

Spring 2015

Newsletter Spring 2015

Grant Center for International Education
Ouachita Baptist University

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OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
410 Ouachita Street • Box 3777
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71998-0001



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Grant Center,

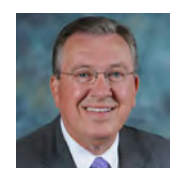
A unique experience awaits the Ouachita campus community on February 17.

The cuisine, talents and customs of countries around the world will be featured during the annual International Food Festival sponsored by the Daniel and Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education.

Becky and I always enjoy sampling the dishes prepared by our international students and by other Ouachita students and faculty members who have studied or lived and worked overseas. We marvel at the festive clothing and decorations from other lands that transform our conference center into an international bazaar.

Results of the annual International Photography Contest are also announced and our students cap off the evening with an entertaining and educational international talent revue.

You are welcome to join us. Admission is only \$5. The festival will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Walker Conference Center from 6 to 7:30 in the evening.



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

DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2015

FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR IAN COSH...

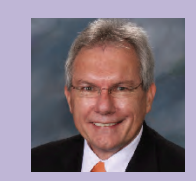


International Education: Enhancing Critical Thinking Skills

Parents and students frequently ask me to explain the benefits of study abroad. While I can easily give a top 10 list of benefits, let me focus on just one. It enhances a student's critical thinking skills.

We are all culture-bound to some degree and tend to hold our own culture and nation above others – even our own worldview, for that matter. Breaking out of our cultural boundaries that tend to constrain our thinking requires a certain degree of courage and motivation. Study abroad provides the engine to make that happen. When students enter a new cultural environment, they are faced with new ways of thinking and experiencing life. Some of these new experiences involve discomfort and demand a willingness to persevere, ask penetrating questions and, in the end, students become more mature thinkers.

The study abroad context pushes out the walls of each student's life experience and allows them to think new thoughts and embrace new experiences, all of which contribute to the enhancement of their critical thinking skills.



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



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OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2015

410 Ouachita Street • OBU Box 3777 • Arkadelphia, AR 71998 • Phone: (870) 245-5197

PASSPORT to the World



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL 2015

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 - DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
WALKER CONFERENCE CENTER - TICKETS \$5 AT THE DOOR
OBU GRANT CENTER • INTERNATIONAL CLUB • WMU WORLDMARKET

When you live in a different country you get to experience the culture and get to know the people. By doing this you can see that there isn't just one way to live. Living in Europe has definitely broadened my horizons.

- Taylor Black, Salzburg



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Chad Bullington

- Staff Professional (Accountant) at Grier, Reeves & Lawley, P.C. in Texarkana, Texas
- 2013 OBU Grad (Accounting)
- IMB Missionary Kid, Namibia



Q Could you please share a brief description of what you do?

A I do public accounting for individuals and small to mid-sized companies. This generally entails preparing income tax returns, among other tax filings, and performing financial statement audits.

Q How did Ouachita prepare you for what you're doing now?

A OBU provided me with the knowledge and skills I needed to get started and thrive in the world of accounting. The professors didn't just give me the information; they showed me how to use it. They also trained me to be able to get the job I wanted and keep it. Without OBU and its Hickingbotham School of Business, I believe the transition from being a high school graduate to a staff professional at a prestigious accounting firm would not have happened as smoothly as it did.

Q Share a favorite memory from your time at Ouachita.

A My favorite memory would have to be hanging out with my wife, whom I met at OBU, and all of our friends during the last few weeks before graduation. The taste of graduation on my tongue and the warmth of friends who had become almost as close as brothers and sisters is a hard combination to top.

SCHOLARSHIPS FROM FRIENDS OF THE GRANT CENTER

Thanks to scholarships from the Friends of the Grant Center for International Education, the following students are able to study abroad for spring 2015:

University of Alicante

Brent Northington
Marissa Pilcher
Suzanna Rieves
Dave Fair

Salzburg College

Grace Powell

Friends of the Grant Center for International Education

Ouachita Baptist University

The FGCIE supports the advancement of international education at Ouachita. Members receive a newsletter, invitations to events, opportunities for involvement and a complimentary ticket to the annual **International Food Festival**.

_____ \$50 Joint Membership

_____ \$35 Individual Membership

I am enclosing a gift of _____ to support international education at Ouachita instead of or in addition to my membership.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please make checks to Ouachita Baptist University

Mail check and form to: Development Office, OBU Box 3754, Arkadelphia AR 71998-0001

Online Option: www.obu.edu/give • Choose "Friends of the Grant Center" as the designation.

OUACHITA ALUMS IN CHINA STRENGTHEN RECRUITING EFFORTS

Assistant Director Amy Garrett visited China in October in order to explore recruiting options there. There are several key advantages to looking for prospective students in China, not the least of which is that there are currently many Ouachita alumni living and working there.

In Beijing, Amy stayed with Mark and Angie Schleiff, who have been serving there with Bible Study Fellowship since 2008. Mark teaches and is the assistant principal at Hope International Schools. Jessica Schleiff graduated from Ouachita in 2010 and now lives with her husband, Chris, in Beijing. Mark and Angie's son, Ben, graduated from OBU in December, and their daughter, Emily, is a freshman. Susanna, their youngest, plans to attend OBU in 2016.



Mark, Jessica and Angie Schleiff with Amy Garrett (third from left)



Bethany Peevy & Amy Garrett

While in Beijing, Amy also met up with Bethany Peevy, a 2014 OBU graduate. Bethany teaches English and studies Chinese in Beijing, and attended a prospective student lunch as an OBU alumni representative.

From Beijing, Amy journeyed to Xian where she connected with alumni couples Waylon and Whitley (Berry) Slabach and Andrew and Allison (Grigsby) Sweatman, as well as LeAnne (Segars) Parham and her husband, Lee, a former Ouachita faculty member. All three couples are teaching English through English Language Institute China and helped Amy connect with local international schools as well as prospective students.

"It's encouraging and helpful to be able to work with so many generations of OBU alumni living in Asia as we look to increase the number of Chinese students we have on campus!" Amy noted.



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THE GRANT CENTER SPONSORS FALL BREAK TRIP TO NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Each fall, the Grant Center seeks to create unique experiences for our international students and MKs through overnight Fall Break trips. This year, the center joined forces with OBU's Outdoor Recreation program for an exciting weekend in Northwest Arkansas.

Around 40 students participated in the trip. Students had the choice to visit the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Walmart Museum at the original Walton's five and dime in Bentonville or to go rock climbing in the Ozark Mountains.

Despite rainy weather, students enjoyed good company by playing games, watching movies and going on a hike in the Ozarks. There was even an elk sighting!

1. Meet the ESL Program students and staff for fall 2014.
2. ESL students visited the Arkansas State Capitol and went on a tour with Representative Richard Womack, an OBU alumnus.
3. Students in the American Culture and History ESL class visited Old Washington State Park on a reenactment day in November.
4. Around 40 students participated in the Grant Center/ Outdoor Rec trip to Northwest Arkansas for Fall Break.