

Spring 2011

The Ouachita Circle Spring 2011

Ouachita Baptist University

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The Circle

ouachita

SPRING 2011

scholarship

Foresight & Faithfulness

Remembering Coach Benson

Scholarship takes many forms

Scholarship—not to be confused with scholarships (plural)—is a foundational principle at Ouachita. According to the university’s Vision, Mission & Values statement, scholarship is one of Ouachita’s five guiding values. The statement emphasizes that scholarship is accomplished through advancing “excellence in teaching, learning, research and creative expression.”

This issue of *The Ouachita Circle* is dedicated to exploring Ouachita’s commitment to scholarship. From Dr. Stan Poole’s examination of scholarship at the crossroads of faith and knowledge to Dr. Jeff Root’s overview of the university’s newest international partnership with Liverpool Hope University, it is clear that scholarship is alive and well at Ouachita.

According to Dr. Poole, vice president for academic affairs, “While the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake motivates much scholarly inquiry, a parallel impulse is the desire to use our gifts of reason, intellect and creativity to solve problems and improve lives.

“At Ouachita,” he affirms, “we have always believed that research and teaching are mutually supportive forms of scholarly work.” That perspective bodes well for the future as Ouachita continues to shape scholarship and scholars.

Dr. Root, dean of the School of Humanities, was part of a Ouachita delegation that visited Liverpool Hope in the United Kingdom earlier this year. He noted that the new academic partnership “is providing a rich, new experience for students in combination with enough familiarity to create an optimal setting for students to feel both academically challenged and confident”—another great recipe for scholarly achievement among Ouachita students.

In addition to more traditional scholarly pursuits, Ouachita recently gained national recognition for pursuing new avenues of information and communication. Ouachita was listed on StudentAdvisor.com’s inaugural list of “Top 100 Social Media Colleges” for its use of Facebook, Twitter and the Online Signal website, which is the web version of *The Signal*, Ouachita’s student newspaper.

Sharing the honor with such universities as Harvard, Yale and Columbia, Ouachita is the only Arkansas school on the list. Why does that recognition matter? According to Dean Tsouvalas, editor-in-chief of StudentAdvisor.com, “The truth is that social media is the way we communicate today.”

While scholarship typically is associated with stacks of well-worn books and well-stocked labs, the fact is that the Internet, social media, smart phones and other technology have revolutionized the way we gain and share information. Here at Ouachita, professors are using iTunes, Twitter, clickers and other resources to communicate with students in new and effective ways.

May Ouachita’s creative pursuit of scholarship continue in our 125th anniversary year and beyond.



Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

“True scholarship consists in knowing not what things exist, but what they mean; it is not memory but judgment.”

James Russell Lowell

“Scholarship is to be created not by compulsion, but by awakening a pure interest in knowledge.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Originality is the essence of true scholarship. Creativity is the soul of the true scholar.”

Nnamdi Azikiwe

“My own ideals for the university are those of a genuine democracy and serious scholarship. These two, indeed, seem to go together.”

Woodrow Wilson

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15



4

8

12

2 Pursuing & promoting scholarship

Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs, emphasizes that Ouachita's commitment to scholarship is consistently explored at the crossroads of faith and knowledge.

4 International connection

Seventeen Ouachita students are participating this spring in the university's new international education partnership with Liverpool Hope University in the United Kingdom.

6 Fostering foresight & faithfulness

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As Ouachita launched its 125th anniversary celebration this spring, presidential scholars from across the nation gathered on campus to lead a two-day Pastors & Presidents Symposium.

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“We promote scholarship on many fronts, beginning with our faculty’s extraordinary commitment to engaging students in the classroom.”

In our plugged-in world of smart phones, social media and big-screen TVs, the idea of scholarship—with its long and often solitary hours of study—can sometimes seem anachronistic. Our culture, obsessed with instant gratification and practical results, tends to dismiss scholars as quirky, absent-minded and out of touch with the real world. Yet no culture can long flourish without the scholar’s patient pursuit of knowledge. Scholarship defined as discovering, mastering and sharing the collective knowledge that supports our common life remains central to Ouachita’s mission and vital to the future of humanity.

In his 14th century masterpiece, *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer includes “a clerk of Oxford” among his collection of pilgrims making their way to the shrine of Thomas Becket. As a scholar and teacher, this young man is singularly devoted to his studies, spending virtually all of his meager income on books. Chaucer describes him as “full of high good sense” and “moral virtue.” To sum up the clerk’s vocation, Chaucer penned the memorable line, “Gladly would he learn and gladly teach.” Despite the many differences between the medieval and modern worlds, Chaucer’s clerk reminds us that a passion for learning and teaching is the timeless mark of the scholar.

To recover the value of scholarship in a world suffering from information overload, it’s important to understand why it exists in the first place. Scholarship grows out of the deeply human desire to know. Albert Einstein used the phrase “the holy curiosity of inquiry” to express the quality of wonder that motivates people to pursue a subject in depth. William Bowen, former president of Princeton, has said that scholarly research “reflects our ... irrepressible need as human beings to confront the unknown and to seek understanding for its own sake. ... And it celebrates the special exhilaration that comes from a new idea.”

All great scholars have known this thrill of discovery—but so have ordinary teachers and students as they experience their own moments of exhilaration while analyzing a Shakespeare sonnet, studying the intricate molecular patterns of DNA, solving a complex calculus problem or mastering a Chopin étude.

the crossroads of faith and knowledge

By Stan Poole

The thrill of discovery and the satisfaction of using one's intellectual gifts to understand our complex world are powerful rewards for the hours spent in the lab, the studio, the practice room or the library. This pursuit of knowledge distinguishes humans from other creatures, and in the Christian tradition is seen as evidence of the *imago dei*, the doctrine that we are created in the image of God, the ultimate source of all knowledge.

While the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake motivates much scholarly inquiry, a parallel impulse is the desire to use our gifts of reason, intellect and creativity to solve problems and improve lives. In this sense, scholarship has as its aim the delight and edification of others. Whether presenting a scholarly paper to colleagues, identifying a more effective treatment for cancer, exhibiting a work of art or publishing one's insights into contemporary issues, scholars benefit their communities by sharing their expertise. From better medical care to the improvement of our economic conditions, from the appreciation of beauty to a deeper understanding of Biblical truths, we all benefit directly and indirectly from the work of scholars.

Launching journeys of discovery

At Ouachita we have always believed that research and teaching are mutually supportive forms of scholarly work. We promote scholarship on many fronts, beginning with our faculty's extraordinary commitment to engaging students in the classroom. Our alumni often credit former faculty members with launching their own journey of discovery through the passion and creativity they brought to the classroom. Current faculty members carry on that tradition by introducing students to methods of research and analysis and by exposing them to unsolved problems and potential pathways for new discoveries, thereby firing the imaginations of future scholars.

To ensure their teaching remains relevant, faculty must stay engaged with the latest knowledge in their area of expertise—no small task given the demands of preparing lectures, grading assignments and writing exams. Ouachita's faculty development program, supported in part by gifts from generous donors, provides grants for research, professional

development, sabbaticals and travel to scholarly conferences. Though requests often exceed the funds available, our faculty manages to produce scholarly work of an impressive range and caliber for a university of our size. Over the last two years alone, Ouachita faculty members have made more than 130 conference presentations; written dozens of book reviews and journal articles; and published 10 books ranging from Biblical commentaries and textbooks to a reference work on U.S. political parties. As we plan for the future, we must continue to invest in our faculty, encouraging them to remain actively engaged in such scholarly activities.

In 2001, Ouachita took an important step in promoting scholarship by launching Scholars Day, an annual celebration of our students' academic work. Last year more than 120 student presentations and performances showcased the accomplishments of our talented students. A quick glance at the program shows such varied titles as "Effects of Crowd Size and Gender on Self-Assertiveness and Conformity"; "Civilizational Self-Identity: Rethinking West-Middle East Relations"; and "Dreams and Visions as Divine Revelation." Students completing the Carl Goodson Honors Program present their honors theses, and those in the arts offer literary readings, music recitals, dramatic performances and an exhibition of artistic works. The result is an extraordinary program that recognizes the rich diversity of scholarly activity across campus and provides an outstanding opportunity for students to share the results of their many hours of work and study.

With support from faculty, our students also have been invited to present their scholarly work at professional meetings for organizations such as the American Chemical Society, Sigma Tau Delta (national English honor society), the Association for Psychological Science and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. For the past three years, our Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team has won top awards at the regional level and advanced to the national competition. Our music students regularly win accolades at the National Association of Teachers of Singing regional convention and are selected to perform with the Arkansas Intercollegiate Band.

As for the plugged-in world of smart phones and social media, despite its distractions, such technology is proving to be a boon for scholarship. The digitization of everything from real-time stock market quotes to ancient manuscripts in libraries across the globe is providing access that scholars could only dream about in previous generations.

Professors tap digital resources

In teaching music theory, Dr. Patrick Houlihan observes, new technologies including the ubiquitous iTunes have transformed the time-consuming process of preparing extended musical examples and listening sessions. For Dr. Lori Hensley, associate professor of biology, personal response systems (aka "clickers") allow her to track students' understanding of her lecture content. And Dr. Joey Dodson uses Twitter to deliver weekly memory verses to his Greek students and gauges the success of his lectures by checking student responses. While such technologies did not exist 10 years ago, as they take root in the academy, they will enhance the work of scholarship in ways we can't yet predict.

At Ouachita, scholarship is conducted at the crossroads of faith and knowledge, a living example of our commitment "to combine the love of God and the love of learning." Ouachita's scholars—both faculty and students—have access to tools inconceivable to Chaucer's clerk, but like him, they are passionate about their work and deeply committed to advancing human knowledge as a way to honor God and serve others. Our alumni continue to learn and grow throughout their lives—often because the spark of "holy curiosity" was ignited at some point during their Ouachita years by a gifted teacher-scholar. As long as Ouachita remains faithful to her mission, scholarship will continue to flourish here, guided and supported by those who "gladly learn and gladly teach."



Dr. Stan Poole, Ouachita Baptist University's vice president for academic affairs and dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, holds degrees from Louisiana College, Tulane University and the University of Virginia.

International connection

OBU partnership with Liverpool Hope promises great impact

By Jeff Root



Students have the comfort of the English language, although they quickly pick up on a different version of it than spoken back home.

A small group of students debate symbolism in the history of American cinema before piling into a vehicle for a short ride downtown to a deli. Sounds common enough, but this isn't Arkadelphia. The vehicle is a bus driving on the left side of the road, and downtown is an area where a former Beatle may drop by to visit relatives.

Ouachita's international education program with Liverpool Hope University is off to a flying start. Seventeen students enthusiastically stepped forward to take advantage of the new opportunity, touching down in Liverpool in early January. Within a week, eight Ouachita administrators and faculty members arrived for a closer look and discussions with Liverpool Hope officials about how to maximize the benefits of the program for both schools.

Immediately apparent to all the Ouachitonians was that LHU is providing a rich, new experience for students in combination with enough familiarity to create an optimal setting for students to feel both academically challenged and confident. Students have the comfort of the English language, although they quickly pick up on a different version of it than spoken back home. LHU also is faith-based, although its background

in both the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions also provides differences to be explored. Attention to student needs is a commitment on both campuses, as is quality instruction.

"Academically, Liverpool Hope promises to be a great partner for Ouachita," said Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs at Ouachita and one of the administrators who visited in January. "We were impressed to hear the staff at LHU articulate a sense of Christian mission and student care that seems rare among European universities. Our students will be challenged and enriched by studying in a different educational system while enjoying the many cultural and educational opportunities of the city and region."

Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement, made the first contact with LHU at an international educators conference. He was immediately pleased with its location, curriculum and mission.

"It was these qualities—a faith-affirming university, perfectly located within the United Kingdom, offering a variety of courses—that first caught my attention," Cosh said.

Cosh was invited to visit Liverpool by his counterpart at LHU, John McCarthy. Cosh arrived last summer, and it was immediately apparent

to both officials that the universities were a good match.

"We talked about mission, values, vision and focus, the kind of students we wanted to attract and the kind of curriculum we offered," McCarthy said. "It also was apparent that Ian felt this was a home away from home. ... The atmosphere and the ethos are very, very similar."

McCarthy came to Ouachita last fall and liked what he saw. He met with Ouachita President Rex Horne and Cosh introduced him to the campus community of faculty, staff and students. An agreement was signed and LHU became one of the official study abroad programs offered by the Daniel and Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education, directed by Cosh.

Students learned more about LHU during an international education chapel presentation, and a line began to form to join the first contingent of Ouachita students at Liverpool Hope. The 17 who were approved represent the largest number of Ouachitians ever to study at the same university overseas during the same semester. The attributes of the school and a reasonable price tag made it an instant hit.

"I wanted to come to Liverpool because I wanted a cultural experience that was different than what I've had before," said Nicci Fillingier, a senior Christian studies and mass communications double major from Perry, Ark. "I've been to China and Nicaragua, but England is a lot different. I was anxious to come and learn about the culture and see how the educational system was different."

Nathan Wade, a senior accounting major from Big Sandy, Texas, discovered the program through the interest of two friends. They eventually decided to stay home, but Wade never hesitated.

"I was really looking for an adventure," Wade said. "Once you start traveling, it puts you in a more adventurous mindset. Your life is more fulfilling after taking that initial step. I think traveling breaks down a lot of barriers culturally and breaks down a lot of prejudices one might have. When you meet someone, you don't automatically make an assumption of who they are or what they believe. You take people as they come and you let their actions and their speech decide who they are."

Wade and the other students quickly discovered many of the lessons come outside the classroom, and a full semester allows students to see beyond the tourist attractions.

"My goal is to see things more from the locals' point of view rather than a tourist's point of view," said Bethany Kohl, a junior English major from Harrisburg, Mo. "Everyone here in Liverpool has been friendly and helpful. I missed the bus the first time international students were supposed to go into the city, but we caught a later bus and the



A delegation of Ouachita administrators and faculty members visit with a group of 17 OBU students participating in the first semester of a new partnership effort with Liverpool Hope University in the United Kingdom.

locals helped us understand the system and when to get off."

Jenelle Kaske, a sophomore business administration major from McKinney, Texas, said she had always planned to study abroad and was pleased the course offerings at Liverpool Hope allowed her to take courses in her major that would transfer back to Ouachita.

"The courses I'm taking cover the material I need, but they're also giving a different spin," Kaske said. "We spent the first two weeks in marketing talking about anti-marketing and why people are resisting it. They also emphasize concepts that are international, and I think in America we sometimes get stuck in a little bubble and don't see outside. It's really good to see other perspectives."

With disparate methods of organizing course hours and levels of difficulty, the two universities have found a structure by which to place students in appropriate courses within their majors or the rough equivalent of the Ouachita CORE. Students then gain the experience of navigating different teaching and grading styles.

"The classes are structured differently than they are in the States, so I'm learning to work in a different environment with different expectations," Fillingier said. "This flexibility will no doubt come in handy when it comes time to get a job and adapt to their expectations of me."

With exciting and challenging experiences in and out of class, LHU's support system comes

into play. After visiting in person, Ouachita administrators came away convinced this would be a key element in continuing to build the relationship.

"LHU is an excellent fit for Ouachita because the officials there take their out-of-class student responsibilities and the caring attitude that goes with it to a level atypical for study abroad programs," said Dr. Joe Jeffers, dean of the J. D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences and a member of the visiting OBU delegation.

Complimenting Ouachita's students, McCarthy said LHU recognizes that most study abroad students are having their first such experience.

"At most British universities, you won't find the same kind of support system," McCarthy said. "It is a gentle system. It supports them emotionally. ... We want students to realize we're all in this together, and we're trying to create a family."

If that sounds like something a Ouachita

administrator would say, it should come as no surprise that the relationship between the two universities is growing. Professor Gerald Pillay, vice chancellor and rector at LHU and equivalent of an American university president, will speak in chapel at Ouachita on Nov. 15 as part of Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration.

Cosh credited the January visit by a contingent of deans and department chairs as a key step toward faculty involvement and other new joint endeavors.

Poole came home with a list of specific ideas for moving forward. "With an excellent library, comfortable accommodations for guests and some internationally recognized scholars on their faculty, LHU will be a very attractive option for faculty sabbaticals and short-term study trips," he noted.

With more faculty engagement to come, the 17 students who blazed the trail to Liverpool Hope are already making their mark.

"The students are great," McCarthy said. "They want to get the most out of this academically, socially and culturally."



Dr. Jeff Root, a 1983 Ouachita graduate, has served since 2002 as dean of Ouachita's School of Humanities. Root, who also holds degrees from the University of Arkansas and Oklahoma State University, has been a faculty member at Ouachita since 1991.

Fostering foresight & faithfulness

Self-study process helps set university priorities and direction

By *Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications*

It was, in some ways, three years of intense planning and preparation for a three-day campus visit. At a deeper level, it will help set university priorities and direction for several years to come.

Ouachita Baptist University's 234-page self-study report finalized earlier this year traces its roots to the spring of 2008. President Rex Horne appointed a 13-member Self-Study Coordinating Committee led by Dr. Randall Wight to guide the self-study process in cooperation with the university's Administrative Council, Deans Council and University Committee. Wight also chaired a five-member writing team that compiled the study's findings into a published report.

"We wanted to work within the existing university structure rather than create ad-hoc committees," Wight said. "We also wanted to consider a strategic plan at the same time as our self-study and our 125th anniversary."

The overall study was compiled in preparation for a March 14-16 site visit by a five-member Higher Learning Commission accreditation team charged with evaluating Ouachita's institutional accreditation. The university's initial accreditation from the North Central Association for Colleges and Schools dates back to 1927, with continuous accreditation since 1952.

Wight said overarching goals of the self-study process included seeking to "reflect on the past, assess the present and consider the future as a campus. We wanted to take an approach we called 'affectionate realism'—looking realistically at the campus strengths and challenges with an appreciation for the past and an eye to the future."

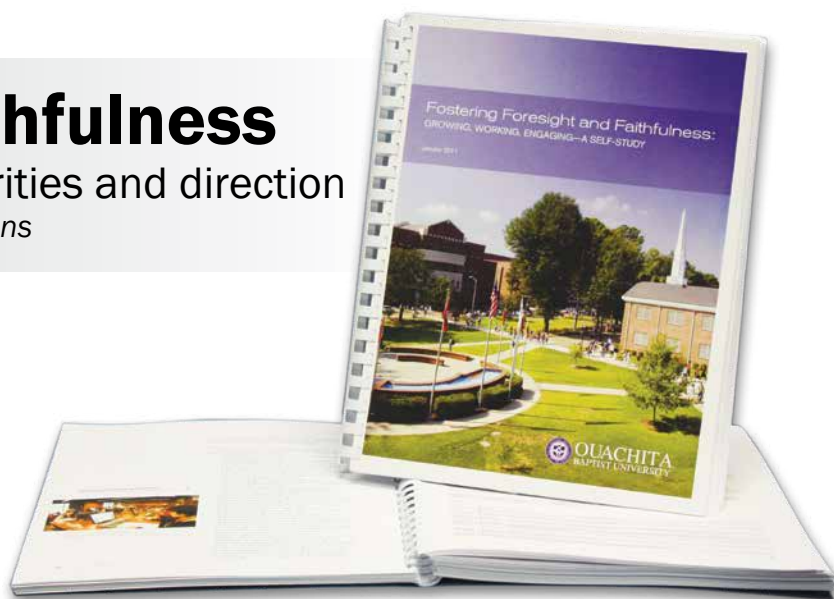
The resulting in-depth study, "Fostering Foresight and Faithfulness: Growing, Working, Engaging—A Self-Study," drew its title from key words and phrases in the university's Vision, Mission & Values statement adopted by faculty and trustees in 2009. The mission section of the statement declares, "Ouachita Baptist University is a Christ-centered learning community. Embracing the liberal arts tradition, the university prepares individuals for ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth, lives of meaningful work, and reasoned engagement with the world."

According to the report's introductory history and profile, Ouachita's "nature is as unique as our name. Learning at Ouachita takes place in a Christ-centered community where faculty and staff nurture students in a love of God and love of learning. Ouachita affirms that good teaching requires interpersonal interaction and that learning is most effective when framed by challenge and encouragement."

Emphasizing that education at Ouachita "involves the whole person maturing intellectually, physically, socially and spiritually," the report adds, "Ouachita accomplishes development by focusing awareness upon three concepts: vision, service and integrity."

The bulk of the report addresses five primary Higher Learning Commission criteria: Mission and Integrity; Preparing for the Future; Student Learning and Effective Teaching; Acquisition, Discovery and Application of Knowledge; and Engagement and Service.

"The process gave the entire institution opportunity to reflect on various components of the five criteria of the HLC," Wight explained. "To me, it was



important for this to be a campus endeavor, a team effort. Across campus, we sought to involve a variety of people and perspectives in the process."

In addition to involvement by faculty and staff, "our students picked up on Ouachita's vision and worked to interpret it—grow, work and engage," Wight said. "Seeing the students' interest and input as they worked to embrace and embody the mission statement was heartening."

The HLC accreditation team met with Ouachita administrators, faculty, staff, trustees and students during their recent visit. A final report and recommendations from the Higher Learning Commission will be presented to Ouachita later this year.

Following the team visit, President Horne told the university community in a campus-wide email, "The preliminary report is highly complimentary of our students, faculty, staff, facilities and programs. I am most pleased and proud of our Ouachita community. The progress we have made was noted as were challenges that we still face. There was an honest dialogue that will guide us in our future work and reports."

Expressing appreciation to faculty, staff and students "for a job well done," Dr. Horne added, "There was confirmation that we are on the right path and the journey will lead to an even better Ouachita."

In conjunction with the self-study process, Ouachita officials are compiling a detailed strategic plan to guide Ouachita beyond this year's 125th anniversary milestone. Focusing on the mission priorities of growing, working and engaging, a preliminary strategic plan outline calls for specific goals in such areas as advancing excellence in teaching and learning, strengthening campus diversity, enhancing student life experiences, strengthening financial resources and enhancing support of and from alumni.

While the self-study process "has been hard work," Wight said, "The work really starts now. After this time of reflection, now is the time of implementation." He noted that shifting from the self-study phase to strategic plan implementation will involve "fine-tuning the process, hashing out priorities and developing strategies."

"We have spent considerable time assessing student learning and quality teaching," Wight added. "The concentration of outstanding teachers on this campus is remarkable. The extent to which the campus fosters, generates and promotes the life of the mind, reasoned engagement with the world and spiritual growth is astounding."

Moving forward, he concluded, "What we have to ask is: What is best for the entire Ouachita community? How does Ouachita fulfill its mission and achieve its full potential?"



photo by Callie Stephens

Course tackles cultural relevance in worship styles

By Brooke Zimny, OBU Assistant Director of Communications

How many North American churches struggle with the issue of worship styles and meeting the needs of multigenerational, multiethnic or multicultural congregations? How each generation or culture expresses praise and worship is an issue that drives to the very heart of its people, often producing harmful divisions. It is a challenge faced not only by local congregations across Arkansas and the nation but also by bodies of believers and missionaries worldwide.

Ouachita is offering a weeklong course during May term addressing this subject of cultural relevance in worship. The course, Ethnodoxology, will be taught by experts from the International Council of Ethnodoxologists (ICE) and will be facilitated by Ouachita's chair of church music, Dr. Rob Hewell.

"There's so much momentum around all of this going back a year and a half," Hewell said. "This course is a unique opportunity and will inspire and challenge students to actively participate in God's grand redemptive endeavor in the world."

The course's journey to fruition began in 2009 when Hewell connected with the ICE during research for another related class. He later participated in the ethnodoxology, or edox, class himself when it was offered at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

In fact, Ouachita will be the first institution to offer the class for undergraduate credit, and it will be the first time it has been offered west of the Mississippi River.

"This honestly is the wave of the future, and

Ouachita is right there at the edge," said Robin Harris, an early adopter of edox and a founding member of ICE.

Harris was on campus this spring with IziBongo, a musical group devoted to edox and sharing worship in a variety of ethnic styles. The delegation performed in Ouachita's weekly chapel service and served as the primary entertainment for this year's International Food Festival.

Harris served as a missionary in Alaska, Canada and Russia, where she saw that simply translating Western hymns and praise and worship songs was not connecting with the people she was trying to reach. As a musician herself, she began to study ethnodoxology, combining principles from the arts, theology, missiology and anthropology, in order to help the people groups worship in a way that resonates with them—in their own heart language.

"We're trying to foster local creativity in people's own styles as people worship the Lord," Harris explained. "For me, the intersection of worship and arts and missions and anthropology, it's very multi-disciplinary."

For this reason, Ouachita students will be able to take the course for credit in missions, Christian ministries or church music.

"Ethnodoxology offers a broad emphasis on all of the arts and connects them deeply to Biblical worship and global mission," Hewell said.

The breadth of the course also expands beyond the undergraduate level. Ouachita is partnering with B.H. Carroll Theological Institute to offer the course for graduate

credit, and it may also be taken as a non-credit workshop.

Ouachita students already are looking forward to applying what they learn in the class to a variety of ministry paths.

"I'm really excited about this class," said Ouachita junior Paul Huenefeld, a church music major from Pine Bluff, Ark., who is interested in serving in international missions. "I've had this vision of going [to Mongolia] and learning their culture and learning how their music works and use that as a tool to bring people to the Lord. ... This course is literally perfect for that."

"Ethnodoxology is the thing that is going to be happening in missions for the next decade or two," Harris added. "The momentum for this topic is huge."

Ethnodoxology can also be applied domestically in dealing with any people group with a unique culture.

Jenna Cummings, a junior church music major from Jacksonville, Ark., is excited to apply what she learns in a career in worship arts therapy. "Ethnodoxology can obviously help us go into different cultures and study and figure out how to do it on the missions side, but it can also help us reevaluate our own culture."

Harris said that previous students of the course "feel like this revolutionizes the way they thought about cultural aspects within their own congregation."

"You guys are cutting edge to have this course here," Harris added. "So praise God that good things are happening in Arkadelphia."

Pastors & Presidents Symposium explores faith of American leaders

By *Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications*



photo by Nicole McPhate

Exploring the faith of American presidents and the influence of their spiritual advisors, four noted presidential scholars led a two-day Pastors & Presidents Symposium April 4-5 as part of Ouachita's 125th anniversary observance.

The symposium, coordinated by Dr. Ray Granade, director of library services and professor of history, addressed such issues as "The Faith of America's Presidents" and "Preachers, Presidents and the Perils of Power."

Granade noted that the event was designed to "examine the spiritual aspects of presidential governance" as well as "focus on the pastor-parishioner relationship."

Guest scholars included Randall Balmer, professor of American religious history at Columbia University; David L. Holmes, historian and professor of religious studies at the College of William and Mary; Steven P. Miller, a historian from Washington and Webster universities in St. Louis; and Gary Scott Smith, chair of the history department at Grove City College.

Ouachita President Rex Horne, who served as President Bill Clinton's pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, joined the scholars in a Monday evening panel discussion in Berry Chapel.

During the symposium's opening session, a video from President Clinton and a letter from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association welcomed participants to the event.

Affirming that "every president needs a pastor," President Clinton said there is both "good and bad about being the president's pastor." He added that "all people of faith should also be good citizens."

Reflecting on his years as Clinton's pastor, Dr. Horne said, "There are few who have been pastors to presidents of the United States. ...

Those years for my family and me were years of blessings, burdens and personal and family experiences we will long treasure."

Delivering the symposium's opening lecture on "Presidents and Their Spiritual Advisors," Dr. Holmes noted, "Every president from Dwight Eisenhower on had a relationship with Billy Graham" as well as other spiritual advisors.

Although "the Founding Fathers decided not to establish an official chaplaincy for the president of the United States," Holmes said Americans typically "want our presidents to have good spiritual advice. We want them to have good pastors in Washington and their hometowns."

Addressing the issue of "Pastor to Power: Billy Graham from Truman to Obama" in the Monday evening session, Dr. Miller described Graham as "a fixture in American religion and politics and American culture for over 60 years."

Noting that Graham "did plenty of walking with kings," Miller said the renowned evangelist had an "evolving role as ambassador to American power."

"Neither Graham nor American politics stood still between 1950 and 2000," Miller said. While Graham was considered by many to be "the closest thing to an evangelical pope," he added, "Critics saw him as the high priest of American conformity."

By 2000, "Graham truly was the nation's pastor emeritus—someone who transcended political differences," Miller said. "His influence will endure."

During chapel on Tuesday morning, Dr. Smith highlighted "The Faith of America's Presidents."

Noting that "the religious views and values of presidents are very important to many Americans," Smith said, "Despite the vast

evidence that presidents' faith deeply affected their lives and their administrations, many scholars have ignored this fascinating subject."

Among 14 specific presidents Smith studied from George Washington to George W. Bush, he found that "their faith helped shape their character, political philosophy and style of governing."

"Like other Americans," Smith said, "presidents should be able to express and act on their religious convictions." He concluded that "on the whole, the faith of these presidents increased their courage and confidence ... and encouraged them to pursue policies that promoted justice, righteousness and compassion."

Dr. Balmer presented the symposium's closing lecture on "Compromises Left and Right: Preachers, Presidents and the Perils of Power."

"A majority of Americans like the idea of their presidents being persons of faith," Balmer said. Especially after Nixon and the Watergate crisis, he added, "We want to know that our presidents are good, moral and decent characters."

As for religious advisors to presidents, "I worry that too close an association between a president and his religious advisor compromises the integrity of the faith," Balmer cautioned. "The most successful religious movements in American history have positioned themselves on the margins of society and not in the councils of power."

Balmer cited Martin Luther King, Jr., as an example of an uncompromising prophetic voice on issues ranging from civil rights to public opposition to the war in Vietnam.

"Religion always functions best from the margins," Balmer said, "and prophets must never forget that their allegiances and their obligations are eternal, not temporal."

OBU trustees name Keck and Worthen as faculty emeriti

Dr. George Keck and Mrs. Mary Worthen were named Ouachita Baptist University faculty emeriti March 10 by the OBU Board of Trustees.

"The Faculty Emeritus designation is granted to retiring faculty who have served the university with distinction over many years," explained Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs. "Dr. George Keck and Mrs. Mary Worthen certainly deserve this award for their dedicated service to Ouachita and their outstanding creative and scholarly accomplishments. We're pleased to include them among the distinguished faculty who continue to enrich the Ouachita community even after their full-time service has come to an end."

Dr. Keck, who has served at Ouachita 42 years, joined the faculty in 1969 as assistant professor of music. He was promoted to associate professor in 1983 and to professor of music in 1987. The university recognized his outstanding teaching and scholarship by naming him the Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music.

Dr. Keck is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and the University of Iowa. He also has completed post-doctoral studies at Harvard University and Princeton University. While teaching at Ouachita, Dr. Keck has served as chair of the Division of Music, chair of the department of History and Literature and director of the Carl Goodson Honors Program.

"Through the years," Dr. Poole noted, "Dr. Keck has inspired countless students through his depth of expertise in music history and through the integrity with which he conducts his classroom and lessons."

Mrs. Worthen began teaching at Ouachita as a graduate assistant and part-time instructor in the early 1980s, eventually teaching full-time until she moved away from the Arkadelphia area in 1992. She rejoined the faculty in 2002, and since then has taught voice and music theory. She was promoted to assistant professor of music in 2005.

Mrs. Worthen holds degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University and Ouachita Baptist University. An accomplished vocalist and pianist, she has performed and served as an accompanist for faculty recitals and special musical programs. She also has directed several music ensembles, including the Praise Singers, Ouachita Sounds and Women's Chorus.

According to Dr. Poole, "Under her direction, these ensembles have flourished, consistently performing at a high level of musical excellence and representing Ouachita well in churches and schools across the state."

Wight to succeed Bass as dean of Sutton School of Social Sciences

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Dr. Randall Wight has been named dean of Ouachita's W.H. Sutton School of Social Sciences, effective July 1, according to Ouachita President Rex M. Horne, Jr.

Wight will succeed Dr. Hal Bass, founding dean of the Sutton School, who has announced plans to return to full-time teaching. The Sutton School of Social Sciences is named in honor of William H. "Buddy" Sutton, a prominent Little Rock attorney who served 10 years as chairman of Ouachita's Board of Trustees.

Wight, professor of psychology and biology, has served since 2003 as chair of Ouachita's Department of Psychology. He previously served from 1998 to 2003 as dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. He also has served the past three years as coordinator of the university's self-study process for reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

A graduate of Arkansas Tech University and Memphis State University, Wight has served on the Ouachita faculty since 1986. His graduate specialties include behavioral neuroscience, visual cortex, perceptual process and philosophy of the mind. Wight has served as president of the Southwestern Psychological Association and is a two-time recipient of Ouachita's Lavell Cole Most Inspirational Teacher Award.

Bass, dean of the School of Social Sciences since its formation in 2002, previously served as chair of the Department of Political Science, director of the Maddox Public Affairs Center and chair of the Division of Social Science. He holds degrees from Baylor University and Vanderbilt University.

Bass is a former president of both the Arkansas Political Science Association and the Southwestern Social Science Association. He also has been frequently honored with the Student Senate Outstanding Faculty Member Award.

Affirming Bass' achievements as dean, President Horne noted, "Under his leadership, the school has established a strong sense of identity, assembled an outstanding group of faculty and promoted high standards of scholarship and

research. Students and faculty have benefited from his wise and capable leadership."

According to Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs, "As founding dean, Dr. Hal Bass has raised the profile of the social sciences at Ouachita both on campus and in the larger academic community.

"In returning to the classroom, Dr. Bass will enrich the experience of our students in both the CORE and political science classes," Poole added. "A recognized scholar of the American presidency, he also plans to expand his significant research and writing in that field."

"Dr. Bass has modeled as a scholar what he encourages among his colleagues and students," Wight reflected. "His collegial leadership has set a great example."

"I have very much enjoyed the opportunity afforded me to serve as dean of the Sutton School," Bass said. "It has been my great privilege to work alongside the top-notch faculty and students in our school and to bask in their glow. I look forward to focusing on my abiding commitments to teaching and scholarship."

Announcing Wight's new role as dean of the Sutton School, President Horne described Wight as "one of Ouachita's finest classroom teachers."

Emphasizing that Wight "has built relationships across campus and has gained the confidence of students, faculty and staff," Horne added, "His dedication to scholarly excellence, wide-ranging knowledge, strong communication skills and administrative experience will serve him and Ouachita well in this new position. We are pleased that Dr. Wight has accepted this important leadership role."

Citing Wight's "multiple leadership roles" at Ouachita, Poole said, "He has developed relationships across campus and is well-equipped to assume the responsibilities of the deanship. His energy, creativity and vision will allow him to build on the strong foundations already in place."

Pointing to "the strengths of our individual faculty members and various departments," Wight said, "I want to continue to build on Dr. Bass' good work and continue to enhance the visibility and impact of the Sutton School."



Baldwin to chair “Defining the Difference” campaign

Ouachita Baptist University trustee Phil Baldwin has been named chairman of Ouachita’s 125th anniversary “Defining the Difference” campaign.

Defining the Difference is a major fundraising campaign designed to help finance a variety of priority campus initiatives. The public phase of the campaign is scheduled to launch on Sept. 6 in conjunction with the university’s 125th anniversary Founders Day observance.

Baldwin, who recently retired as president and CEO of Southern Bancorp, Inc., to pursue philanthropic interests, has served as a Ouachita trustee since 2007. Southern Bancorp, a \$1 billion development bank holding company, is the largest rural development bank in the nation. Under Baldwin’s leadership, Southern helped launch the Arkadelphia Promise and Great River Promise scholarship programs.

“I am pleased that Phil Baldwin will lead our Defining the Difference campaign,” said Ouachita President Rex Horne. “I know of no one more qualified.”

“Phil is a proven businessman,” Dr. Horne added. “He is a leader in banking and service organizations. He is a committed Christian and dedicated to improving the lives of others. He is the right person to lead this campaign.”

“Ouachita Baptist University’s core values

of faith, scholarship, growth, character and community initially attracted me to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and now as chairman of the Defining the Difference campaign,” Baldwin said. “It is my great honor to represent Ouachita as its campaign chair.”

The university’s Defining the Difference campaign “is a visionary effort to provide 21st century educational opportunities to Ouachita students,” Baldwin said. “The campaign will also seek to provide funds for construction and renovation of university facilities and benefit university operations.”

In addition to his leadership roles with Southern Bancorp and Ouachita, Baldwin serves on the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the United Way of America and United Way Worldwide Board of Trustees, where he is chairman of the finance committee and treasurer. He also serves on the boards of Arkansas Capital Corporation, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement.

Baldwin also was appointed to serve on the Governor’s Roundtable on Health Care. He recently received the United States Small

Business Administration District Directors Special Award for Entrepreneurial Leadership and was named Economic Developer of the Year by the Economic Developers of Arkansas.

The Defining the Difference campaign,

Ouachita’s first major funding campaign since the university’s 2000-2005 Circle of Excellence campaign, will highlight strategic needs in the areas of student scholarships, construction and renovation, academic advancement, global connectivity, undergraduate research and university operations.

According to President Horne, “Defining the Difference affords all

who believe in the mission of Ouachita and the value of an excellent Ouachita education to be partners in aiding future advancement, meeting present needs and offering financial assistance to students who want to attend Ouachita.

“Ouachita is different,” Dr. Horne added. “The need is great. The possibilities are unlimited, but all is dependent on our alumni, friends and partners.”

For more information about Ouachita’s Defining the Difference campaign, contact the university’s Office of Development at 870-245-5169 or visit www.obu.edu/development.



Ouachita alum Rex Nelson named president of AICU

Rex Nelson, a 1982 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, has been named president of Arkansas’ Independent Colleges and Universities, an association of the state’s private accredited institutions of higher education.

“Rex Nelson is a proud graduate of Ouachita and an active friend with our university,” said Ouachita President Rex Horne. “I am pleased that Rex will lead our Arkansas independent colleges and universities. His experience in journalism, public policy and business make him a natural to give leadership at this time. Rex is another Ouachita graduate who is making a major difference.”

The member colleges and universities of AICU, established in 1954, enroll almost 10 percent of those pursuing baccalaureate degrees in the state and produce almost 19 percent of the graduates.



Along with Ouachita, AICU member institutions include Arkansas Baptist College, Central Baptist College, Crowley’s Ridge College, Harding University, Hendrix College, John Brown University, Lyon College, the University of the Ozarks, Philander Smith College and Williams Baptist College.

“Those who know me know that I have a passion for Arkansas,” Nelson said. “Nothing is more important to the future of our state than increasing the percentage of the population with college degrees.”

“The 11 institutions represented by AICU play a vital role in improving Arkansas,” Nelson added. “I’m proud to be a graduate of an AICU institution and look forward to working with (AICU senior advisor and former president) Kearney Dietz as we ensure that Arkansans understand the importance of private higher education.”

Nelson has served since 2009 as the senior vice president for government relations and public outreach at The Communications Group in Little Rock. Prior to that, he spent 13 years in government. He was named Gov. Mike Huckabee’s director of policy and communications in 1996 and was a member of the governor’s senior management team for more than nine years. Nelson was named by President George W. Bush in 2005 to the Delta Regional Authority, a planning and economic development agency that serves more than 250 counties and parishes in eight states.

Nelson had a long career in journalism prior to entering government service. He served as the political editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* as well as the Washington bureau chief and assistant sports editor of the *Arkansas Democrat*. He still writes a weekly column for the *Democrat-Gazette* and is the author of a blog known as Rex Nelson’s Southern Fried at www.rexnelsonsouthernfried.com.

Coach Moffatt among inductees to Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame

By Steve Brawner,
Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame

Carolyn Moffatt, a legendary basketball coach for Ouachita Baptist University's Tigerettes, was inducted posthumously this year into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. A pioneer in women's basketball, her most lasting legacy is in the lives she touched on and off the court.

"The people that she met, they became like her family," said Rhonda Thigpen, who played for Moffatt from 1975-78.

"Until the very end, she was always proud to hear from us, and she kept up with everybody that was in contact with her—whether it was a ballplayer at the end of the bench, the front of the bench, the bus driver, the manager. And she had stories. She could remember everything."

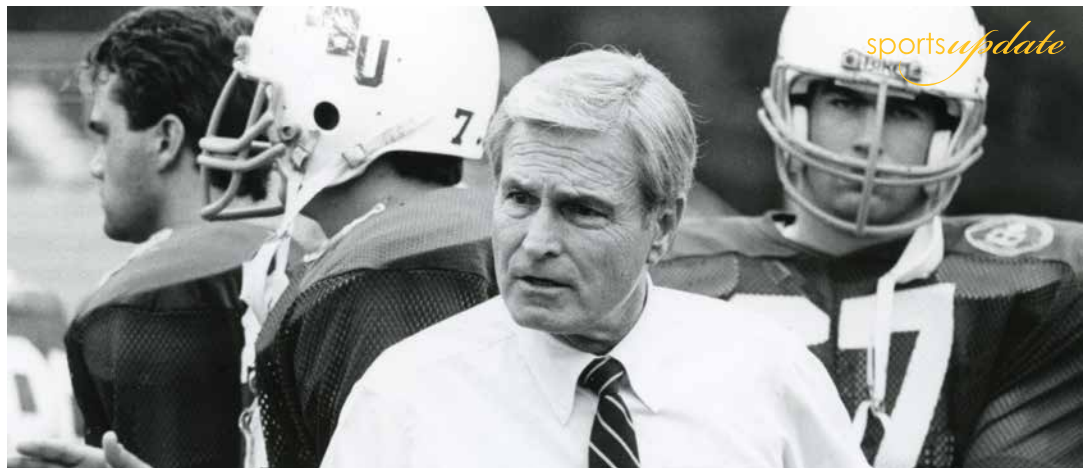
Moffatt, the first female coach inducted into the NAIA Basketball Hall of Fame, posted a career record of 213-162 at Ouachita. By the time she retired, Moffatt had become a national figure with connections throughout the basketball world. She was an assistant coach of the U.S. women's basketball team from 1969-1973, served on the U.S. Olympic Committee, and served as national AAU Women's Basketball Committee chairman.

After graduating from Ouachita in 1956, Moffatt coached basketball at Holly Grove High School before returning to Ouachita in 1965. Few nearby colleges had women's teams in those years, so the Tigerettes played AAU ball at a nationally competitive level. Her Tigerettes enjoyed quick success, winning state championships four years in the late 1960s and advancing to the AAU national championship game two consecutive years.

As a coach, Moffatt could be demanding on the practice court. She lined up players for line drills so often that the baseline was saved when the gym was torn down, and Moffatt gave pieces of it to her former players.

But her players knew she was teaching them about life on and off the court. They would gather at her house for cookouts and return to help her with summer camps.

"When she coached us, every year, whether we were good, bad, in between, she coached the same," Thigpen said. "She treated us well. She taught us a lot about the history of basketball."



Longtime OBU coach Buddy Benson remembered for Hall of Fame career

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Legendary Ouachita Baptist University football coach Buddy Benson passed away April 22 at age 77.

Benson, the head football coach at Ouachita from 1965 to 1995, was inducted into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, the NAIA Hall of Fame and the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Benson, who recorded the most coaching wins in college football history in Arkansas, compiled a 162-140-8 record during his 31 seasons at Ouachita, including four conference championships and two trips to the NAIA national playoffs. He coached 16 All-America players and 208 All-Conference selections and was named AIC Coach of the Year four times.

The Ouachita position was Benson's first and only collegiate head coaching job after four years as an assistant coach. During his tenure as head coach, the Tigers earned the program's 300th and 400th milestone victories. Following his retirement from coaching, Benson served as Ouachita's athletic director until 1998.

During almost four decades at Ouachita, Benson was known for his dedication to the university and his commitment to prepare student-athletes for successful lives.

"I have been blessed with having the opportunity to coach at a wonderful institution and to have the honor to work with so many fine young men over the course of the years," Benson said in 1995 as he made the transition from head coach to athletic director. "I tried, along with my fellow coaches, to teach them not only about football but also about the true values of life."

"I am walking around kind of numb right

now. I feel like a part of me is gone," said Cliff Harris, who played for Coach Benson at Ouachita before going on to an All-Pro NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys.

"Coach Benson was such an influence on me in times in my life that demanded I step it up a notch," Harris said. "He added a component of toughness in our lives that helped us overcome obstacles. His influence really was about challenging us to dig deeper and reach within ourselves to achieve levels we would not have thought possible otherwise."

"Coach Benson was and is a legend at Ouachita," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "His influence in shaping the lives of young men as well as his impact upon our university will always be remembered."

On the collegiate level, Benson played for the University of Arkansas and is best remembered as a leader on the 1954 team that won a Southwest Conference championship. He lettered as a Razorback in 1954 and 1955.

"When you think of Coach Benson's legacy, he basically molded young boys into young men through hard work and discipline, while building character at the same time," said Ouachita Athletic Director David Sharp, who played and coached for Benson and succeeded him as AD. "He is Ouachita football. When you think of Ouachita football, you think of Coach Benson."

Benson is survived by his wife, Janet; son, Gary; daughter, Laurie; and six grandchildren. A memorial service was held April 26 at First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia. Memorial gifts may be made to the Ouachita Gridiron Club, OBU Box 3788, Arkadelphia, AR 71998.



photo by Callie Stephens

International Food Fest: “The Amazin’ Graze”

The 2011 International Food Festival, hosted by Ouachita’s International Club and the Grant Center for International Education, attracted an enthusiastic crowd Feb. 15 to Walker Conference Center.

Providing the opportunity for the Ouachita community to come together and learn about various cultures on campus, the Food Fest creates a diverse experience “to celebrate life and the global connections created here at Ouachita,” said Ian Cosh, OBU vice president for community and international engagement.

This year’s Food Festival featured the theme, “The Amazin’ Graze,” loosely based on the television show “The Amazing Race.”

René Zimny, assistant director of the Grant Center, noted that the array of finger foods and hors d’oeuvres allowed guests “to ‘graze’ through the various meals offered.” Arranged by sections of the Americas, Australia/Asia, Africa and Europe, 30 countries were represented by food and décor.

The featured entertainment for this year’s Food Fest was IZIBONGO, a group of Christian musicians who perform a variety of ethnic music. Several members of Ouachita’s International Club also performed musical selections.

Kristen Glover crowned 2011 Miss OBU

Kristen Glover, a senior chemistry major from Stuttgart, Ark., was crowned 2011 Miss Ouachita Baptist University in the annual pageant held Feb. 26 in Jones Performing Arts Center. Glover will represent Ouachita at the Miss Arkansas Pageant July 10-16 in Hot Springs, Ark.

“I was overwhelmed and relieved to finally receive the title that I had worked so hard for,” Glover said. “Ouachita’s community, support and motivation are what I am proud to represent.”



Glover was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship as well as photography, wardrobe allowances and other prizes. Her platform is Second Chances: Empowering Youth to Rise Above.

Glover is the daughter of Keith and Mary Glover of Stuttgart, Ark. She is a

member of Tri Chi Women’s Social Club, serves on the steering committee for Ouachita Student Foundation and works with the office of admissions to recruit prospective students.

Glover also won the Private Interview Award, Venue Lifestyle and Fitness in Swimwear Award, Venue Presence and Poise in Evening Wear Award, People’s Choice Award and tied with first runner-up Brooke Ault for the Artistic Expression in Talent Award.

Finalists included first runner-up Brooke Ault, a senior musical theatre major from Little Rock; second runner-up Mary Ellen Hunthrop, a freshman childhood education major from White Hall, Ark.; third runner-up Aubrey Elliot, a senior instrumental music education major from Bentonville, Ark.; and fourth runner-up Haley Prowell, a junior business finance major from Rogers, Ark.

Hipp wins Shambarger event for third year

Elisabeth Hipp, a senior vocal performance major from Memphis, Tenn., placed first in Ouachita’s recent Shambarger Competition for Singers. This is the third consecutive year Hipp has won the competition.

“This is the first time in the history of the competition that one student has won three years in a row,” said Dr. Glenda Secrest, Hipp’s singing teacher and OBU professor of music. “It is an incredible accomplishment, a true testimony to her fantastic work ethic—which really paid off!”

Hipp earned first place and a cash prize of \$500 for her performance of “O luce di quest’anima” from Gaetano Donizetti’s opera Linda di chamounix.

The Shambarger Competition, established in 1999 in honor of OBU Professor Emerita of Music Mary Shambarger, features a repertoire that rotates annually among selections from musical theatre, art songs and arias from opera and oratorio. This year’s aria competition included 18 competitors from Ouachita’s vocal studies program.

Jacob Watson, a senior musical theatre major from Wynne, Ark., earned second place; Maggie Taylor, a senior choral music education major from Russellville, Ark., earned third place; and Xavier Lagunas, a junior musical theatre major from Arlington, Texas, earned fourth place.



photo by Nicole McPhate

OBU presents Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night"

Ouachita's Department of Theatre Arts presented *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare Feb. 16-20 in Verser Theatre. The show was directed by Daniel Inouye, OBU assistant professor of theatre arts.

"We try to provide our students with a wide variety of styles and types of productions in order that they might gain a wide range of experience while here at OBU," Inouye said. "Shakespeare is an important part of any actor's development. I specifically chose *Twelfth Night* due to its humorous content and the challenges that it poses for our students and myself as a director."

Among the cast members were Lauren Casteel, a senior musical theatre major from Garland, Texas; Timothy Drennan, a freshman musical theatre major from Paron, Ark.; Rudy Jones, a junior theatre arts and mass communications major from Smackover, Ark.; Xavier Lagunas, a junior musical theatre major from Arlington, Texas; Jody Lee, a senior theatre arts, music double major from Arlington, Texas; and Cody Myers, a freshman psychology, musical theatre double major from Van Buren, Ark.

Other cast members included Moriah Patterson, a junior musical theatre and theatre education major from Sheridan, Ark.; Justin Ratliff, a sophomore musical theatre major from Whitehouse, Texas; Sam Spradling, a senior theatre arts major from Italy, Texas; Jacob Sturgeon, a freshman music education major from Pine Bluff, Ark.; Lynley Vire, a senior musical theatre major from Searcy, Ark.; Jacob Watson, a senior musical theatre major from Wynne, Ark.; and Garrett Whitehead, a freshman theatre arts major from Cleburne, Texas.

OBU earns top awards in business plan event

After five hours of competing and waiting, Ouachita students took home a total of \$7,000 in prizes at the Ouachita Baptist University/Henderson State University Business Plan Competition held Feb. 2. The winners also participated in the 10th annual Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Business Plan Competition.

At the OBU/HSU event, first place was awarded to the team of Reuben

Cash, a senior accounting major from Nashville, Tenn.; Joshua Stewart, a junior computer science major from Floresville, Texas; and Neil Wacaster, a junior business marketing major from Hot Springs, Ark. The first-place team received \$4,000 for their business plan, Ordertronics, LLC, which gives fast-food customers complete control when placing orders. Misti Clark, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science, served as their faculty advisor.

Second-place winner Abby Turner, a senior business marketing major from Little Rock, was awarded \$3,000. With the help of faculty advisor Dr. Chris Brune, assistant professor of finance, Turner created "iPlan It," an application that assists in wedding planning.

Stringfellow named to TRIO Hall of Fame

Ouachita's Academic Enrichment Center honored junior Christian studies major Timothy Stringfellow during its annual TRIO Celebration Luncheon.

Stringfellow, a native of Kingsland, Ark., was named to the TRIO Hall of Fame for his noteworthy participation in the Student Support Services program of the AEC and represented Ouachita at the Arkansas TRIO Day Celebration at Pulaski Technical College.

Student Support Services is federally funded through the TRIO program as an educational program to support first-generation college students who come from low-income family backgrounds. Stringfellow, a non-traditional student, was a self-employed carpenter before returning to school and is also a single parent and pastor. He earned his GED in 2008 at age 35. "For me, claiming the GED was an epic milestone in my life," he said. "Neither of my parents had acquired their high school diploma, nor had my siblings.



"I absolutely love the TRIO program at Ouachita Baptist University," Stringfellow added. "I know that the teachers, administrators and staff have a sincere care for the participants. They have taught me valuable, fundamental learning methods I know have had a positive impact on my current academic status and will continue to go with me throughout my life."

class notes

connecting the circle

—1940s—

The wedding story of **Walter “Jiggs” Ramsey** ('42) and his wife of 68 years, **Martha (Whitley** '42*), was featured recently in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*'s “Right Time Right Place” section.

—1950s—

Roy Nix ('50) and his wife, **Loretta (Austin** '50), celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family trip to Gulf Shores, Ala.

Billy Jeff Campbell ('57) and his wife, **Ruth Ann (Garner** '58), enjoyed their 54th wedding anniversary while he received his Ph.D. in theology. They have two granddaughters attending Ouachita, Jordan and Lindsey Campbell, making three generations of Campbell family members attending Ouachita.

Warren Haley ('57) married Caryl Hoyt Hicks on April 23. The couple resides in Mountain Home, Ark.

Dr. John Crawford ('59), professor emeritus of literature and language at Henderson State University, won an Honor Scroll Award as part of the 2010 Senior Poets Laureate poetry competition.

—1960s—

Curtis Moore ('62) and his wife, **Sara (Brown** '63), recently spent two weeks in Kiev, Ukraine, working as volunteers at the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Ted Stanton ('62) and his wife, **Mary (Ridgell** '62), celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to the Pacific Northwest. The Stantons are retired Southern Baptist international missionaries and have three children and five grandchildren.

Dr. Ed Coulter ('65) was honored by the Mountain Home Education Foundation as

a 2011 Hall of Honor inductee. Coulter has served as the chancellor of Arkansas State University Mountain Home since 1995 and previously served 25 years as assistant to the president and vice president for administration at Ouachita.

Doris Wilson ('65) recently retired as financial aid director at Judson College after 25 years in that role. She is married to **Dr. Thomas Wilson** ('65), who teaches biology at Judson.

Rep. Robert Moore ('65) is the new Speaker of the House for the Arkansas House of Representatives.

Jim Crane ('69) continues to run an insurance agency in Baton Rouge, La., where he has served for 36 years and has been recognized as a Crystal Excellence Agent for outstanding service. Crane is past president of the Dyslexia Association of Baton Rouge and also served as president of the Louisiana Cystic Fibrosis Foundation through which he was awarded the National Volunteer of the Year. He also is a past recipient of the Outstanding Businessman Award by the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation.

Sheryl Cooper ('68) is now happily retired in Cuenca, Ecuador.

—1970s—

Dr. Randy Hyde ('71) has published his second book, *Feminine Faces: Portraits of Biblical Women of Faith*, through Parson's Porch Publishers. His fifth book, *After God's Own Heart*, was published in 2005. Hyde is the senior pastor of Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock and currently serves as president of the Rotary Club of Little Rock. He and his wife, **Janet (Crawley** '72), recently celebrated the birth of their third grandson, Charley.

Mike Moore ('71) recently completed 25 years as a professor of accounting at the University of Central Arkansas. He is currently serving on the Arkansas State Board of Public Accounting

and last year was awarded the Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education Award by the Arkansas Society of CPAs. He and his wife, **Trisha** ('76), have two children.

Phil Hardin ('73) and his wife, **Shirley (Grant** '74), are still serving at Ouachita after 18 years. Both of their sons and daughters-in-law also are OBU graduates. Older son **Tad** ('99) and **Monica (Leagans** '98), have two sons, Zachary and Isaac, and live in North Carolina. Younger son **Jon** ('05) and his wife, **Katie (McCormack** '08), live in Washington, D.C.

Dan ('74) and **Judy (Komorou** '75) Pike's three children and three grandchildren recently welcomed Pike home after a year-long tour at the U.S. Embassy Kabul as well as her return from a six-month stint in northern Iraq. Both resumed their civil service positions with the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C.

Col. Harold Tucker ('74) was making a presentation to a group of JROTC instructors at Fort Monroe, Va., when he mentioned that he had attended a small private university named Ouachita. Much to his surprise, someone yelled, “Go, Tigers!” In the crowd was **Lt. Col. Phil Baker** ('74), who is now a JROTC instructor at Stephens County High School in Toccoa, Ga. The two visited together after the class, recalling that the last time they had seen each other was at their 1974 commencement.

David Humble ('76) and his wife, Hiroko, moved to Yokohama, Japan, after 14 years in Christian TV production at Harvest Time Ministries in Shizuoka, Japan. He now works with Millenium Ministries International as a wedding chapel minister and wedding facilities coordinator around the Tokyo area. Daughter **Mitsuko** ('04) married Robert Hennagin and lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Susie (Brumley '78*) **Everett** was featured in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*'s “Front and Center” section for her work as public relations director for Everett Buick GMC in Bryant, Ark.

Martin Thielen ('78) recently published his fifth book, *“What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?” A Guide to What Matters Most* (Westminster John Knox). Thielen is senior pastor of Brentwood United Methodist Church in Brentwood, Tenn.

—1980s—

Maureen (Leonard '82) Thomas recently published *ICU Mom: 40 Days and Nights in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit*, which recounts her difficult experience following her son’s car accident. The book is available on Amazon and through Barnes & Noble.

Lou Ann Flanders-Stec ('83) was hired as associate professor of business administration and director of entrepreneurship and innovation at High Point University.

David Wilson ('84) completed his doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He is one of the assistant principals at Jefferson City High School in Jefferson City, Mo., and is in his 22nd year as an educator in the Missouri schools. He has three children, David (23), Jared (18) and Rachel (13).

Rev. Joel Ajayi ('86) recently published the book *A Biblical Theology of Gerassapience*. The book explores the belief by ancient cultures, including that of the Hebrews, that wisdom is associated with advanced years.

—1990s—

Jeff Morrow ('91), CPA, has been accepted into the Executive MBA program at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Ashli Ahrens ('92) married Kelley Bass on Nov. 6, 2010. She recently accepted the position of public information coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Career Education and is serving as the president of the Arkansas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators.

Kyle Wiggins ('94) is an attorney with Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz in Memphis, Tenn. He recently completed his term as president of the Memphis Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.

John Cauble ('95) and his wife, **Leslie (Proctor '96)**, and sons Jonathan (14) and Jared (11) moved to Dubai, UAE, as oral strategists with the For All Mankind Movement. They will be reaching thousands of migrant laborers from the Middle East and Southeast Asia using Bible storytelling methods. Mrs. Cauble also continues to work for Out! International as a sales analyst for Wal-Mart.

Dr. Ted Jolley ('95) was recognized by the American Red Cross of Greater Arkansas as a 2010 Good Samaritan Hero.

Josh Hildebrand ('96) received his Master of Divinity degree in pastoral studies from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on Dec. 10, 2010.

Cpt. Nathan Twigg ('96) married Michelle “Shelly” Personette on Jan. 14.

Tim Oosterhous ('97) was recently named district ranger for the Mena-Oden Ranger District in Arkansas. He previously was the recreation manager for the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Stephen Smith ('97) still resides in Alabama. He has one daughter, Anastasia (3), and is expecting a second child in April.

Dr. Todd Baker ('98) recently published *Baghdad ER: Fifteen Minutes* chronicling the 15 months he spent as chief of emergency medicine of the U.S. Army’s Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, from November 2007 through January 2009. Visit www.BaghdadER.com for more information.

Brent Black ('98) was promoted to senior vice president and chief financial officer of Southern Bancorp, headquartered in Arkadelphia. He and his wife, **Jessica (Humphrey '99)**, have one son, Will (3).

Jill (Presley '99) Cox is a district representative in Congressman Tim Griffin’s Little Rock office. Her duties include constituent work and grants coordination for Arkansas’ second district. She and her husband, Cory, live in Maumelle, Ark.

Faculty & Staff Update

Faculty promoted, granted tenure

Dr. James A. Files, assistant professor of accounting, has been granted tenure by the OBU Board of Trustees.

Board members also approve promotions for four faculty members: **Dr. Scott Jackson**, from assistant professor to associate professor of Christian ministries; **Dr. Christopher R. Long**, from assistant professor to associate professor of psychology; **Dr. Douglas Nykolaishen**, from assistant professor to associate professor of Biblical studies; and **Dr. James G. Taylor**, from associate professor to professor of biology.

Copeland displays varied artwork

Donnie Copeland, assistant professor of visual arts, has displayed his artwork in a variety of locations in recent months. He had four pieces at Justus Fine Art Gallery in Hot Springs and one piece in the traveling Arkansas Art Council Exhibit *Small Works on Paper 2010*.

Copeland also displayed a solo exhibit, *An Emphasis on Substance*, at Boger Art Gallery at the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., and at Russell Fine Arts Gallery at Henderson State University. One of Copeland’s compositions was accepted to the prestigious annual juried *Delta Show*. He also will show work this fall at the Trinity Art Museum in Little Rock’s Arkansas Historical Museum.

Halaby sculpture in special exhibit

Dr. Raouf Halaby, professor of visual arts and English, currently has one of his sculptures on display in the Hot Springs 2011 Invitational Juried Sculpture Competition. The special exhibit, sponsored by the City of Hot Springs, marks the centennial celebration of Hot Springs National Park. The sculptures, unveiled on April 15, will be on display through July 24 in Hot Springs’ pedestrian area on Central Avenue.

Zimny named one of “20 to Watch”

Brooke Zimny, assistant director of communications, has been named one of “20 to Watch in 2011” by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Tri-Lakes edition. The 20 individuals honored for the recognition were cited for making a difference in their communities and careers.

Zimny, a 2008 summa cum laude graduate of Ouachita, supervises the work of the OBU News Bureau, serves as associate editor of *The Ouachita Circle* alumni magazine and coordinates a variety of news and graphic design projects for the university.



Miss Arkansas Alyse Eady named 1st runner-up to Miss America

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Declaring that “God still has plans for me,” Miss Arkansas Alyse Eady said competing in the 2011 Miss America Pageant “was a win-win situation for me; the experiences and opportunities I am about to have are incredible.”

Eady, a 2010 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, was named 1st runner-up to Miss America in the 2011 Miss America Pageant televised live on Saturday, Jan. 15.

Eady wowed the pageant crowd with her signature musical ventriloquist act, “I Want to Be a Cowboy’s Sweetheart.” During her live interview question, she addressed the issue of national health care reform. Her platform in the Miss Arkansas and Miss America pageants highlighted the issue of “Developing Leaders: Boys and Girls Clubs of America.”

Since the pageant, Eady has attracted a whirlwind of media attention, with appearances on “Late Night with David Letterman,” “Inside Edition” and MSNBC. She also recently was named a co-anchor of “Today’s THV This Morning” on Little Rock’s KTHV.

“Usually, you expect your time in the spotlight to be over once they announce Miss America,” Eady noted. “It’s been different for me and it’s been quite a surprise. I’ve been contacted by people from all over the world, literally. Even though I didn’t win, God still has plans for me. It’s neat for me to see some of that unfold.

“Not many girls get to say they’ve competed in Miss America,” she added. “To be there with 52 other girls and get to experience the excitement and exhaustion was something that I will never forget. The time we got to spend together as contestants, learning about each other’s states and planning trips to see each other, was such a good experience.”

As Eady progressed in the Miss America competition from the field of 53 contestants to the top 15, 12, 10, five and 1st runner-up, Facebook and Twitter posts from her fans kept track of her achievements. Enthusiastic posts ranged from “What a great representative for Arkansas and OBU!” and “Woooooo! Let’s go, Alyse! So proud of you!” to “My vote is for the ventriloquist. If you can yodel without opening your mouth, you deserve a crown.”

Reflecting on the pageant’s live television production, Eady said, “There are cameras that are right in your face and certain cues to remember. When they called the names for the top 15, I 100 percent was not expecting to hear my name. I was shocked. I was so excited.

“I just kind of stayed in the moment and that’s what kept me calm. As I went further and further, I became more calm. I did the very best I could and then was at peace that I had done everything I could.”

Recalling pageant host Chris Harrison’s dramatic pause before announcing Miss Nebraska Teresa Scanlan as the new Miss America, Eady said, “In the final moment when it was the two of us, so many thoughts went through my head, but I was so genuinely excited for her. She’s going to make a great Miss America and I know the judges made the right choice.”

After graduating from Ouachita last May with a double major in mass communications and speech communication, Eady was crowned Miss Arkansas 2010 last July. Prior to beginning her reign, Eady served as the fundraising and event coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She is the daughter of Lewis and Lady Eady of Fort Smith; her father is a former member of the Ouachita Board of Trustees.

“The Ouachita community and I as president could not be more proud of Alyse Eady,” said Ouachita President Rex Horne. “She is a committed, talented young woman whose beauty shines in every noble way.

“The poise with which Alyse performed is a credit to her family, her own work and, I think, the impact Ouachita has upon her life’s path,” Dr. Horne added. “We congratulate Alyse as we do her parents, Lewis and Lady.”

Eady, 22, competed as Miss South Central Arkansas in the Miss Arkansas Pageant. In addition to being crowned Miss Arkansas 2010, she was named the Coleman Dairy Overall Talent Award winner. She also previously held the title of 2004 Miss Teen Arkansas. Eady was one of six contestants with Ouachita ties who competed in last year’s Miss Arkansas pageant.

During her years at Ouachita, Eady was named to the Dean’s List, performed as a Tiger Tunes Hostess and on the Miss OBU Court of Honor and spent a semester studying at the University of Alicante in Spain.

Affirming the impact of her liberal arts education at Ouachita, Eady said, “Getting that broad education where you learn a little bit about everything helped me in my interview with the judges. Legislation, world events, state issues—those are all things I had classes about at Ouachita. The interview portion of the competition was so much easier for me because of what I learned at Ouachita.

“One thing I really like about Ouachita is that going to OBU teaches you how to stand strong in your faith,” she concluded, “knowing what you believe and why you believe it, but also to be able to listen to other people and to share your beliefs with them.”

—2000s—

Corey Colbert ('00) and his wife, Somer, live in Springdale, Ark., where he is an occupational therapist in the home health setting. He received his master's degree in 2004 from the University of Central Arkansas. The Colberts have two children, Gray Command (4) and Gage Massey (infant).

Kevin Miles ('00) recently moved to Stephenville, Texas, to serve as youth minister at First Baptist Church. He and his wife, Angela, plan to soon adopt two children, Kristina and John, who they served as foster parents since August 2007.

Daryl White ('00) has been serving as pastor of Monte Vista Baptist Church in Hurt, Va., since April 2010. He and his wife, Emily, have two children, Aubrey Jade (2) and Levi (infant).

Dr. Jon McClure ('01) is completing his pediatric residency at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas. He is planning a May wedding to Dr. Meredith McIntire in Richardson, Texas, and they will live in Plano, Texas.

Gary Miller ('01) passed his NCLEX-RN exam in December 2010 and is now working for UAMS in Texarkana as community education director. His wife, **Terri (Grinage '02)**, graduated with her Master of Education degree from Southern Arkansas University in December and is currently staying at home with son Nathan (2) and teaches Kindermusik classes part-time.



Adam Norwood ('01) was accepted into an orthopedic surgery residency at St. Andrew's Hospital in Oklahoma City and will graduate from the University of North Texas Health Science Center with a DO medical degree in May.

His wife, **Hayden (Huey '03)**, is staying at home raising sons Kaison and Kerith, as well as doing part-time interior design work.

Becky (Hart '02) Lemons received her master's degree in secondary education from Texas A&M-Commerce in December 2010 and is a

special education teacher in Mesquite, Texas. She and her husband, Darren, have one son, Daylen Keith (1).

Kyle Proctor ('02) joined Little Rock's Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods as a senior project manager.

Dr. Levi Simpson ('02) has been promoted to quality control manager at Bio-Tech Pharmaceutical in Fayetteville, Ark.

Chrystal (Edwards '03) Ball accepted a position at United Cerebral Palsy of Arkansas as a supervising special educator in October 2010.

Jenny (Buck '04) Hendricks is rehabilitation director and speech pathologist at Maumelle Health and Rehabilitation in Maumelle, Ark. She is married to **Jeff Hendricks ('04)**.

Sarah (Wright '04) Sorensen completed her Master of Arts degree in counseling in December 2010 and is working to become a licensed professor counselor.

Clay and Lydia (Farmer) Steelman ('04) welcomed son Karston Lloyd on Oct. 2, 2010, and sadly told him goodbye a few seconds later. Funeral services were Oct. 9, 2010.

Justin Voris ('04) and his wife, Elizabeth, are living in Oklahoma City where he is finishing his third year of medical school. They have one daughter, Rebekah (1).

Kristen (Lindsey '05) Padilla graduated from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School with a Master of Divinity degree in 2008. She is currently a news writer for *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper. She married Dr. Osvaldo Padilla on March 13, 2010.



Bethany (Murray '05) married **Matt Bettenhausen** on Jan. 15 at Lincoln Berean Church in Lincoln, Neb. The couple resides in Lincoln, where she is completing her doctorate in nutrition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Audra Broughton ('06) joined B's Hive Therapy Day Spa in Longview, Texas, as a licensed massage therapist.

Elizabeth (Duncan '06*) married **David Buyse ('05)** on Feb. 19 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. The couple resides in Dallas, Texas.



Amy Patterson ('06) married Birc Morledge on May 15, 2010, at First Methodist Church in Searcy, Ark. The couple lives in Little Rock where she is the director of Elementary Weekday Ministries at St. James United Methodist Church.

Amanda Perry ('06) married Bradley Regnier on Feb. 5 at First Baptist Church of Sherwood, Ark. The couple resides in Fort Worth, Texas.

Meredeth (Arnn '07) married Kellee McCoy on Nov. 20, 2010.

Amanda (Bowien '07) married Jeff Frazier on Oct. 1, 2010, in Sherwood, Ark. They have one son, Christopher (3) and are expecting a baby in September.

Jake Plyler ('07) recently joined the Taylor, Rodgers, Turner & Manning, PLLC firm in Arkadelphia as a certified public accountant.

Sean Ruggles ('07) married Zabrina Ruggles on March 19 on the bank of the Ouachita River.



Jessica (Terrill '07) married **Joshua Holcomb ('06)** on Nov. 20, 2010, at Staples Mill Baptist Church in Richmond, Va. The couple lives in central New Jersey.

Tajuan Wilson ('07) recently moved back to the Midwest from Wyoming to accept the position of director of TRIO Programs at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo.

future *tigers*



Amanda (Berry '07) married Matthew Dumas on Dec. 18, 2010, at Trinity Baptist Church in Texarkana, Ark. The couple currently resides in England, Ark., where she is completing her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and he owns the Sonic Drive-In.



Lindsey (Dawson '08) married **Justin Haire** (OBU assistant baseball coach '04-07) on Aug. 7, 2010, at Garvan Woodland Gardens. The couple currently resides in Lillington, N.C., where she is an events and volunteer coordinator for a local nonprofit and he is the assistant

baseball coach at Campbell University.

Joshua Mills ('09) married Amanda Atkinson on Jan. 8 at Third Street Baptist Church in Arkadelphia.

Chris Straw ('09) was part of the ensemble cast of "A Raisin in the Sun" with the Arkansas Repertory Theatre.



Audrey Anna (Harrell '10) married Jack Mortenson on Dec. 18, 2010, in Russellville, Ark. The couple resides in Conway, Ark.

—1990s—

Mark and Kristin (Garner) Hodge ('94) welcomed daughter Mary Elizabeth on Feb. 13. She joins big brother Garner (10).

Brandon Barnard ('95) and his wife, Emily, adopted Emily Love Yang Barnard from China in August 2010.

Mark and Shannon (Atwood) Edds Mark ('97) welcomed son Joshua Ryan on Dec. 13, 2010. He joins big brothers Jackson (7) and Parker (3).



Sandra (Scucchi '98) Kleinert and her husband, Shorel, adopted 8-month-old Sianna Tianyue on Jan. 24, 2010. Eleven months later they welcomed their second daughter, Selah Temple, on Dec. 24, 2010. The girls join big brother Schäfer (4).

Erin (Crow '98) Mills and her husband, Nathan, welcomed son Harrison Robert on Nov. 18, 2010. He joins big sister Jillian (7).

Elizabeth (Kennedy '99) Hallum and her husband, Patrick, welcomed son Garrett Riley on June 13, 2010. He joins siblings Caroline (4) and John Daniel (2).

Beth Ellen (Cloud '99*) Hasley and her husband, Dillard, welcomed daughter Isabelle Faith on Dec. 27, 2010.

Katrina "Kitty" (Burroughs '99) Nelson and her husband, Jim, welcomed daughter Kirstyn Elaine on Dec. 23, 2010. She joins big brothers Taylor (8) and Nathan (5).

—2000s—

Corey Colbert ('00) and his wife, Somer, welcomed son Gage Massey. He joins big brother Gray Command (4).

Christy (Gobar '00) Carlo and her husband, Daniel, welcomed daughter Evelyn Anne on Aug. 19, 2010.



Daryl White ('00) and his wife, Emily, welcomed son Levi Joseph in October 2010. He joins big sister Aubrey (2).

Janet (Moore '01) Hamilton and her husband, Parker, welcomed daughter Brynlee Moore on Oct. 8, 2010. She joins big sister Katie (2).

Autumne (Brunson '01) Hart and her husband, Michael, welcomed daughter Claire Elise on Jan. 10, 2010. Claire joins big sister Paisley (4).



Amy (McCormick '01) Kemmer and her husband, James, welcomed daughter Audrey Leigh on Sept. 29, 2010. She joins big sisters Abby (7) and Avery (6).



Shelly (Montalbano '01) and Nathan Statton ('02) welcomed daughter Emory Christine on Feb. 4, 2010. She joins big sisters Kaleigh (5) and Avery and Alexis (2).

Molly (Darden '01) and John Telford ('04) welcomed daughter Zoe Kate on Jan. 21.



Emily (Tapson '01) Pierce and her husband, Brent, welcomed son Luke Mitchum on Dec. 8, 2009. He joins siblings Addison (3) and Maddox (3).

Lauren (Eagle '01) and Brent Walker ('00) welcomed daughter Kate Emerson on Oct. 1, 2010. She joins big sister Sydney Elise (4).

Jenny (Logan '02) Crow and her husband, Kevin, welcomed son Caleb Michael on March 8. He joins big sister Reagan (2).



Tilly (Carter '02) and Brent Gambill ('01) welcomed son Carter on Nov. 8, 2010.



Becca (Capper '03) and Sam Cross ('03) welcomed son Malachi Drake on Nov. 2, 2010. He joins siblings Kyla Lee (5) and Nathan Samuel (3).



Elitza "Ellie" (Neytcheva '03) Holden and her husband, Chris, welcomed son Liam Alexander on Dec. 8, 2010.



Jamie (Thigpen '03) Pelfrey and her husband, Michael, welcomed son Benjamin Michael on Feb. 22, 2010.

Kristen (Rickett '03) and David Williams ('02) welcomed son Jonathan David on Feb. 15.



Natalie (Cranford '04) and Marlin Evans ('03) welcomed daughter Addelin Laine on Nov. 1, 2010.

Sarah (Bridges '04) and Clint Recktenwald ('04*) welcomed son Oakley Thomas on Jan. 14, 2010.

Audra (Burkhart '05) Savage and her husband, David, welcomed daughter Elysen Ashleigh on Feb. 18.



Justin Voris ('04) and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed daughter Rebekah in March 2010.



Gracen (Gannaway) and David Stogsdill ('03) welcomed son Eli Reid on June 15, 2010.

Karmen (Hutchins '07) and Ryan Smith ('07) welcomed son Gareth Lancelyn on Dec. 10, 2010.

Janet Ozmun ('14*) and her husband, Kris, welcomed daughter Kylee Rae on Feb. 8.

What's 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.



OBU alum Tom Elliff to lead International Mission Board

By Erich Bridges, IMB global correspondent

Thomas D. “Tom” Elliff, a 1966 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, was elected president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board by a unanimous vote of IMB trustees March 16.

Elliff, 67, a longtime pastor, Southern Baptist Convention leader and former missionary, will lead one of the largest evangelical missions agencies in an era of rapid change at home and around the globe. The greatest mission challenges, he said, are the world’s overwhelming spiritual lostness and the urgency of mobilizing churches to take the gospel of Christ to all peoples.

“We must realize that we’re in a world that is hostile to the message of the gospel, yet there are so many people who are longing to hear,” Elliff said. “That’s why we must go to the uttermost now. Frankly, I think we live in a generation of students who are asking, ‘Why do we keep hearing about these unreached people groups? Why don’t we just go reach them?’ I believe we are seeing, even in our own convention, a groundswell of men and women of all ages who have the heart and are willing to go to the unreached now.”

Elliff is a fourth-generation Oklahoman and third-generation pastor. He holds degrees from Ouachita Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jeannie, served as missionaries to Zimbabwe in the early 1980s. They resigned in 1983 after their daughter, Beth, was seriously injured in a car accident there.

Elliff served two terms as Southern Baptist Convention president in 1996 and 1997. He has led several key churches in the denomination, including First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., where he was pastor from 1985-2005.

Elliff then served as IMB senior vice president for spiritual nurture and church relations from 2005-09. Since then he has led Living in The Word Publications, a writing and speaking ministry he founded in 2005. He is the author of several books about prayer, spiritual awakening and family life.

in memoriam

—1930s—

Martha Agnes (Rhodes ’35) Harrelson of Hattiesburg, Miss., passed away on Jan. 20. She is survived by children Robert Harrelson and Sharon Harrelson Wentz, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Claude Durrett (’38) of Little Rock, Ark., passed away on Jan. 30. He is survived by daughter Judy Monk, one grandchild and four great-grandchildren.

Anna Bess (Stegall ’39) Smith of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on Dec. 7, 2010. She is survived by children Rebekah Cyphers, Faunt Smith, Jr. and Melissa Smith and three grandchildren.

—1940s—

Opal Taylor (’42) of Little Rock, Ark., passed away on March 5.

Jesse Ashcraft (’43) of Evanston, Ill., passed away on Jan. 29. He is survived by his wife of nearly 66 years, **Anna (Haley ’44) Ashcraft**, children Mark and Anna Belle and four grandchildren.

Mary Elizabeth (Tolson ’43) Halsell of Princeton, W.Va., passed away on Jan. 19. She is survived by children Hilda Blevins, Tome Halsell, Jr., Maribeth Dockery and Laurretta King, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ellen Bass (Caskey ’44) Rhoads of Little Rock, Ark., passed away on Dec. 9, 2010. She is survived by daughter Ann Rhoads and one grandson.

Rebecca (Cockrum ’45) Boyett of Ovando, Mont., passed away on Oct. 25, 2010. She is survived by daughters Roseann Boyett, Sara Eilene Boyett and Charlotte Etter, 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Kathleen (Gardner ’46) Manning of Boise, Idaho, passed away on Feb. 21. She is survived by sons Monte and Robert and five grandchildren.

Mary Jesse (French ’47) Greene of Piggott, Ark., passed away on Feb. 11. She is survived by daughter Jessica Greene.

Harold L. King (’48) of Sheridan, Ark., passed away on Dec. 7, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Orlen King, children Harold King, Jr., James King, Sandra Burgess and Dianna Newton, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Robert “Red” Nelson (’48) of Little Rock passed away on March 3. He is survived by wife **Carolyn (Caskey ’47)**, children **Lynda (Nelson ’72) Samons, Rex Nelson (’82)**, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Barbara (Gray ’48) Owens of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 25. She is survived by daughter Donna Smith and two grandchildren.

Ernest Sangster (’48) of Warren, Ark., passed away on Jan. 29. He is survived by his wife, Mary Betty Sangster, children Emily Lasiter and Margot Vogel and four grandchildren.

Richard “Babe” Henry (’49*) of El Centro, Calif., passed away on Feb. 12.

Bessie (Inglin ’49) Lide of Malvern, Ark., passed away on Dec. 23, 2010. She is survived by son William “Lance” Lide and one grandson.

—1950s—

Roger Baxter (’50) of West Carrollton, Ohio, passed away on Aug. 22, 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth (Jordan ’50*)**, two children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Rawls Pierce (’51) of Crossett, Ark., passed away on March 4. He is survived by his wife, **Merle (Farmer ’50*)**.

Rev. William “Bill” Agee (’52) of Waco, Texas, passed away on Jan. 24. He is survived by his wife, **Pat (Owens ’52*)**, children William Agee, Gaylen Tenberg and Carolyn Chamness, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Billie June (Guerin ’52) Sharp of Little Rock, Ark., passed away on Jan. 22. She is survived by children **Paul Sharp (’75), Dr. Jane Sharp (’77), David Sharp (’80)**, grandchildren **Aaron Sharp (’05), Adam Sharp (’08), Ashlee Sharp (current student)** and Jordan Sharp and one great-grandchild.

Margaret (Steed '55) Davis of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on March 26. She is survived by son Brian Davis.

Robert A. Hall ('55) of Little Rock passed away on Nov. 22, 2010. He is survived by children Mary Langston, Patricia Hall, Joy Johnson and Robert Hall, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Frank Charles Burton ('56) of Norphlett, Ark., passed away on Dec. 21, 2010. He is survived by his wife, **Lyla (Dunnavant '57)**, children Scott Burton, Clay Burton and Pam Burton Warren, six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Col. Edward A. Haswell ('56) of San Antonio, Texas, passed away on Feb. 13. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Marguerite (Frantz '56)**, children **Harold Haswell ('77)**, **Edward Haswell ('80)**, Corinne Fines and Jeffrey Haswell, 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Jones ('57) Pendergraft of Blevins, Ark., passed away on Feb. 7. She is survived by children Mark Pendergraft, Rusty Pendergraft, Sue Reeves and Donna Moody, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

James "Jim" Byrd ('59) of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Nov. 23, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Wencie (Bonds '59)**, sons **Scott Byrd ('84)**, Lance Byrd and **Bart Byrd ('93)** and five grandchildren.

—1960s—

Tom Davis ('60) of Conway, Ark., passed away on March 20. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Dorothy Armstrong Davis, children Stephanie Easley, Marty Davis, Tommy Davis and Steve Davis, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Dr. William "Bill" Johnson ('61) of Jonesboro, Ark., passed away on Jan. 3. He is survived by his wife, Judith Johnson, stepchildren Marilyn Copeland and Edward Wilson, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Thomas Taylor ('62*) of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Jan. 17. He is survived by children Ken Taylor and Mary Pearcy and two grandchildren.

Sonja (Dalrymple '63) Greer of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on Nov. 11, 2010. She

is survived by her husband, Jim Greer, one daughter and two grandsons.

Franklin "Frank" Hartsell ('64) of Colorado Springs, Colo., passed away on Jan. 14.

William "Bill" Dumas ('67) of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on Feb. 27.

Gretchen (Anderson '68*) Claybrook of St. Louis, Mo., passed away on Jan. 2. She is survived by her husband, **Dr. David Claybrook ('68)**.

Kathryn (Shaddox '69) Kelley of Montgomery, Ala., passed away on Feb. 8. She is survived by her husband, Benjamin Kelley, children Chandra Gresham, Katrina Pennington and Benjamin Kelley and seven grandchildren.

—1970s—

Anita Garner (MSE '72) of Bearden, Ark., passed away on Jan. 13. She is survived by her husband, **Charles Garner (MSE '71)**, children Lori Raines and Stephen Garner and four grandchildren.

Vernon Lee Withers (MSE '75) of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 25.

Debbie Puett ('76) of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Nov. 21, 2010. She is survived by her husband, June Puett, and one daughter, Amanda Puett.

Luberta (Hampton '77) Anthony of Little Rock passed away on March 20.

Stephen Grober ('78) of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 5, 2010.

—1980s—

Linda (Darling '82) Williams of Crossett, Ark., passed away on Dec. 11. She is survived by her husband, **Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) Kenneth Williams ('81)** and daughters Megan Williams Kingrey and Bethany Williams.

—1990s—

Joe Webb Hall ('91) of Arkadelphia, Ark., passed away on Nov. 19, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Lou Ann Hall, children Chasity Jackson and Stephanie Hodges and four grandchildren.

—2000s—

Anthony Jones ('06) of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on Jan. 30.

—Faculty & Staff—

Dr. Claude Sumerlin of Lynchburg, Va., passed away on Feb. 18. Dr. Summerlin was a former professor of journalism and director of the OBU News Bureau. He is survived by son **Dr. Neal Sumerlin ('72)** and two grandchildren.

Dr. Weldon Vogt, professor emeritus of psychology, passed away on Feb. 11. Dr. Vogt taught at Ouachita from 1965-1986. He is survived by daughter Kitty Vogt Smith.

Former OBU President Haswell dies at age 98

Dr. Harold A. Haswell, who served a brief but productive 18 months as president of Ouachita in the early 1950s, died Jan. 23 at age 98 in San Antonio, Texas.

Haswell, a graduate of Southwest Missouri State College and the University of Missouri, was serving as professor of education and social science and dean of the faculty at Ouachita when he was elected president in 1952.

According to Michael Arrington in his book, *Ouachita Baptist University: The First 100 Years*, Haswell's major accomplishments as president included "creation of the Division of General Education; establishment of an 'area of concentration' with a 24-hour core replacing the

major/minor system; creation of a faculty tenure policy; and construction of Conger Hall, a dormitory for men, and J.R. Grant Memorial Hall."

During Haswell's tenure, Ouachita regained North Central Association accreditation. OBU has maintained continuous accreditation since then.

Haswell resigned as president in 1953 to accept a position with the Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission. He later served with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, helping bring "Sesame Street" to public television and helping develop the Head Start program.

Haswell was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred. Their son, Col. Edward A. Haswell ('56), a retired U.S. Army officer, died Feb. 13 at age 76.



photo by Callie Stephens

Deborah Root, Chair, Rogers Department of Communications

“Fostering Foresight and Faithfulness.” This phrase guided Ouachita faculty and staff as they prepared a detailed self-study for the Higher Learning Commission’s accreditation process. After two years of research and data gathering, a five-person writing team compiled an in-depth 230-page report. The team took a close look at key criteria such as Mission and Integrity, Student Learning and Effective Teaching. Dr. Deborah (Holley) Root (’81) was among the leaders in this effort.

Root’s section on Engagement and Service, in particular, took a close look at “how Ouachita learns from the constituencies we serve and analyzed our capacity to serve their needs and expectations.” She worked closely with co-author Trennis Henderson to show how these constituencies include students, faculty, staff, alumni and other stakeholders.

“I’m proud that we produced an attractive, impressive document that communicates our message and reflects the university,” Root said. “We know where our strengths and weaknesses are.”

Dr. Randall Wight, chairman of the self-study, said, “Deborah has long been an inspiration to me on many levels. Points of inspiration that come immediately to mind are her enthusiasm for teaching, her clarity of thought, her incredible organizational skills, her nuanced writing talent and her understanding of Ouachita and its mission. Add to that her delightful wit and collegial spirit, and you have a writing team member who brought insight and wisdom to the task and who helped make the work fun. Deborah Root is one of Ouachita’s greatest assets.”

Root also has been busy overseeing the merger of the speech communication and mass communications departments under the Rogers Department of Communications. “There had been discussion about combining for several years, but it didn’t happen until 2010 and was a faculty-driven decision as all of our professors have experience in both areas,” she said. “We are now under the same department but we do have two separate degree programs.”

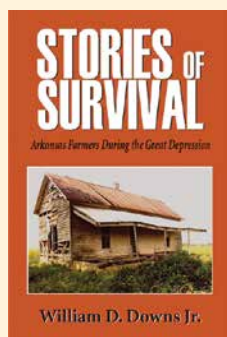
Colleague Rebecca Jones (’96) said, “Deborah is one of those people who is committed to always doing things the right way. She is thoughtful, creative, compassionate and engaging. She also knows how to get things done, to meet deadlines and to do all of it with grace.”

Root earned her BSE and MSE from Ouachita and Ed.D. from Oklahoma State University. She and her husband, Dr. Jeff Root (’83), have one daughter, Abby.

Downs’ book explores stories of survival from the Great Depression

Dr. Bill Downs, professor emeritus of mass communications at Ouachita, has recently authored the book, *Stories of Survival: Arkansas Farmers During the Great Depression*.

Through dozens of in-depth interviews representing all sections of the state, Downs said, “farm families recall their best times, their worst times and day-to-day experiences such as chores, washing, bathing, clothes making, medical care, home remedies, spiritual life, courtship and marriage, school experiences, etc. Their stories reveal how ordinary men and women, frequently living



in abject poverty, endured cataclysmic natural disasters and economic collapse with extraordinary courage, faith, resourcefulness and a good sense of humor.”

Dr. Ben Johnson, dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts at Southern Arkansas University and author of *Arkansas In Modern America, 1930-1999*, said, “The struggle and triumphs of Arkansans swept up in the cataclysm of the Great Depression unfold with plain-spoken eloquence and poignancy through this rich collection of interviews. William Downs has recovered

stories that did not deserve to be forgotten.”

The project was supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Downs was born in Calico Rock, Ark., in 1932, which has been identified as the worst year of the Depression. He served as chair of OBU’s mass communications department for more than 40 years. A graduate of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, he also earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The 317-page paperback book containing 50 photographs is available through local bookstores, Amazon or can be ordered from the publisher at www.phoenixbase.com.

Keldon Henley,

Vice President for Student Services

staff *profile*

2010 was a banner year for first-year students at Ouachita. This past fall, the university launched Thursdays@10: The Ouachita Experience, a new program designed to introduce new students to key academic concepts, university resources and traditions. Dr. Keldon Henley ('86), Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students, led the formation of this new program and recently received a prestigious national award for his innovative efforts.

The Ouachita Experience, an eight-week course taught by faculty and administrative staff, focuses on such issues as academic success and campus life as well as future careers and calling. The course includes a signing ceremony for OBU's Covenant on Academic Honor, established in 2001.

"The campus-wide collaboration among university departments, faculty and staff makes our program quite unique from others throughout the country," Henley said. "Such partnership among colleagues and students is just the Ouachita way and it is what sets us apart."

In February, Henley was recognized by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience as one of the nation's 10 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates. According to the National Resource Center, Henley's "leadership and wisdom has transformed the first-year experience at Ouachita Baptist University. ... The initiatives he is involved in have helped the university achieve its highest first-year retention rates in history and exemplify his commitment to first-year student success."

After earning an M.A. in Marriage and Family Counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and working for several years as a professional counselor, Henley returned to Ouachita in 1993. He earned an Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1997. In his current role, he has sought to identify the most effective ways to connect with first-year students and ease their transition to university life.

Students from the Ouachita Student Foundation (OSF) served as teaching assistants in each section of The Ouachita Experience. Alex Ray, an OSF member and teaching assistant for Henley, said, "Frankly, I was privileged to be able to assist Dr. Henley with his freshman experience class this year. He has such a tremendous and positive influence with the students. Being a part of his process in acclimating the newest Tigers to campus was an honor."

Henley and wife, Celeste, an elementary school teacher, have three children, Annelise (a freshman at Ouachita), Grayson and Parker.

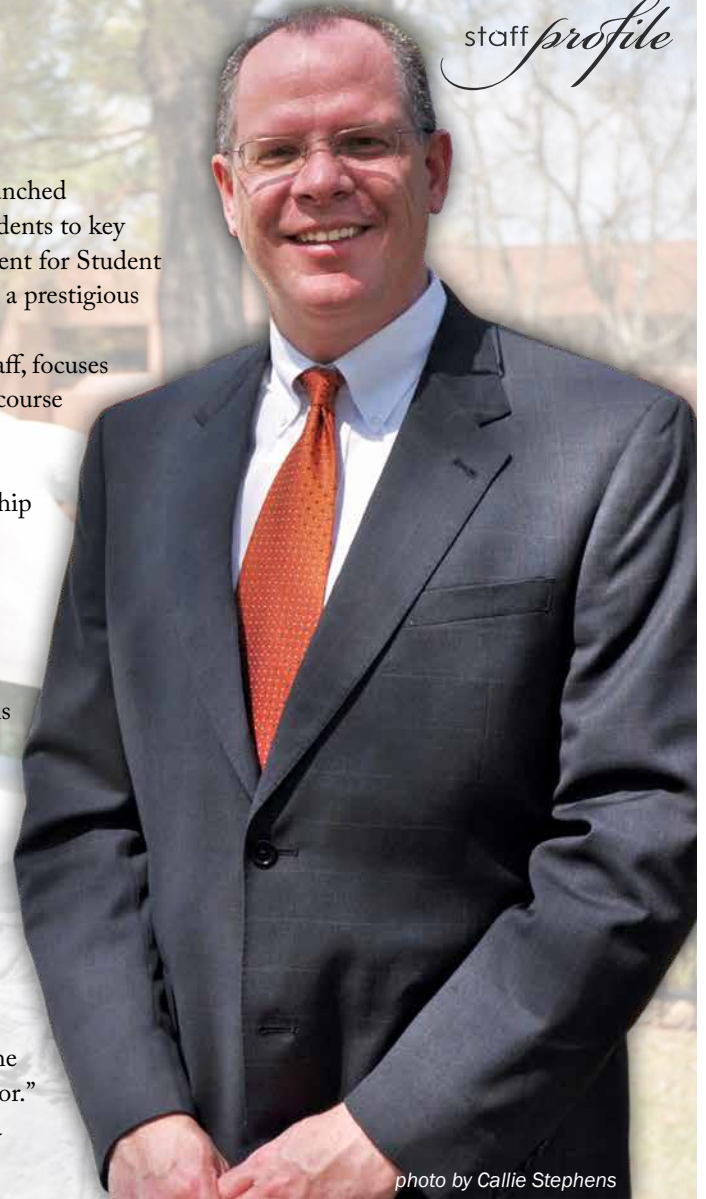


photo by Callie Stephens

Van Putten highlights environmental issues in Birkett Williams lecture

By Whitney Crews

Ouachita hosted renowned speaker and conservationist Dr. Mark Van Putten on March 31 during its spring 2011 Birkett Williams Lecture Series. Van Putten's lecture highlighted the importance of teaching conservation strategy inside and outside of the classroom, highlighting the university's role in protecting the natural environment and creating a sustainable society.

Drawing on more than 25 years of experience in natural resource conservation and environmental policy-making, Van Putten addressed challenges universities face in becoming "environmentally literate."

"Only 1 to 2 percent of all Americans can be considered environmentally literate,"

he said. "It is critical that Ouachita Baptist University and other universities embrace the challenge of ensuring that all graduates are environmentally literate."

Van Putten spent 20 years on the staff of the National Wildlife Federation, serving seven years as president and CEO. He is also the founder and president of ConservationStrategy LLC.

Citing how to train environmental citizens, Van Putten noted that "with knowledge comes responsibility to engage and heal the earth."

"In our high-tech society surrounded by modern conveniences, most of us no longer understand that our fate is still tied to the health of the natural environment," he added.

Van Putten commended Ouachita for the way it incorporates its disciplines to teach environmental stewardship and for its commitment to continue striving to promote environmental literacy.

Van Putten was hosted by Ouachita's J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences. "Mark is recognized as a visionary leader with proven strategic thinking and planning skills," said OBU professor of biology Tim Knight. "I agree ... that Christians should get off the sideline and participate in the environmental discussion."

Whitney Crews is a senior mass communications major from Jonesboro, Ark.

Scholarly pursuits remain primary focus

Some suggest that the excellence of Ouachita Baptist University is a secret. While this has a measure of truth, we are striving to get our story to as many people as possible. This issue of *The Ouachita Circle* features many wonderful talking points (bragging, too) about our university.

Recently a team from the Higher Learning Commission spent several days on campus as part of the process that leads to our reaccreditation. This evaluative and consultative process culminated three years of self-study by our campus community. We discovered some facts about ourselves and affirmed what we already knew—that Ouachita is one great university.

Although the final report from the commission has not yet been received, I can tell you that the team was helpful, honest and encouraging. They spoke of the high morale on campus even in these challenging times. They were complimentary of our university embracing our mission. Our students were most impressive to them. We know that our students are outstanding, but when colleagues from other universities across the nation recognize the quality of our young men and women, you smile, nod and think: “I know!”

Ouachita as a university exists to educate and encourage scholarly pursuits. Certainly the totality of the Ouachita experience makes this institution distinct and is of vital importance, but scholarship is primary.

What are the first thoughts that come to your mind when you read the word scholarship? I would suggest it is likely the money or aid granted to a student. Some scholarships are awarded for merit, others for need but all are to help individual students pursue their studies. There is no reason to debate the need for scholarships. This is why our 125th anniversary Defining the

Difference campaign’s undesignated gifts will in large part support scholarships.

The dictionary I consulted gave the following thoughts as the secondary definition of scholarship: The key words recorded were of learning, knowledge acquired by study and the academic attainments that result from vigorous scholarship. While we promote the great standings Ouachita has earned with *U.S. News & World Report* and *Forbes* magazine and appreciate the evaluation of consultants, the greater pride comes from observing our graduates impacting the world.

“Our dedicated and gifted faculty ... are the foundation of scholarship here at Ouachita.”

Whenever I speak to groups, I am always asked about specific professors. Are they still teaching? How are they doing? This is a constant reminder of the stewards of scholarship here—our dedicated and gifted faculty. These remarkable men and women are the foundation of scholarship here at Ouachita. Our students thrive and grow both intellectually and personally based upon the education, experience, insight and investment of our faculty. Thank you, colleagues, for your commitment to excellence and scholarship.

Keeping a secret is a virtue. Revealing the secret of Ouachita is noble! Thank you for your devotion to Ouachita. I am privileged to serve here at this time.



Rex Horne



THE DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

provides opportunities for Ouachita students and faculty to experience international study, both on campus and around the world.



Peru



Turkey

The Grant Center hosts an international photography contest in conjunction with the university's annual International Food Festival. This year's photo contest winners include freshman Kristen Johnson, first place (above); freshman Kelsey Frink, second place (right); and senior Erin Flippin, third place (left).

For more information about programs of the Grant Center, visit www.obu.edu/intedu.



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—U.S. News & World Report