is strewn with questions such as: “That’s odd; why did x happen *that way*?” or “What piece of this puzzle am I

seems among the most important things we can acquire. If our students leave here unable to see the world with new eyes and not open to discovery, we have failed them.

Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming and his colleagues were awarded a Nobel Prize in 1945 for the discovery of penicillin. Fleming is reported observing that he didn’t wake up planning to revolutionize medicine on Sept. 28, 1928, but persistent questioning and openness to the subtly unusual yielded discovery of the world’s first antibiotic. His discovery of penicillin was a fortuitous accident. After taking an August vacation, Fleming, known for keeping a rather untidy

lab, returned to clean up a stack of molding bacterial plates. He noticed that in one of the plates the bacteria immediately surrounding the mold was dead. Having worked many years trying to understand bacteria, only because he was willing to see with new eyes and in a new context did Fleming's discovery occur.

Students working in my campus lab have experienced how the confluence of hard

Although initially disappointed that their experiments failed to yield the expected results, these students chose to view their data in a new light—one of surprise and hope. Their discovery has led to many new projects for many other students and the creation of a novel animal model for a devastating pediatric cancer. While we are still waiting on our Nobel Prize, we were one of only 60 undergraduate research teams invited by the Council for

that express the enzyme that illuminates fireflies. These engineered tumor cells are then injected into the leg bones of living mice. Tumors are allowed to develop, and the growth of the glowing tumors is tracked using specific imaging techniques. Varying doses of potential therapeutic compounds can then be tested in these mice, with tumor responses being monitored and measured.

It was a tremendous honor when the students presented their work on Capitol Hill, but the recognition, to me, was not the most important outcome. These students achieved my primary goal: Students gaining the confidence to ask questions about the



new eyes and not open to discovery, we have failed them.”

work, open eyes and new contexts can flow into discovery and expanded understanding. In fall 2007, students were investigating two potential new therapeutic compounds for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. In an effort to show that these drugs could protect neurons, they instead accidentally demonstrated that the compounds could effectively kill a type of cancer that develops in the nervous system and that traditionally has been difficult to treat.

Undergraduate Research to travel earlier this year to Washington, D.C., and share our insights with the United States Congress.

Ouachita students Heather Ferguson, Adam Hurst and John Sims met with Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor, as well as Representative Mike Ross to share their findings and to discuss the importance of funding for undergraduate research. In their research, the students modeled cancer growth by developing Ewing's sarcoma cells

world around them and, in doing so, becoming increasingly able to direct their own futures.

In all our getting, we strive to acquire understanding. That process leads to discovery and in the process produces accomplishment and joy.



Dr. Lori Hensley is assistant professor of biology in Ouachita Baptist University's J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences.

Her research efforts currently focus on the molecular basis of human disease, specifically within the nervous system.

Opening of Student Village marks 'new era'

by Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications



photos by Grant Harrison, Kara Humble & Callie Stephens

Declaring “the opening of a whole new era here at Ouachita,” President Rex Horne led the official dedication of Ouachita Baptist University’s Student Village Aug. 20.

As a crowd of approximately 200 students, faculty, staff, donors and honorees gathered along the sidewalks of the circular courtyard ringed by the new facilities, Dr. Horne recognized the individuals and families whose names are engraved on the houses of the Student Village.

The celebration included a reception in the main lobbies of both residence halls as well as an open house. Guests were invited to tour the Student Village which features two residential halls encompassing 12 four-story houses. The facilities include 92 private and semi-private suites that house more than 350 students. Amenities include two first-floor lobbies and four upper-level terraces as well as study, fitness, theater and game rooms.

Emphasizing that “this is a historic day for Ouachita,” President Horne asked, “Can you imagine over the next years, over generations, over decades the young men and young women who will come and call this home?”

Citing the monumental decisions those students will make concerning calling, career, marriage and spiritual life, Dr. Horne added, “We cannot overestimate the value of what we have done here – not the cost, but the value of what takes place in this place and will in these halls and these buildings for many, many years to come.

“This is a completion,” he said of the

\$26 million construction project, “but more than that, this is a great beginning.”

Gosser Hall, the new women’s residence hall, was named in honor of Dr. Bob and Marianne Gosser, members of the OBU classes of 1956 and 1955, respectively. The Gosser Hall recognition was made possible through gifts from the Gossers’ five children, all of whom are Ouachita alumni. Gifts from family members also provided for the naming of five houses in Gosser Hall in honor of Jenny Gosser (’82), Bobby Gosser (’83), John M. Gosser (’84), Leigh Anna Gosser Askins (’89) and April Gosser Weeks (’94).

Another house in Gosser Hall was named in honor of Rosemary “Mom” Chu who retired in May after serving more than 42 years as the hall director of Frances Crawford West. Former residents of Frances Crawford Hall and other friends of Mom Chu contributed to the naming of the Mom Chu House. Dr. Horne recognized Mrs. Chu and her daughter, Jane, a 1979 Ouachita graduate.

Dr. Horne also announced that the seventh house in Gosser Hall has been named in honor of John and Yvonne Cloud through a gift provided by Marc and Billie Heflin with furnishings provided by the Roy and Christine Sturgis Foundation. Cloud is Ouachita’s senior development officer for estate and gift planning and Mrs. Cloud is manager of the Ouachita bookstore.

Two named houses in the new men’s residence hall also were announced. The Westmoreland House is named in honor of

Andy and Jeanna Westmoreland by Taylor and Terri King and their children, Austin and Maggie. Dr. Andy Westmoreland, former president of Ouachita, has served since 2006 as president of Samford University. Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland is the former dean of Ouachita’s Huckabee School of Education.

The Daniel House is named in honor of the Daniel family who established a continuing endowment for Daniel Hall which was built in 1967. The original Daniel Hall was demolished earlier this year to make way for the Student Village construction project.

Dr. Horne also announced that future construction plans include Heflin Plaza, named in memory of former Ouachita Board of Trustees Chairman Johnny Heflin and in honor of his wife, Sharon, and their family, Jay and Andrea Heflin and Marc and Billie Heflin. The project will include a pedestrian bridge linking the university’s North campus and main campus.

The dedication service also featured an a cappella trio by Donna McKenzie Gosser (’82), Jennifer Burchfield (’90) and Abby Turner, a junior at Ouachita. Introducing the special music, Leigh Anna Gosser Askins (’89) said, “As we dedicate this village and commit to God these homes, we give thanks to those before us and pray for those yet to come.”

The service concluded with a prayer circle that stretched all the way around the circular sidewalk. Jay Heflin, chairman of the Ouachita Board of Trustees Finance Committee, led the prayer of dedication for the Student Village and the students who will live there.

Right: Students visit and study together during an open dorm period in the Student Village. **Far right:** Dr. Horne speaks during the dedication service. **Below:** The Student Village was dedicated Aug. 20 just before fall classes began.



Above: Volunteers release balloons revealing the named houses. **Right:** The Gossers family gathers at the entrance to Gosser Hall. Leigh Anna Gosser Askins told the dedication crowd, “May the lives of all who enter and dwell in this place be enriched by God’s love and led by His grace.”



Above center: A gathering space in the lobby of Gosser Hall. **Above right:** Students enjoy the new fitness facilities in the Student Village.



photo by Jessica Bowling

'Kind hearts' help Honduran student fulfill dream at OBU

by Stella Prather

Susan Cunningham waited anxiously near Little Rock National Airport's baggage claim area for passengers to deplane Continental Flight 2784 on Aug. 19. Mrs. Cunningham and seven other Arkansas Baptists were awaiting the arrival of Judith Brizuela when the pastor's wife spotted the petite, soon-to-be college freshman, and tears filled her eyes.

"She's here," exclaimed Mrs. Cunningham, as she and the group eagerly approached the 18-year-old and her parents who were coming down the escalator. "Isn't she beautiful?"

Hugging the also emotional Brizuela, Mrs. Cunningham said, "We are so glad you are here. ... We have been praying for this day." A few feet away, Tommy Cunningham and Wayne Clinkingbeard held up a large banner welcoming Brizuela to Arkansas.

Bystanders perhaps assumed the excited group was greeting a family member or friend. But in fact, they had met Brizuela only once before, a lone meeting they believe was divinely appointed.

"There is no doubt in my mind that God put Judith in our path," Tommy Cunningham, pastor of Mountain Home (Ark.) Baptist Church, said of the group's initial meeting with Brizuela last January. A senior high school student at the time, Brizuela served as one of several interpreters during the church's annual medical mission project to San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Looking back on the mission project, Cunningham said the mission team was immediately impressed by Brizuela and her

passion to share the gospel. Team members also learned that she dreamed of attending a Christian college in the United States and one day returning to her native land to better serve others.

"When I learned Judith would like to attend a Christian college, ... I immediately thought that she would be a great prospect for Ouachita Baptist University," said Clinkingbeard, adding that he and several team members are OBU alumni. "I felt God was telling me to help her."

Cunningham said he had similar thoughts. Team members "began discussing the idea and believed God was telling us to help this young girl attend college," he reflected. "I remember telling Judith's mother that ... I believed God was telling me to do everything in my power to help her daughter attend a Christian college. I didn't make any promises, but I told her I was going to do everything I could to make this dream become a reality."

After returning home, Cunningham contacted Ouachita officials to "learn what it would take" for the "straight-A student, class valedictorian and lovely, gifted, Christian young woman" to attend OBU. As a result, Ouachita offered Brizuela both a merit scholarship and a global scholarship.

Cunningham also shared his plans with his church members who stepped in to help make the dream come true. Several individual donated personal funds, while 25 others raised \$1,000 at a bake sale.

Also jumping on board to help was the OBU Class of 1955. Spearheaded by Clinkingbeard, the group raised enough funds

to cover Brizuela's personal expenses.

In all, Mountain Home Church and OBU alumni raised more than \$6,000. Another donor gave an additional \$1,000.

Back in Honduras, Brizuela, with the guidance of OBU's international student services office, went through the detailed process of obtaining a student visa and other necessary admission requirements. She scored in the 99th percentile on her entrance exam.

"I am so excited with this opportunity," Brizuela said. "I believe education should be God-centered, because that is the only way true values and ethics can be learned. While you are taught about academics, you also learn about God and study His Word."

Brizuela moved into her Ouachita dorm Aug. 22, and began pursuing a degree in psychology Aug. 24.

She expressed her gratitude to God and the Arkansas Baptist group. "I am so grateful to the Mountain Home Church for having such kind hearts and loving me without even knowing me," she said. "It has been a long way, but I am certain that God's will has been done."

Echoing Brizuela's perspective, Cunningham said, "If God can use a small, rural Arkansas Baptist church to step up and help out someone they have never met, I know it must be His will."

Stella Prather is associate editor of the Arkansas Baptist News. Article reprinted with permission of the Arkansas Baptist News

'Discover the Ouachita Difference': More than a slogan

Inviting individuals to "Discover the Ouachita Difference" is more than just a slogan or tagline here at Ouachita. Discover the Difference is designed to complement President Rex Horne's emphasis on "Difference Makers" as well as OBU's Vision, Mission and Values statement which declares, "With foresight and faithfulness, Ouachita makes a difference."

Ouachita's Office of Communications and Office of Admissions Counseling have worked closely in recent months to produce current Discover the Difference brochures, DVDs, ad campaigns and related information. These resources are designed to benefit prospective students and others interested in Ouachita's role as a Christ-centered learning community committed to academic excellence.

As students are challenged to discover the Ouachita difference academically, spiritually and personally, several campus leaders were invited to share their interpretation of Ouachita's commitment to those principles.

Discover the Academic Difference

STAN POOLE, *Vice President for Academic Affairs*: What exactly is the academic difference at Ouachita? Among key qualities that define the Ouachita academic experience are:

Extraordinary faculty: Ouachita's professors combine expertise in their disciplines with a passion for encouraging students to reach their highest potential. With 80 percent of the full-time faculty holding the highest degree in their field and all teaching undergraduates, our students begin to learn from highly qualified professors the moment they arrive on campus.

Connected learning: Ouachita is small enough for students to develop relationships but large enough to provide an academically stimulating environment. Small classes encourage interaction and engagement, while opportunities beyond the classroom allow students to connect theory and practice. Whether assisting with a professor's cancer research, interning with a top accounting firm, studying Mozart in Salzburg, or ministering to Ugandans through the Hands-On missions internship, students thrive when they take advantage of Ouachita's rich opportunities for connecting people, knowledge and experience.

Preparation for a life well-lived: With strong placement rates for graduates seeking employment or pursuing further education, Ouachita excels in preparing students for their life's work. But life is far more than a career, and at Ouachita students pursue their studies in a Christ-centered community that promotes both love of God and love of learning. Challenged to learn broadly, think deeply and live with integrity and compassion, Ouachita graduates are prepared to make a true difference.

Discover the Spiritual Difference

JAMES TAYLOR, *Director of Campus Ministries*: Every Thursday night around 10:30 p.m., I have a problem on my hands. Secretly, I love it. Hundreds of our students gather weekly for worship and biblical teaching

and they always stick around and talk. And talk some more. Part of me wants them to go, so I can lock up and head home. But a part of me is also thrilled because every week Ouachita students take the initiative to come together, sing, study and fellowship (the latter being my lovable problem).

Ouachita students take the initiative to serve God and others on a regular basis. And it's not just on Thursday nights, but in regular ministries to the community, discipleship groups on campus and mission trips across the world. They take the initiative to make a spiritual difference in the world around them, and that's just one of many reasons that I love staying up a little later on Thursday nights.

Discover the Personal Difference

TIM HARRELL, *Director of Campus Activities*:

Ouachita's people are the most fascinating part of the university. While academic programs are the reason that students attend, experiences such as service opportunities, dorm life and student interaction are also factors that play a major role in the decision process for prospective students. When I attended OBU, I found a home because of the people here. The campus was a place where my roommates, classmates and professors continually invested in me.

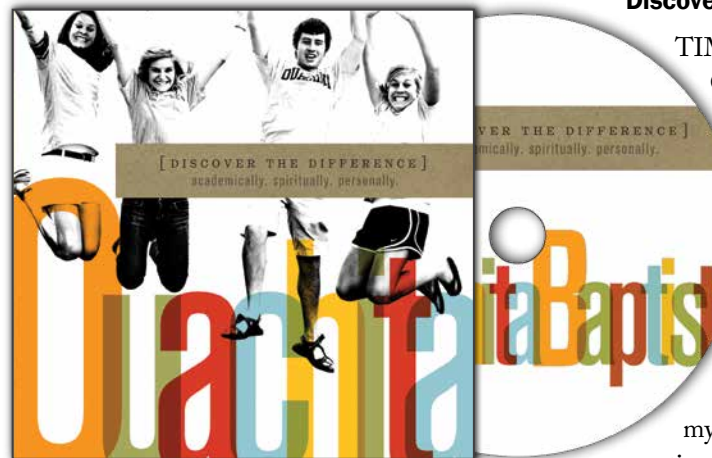
This was, and still is, a safe place to grow into an adult. There are always questions (spiritual, cultural, social, etc.) that young adults encounter as part of their journey into adulthood. Administrators and faculty seek to facilitate student development and foster community by offering students a variety of opportunities to explore their interests. For students interested in ministry, there are numerous options to pursue. For those interested in the environment or travel or feeding the hungry, Ouachita provides countless avenues to explore. Students learn, grow and mature as they discover the personal difference available with gentle guidance and encouragement from Ouachita's dedicated faculty and staff.

Discover the Ouachita Difference

LORI MOTL, *Director of Admissions Counseling*: What makes Ouachita so different? I think it's the relationships among students, faculty, staff and alumni. Once you are a part of Ouachita, you feel a kinship with those who have come before you and those who will follow. We truly care about each other.

The faculty and staff want to see the students succeed, both on campus and in life. Students reach out to help and support each other. I remember going to my professors' homes on occasion as a student at OBU, and now we have students in our home.

Ouachita is truly a home away from home for our students. They build gingerbread houses at Christmas, dye Easter eggs in the Commons and serve others during Tiger Serve Day. All of this blends into a campus that clearly demonstrates Christ's love. It's a unique feeling that individuals must experience to truly understand. That's the Ouachita difference.





photos by Timothy Stringfellow, Jennifer Caudle & Neal Ozmun

Hands-on missions: Students minister in Chile

by Rebecca Stone

After a year of planning, Ouachita Baptist University's Pruet School of Christian Studies hosted a hands-on mission study trip to Santiago, Chile, and surrounding areas this summer. Students helped missionaries on the field while earning course credit and gaining an irreplaceable experience.

"The goal of the trip was to aid the missionaries in Chile, to identify and encounter Chileans who have no faith in Christ and are unchurched," explained Dr. Terry Carter, associate dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies and W.O. Vaught Professor of Christian Ministries. "According to the missionaries, our student teams truly helped open doors in some schools and areas."

Ouachita alumnus Cliff Case, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary to Chile, served as the team's on-site missionary and "set up the entire experience," Carter noted. Case's older son Caleb is also a Ouachita graduate, and his younger son Clayton is currently a freshman at Ouachita. In addition to working with the Cases, the Ouachita group contributed to the work of several other missionaries in Chile.

"This short-term mission trip was a blessing on my life," said Timothy Stringfellow, a freshman Christian studies and Christian missions major from Kingsland, Ark. He said

the trip was valuable to him because it allowed him to "learn hands on precisely what it means to be a missionary."

In addition to establishing relationships with the Chilean people, the students and professors rafted down the Maipo River in the Andes Mountains during freezing weather, watched the national soccer team on TV in Chilean homes and ate Chilean hotdogs.

The group lived in seminary dormitories, hotels and apartments while getting as much work done as they could in 22 days. Participants divided into four teams with each one led by a different professor and with different means of reaching the Chilean people.

"Sometimes the work was challenging," Carter said, "but for the most part, it was the most successful mission trip I have been involved with."

Dr. Ray Franklin, associate professor of Christian missions, led the sports team with the intention of reaching younger school-age children. Team members cleared an area for a new basketball court, provided basketball and soccer clinics and prepared Youth for Christ mission adventures, among other tasks.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) team was led by Carter's wife, Kathy, ESL instructor for Arkadelphia Public Schools. She led her group in offering parenting workshops,

youth activities and witnessing while teaching English.

The drama and music team, led by Dr. Carter, prepared seminars on parenting preschoolers, a "Kids Club" for ages 3 through 5, prayer walks and surveys of the neighborhoods and drama and music programs for schools.

The fourth team implemented GPS-led adventure hiking. Dr. Scott Jackson, assistant professor of Christian ministries, led the team in preparing GPS treasure hunts, introducing participants to the Bible and its importance, as well as multiple day hikes for groups of 15 to 20 unchurched kids.

Along with their specialized groups, the students led worship services, with a member of the team preaching. During every activity, there was an opportunity to share the gospel with the Chilean people through personal testimonies or simply by example.

Affirming the significance of mission study trips, Franklin said, "Trips like this enable students to learn things which cannot be taught in the classroom: culture, language, travel, ministry, etc."



Rebecca Stone is a senior mass communications major from Prattville, Ark.

Lady Tigers named top academic team in Division II women's softball

The Ouachita Baptist University women's softball team has been named the No. 1 academic team in the "Girls Got Game" Top 10 All-Academic rankings for NCAA Division II, according to National Fastpitch Coaches Association officials. The Lady Tigers compiled a combined 3.663 grade point average for the 2009 season.

Ouachita finished the season as the top academic team not only among Division II schools, but among all NCAA four-year schools in the nation. NCAA Division I institution Robert Morris compiled a 3.610 GPA, while Emerson College led NCAA Division III with a 3.531 GPA and NAIA's Bethel College led in that category with a 3.545 GPA. NJCAA Division I school Wallace State Community College/Hanceville led all colleges with a 3.733 GPA.

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association honored schools for the Top 10 All-Academic Teams based on GPAs submitted for the 2008-09 school year. Through this program, the NFCA recognizes both collegiate and high school softball teams for their success in the classroom.

The Lady Tigers finished the 2009 season in fourth place in the Gulf South Conference West Division with a 24-30 overall record under the leadership of Head Coach Mike McGhee, including a 12-18 mark in conference play.



The Capital Business Machines team of (l to r) **Brett Rogers ('90)**, **Tony Price ('91)**, **Johnny Rice ('91)** and Ronnie Loe won the afternoon flight of the inaugural "FORE Ouachita" golf tournament held Monday, Oct. 19, at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock. The team shot a 14-under par 58 in the four-man scramble. The morning flight was won by the Hoffman-Henry Insurance team of Ron Adams, James Gadberry, Richard Henry and Billy Zihala with a 10-under par 62. The winning teams were awarded the opportunity to be "Coach for a Day" for their favorite Ouachita athletic team.

A total of 148 golfers participated in the inaugural event which raised money for athletic scholarships at Ouachita. "FORE Ouachita" was presented by VCC, Inc., and chaired by Ouachita alum **Marc Heflin** and co-chaired by his brother, fellow alum **Jay Heflin**. Nearly 30 corporate and individual sponsors helped underwrite the event.

Ouachita athletes earn conference, national honors

Turning in quality performances in a number of sports, several Ouachita teams and student-athletes earned conference and national accolades this fall. From tennis and football to soccer, swimming and volleyball, Tiger athletes attracted attention both at home and across the nation.

The OBU men's tennis team, which finished the 2009 season ranked No. 8 in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, will begin the 2010 season ranked No. 6 nationally and No. 4 in the Division II South Region.

Ouachita junior Jan Plewinski, who earned All-America honors last season and was named Gulf South Conference West Player of the Year, is ranked No. 13 nationally in singles. Junior Till Heilshorn is ranked No. 35 and sophomore Jean Charles Diame is ranked No. 50. The doubles team of Heilshorn and Plewinski is ranked No. 10 nationally.

The Tiger football team was ranked as high as No. 14 nationally after a 4-0 start that included impressive conference wins over No. 9 Delta State and No. 16 Valdosta State. Following the victory over Valdosta, senior wide

receiver Jeremy Young was named D2football.com's National Offensive Player of the Week as well as GSC Offensive Player of the Week.

Amid key injuries and other setbacks, the Tigers finished the season 6-4, recording their second straight winning season under Head Coach Todd Knight. The team ended its season with a 35-28 victory over Henderson State in the annual Battle of the Ravine. The win broke the tie in the historic rivalry with Ouachita now holding a 39-38-6 edge over HSU. Pregame activities included recognizing the 1949 Tiger football team on the 60th anniversary of its legendary 17-14 comeback win over Henderson.

The football Tigers placed a school-record nine players on the All-GSC football team, including four players who earned first team honors: senior running back Keldrick Johnson, senior defensive end Jerry McNeil, senior return specialist Jeremy Young and junior linebacker Clayton Goree. Young also earned second team honors as a receiver. Other second team honorees include junior defensive tackle Bryan Church and three sophomores: tackle Cory Godbolt, guard Kyle Smith and tight end Phillip

Supernaw. The Tigers will return nine starters on defense and seven on offense next season.

In soccer, forward Rizvan Ceka was named GSC Freshman of the Year and earned All-GSC first team honors. Senior goalkeeper Neal Ozmun, who posted 56 saves, was named to the All-GSC second team. The men's team earned its first-ever trip to the GSC tournament after defeating Harding 4-0 in the regular season finale. Freshman Payam Pourjavad was named to the 2009 GSC Men's Soccer All-Tournament Team after impressive play in OBU's opening round loss to top seed West Florida. Ceka and Pourjavad will be among 19 returning players for the 2010 season.

TigerSharks senior Nelson Silva was named NCAA Division II Men's National Collegiate Swimmer of the Week in early November after earning three individual victories and helping win two relay events in matches against Drury University and Missouri S&T.

In volleyball, libero Allison Frizzell was named 2009 GSC West Division Freshman of the Year. Frizzell, who averaged 4.22 digs per set, recorded 481 digs to lead the conference.



H O M E C O M I N G



band. **10** Tripp the Tiger leads the crowd. **11** The Tigers took on Harding University in the Homecoming football game. **12** Campus Ministries won 1st place in Tunes as Southern Baptists. **13** The band and cheer squad led a pep rally at OcTigerFest. **14** Homecoming Queen Hayley Nolan (center) with (L-R) 4th runner-up Nancy Christner, 2nd runner-up Laura Kirby, 1st runner-up Sam Parrish & 3rd runner-up Megan Lindsey. **15** OcTigerFest featured a live tiger from Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge. **16** 2008 Homecoming Queen Katelyn Cash crowns 2009 Queen Hayley Nolan. **17** The Homecoming crowd cheers on the Tigers. **18** The cheer squad raises Tiger spirit before the game. **19** K.J. Johnson running against the Harding Bisons. **20** Tiger marching band performing at halftime, led by Robert Hesse. **21** Members of Chi Rho Phi gather at OcTigerFest. The club celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. **22** Tiger Blast performs in Tiger Tunes. **23** The men of Rho Sigma display pieces of club history at their OcTigerFest booth. **24** Kappa Chi Men's Social Club won 3rd place in Tiger Tunes as knights.





WINING

- 1 EEE Women's Social Club won 2nd place in Tiger Tunes as airline passengers.
- 2 The International Club was among groups that set up booths at OcTigerFest.
- 3 Quarterback Eli Cranor releases a pass during the Homecoming football game.
- 4 The band performs at halftime.
- 5 "Fourth Floor" won the People's Choice Award at Tunes as campus security officers.
- 6 Tiger Tunes was webcast live on www.onlinesignal.com.
- 7 Tiger spirit ran high at Homecoming.
- 8 The hosts and hostesses perform during Tunes.
- 9 The flagline performed with the



2009

Students, faculty, alumni & friends enjoyed the campus festivities during Homecoming 2009...



photos by James Burge, Gary Gerber, Melissa Richardson, Sarah Sparks & Callie Stephens



photo by Melissa Richardson

Tiger Serve Day attracts record turnout

While few college students enjoy rising early on a Saturday morning after a long week of classes, the lawn outside Ouachita's Ben M. Elrod Center for Family & Community was packed Sept. 26 with students, faculty and staff eager to serve their community on Tiger Serve Day. The volunteers completed a variety of jobs ranging from yard work and cleaning to washing cars and minor home repair projects.

A record 694 volunteers joined together in 62 teams to complete 80 service projects in and around Arkadelphia as part of Ouachita's 13th annual Fall Tiger Serve Day. This semester's total included a 16-member alumni team that completed a project in Little Rock.

Emma Smith, a junior mass communications major from Little Rock, has participated in Tiger Serve Day for three years. "I enjoy Tiger Serve Day because I love being able to share God's love with people in the community," she noted. Recalling that one woman her team served "started to cry," she added, "You could just tell she felt blessed to have us there."

OBU wins Battle of the Ravine Blood Drive

Ouachita Baptist University not only won on the football field during the 2009 Battle of the Ravine but also in blood donations. The American Red Cross hosted the inaugural Battle of the Ravine Blood Drive as a competition between the two universities.

The Red Cross presented the winning trophy for the blood drive to Ouachita for beating Henderson in both numbers and percentage of the student body who participated. Ouachita had 223 donors making up 15 percent of the student body while HSU had 221 donors making up 6 percent of the student body.

Ouachita's 2009 Homecoming Queen Hayley Nolan, a senior psychology major from Sherwood, Ark., received the trophy on behalf of the university. "The people who make up our student body are often challenged to be 'difference makers,'" she said. "The fact that we showed up in such force for the chance to help others shows that we've met that challenge."

Tammy Barnes, who works in Ouachita's Campus Activities Office, worked with Red Cross officials to coordinate the event. "We decided to plan the blood drive as part of the Battle of the Ravine week so that way all students, faculty and staff could feel like they played a part in beating HSU," Barnes noted. She added that plans are under way to make the blood drive an annual Battle of the Ravine competition.

Theatre Arts cast puts Goldilocks on trial

Goldilocks on Trial was this fall's featured children's production hosted by Ouachita's School of Fine Arts Department of Theatre Arts. The children's play was performed Sept. 24-29 in Verser Theatre.

The story of Goldilocks on Trial, created by playwright Ed Monk, is a silly look at the story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." Goldilocks on Trial asks if Goldi really did break the chair or if she is being framed, along with many more questions that branch out to other well-known children's stories. The show was directed by Mary Handiboe, OBU associate professor of theatre arts. Lauren Castell, a junior musical theatre major from Garland, Texas, played the title role.

"I like this play because despite its childlike goofiness, it has a lot of humor that we can all find funny," said Michael Krikorian, a senior musical theatre major from Rockwall, Texas, and president of OBU's chapter of Theta Alpha Phi, a national honorary theatre fraternity. "It is not only accessible to children, but to everyone."



Phase two of student housing under way

As many upperclassmen settle into their new homes in Ouachita's Student Village, work already is under way on the next phase of student housing construction.

The dorm construction, which began in November, is scheduled to be finished in time for move in next August, according to Brett Powell, vice president for administrative services.

"We're planning on two buildings between Flippen and Maddox," Powell explained. "It forms sort of a circle there of those four buildings, with Maddox and Flippen at the two ends."

"Rather than put a living space in each suite, we are going to have one living space per floor," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "It's going to be a big, den-type feel. The thing that I like about it is that when students come to Ouachita, they are going to have a lot of different kinds of choices."

"We are trying to provide something between freshmen housing and the Student Village that would be newer—we have to replace Ernest Bailey and Conger," Powell said. Daniel, Ernest Bailey and Conger provided a total of 488 beds. With the Student Village and the two new facilities, there will be a combined total of 520 new beds.

Online Signal earns ACP Pacemaker Award

The Ouachita Signal's Web site, www.obusignal.com, has been awarded the prestigious Pacemaker Award from Associated Collegiate Press (ACP). The Online Signal was honored along with Web sites from several larger universities such as Tulane University and the University of Missouri, among the 10 winners in the category.

Emma Smith, a senior mass communications major from Paron, Ark., who serves as co-editor of the Online Signal, said, "It feels great

to receive this award, especially since we've only been up for a year. It's very affirming that we're doing things right and can compete with other major publications."

Holland Powell, a senior mass communications major from Nashville, Ark., and editor-in-chief of the Signal's print and online editions, said the award "is another aspect that will draw prospective students into Ouachita and to the mass communications department."

Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the school of humanities, serves as advisor for the Signal. He said the national recognition "shows the students are well-versed in new media and employers will be interested in that."

NCATE affirms Teacher Education program

Following an in-depth evaluation process, Ouachita's Teacher Education program has earned continued national accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

According to NCATE President James Cibulka, Ouachita "has met rigorous professional standards for the preparation of teachers and other school specialists and is a nationally accredited institution."

The accreditation encompasses 12 education degree programs offered at Ouachita in the areas of biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, kinesiology and leisure studies, music education, social studies, Spanish, speech communications and theatre arts as well as early childhood education, middle school education and art education.

Maintaining accreditation "doesn't happen in isolation," said Dr. Merribeth Bruning, director of Ouachita's Teacher Education program and dean of the Huckabee School of Education. She said OBU's 12-member Teacher Education Council and other faculty members and administrators "work together to make it happen." Based on NCATE's findings, Ouachita's next accreditation evaluation is set for 2016.

class notes

connecting the circle

—1940s—

William Flynt ('44*) and his wife, **Carolyn (Simmons '44)**, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 22. He is a former pastor and retired pastoral family counselor and she is a retired elementary school teacher. The Flynts live in Fayetteville, Ark.

Margrete Horne ('47) recently returned from her 10th mission trip to Honduras in partnership with the Baptist Medical Dental Mission International. Horne lives in Port Arthur, Texas.

Laura (Meador) Wingfield ('49) and her husband, Ezra, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 2. They are the parents of Kay Powell and the late David Wingfield and have three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

—1950s—

Malcolm Sample ('50*) and his wife, Stella, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 29. They live in Russellville, Ark., and have four daughters.

Preston Taylor ('50) recently published his book *Apocalipsis: Jesus, El Rey de Reyes* through the Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

Rev. Johnny Jackson ('51) and his wife, Carlene, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 4 with family at their Little Rock home. A retired minister, Jackson currently serves as interim pastor of Bethel Baptist Church. The Jacksons have four children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. James Ryan ('59) and his wife, **Judy (Fisher) Ryan ('61)**, celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary with a month-long Biblical studies tour of Israel, Egypt and Jordan.

—1960s—

Jimmy Peacock ('60) and **Marion (Williams) Peacock ('65)** live in Sapulpa, Okla., where he owns and operates Peacock Editorial Service. Mrs. Peacock retired in June 2008 after teaching elementary school for 39 years. They have two grown sons and two grandsons.

Dr. Jenny (McAllister) Petty ('62) retired in January as professor/coordinator of Library Science Education at Missouri State University. Now professor emeritus, she currently teaches online library science classes for the University of Missouri's School of Information Science and Learning Technologies. Before serving at Missouri State, she was the periodicals librarian at Ouachita.

Benjamin Henry Hill ('63) retired from the Dallas Independent School District where he was a band director at Woodrow Wilson, Sunset and Dallas Skyline high schools. He and his wife, Julie, now reside in Sherman, Texas.

Dr. Paul Redditt ('63) retired from teaching in 2008. He taught at Otterbien College in Westerville, Ohio, and Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky., where he chaired the religion department for 19 years. He earned his M.Div. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. in Bible from Vanderbilt University.

Dan Light ('65) has served in pastoral ministry since his graduation from Ouachita and received his M.Div. and D. Min. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Liberty University. He now lives in his home state of West Virginia and is serving as an adjunct professor in the philosophy of religion department of Liberty University.

Linda (Harris) Clements ('66) retired from coaching gymnastics and teaching at Caddo Magnet High School in Shreveport, La. Since beginning her coaching career in 1966, her boys' and girls' teams have won 16 state championships. She has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Carolyn Jane (Thurmond) Brooks ('69) retired after 40 years in education in Arkansas' Springdale school system. She and her husband, Charles, have four children and five grandchildren.

—1970s—

Colonel (Ret.) Ed Buffington ('70) recently moved to Little Rock after spending the past 10 years living and working in Germany. Following his retirement from the U.S. Army after 32 years of service, he remained in Germany working at European Command Headquarters where he was a military training specialist engaged in training military staffs of the former Soviet bloc countries in the Balkan, Baltic, Black Sea and Eurasia regions of Europe. He is now working with state headquarters of the National Guard in a five-state region.

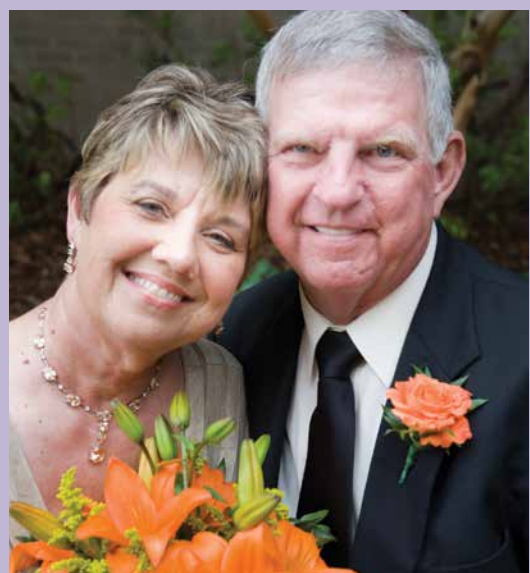
Fred Selby ('70) was appointed to the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family by Gov. Bobby Jindal. Selby lives in Mandeville and is the associate director of the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home.

Marilake (Farmer) Gibson ('72) retired from Forman High School in May 2008 after teaching family and consumer science there for 36 years. She lives in Texarkana, Ark., and has one daughter and one grandson.

Virgil Hellums ('72) recently retired from a 37-year career as an Arkansas Game & Fish wildlife officer.

J.W. Varner ('73) was awarded a life membership from the Texas Gas Association. Varner is a senior professional in gas pipeline operations and engineering and a partner in Harding Energy Partners, LLC.

Sammie (Inlow) Benjamin ('76) was named chairman of the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) Commission. She is the media specialist for the Centerpoint School District and was recently selected Teacher of the Year for the school district.



Bennie Carol (Burgess) Wade ('75) married Gary Dunavan on June 12 in Little Rock. They live near Mayflower where she is the new choir director at Mayflower High School. He is an insurance agent in Little Rock.

Diana (Edmondson) Lewis ('76) received the Dellanna O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development during the Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration in Louisville, Ky. Lewis, who retired Oct. 1 from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, served as a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionary and group coordinator of church and community ministries for the state convention.

Rev. John McAnally ('76) celebrated his 20th anniversary as pastor of First Baptist Church of Amity, Ark., on Aug. 2. He also serves as the police and fire chaplain as well as a city councilman. He and his wife, Jan, have four children and six grandchildren.

Lisa (Clay) Grigg ('77) works as a medical transcriptionist in Pine Bluff, Ark. She is a member of First Baptist Church and is active with Therapy Dogs International and the Jefferson County Humane Society. She is married to Don Grigg.

Dr. Wesley Kluck ('77) was recently profiled in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette's "Front & Center" section for his work as Arkadelphia's first pediatrician and vice president for institutional advancement at Ouachita. Kluck and his wife, Debbie, have one daughter, Jennifer ('08).

Nine new faculty members join Ouachita

Ouachita Baptist University welcomed nine new faculty members for the fall 2009 semester.

"We're fortunate to have an outstanding group of new faculty members with impressive credentials, expertise in their disciplines and a commitment to make a difference in the lives of their students," said Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs. New faculty members include:

Summer Bruch, assistant professor of visual arts. Bruch holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in ceramic arts from Central Missouri State University and a Master of Fine Arts from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She has served as an instructor of ceramics and studio manager at Central Missouri State and at the University of Texas Pan America. She also has served as an adjunct instructor at Henderson State University and taught part-time last year at Ouachita.

Christopher W. Brune, assistant professor of finance. Dr. Brune is a 1994 Ouachita graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in finance. He also holds a master's degree in administration and a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. Brune, who had held a number of positions in the financial services industry, also has taught finance courses at the University of Arkansas.

Kathy Collins, visiting instructor of education. Collins holds a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Baylor University and a Master of Education in administration from Tarleton State University. She has served as a teacher and administrator in the Bynum Independent School District. Since 2007, she has been associate director for the Center of Learning and Development in Waco, Texas.

Sara E. Hubbard, assistant professor of chemistry. Dr. Hubbard holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming at Laramie. She previously served as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Wyoming and as an instructor of chemistry at Wichita State University.

Rebecca A. Jones, instructor of speech communication. Jones is a 1996 Ouachita graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. She also holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is currently enrolled in the doctoral program at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. Jones has held several positions at Ouachita since 1999 in the areas of admissions counseling, public relations and development.

Phyllis Kinnison, assistant professor and archivist of Riley-Hickingbotham Library. Kinnison holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in social studies education and a master's degree in history from the University of Louisiana at Monroe as well as a master's degree in library and information science from Louisiana State University. She has served as a graduate assistant at both LSU and the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Ryan C. Lewis, assistant professor of music. Dr. Lewis holds a Bachelor of Music degree in instrumental music education from Furman University. He also holds a Master of Music in percussion performance from Florida State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in percussion performance from the University of South Carolina. He previously taught music at Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C., and the University of South Carolina School of Music.

Amber Northam-Vincent, instructor and acting director of Athletic Training Education. Northam-Vincent holds a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education with an emphasis in exercise science athletic training from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in kinesiology and athletic training from San Jose State University. She has served since 2007 as the assistant athletic trainer at Ouachita.

Ruth Plymale, assistant professor of biology. Dr. Plymale holds a Bachelor of Science degree in botany from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in biology from Pennsylvania State University. She has served as a postdoctoral associate at Penn State and at Cornell University.

photo by John Morgan



Coppenger's life and legacy span 100 years

The day after his 100th birthday, Dr. Raymond Coppenger (right) performed with fellow Ouachita Faculty Quartet members (L-R): Dr. Paul Root, Randy Garner and Dr. Ray Granade.

The year was 1909. Ouachita had 391 students, 18 graduates and Dr. Henry Simms Hartzog was serving as the school's second president. That also was the year Raymond A. Coppenger was born.

Dr. Coppenger, who joined the Ouachita faculty in 1954, served as chairman of the department of philosophy. Endearing himself to students, faculty and friends, he taught at Ouachita for 20 years before retiring in 1974. He later was named Professor Emeritus of Philosophy.

Two months after celebrating his 100th birthday in September, Dr. Coppenger died Nov. 24 following a bout with pneumonia.

"I have long known of Dr. Raymond Coppenger," reflected Ouachita President Rex Horne. "We are proud to have the legacy of this good man as an important part of Ouachita's history and legacy.

"On a personal note, I am most proud that I have known him and could call him a friend," Dr. Horne added. "Dr. Coppenger was not only blessed with long life, but fully lived each day of those 100 years."

In honor of his 100th birthday on Sept. 20, Dr. Coppenger received televised birthday greetings from former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Ouachita alumnus, who closed his Fox News Channel show, "Huckabee," that day by noting, "Dr. Coppenger is one of the most brilliant scholars I've known, and his

Edinburgh-trained intellect was matched by his humble and gracious spirit. As he and his family celebrate his 100 years, I thank him for his investment in my life."

In the same week that Dr. Coppenger marked his 100th birthday, he sang bass in the "10th Annual Final Concert" of the Ouachita Faculty Quartet, a group he helped form in the



1960s. He also saw his doctoral dissertation, written more than 50 years ago, published as a book titled, *A Messenger of Grace: A Study of the Life and Thought of Abraham Booth*.

Earlier this year, he was recognized as the oldest Arkansas Legionnaire and was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership to the American Legion in honor of his years of service as a Navy Reserve chaplain, where he earned the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Describing Dr. Coppenger as "unflappable," Ouachita President Emeritus Daniel Grant said, "Dr. Coppenger never got angry and he was never stressed out. He

would just take everything in stride."

Noting that Dr. Coppenger "had great relations with the students," Dr. Grant added, "He also had a sense of humor. In class his sense of humor would sneak up on the students and they didn't know whether to laugh or not."

Born on Sept. 20, 1909, in east Tennessee, Dr. Coppenger earned degrees from Mercer University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Edinburgh. During his years of ministry, he served as pastor of churches in Tennessee and Virginia, was a U.S. Navy chaplain in the Pacific during World War II and served as Baptist Student Union director at Auburn University and the University of Kentucky. Before joining the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University, he taught philosophy and religion at Carson-Newman College and Belmont University.

He was preceded in death in 2000 by Agnes, his wife of 56 years, and in 2007 by his daughter Anne. He is survived by his sister Dorothy; two children, Mark and Susan; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

By Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications, and Meg Gosser, a junior mass communications and speech communication double-major from Coppell, Texas

—1980s—

Sheila (Stender) Sartin ('80) was named Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Educators' Teacher of the Year. She is in her 30th year in the teaching profession and currently teaches family and consumer sciences at Hamburg High School. She and her husband, **Marty Sartin ('82)**, have one son.

Denise (Clark) Kaniss ('82) is the behavior interventionist and special education counselor for Pleasant Grove Independent School District in Texarkana, Texas. Her daughter, Jillian, will join the Ouachita family as a freshman in 2010.

Rex Nelson ('82) celebrated his new blog, Southern Fried, with a launch party in July. Nelson is the senior vice president for government relations and public relations at The Communications Group in Little Rock and also writes a weekly column for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Dr. Trey Berry ('84) has been appointed deputy director for museums for the Department of Arkansas Heritage. In that role, he will lead the department's four museums: Historic Arkansas Museum, Mosaic Templars Cultural Temple, the Old State House Museum and the Delta Cultural Center. He and his wife, **Dr. Kathy (Simms) Berry ('92)** have two children, Tanner (9) and Berkeley (1).

Cecil Mack Davis ('84) is now pastor of First Baptist Church of Ward, Ark. He also works with Baptist Health-Hospice in Little Rock.

David Wilson ('84) has accepted a position as an assistant principal at Jefferson City (Mo.) High School. He is now in his 21st year as an educator in the Missouri public schools.

Steve Quinn ('86) is the new head football coach for the Benton High School Panthers. He formerly was the head coach for Southern Arkansas University.

Teresa Holsclaw (MSE '87) was recently hired as an instructor of curriculum and instruction and interim MAT coordinator at Henderson State University. She is married to Scott Holsclaw, dean of Ouachita's School of Fine Arts.

John Blase ('89) recently published the book *Touching Wonder: Recapturing the Awe of Christmas*. He lives in Monument, Colo., with his wife, **Meredith (Fairhead) Blase ('90)**, and their children.

Jay Crowder ('89) is the chair of the music department of Montgomery College in Rockville, Md. He also serves as the music director of music theatre and television for the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and served as the associate music director for the Kennedy Center productions of "Mame," "Passion" and "Company."

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

—1990s—

Lt. Col. Joel Humphrey ('91) of Hot Springs, Ark., was recently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He previously was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003. He and his wife, Sharon, have two children, Kamryn (10) and Aaron (5).

Dr. Jason McCullough ('93) was recently named superintendent for the China Spring (Texas) Independent School District.

Denver Peacock ('94) recently earned the Accredited Business Communicator designation from the International Association of Business Communicators. Peacock is vice president and director of public relations at Little Rock's Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods (CJRW).

Jason McCord ('95) is a general contractor with Brothers B&B Contracting, Inc., in Dallas and Fort Worth. He and his wife, Teresa, have three children, Jacob (4), Andrew (2) and Anna Love (1).

Brett Chumley ('96) was promoted to assistant director of waiver services for Arkansas Enterprises for the Developmentally Disabled (AEDD) in Little Rock. He is married to **Nikki (Northern '95)**.

Allen Morton ('95) was named the grand champion of a 12-week weight loss program sponsored by Little Rock's KATV-Channel 7. His church, Chenal Valley Baptist Church, supported his effort by pledging money for each pound he lost and was able to donate \$2,000 toward missions.

Misty Butts ('98) married Eric Fox on Sept. 19. The couple lives in Walton, Ky.

—2000s—

Kristi (Foster) Ballard ('00) received her Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas, Arlington, on Aug. 13.

Jonathan Huber ('01) has been named the new city attorney for Amity, Ark. In addition to his work as an attorney, Huber is a member of the Clark County Quorum Court. He and his wife, Staci (Robertson '02), have three children, Haley (3) and twins David and Paul.

Dalton ('01) and **Kristen (Clark) Hutchins ('00)** live in Brownwood, Texas, and both work at Howard Payne University where he is the assistant tennis coach and she teaches biology. They have one son, Blake (1).

Rick Dildine ('01) has relocated to St. Louis where he has been appointed as the new executive director of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis.

Trina White ('01) married Christopher Stark on Aug. 1 at First Baptist Church of Fort Smith, Ark.

Todd Bunch ('02) completed his Master of Divinity degree at Baylor University's Truett Seminary and is now serving as the minister to children at Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock. Todd and his wife, **Jenny (Tidball '02)**, have one son, Benjamin (1).

Laura (Norris) Haywood ('02) received her master's degree in journalism from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock in August. She is the corporate services specialist at Southwest Power Pool in Little Rock and also is an adjunct professor at Pulaski Technical College. She and her husband, Brent, live in Cabot, Ark.

Leah Stroope-Alexander ('02) married Stephen R. Alexander II on May 30 in Hot Springs. She graduated from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Law School in May and the couple now lives in Shreveport, La.



Matt Elkins ('03) married **Katharine Ross ('05)** on July 9, 2006. Katharine taught kindergarten in Richardson, Texas, until the birth of their daughter, Hannah Kay, on Aug. 27, 2007. Elkins currently is serving as the international missions pastor at The Village Church in Highland Village, Texas. The couple recently welcomed their second daughter, Abigail Nicole, on May 28.

Shawn Branscum ('04) received his M.Div. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary on May 16. He and his wife, **Lesley (Floyd) '04**, are the parents of an infant daughter, Hannah.



Shanna Harris ('05) married Josh Beames on June 27. They currently reside in Pasadena, Texas, where she is working at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and pursuing a master's degree in human resources. He is completing his teaching degree.

Dr. Mark Gustke ('04) is a pediatric resident at Children's Hospital in Little Rock and his wife, **Amy (Hulett) '04**, is an RN in the NICU at UAMS.

Brooke Pierce ('05) married Caleb Lewis on July 25 at An Enchanted Evening.

Jennifer Tohlen ('05) married Brian Oglesby on Sept. 12.



Holly Crouch ('07) married **Matt Morrison ('09)** on May 23 at First Baptist Church of Dallas. The couple resides in Plano, Texas.

Lyndsey Harper ('07) married Robert V. Sanders IV on Aug. 1. The couple lives in Maumelle, Ark.

Meredith Phipps ('07) married Eric Fontenault on July 18.

Camie Shivley ('07) married Steve Risinger on Aug. 1 at First Baptist Church of Rogers, Ark.

Emilee Turner ('07) married Matthew Cooley on Aug. 29 at Second Baptist Church of Arkadelphia.



Kevin Barnhart ('08) married Christy Minkler on June 6 at Highland Park Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas. The couple lives in Little Rock.

Current Students:

Austin Phillips married Sarah Fuller on Aug. 1 at First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia. The couple resides in Arkadelphia.

future *tigers*

-1990s-

Brice Hester ('95) and his wife, Rikki, welcomed daughter Lauren Elizabeth on March 12. She joins big sister Rachel (2).

Elten Briggs ('97) and his wife, Andrena, welcomed son Ernest Daniel on June 24.

Zine ('97) and his wife, **Karen (Cowling) Smith ('06)**, welcomed daughter Krisann Grace on June 23. She joins siblings Conner (11) and Chloe (9).

Matt Haas ('98) and his wife, D'Lisa, welcomed son Owen Matthew on July 4.

Susan (Brannan) Welch ('99) and her husband, Matthew, welcomed daughter Madeline Ashley on March 9. She joins big brother Brennan (3).



Kevin Taylor ('97) and his wife, Regina, welcomed daughter Chloe Faith on Aug. 5. She joins big brother Nicholas Chase (2).

What's

-2000s-



Jon ('00) and Emily Merryman ('01) welcomed their adopted son, Dennis, in 2008. Dennis, who grew up in an orphanage in Moldova, is now a sophomore at Nashville School of the Arts. Jon works for Sweet Sleep, a nonprofit organization that provides beds for orphans around the world. He first met Dennis on a mission trip to Moldova in 2004.

Amy (Henderson) Arnold ('00) and her husband, Neil, adopted a baby girl from Ethiopia in June. Her name is Julianne Fanose and she was born on June 16, 2008. She joins big sisters Hillary Ashton (5) and Sophie Le (2).

Allison (Ray) Brake ('00) and her husband, Peter, welcomed daughter Lily Charlotte on May 26. She joins big sister Ava Grace (2).

Dalton ('01) and Kristen (Clark) Hutchins ('00) welcomed son Michael Blake on Jan. 4.



Alan and Amber (Wilson) Bagley ('01) welcomed daughter Anna Elizabeth "Anna Beth" on Aug. 13.



Todd and Jennifer (Tidball) Bunch ('02) welcomed son Benjamin John on March 12, 2008.



Stephen and Holly (Horne) Carlisle ('02) welcomed daughter Elizabeth Lynn and son Gideon Andrew on Sept. 11. The twins join big sister Abby Anne (3).



Dr. Levi Simpson ('02) and his wife, April welcomed daughter Audrey on May 7. She joins big brothers Judah (4) and Asher (2). Levi earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Indiana-Bloomington in 2007 and recently concluded a post-doctoral appointment at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. He is the laboratory director for Bio-Tech Pharmaceutical in Fayetteville, Ark.

Matt ('04) and Christy (Bell '02) Cozart welcomed son Henry Matthew on Oct. 15, 2008.

Jeremy McNair ('03) and his wife, Amanda, welcomed son Jackson Scott on March 20.



Jenny (Gable) Bobadilla ('03) and her husband, Mel, welcomed daughter Elise Kaelyn on Sept. 12.

Dr. Mark and Amy (Hulett) Gustke ('04) welcomed daughter Maggie Lynelle on August 5. She joins big brother Caleb (2).



Jonathan ('03) and Lauren (Vinsant) Kelley ('05) welcomed son Spencer Vinsant on Dec. 4, 2008.



Jennifer (Tippit) Grady ('04) and her husband, Daniel, welcomed their son Henry on April 24.

new?

Submit your class notes, including wedding, baby and alumni reunion photos, by logging on to the Ouachita Online Community at www.obualumni.org or by contacting Lauren Land at landl@obu.edu or (870) 245-5506.



Cheryl (Russell) Harper ('04) and her husband, Russell, welcomed son Ian Russell Harper on April 24.



Chris and Emily (Parker) Muckleroy ('05) welcomed son Cole James on April 19.



Calli (Hammett) Sampson ('05) and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed son Brendan on March 8. He joins big brother Callen (3).



Annabeth Nickell ('04) and her husband, Trey, welcomed son Jayson Andrew on Sept. 30. He joins big brother David Tyler.



Terri (Major) Flannagan ('06) and her husband, Chuck, welcomed son Knox on July 10.



Sarah (Lowrie) Brooks ('06) and her husband, B.J., welcomed son Ben David Brooks, III, on July 28.



Kristy (Newton) Freyaldenhoven ('05) and her husband, Gabe, welcomed daughter Madison Grace on Feb. 19.



Jennifer (Walla) Furrey ('06) and her husband, Robert, welcomed daughter Ella Ashlyn on May 8.

in memoriam

—1930s—

Laura Lucille (Boggs) Kelly ('35) passed away on July 27, 2008.

—1940s—

Stewart Sanders ('41*) of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on July 22. He is survived by children Harlow Sanders, Edwin Sanders, Lucy McBride and Judy Niven, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Rev. John Ashcraft ('43) of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 12. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Nan, children Nelson Ashcraft and Sally Sheffield, three grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Anne (Henigan) Threet ('44*) of Little Rock passed away on July 18.

Dr. Leland Hall ('45) of Titusville, Fla., passed away on Aug. 12. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Bette (Cochran '46)**, children Bette Moeller, Alma Wakefield, Lydia Goode, **Hal Hall ('82)**, 20 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Jacqueline Bly Hughes ('46) of Allen, Texas, passed away on Aug. 3. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, **William Hughes ('52)**, children **Pam Tarbutton ('75*)**, **Rhonda Dickson ('77)**, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Charles Ray Rose ('46) of New Braunfels, Texas, passed away on Aug. 25, 2008. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, **Ruth H. Rose ('48)**; one son, Chuck; and two grandsons, Justin and Brandon.

Alta Jean (Davis) Hall ('47) of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 2. She is survived by sons Henry Good III, Dr. David Good and Stephen Good, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Aileen (McBryde) Petty ('47) of Texarkana, Ark., passed away on Aug. 5. She is survived by children **Clifton Petty ('72*)**, **Douglas Petty ('76*)**, **Mary Kay (Petty) Norris ('76*)** and Richard Petty, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Rev. Ernest Mosley ('48) passed away on July 8. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Vivian (Bachman '50)**, daughters Jan, Melody and Lenora and 10 grandchildren.

Alvin Dale Clemence ('49) of Wichita, Kan., passed away on July 15. He is survived by his wife, Marie, children Sherry Arnold, Stan Clemence and Sonja Rowland, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

—1950s—

Truett Goatcher ('50) of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 29. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Lillian (Williams) Goatcher ('50*)**, children Carolyn Sparks, Jack Goatcher and Ken Goatcher, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Birkett Williams lecturer encourages 'new mindsets'

by Meg Gosser

Delivering a lecture on “Communication and Social Change—New Mindsets, New Possibilities,” Dr. Arvind Singhal was this year’s featured speaker for Ouachita Baptist University’s annual Birkett Williams endowed lecture series. Singhal, the Samuel and Edna Marston Distinguished Professor of Communication at the University of Texas, El Paso, delivered the lecture Oct. 22 in Ouachita’s McBeth Recital Hall.

Singhal discussed how Entertainment Education is about encouraging society to change through positive models in the media, popular culture and the entertainment industry. “If there is a medium that can engage, then there is a medium that can educate,” Singhal said. “If you’re trying to change a community norm, then the community should model it.”

Instead of focusing on the problem and overtly telling people how to change, he said that focusing on the solution and showing what is possible is more effective. “It’s easier

to act your way into a new way of thinking, not think your way into a new way of acting,” he added.

“Arvind’s lecture was superb,” reflected Dr. Steve Phillips, chair of OBU’s William Fenna and Emily Rogers Department of Speech Communication. “He’s a great storyteller, and he always comes back around to make sure the audience understands how each story relates to his theme.”

Singhal, who also is director of research and outreach for the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies at UT-El Paso, has presented lectures in more than 60 countries. He has served as an advisor to the World Bank, the United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Department of State and other private and public organizations.



Meg Gosser is a junior mass communications and speech communication double-major from Coppell, Texas

Ann (Strickland) Vining ('51*) of Arkadelphia passed away on Aug. 29. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, **Coach Bill Vining ('51)**, children **Charlotte Douglas ('74)**, **Billy Vining, Jr. ('75)**, **Amanda Morgan ('76)**, **Andy Vining ('78)**, **Molly Wallace ('86)** and **Lon Vining ('92)**, 21 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Isaac Byrd ('58) of Algonquin, Ill., passed away on June 25, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Joellen, and daughter Kathy (Byrd) Brewer ('71*).

—1960s—

William Baldrige ('63) of North Little Rock passed away on Aug. 25. He is survived by daughter Lisa Stipe.

Judith Jean Burrow ('65) of Des Arc, Ark., passed away on July 14. She is survived by children Ashley Newton and Andy Burrow, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

—1970s—

Walter Howard Bruening ('72) of Galesburg, Ill., passed away on Aug. 29. He is survived by his wife, Diane, sons Jason and Jared and one granddaughter.

Dr. Ray C. Williams ('72) passed away on July 3. He is survived by sons Ray Williams, Jr., and Everett Williams.

David Purkiss ('73) of Little Rock passed away on July 22. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and children Jonathan Purkiss, Timothy Purkiss and Kimberly Kwee.

Anne C. Warren (MSE '75) of Little Rock passed away on July 13. She is survived by daughter Suzanne Warren, son Dr. Bill Warren and three grandchildren.

Curtis Dean Morris ('79) passed away on July 8.

—1980s—

Stanley Ward Bitely ('82) of Tamo, Ark., passed away on Aug. 11.

Melanie Loe ('89) of Texarkana, Texas, passed away on Jan. 9.

Dr. Gary Gerber, Associate Professor of Music & Director of Choral Activities

Here at Ouachita, the crisp fall weather and post-Fall Break energy boost often bring one thing to mind: Festival of Christmas. The annual holiday spectacle highlights the musical talents of students and the faculty members who guide them. One faculty member in particular works throughout the year to coordinate the outstanding student performances, beloved Christmas standards and celebration of Christ's birth that define the Festival of Christmas.

Dr. Gary Gerber, associate professor of music and director of choral activities, was recruited to Ouachita in 2004 by then-dean Dr. Charles Fuller with the promise that he would have the opportunity to work with and mentor an exceptional group of students. This promise has been fulfilled tenfold as Gerber has worked closely with students and colleagues to maintain one of the South's most exceptional music programs. According to Gerber, "I enjoy teaching in a more intimate Christian setting that allows me to serve as both professor and musician alongside my students."

During each academic year, Gerber directs the Concert Choir and teaches a range of choral classes. However, the late fall is devoted to the Festival of Christmas. He begins selecting music months in advance, all the while developing creative transitions in his mind. Once the musical selections are prepared, Gerber works closely with School of Fine Arts Dean Scott Holsclaw to create the overall "look" of the show. Holsclaw's expertise in theatre combined with Gerber's musical vision sets the stage for the student singers, dancers, musicians and actors who bring the performance to life. "Festival of Christmas is absolutely a full School of Fine Arts event," Gerber noted. "Drawing from graphic design skills of the art faculty and the costume and blocking expertise of the theatre team to the overwhelming musical ability of our faculty and students and the addition of video stage elements, a number of unique pieces come together to create one cohesive performance."

Gerber is married to Linda Gerber, a middle school band director in Bryant. They have two children, Nathan (13) and Nicholas (10), both of whom were adopted from Russia.

This year's Festival of Christmas kicked off the Christmas season with performances Dec. 4-5 in Jones Performing Arts Center. For information about future performances, visit www.obu.edu/finearts or call 1-800-DIAL-OBU.

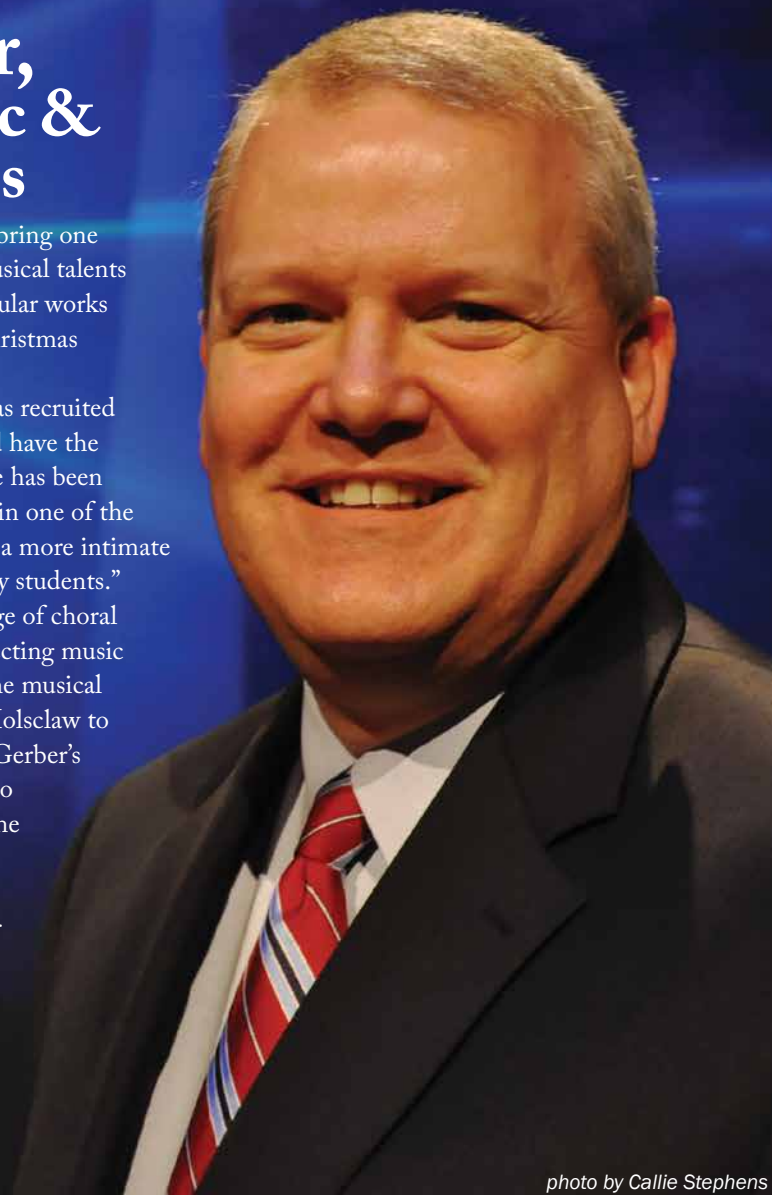


photo by Callie Stephens

Tiger Network Leadership Award



Ouachita Alumni welcomed the 35 recipients of the 2009 Tiger Network Leadership Award to Ouachita with a dinner at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Rex Horne on Aug. 27. The freshman group, all selected based upon leadership demonstrated during high school, participated in monthly Leadership Lunches throughout the fall semester featuring a variety of alumni and community leaders. The Tiger Network group also formed a team for the fall Tiger Serve Day and served as ambassadors to alumni and families during Homecoming.

Applications for the 2010 Tiger Network Leadership Award are available online. Each application must be accompanied by a recommendation from a Ouachita alum and must be mailed by Jan. 15, 2010. For more information and to download an application, please visit www.obualumni.org.

Joey Licklider, Manager of Jones Performing Arts Center

staff *profile*

If all the world's a stage, who is in charge of making the pieces work together in harmony? In Ouachita's case, that person is Joey Licklider ('02), manager of the Jones Performing Arts Center (JPAC). In this role, Licklider masterminds all things technical, from lighting and sound to set rigging and overall design. Anyone who has attended Tiger Tunes or other events in JPAC has surely noticed the professionalism of each show and the ease with which diverse acts blend into one seamless performance. The credit belongs to the young man in the sound booth.

Originally from Houston, Licklider came to Ouachita in the late 1990s as a mass communications major with hopes of pursuing a career in film and photography. However, a chance assignment as a student worker in JPAC provided him a new artistic perspective. Today, Licklider manages a team of six student workers and works closely with colleagues from the School of Fine Arts to combine creative performances with technical accuracy. His production calendar ranges from weekly chapel services to the Festival of Christmas, the fall opera, the spring musical and a host of major summer events including Super Summer.

Though just one piece of his job, Tiger Tunes dominates a large portion of Licklider's time and attention throughout the year. This year, he began working closely with the Hosts and Hostesses in the spring and joined forces with the student organizations in the fall to help bring each show to life. He added video production in 2008 and enhanced the use of the "digital sets" in 2009. During Tiger Tunes, Licklider spends an average of 20 hours each day inside JPAC as he oversees rehearsals, trains his production team on lighting and sound cues, fine tunes video production and more. Reflecting on the long hours involved in the job, Licklider noted, "Technical direction is a job you have to love, but clearly I love what I do." Though the process often is exhausting, the opportunity to help Ouachita students raise scholarship funds for fellow students through song and dance is something he looks forward to each year.

To stay on the cutting edge of stage and technical design, Licklider frequently reads industry publications and has attended a number of intensive training conferences including a Broadway Master Class in New York City. Such experiences allow Licklider to confidently affirm that Ouachita's performing arts space is "superior to many universities and professional stages. The equipment is top-notch, the production team cohesive and the overall student talent is amazing."

To learn more about future Ouachita productions led by the School of Fine Arts, visit www.obu.edu/finearts. For more information about Tiger Tunes, visit www.obu.edu/tigertunes.



photo by Callie Stephens



In 1886, J.W. Conger was elected Ouachita's first president. For 21 years he guided Ouachita's development as a Christ-centered learning community.

What better name than The Conger Club for individuals who, through their Annual Fund gifts of \$1,000 or more accept the challenge to "carry the torch" to ensure and advance the legacy of Ouachita.

We hope to welcome you soon to The Conger Club.


Rex M. Horne, Jr.
President

Ask about **Conger Club GOLD**—Graduates Of the Last Decade—for young alumni (minimum \$20 per month or \$240 per year)

Membership is based on Annual Fund gifts during OBU's fiscal year, June 1–May 31.

Contact Shirley Hardin, Annual Fund Dir., at hardins@obu.edu or 870-245-4277

www.obu.edu/give

Discovery highlights Ouachita journey

Discovery is a significant part of a quality education. To gain knowledge, find truth and see in an enlightened way is part of the educational journey at Ouachita. Knowledge, truth and sight are sought by the student and guided by those who have traveled longer or further.

In May the group of students who were entering as freshmen as I entered the president's office will graduate. I have particular interest in them for this reason. I have observed their physical, intellectual and spiritual maturity during these years. I am proud of them as I am of the faculty and staff who have patiently and personally provided guidance.

We do our best to recruit students. We then give our best while they are here. It is my joy to speak from experience

rules, regulations and expectations, I see faith lived out every day in a genuine, authentic way. Our faith is not contrived or superficial. It is real. This is distinctive.

When I go to a recital, game or lecture, I look around the room or stadium and see many students and numerous faculty and staff. I am reminded that so many men and women have planted their lives here. They are gifted, committed and disciplined. They are also devoted to this university's mission and values. Thirty or 40 years of service by an individual is not unusual here. This, too, is a distinct and distinguishing characteristic.

During our Homecoming week this fall, I visited with a number of alumni and former students. Some were back for class reunions, others for some of the week's activities.

“While we have rules, regulations and expectations, I see faith lived out every day in a genuine, authentic way.”

that the zeal in recruiting is balanced by the zeal in educating these same young men and women. I am blessed to lead Ouachita where one finds encouragement and fulfillment each time one steps on campus, even when that journey occurs every day.

Studying or serving at Ouachita for any period of time will impact your life permanently. Hayley Nolan was recently elected Homecoming Queen. Hayley responded to a note I had written her, stating, “As you know, I am graduating in May, but as you also probably know, I'm in love with Ouachita.” The energy Hayley has brought to campus is joined by hundreds of others. They are making discoveries through study of bodies of truth, research, culture, faith and friendships.

Our invitation to potential students and donors is to “Discover the Difference.” One can find distinguishing characteristics and a distinctive quality in this university. The difference is evidenced in our faith. While we have

The excitement in their voices and life in their eyes when speaking of Ouachita revealed a love that is unmatched and undying. The years have only enhanced the experience of Ouachita.

Ouachita encourages lifelong learning. Discovery is a part of learning. Our university is not static, but fluid, progressive and visionary. The challenge to discover the Ouachita difference is not only for potential students, but for every reader of this publication. Come alongside us and gain knowledge of today's Ouachita Baptist University. This university is worthy of your sons and daughters, prayers and financial support. Discover the Ouachita Difference!



Rex Horne

[DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE]
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You're not just another student. We're not just another school. Ouachita is committed to fostering a love of God and a love of learning. A top-ranked liberal arts education in a vibrant Christian community is only the beginning of the Ouachita difference. Here, there's no getting lost in the crowd or overlooked for opportunities to grow academically, spiritually and personally. You're different. **We are too.** Come see what we mean.

Ouachita



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