

Spring 2012

Newsletter Spring 2012

Grant Center for International Education
Ouachita Baptist University

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DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SPRING • SUMMER 2012



From the FGCIE President

Summer has arrived in Arkadelphia, which means plans are underway for a great year for international education at OBU. In fact, planning never ceases by our great staff at the Grant Center. Recruitment, exchange programs and counseling, as well as planning for our great International Food Festival, is a continuing cycle, and one with visible results.

While our staff is doing their planning, I hope you also are doing your planning for supporting international education this year by continuing your membership in FGCIE, attending our annual meeting and International Food Fest scheduled for Feb. 19, 2013, and encouraging others to join with us in this great program.

Thank you for your support and continued prayers for international education. May God use us as one of His tools to help spread the gospel to all nations.

Mel Thrash

President, Friends of the Grant
Center for International Education



Dear Friends of the Grant Center,

In late July, athletes from around the world will gather in London for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. They will spend more than two weeks engaged in friendly competition, seeking to transcend the geographical, political and cultural differences of the nations they represent. Like many of you, I will enjoy watching on TV, especially the opening and closing ceremonies where the diversity and uniqueness of the participating nations are celebrated with colorful pageantry.

Through the work of the Grant Center for International Education, we encounter students and college leaders from a wide array of countries and cultures. More than 40 were represented on our campus this past year. As we lead Ouachita students to understand more about the great variety in God's world today and about his love for all people, we point them toward a global perspective for carrying out God's call to lives of service.

The Friends of the Grant Center play a key role in strengthening this work. I am grateful for the prayers and the support you provide each year.



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

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DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SPRING • SUMMER 2012

International students lead men's tennis team



Ouachita athletics has always been a strong draw for international students looking to come to the U.S. to study. This year's men's tennis team, composed entirely of international students, is perhaps one of the finest examples of international students elevating the Tigers to the national stage.

This year's men's tennis team earned the inaugural Great American Conference Championship and advanced to the quarterfinals in the NCAA tournament, falling to the eventual national runners-up. The team earned a 15-7 record for the season and boasts three All-GAC players. Head Coach Craig Ward was also named Coach of the Year by the GAC and the Jim Verdick College Coach of the Year by the Professional Tennis Registry.

"One of the great privileges of my life has been coaching the men's tennis team at Ouachita," Ward said. "Since 1990, approximately 100 young men from countries across the world have chosen play tennis for the Tigers. During this time, we have become a nationally respected team that has often been in contention for a national championship."

During Ward's tenure, the Tigers have earned two No. 1 rankings, two final four appearances and six elite eight appearances in the NCAA championships. The team has also featured 25 All-American players, 23 Academic All-Americans and six players named to Academic-All American teams.



BACK, L TO R: THEODOR ANGEL, ERNESTO LABORDA, JAMES IMGRAHM, COACH WARD, MARKO BOSKOVIC, MARVIN MÜLLER, HELGE KNUTH.
FRONT L TO R: RAMON ABAITUA, KENNY BRAZIL

The 2011-12 eight-member team includes players hailing from Spain, Romania, Serbia, Brazil, Barbados and Germany.

"These young men usually chose Ouachita because of our tennis team," Ward said. "That only lasts four years. But the education they acquire and relationships made during their OBU experience last forever. They may come here as foreigners but they leave as proud and devoted Ouachita alums."



OUACHITA
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THIS PHOTO, TAKEN IN VENICE, ITALY, BY ABBY DEKLE, EARNED SECOND PLACE IN THE GRANT CENTER'S ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST. THE FRIENDS OF THE GRANT CENTER FUNDED THE CONTEST PRIZES TOTALING \$500.



FIRST PLACE WINNER: AMY VAUGHAN, SOUTH AFRICA

From the desk of Director Ian Cosh...

International education embraces the power of experiential learning. At the heart of this approach to learning is the simple realization that concrete reality properly reflected upon provides a powerful and transformative way to help people learn, grow and develop.

This summer I had the privilege of leading 18 Ouachita students to South Africa to work with a Christian organization called PreventionTime SA. This organization is using the message of the gospel to help children to avoid becoming infected with the HIV/AIDS virus through discipleship and consistent mentoring using the world's first HIV/AIDS Bible. Our students were given the opportunity to hear the heart-rending stories of those sufferings from AIDS and then given the chance to participate in an effective ministry effort to address the challenge.

Engaging the heart and mind in active ministry during the day and following it up with adequate time of reflection in the evening gave each student the opportunity to share their unique insights about the common experience of the group. We live in a needy world in which most of us have been blessed with a good education and more than adequate provision for our physical needs. It is vitally important that we continue to encourage students to see themselves as global citizens who have the capacity to understand our modern world and participate in it with confidence and compassion.



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

Huckabee School tours United Kingdom

Ouachita's Michael D. Huckabee School of Education took its second annual tour of the United Kingdom earlier this summer, a program that evolved out of OBU's new partnership with Liverpool Hope University. The trip allows Ouachita education students the opportunity to experience the British education system first-hand and to meet with LHU's education faculty.

Kathy Collins, instructor of education, led the two-week tour of London, Liverpool and Edinburgh. The four early childhood education students who participated include Monica Williams, a senior, and sophomores Kacy Wingfield, McCall Guttridge and Caitlyn Johnson.



BACK L TO R: MONICA WILLIAMS, KATHY COLLINS. FRONT L TO R: CAITLYN JOHNSON, KACY WINGFIELD, MCCALL GUTTRIDGE

"We are all so tremendously grateful for the opportunity to travel to the U.K., to learn about the British school system and to see such a beautiful part of the world," Collins said. "The people are wonderful over there, and we all had a fabulous trip."

In London, the group toured the city and absorbed the culture, taking the opportunity to "get accustomed to hearing the English accents, learn about English money and eat traditional English breakfasts – and fish and chips, of course," Collins said. The group saw *Wicked* performed at the Apollo Victoria Theater and also witnessed preparations around the city for the Queen's Jubilee and the summer Olympics.

The group stayed on the LHU campus in Liverpool and had the opportunity to visit with the school's education faculty. Professor Bart McGettrick, dean of education and professor of educational development at LHU, served as the group's host and arranged for visits to several local schools for the Ouachita students. These visits "allowed us to see first hand what the British school system is like," Collins noted.

Following their stay in Liverpool, McGettrick led the group, along with two professors from St. Xavier's University in India and another professor from LHU, to see Clifton Hall School in Edinburgh, Scotland. "That school was one of the highlights of our trip," Collins said, because the Ouachita students were each placed in specific classes and given the opportunity to work with the children there. The group later attended the school's production of *Oliver* and also toured the University of St. Andrews.

Study around the world participants*

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Austria: 3 | EST, England, France & Italy: 23 |
| Costa Rica: 11 | Hands On, South Korea & Vietnam: 1 |
| England: 2 | Huckabee School Trip, England: 4 |
| France: 1 | Mid-East Cultural Tour: 9 |
| Indonesia: 1 | Missions Trip, South Africa: 18 |
| Italy: 2 | Pruet School Tour, Turkey: 14 |
| Scotland :1 | |

*Fall 2011 - Summer 2012

McCall Guttridge, Caitlyn Johnson, Monica Williams and Kacy Wingfield were each awarded \$500 scholarships to participate in the Huckabee School of Education trip to Liverpool Hope during Summer 2012. These scholarships are made possible by Friends of the Grant Center membership dues.

2012 International Food Festival brings "The Marketplace" to Ouachita

The Grant Center for International Education and the International Club once more joined forces to host the 2012 International Food Festival Feb. 21, 2012, in OBU's Walker Conference Center.



With a marketplace theme, the event featured vending stalls offering up food from nearly every continent as well as fair trade goods for purchase. A new addition to the festival, the fair trade market in the lobby of the conference center featured handmade crafts and jewelry made by women from all over the world. The festival partnered with OneMaker, Women's Missionary Union WorldCrafts and OBU's Students in Free Enterprise chapter to make this market available to benefit individuals and families in poverty around the world.

In addition to food and crafts, the festival featured culturally diverse entertainment from the Lyon College Pipe Band, which also performed in Ouachita's weekly chapel program that morning. Several international students performed as well by playing the piano, singing and dancing.

The festival, which has become a hallmark event on campus, is an opportunity "to let our community and campus know who our international students are and a bit about their culture and, in particular, the food that they eat," said Sharon Cosh, a staff coordinator for the event and coordinator of OBU's English as a Second Language Program. René Zimny, assistant director of the Grant Center and coordinator for the festival, added that the event offers participants a unique "hands-on feel for other cultures."

Cosh added that the Grant Center and International Club are proud to host the event as "a chance for our community to get to know and appreciate the interesting, intelligent and diverse group of internationals we have on our campus."



THIRD PLACE WINNER: KRISTEN BARNARD, ECUADOR

NAFSA & EducationUSA

René Zimny, assistant director of the Grant Center, traveled to Houston, Texas, earlier this summer for NAFSA's 64th Annual Conference & Expo. This was a great opportunity to network with peer individuals and organizations in international education.

EducationUSA, an organization the Grant Center has worked with in recent months, offered its representatives attending the NAFSA Conference the opportunity to visit university campuses before and after the event. Ouachita hosted two representatives in Arkadelphia for three days following the conference. One of these individuals specifically chose to come to Ouachita since members of the Grant Center staff had met with her during our recruiting trip in Brazil last summer.

This visit served as great opportunity to showcase Ouachita's beautiful campus, strong academic programs and discuss future strategies. We also had the opportunity to visit Little Rock and Hot Springs to give the representatives a feel for the area.

EducationUSA is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State. The ECA promotes mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through personal and professional ties between private citizens in the U.S. and abroad, as well as by presenting U.S. history, society, art and culture to overseas audiences. Students in foreign countries use these offices to learn more about opportunities at American universities.

It is important for the Grant Center to keep strengthening relationships with EducationUSA and its representatives as part of recruiting strategies, and this visit served to do just that.

