

Fall 2011

# The Ouachita Circle Fall 2011

Ouachita Baptist University

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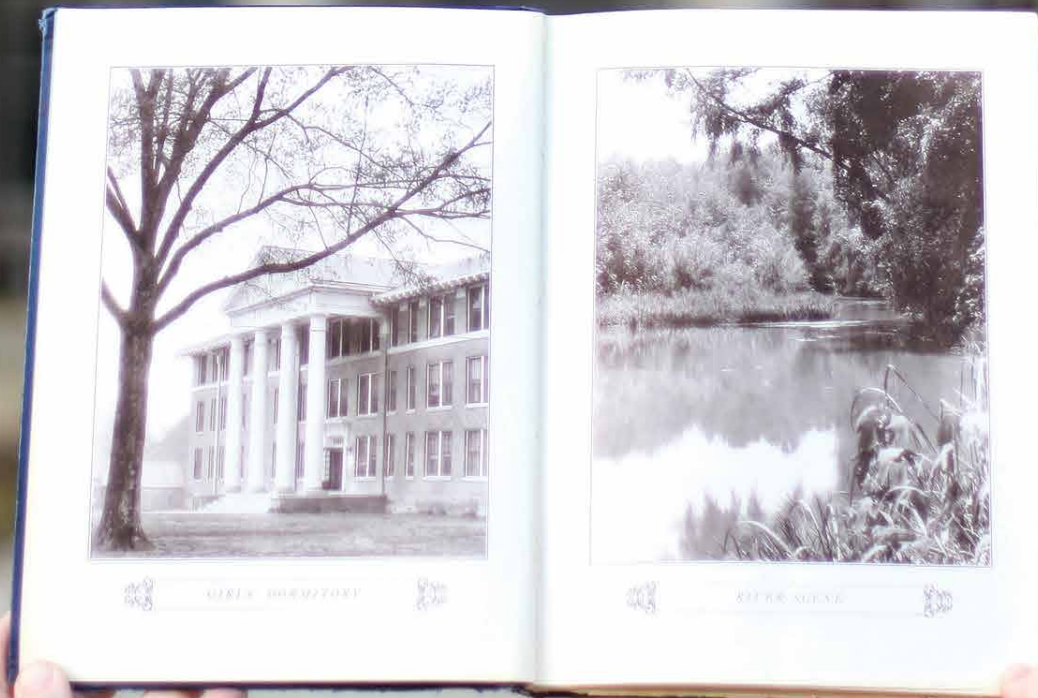
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# *The* Ouachita Circle

FALL 2011

reflections



Dr. Conger in his own words

Tigers win GAC football title

# Reflections on OBU's legacy

In today's high-tech, 24-7, hustle-and-bustle world, reflection often seems to be a lost art.

During a recent visit to New York City (not exactly a quiet, contemplative setting), my family and I spent an evening strolling through the Museum of Modern Art. Pausing to view works by Cézanne, Dali, van Gogh and Picasso, I was most captivated by Claude Monet's classic "Water Lilies" triptych.

Monet described the serene work as his effort to create "the refuge of a peaceful meditation in the center of a flowering aquarium." That was precisely what I was seeking amid the urban hubbub. I spent a few relaxing moments quietly admiring the masterpiece.

What do the Museum of Modern Art, Monet and water lilies have to do with this issue of *The Ouachita Circle*? It's all a matter of reflection.

For the past year, Ouachita students, faculty, staff and alumni have had frequent opportunities to pause and reflect on the rich heritage of Ouachita Baptist University. As we have celebrated Ouachita's 125 years of academic and Christian excellence, we have been reminded of the incredible gift God has provided through this institution to generations of proud and grateful Ouachitonians.

Fortunately, it seems a bit easier to pause for reflection on Ouachita's beautiful, inviting campus than on the corner of Manhattan's 5th Avenue and West 53rd Street. During a variety of anniversary events in Jones Performing Arts Center, McBeth Recital Hall, Walker Conference Center, Grant Plaza and elsewhere, it has been time well spent to recount Ouachita's challenges and accomplishments as well as its current and future vision, dreams and goals.

As Ouachita wraps up this year's milestone celebration, this issue of *The Circle* is dedicated to reflection. From reflections by founding President J.W. Conger during Ouachita's first baccalaureate service to personal reflections by three current faculty and staff members with a combined 120 years of service, Ouachita's lasting influence and impact remain clear. Other features in this edition include pictorial reflections on the 125th anniversary and Homecoming 2011.

Reflection isn't simply an emotional stroll down memory lane. It also is a spiritual discipline that can help bring God's guidance and personal priorities into sharper focus. Just as the Psalmist meditated on "the days of old" as a reminder of God's blessings and protection, it is good to reflect on our treasured past with an eye toward an even brighter future.

As you explore this issue of *The Ouachita Circle*, take time to savor "the refuge of a peaceful meditation" in honor of Ouachita's faithful 125-year legacy.



Trennis Henderson  
*Vice President for Communications*

**"Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action."**

*Peter Drucker*

**"Education begins the gentleman, but reading, good company and reflection must finish him."**

*John Locke*

**"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."**

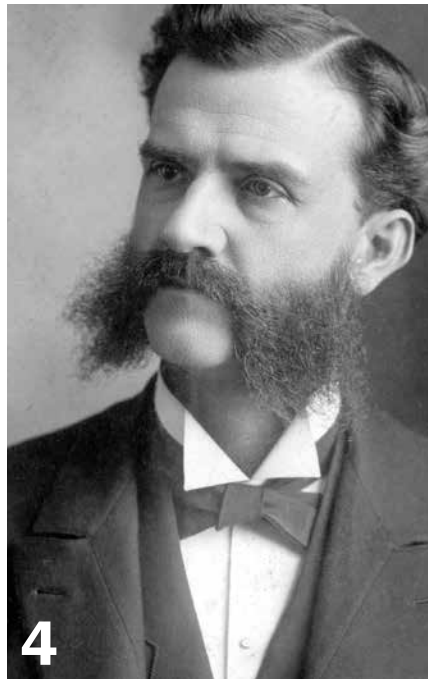
*John Quincy Adams*

**"Reflect upon your blessings, of which every man has plenty, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."**

*Charles Dickens*

**"The reflections of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord."**

*Proverbs 16:1*



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# Reflections on a place called Ouachita

*As Ouachita marked its 125th anniversary this year, three longtime faculty and staff members also achieved major milestones: 40 years of service each at Ouachita. Dr. Ray Granade, Dr. Joe Jeffers and Tona Wright have experienced and contributed to major changes on campus over the past four decades. As this issue of The Ouachita Circle highlights reflections, the three were invited to share their personal reflections about life at Ouachita.*



**Dr. Ray Granade, Director of Library Services and Professor of History**

I had not heard of this place before being hired and had no assumption of staying here very long when I came. I was from the Southeast, fresh out of graduate school in history at Florida State and facing a job market that had dried up the year before. On Aug. 1, 1971, I had no idea what I would be doing in September. After getting a call out of the blue, I interviewed here for a position that was part-time in my discipline and part-time to start a remedial program with federal money; a few days later I had an offer. It was my introduction to God's penchant, in my life at least, for taking care of things at what I considered the absolute last minute!

Classes had started when my wife and I got to town, but we had already had a taste of what, for me, has been Ouachita's hallmark. Time and money constraints led us to rent an apartment sight-unseen. Rozelle Goodson, wife of then-Academic Vice President Carl Goodson, served as our agent, finding out what was available and visiting all three places. My wife, Ronnie, asked, "Which would you rent?" We listened to Rozelle's reasons and went with her choice. When we pulled into Arkadelphia late one September afternoon, Carl and Rozelle fed us and put us up for the night. The next day a student worker showed up to help us unload.

Family was 500 miles away across the Big Muddy. Travel and phone calls were expensive and we were poor. The biblical "we were strangers and you took us in" assumed a whole new meaning.

The strange became mundane here. Ronnie and I had two sons. We reared them here; they went to school and graduated here. Ronnie

worked and studied here before teaching at the high school, then retiring. I had three careers here: three years as Academic Skills director and history teacher, a decade as full-time history teacher and the rest of the time as Director of Library Services. Campus, when I came, was a collection of buildings, the newest of which was Verser, in a hodgepodge of styles. Old North Dorm came down my first Christmas, harbinger of campus renewal that razed more than 30 campus buildings and at least 15 private residences to make way for new structures. The curriculum underwent numerous substantial changes and revisions, including moving from a very eclectic system to more regimented majors and minors. Children, and some grandchildren, of students attending during my early years have come and gone on campus. Some students have returned as faculty; faculty size has grown; and faculty as a whole have increased interest in research and writing and self-conception as subject specialists rather than generalist teachers. I have served four presidents. It seems that nothing has remained constant through the years. Yet amid all that change, this place became home—largely because one thing didn't change.

A dear and departed friend and I once talked of living far from home and family. He had come to Ouachita shortly before me, and we were both about two decades into our tenures at the time. We had often railed against administrative use of the term "Ouachita family," but from that conversation emerged the realization that he and I had spent more time together than we had with our real families. We had found a warm collegiality across the whole faculty and staff. We had found that students and we formed friendships that were more genuine and long-lasting than we'd expected, and that students as a whole were more genial and cooperative than we'd found in other settings.

I've thought about, and talked about, that

conversation many times since it occurred. Ronnie and I have talked about the great constant in our experience in this place. Buildings have gone and come. Generations of students have come and gone. Faculty and staff colleagues have come, and in many cases gone again to new places, retirement or death. The one constant has been that the human warmth, helpfulness and reliability we first encountered replayed often in good times and bad, in large situations and small. We two, who lacked siblings when we started dating in high school, found home and family in a truly unexpected place. A place called Ouachita.



**Dr. Joe Jeffers, Dean of the J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences**

I intended to stay for only three semesters. As a Ouachita graduate, I considered it academic incest to return to one's alma mater. I did want to return to Arkansas. I had this compelling need to pay Arkansas back for my upbringing. It was a buyer's market when I left Purdue in January 1972. Academic jobs were scarce. Ouachita wanted me, so I decided three semesters should allow me to get my feet on the ground and find another college to make my home.

I must say I returned with a bit of a chip on my shoulder. I had the other three chemists—Wayne Everett, Alex Nisbet and Joe Nix—as undergraduate professors. I had no intentions of putting up with the old student returning home. To their credit, they never once treated me that way. I was welcomed as a colleague from day one. I was invited to participate in governance; if I had an idea, put it on the table, they said. And it

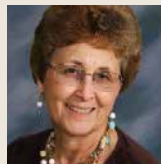


was not just chemistry that treated me that way. Everyone did. The camaraderie among the faculty was incredible. It did not take me long to know I had found home—again. I enjoyed Ouachita as a student, but this side of the desk was even more fulfilling.

I was awful my first semester. I was trained as a biochemist/molecular biologist and here I was teaching Organic Chemistry and two sections of Life Science, the non-majors biology course. I was up until midnight every night and I still could not fill a 50-minute lecture. I typically ran out of my prepared comments about 40 minutes into class. Thank heavens I survived until the fall semester. The students were nice not to insist on getting their money back.

Fortunately, I got better. It took a few semesters to make the transition from trying not to make a fool out of myself to being comfortable with the material. Then I could focus on reading students and trying to meet them where they were. The world of teaching was now magical. The students were so good. They were bright and motivated. The science majors had graduate or professional schools on their minds, so motivation was not a problem. The non-major students would have preferred to be anywhere but in a science class, so I had my work cut out for me. Both groups were so much fun. To see them really become students—develop study habits, wrestle with the material, put ideas together, find joy in mastering concepts—and to know that I played some small part in that transition is very satisfying. And in a liberal arts environment! It does not get any better.

I have never tired of teaching. Working alongside inspired colleagues involved in a shared mission allows us to feed off one another. Every class has its own personality. Every year we start anew. I have never once thought of what I do as a job. It is my calling. It is who and what I am.



### **Tona Wright, Professor of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies**

**M**y journey to Ouachita began when God placed me in an 8th grade biology class with an assistant football coach named Charles Chambliss. He was an awesome teacher, dedicated to teaching students with discipline and challenging us to be our best. I decided while in his class that I wanted to become a teacher.

After receiving my Master of Science degree in physical education from Oklahoma State University in 1971, I returned home to Arkadelphia, discouraged that I could not find a teaching job. Late in August, I received a phone call from Dr. Charles Chambliss, professor in the Department of Education at Ouachita Baptist University and, as they say, the rest is history.

At age 24, I was hired to coach women's tennis and teach in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (now the Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies). My first semester, I established the first varsity women's volleyball program at OBU after seven young women came to me and asked if we could start a team. I traded in my 1969 Chevy Camaro (which my parents had given me for graduation from the school across the ravine) and bought a 12-passenger van to haul the team to games. For the next few years, we played in old Tigerette basketball team uniforms.

We definitely have come a long way! In the 24 years I coached women's volleyball and the 21 years I coached women's tennis, women's sports changed drastically at Ouachita. The 1970s were trials and tribulations in volleyball and championships in tennis, the '80s and early '90s were championship years in both sports with

scholarships arriving in the '80s, trips to district championships and representing Arkansas at the National NAIA Volleyball Championship in 1988! Wow, what a ride, and I believe the best is yet to come for women's sports at Ouachita.

Ouachita has been my home and my life all these years. It is here, with my extended family of believers, I have grown as a Christian servant-leader. I have always been a teacher first, regardless of my other roles as a coach and an administrator in our department. I have been blessed to work with outstanding educators and students, and yes, Ouachita is a difference maker.

Why have I stayed here my entire career? Surely, those who know me know the answer to that question: I love Ouachita. I know the impact Ouachita has on the lives of our students, faculty, staff and literally the world. I truly believe in our mission, because I know we do make a difference.

I want to give special thanks to some of the people who have played major roles in my journey: Dr. Charles Chambliss and Dr. Daniel Grant, for giving me a chance to make a difference; to my dear friend, Dr. George Keck, for the opportunity to go to China, grow as an educator and open my eyes to a different world; to Dr. Mike Arrington, who believed in me enough to appoint me as department chair; to the wonderful people I have worked with all these years in our department and across campus; and of course, my parents, J.B. and Doris Wright. My mother worked in the OBU cafeteria for 15 years and my father worked in maintenance and drove the bus for 20 years; they loved Ouachita, too!

My family always told me I could be anything I wanted to be if I would work hard and put God first in my life, which I always have tried to do. With that being said, I want to give thanks to my Lord and Savior for leading me on this most rewarding, life-changing Ouachita journey.

# Words of reflection & challenge from President Conger



*Editor's Note: In honor of Ouachita Baptist University's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the following reflections are excerpted from a baccalaureate address by Dr. J.W. Conger to the first graduating class of Ouachita Baptist College, delivered June 13, 1888.*

**W**orthy Seniors: As the representative of the Faculty, it becomes my duty to sever the golden thread of pleasant association which has so strongly bound us together as teachers and pupils. Sweet are the memories to be cherished. Many are the fond hopes for the future lives of you, the first graduates of Ouachita College.

Growing out of the interest in your welfare, we present a few thoughts for your consideration. You are now at the commencement of your active manhood and womanhood. The glory or the failure of your lives will depend not so much upon your intellectual artisanship as upon your intellectual manhood—not so much upon abstract truths as upon the incorporation of those truths into your everyday lives—making the abstract concrete—and thus developing your individuality.

In all high service, there are two essentials to success, viz: self-assertion and self-suppression. You must put yourselves into your work and put your work before and beyond yourselves. If you would have moulding power and give impulse to lives, you must put the stamp of your own lives on your associates. Character alone begets character. The life should confirm the belief of the heart. ... Your self-hood must be reflected in all you do.

But, the other essential—self-suppression—though paradoxical—must characterize the successful man. Egotism makes a man obnoxious. As Michelangelo wore a candle fastened to his cap that his shadow might not fall on his work, so your service should not be blurred by your own image. Self-seeking is a blot and a hindrance, but self-giving is indispensable. You must be yourself, yet you must forget yourself. You must show yourself, yet hide yourself in your work. ...

In any sphere of life, no man can become a leader of men without self-assertion and self-suppression. In St. Paul's language: "I, yet not I" (Galatians 2:20). "I with the whole force of my individuality—using everything I have and am in the service, yet not I, in striving for self, or in quest of my own glory." This is actualizing the highest and best possibilities and the annihilation of the worst. ...

But in the attainment of these two paradoxical elements of self-assertion and self-suppression, there is a prerequisite of obedience. It has become almost an educational truism that growth in knowledge can come only from obedience—that a manly independence comes only from a manly dependence. This is as much true in the later growth of knowledge as in the earlier. ...

Insofar as self-will or self-conceit tinges our views of truth, just so far will we fail to know the truth. The humbling of pride, the willing recognition of superiors, the ready obedience to the authority of truth, are requisite to clear and full knowledge. ... Knowledge is no blessing, unless it is used well and wisely. With it alone, life is not complete. In dealing with things you see, you must walk hand in hand with faith in the unseen, thus only making life beautiful and blessed.





photo by Brooke Zimny

# TigerTweetback @Ouachita marks #OBU125

Do students and alumni @Ouachita spend much time tweeting about their alma mater? The answer was definitely yes during @Ouachita's #OBU125 celebration. @Ouachita hosted a TigerTweetback during #FoundersWeek2011 that featured a different Tweetback question each day. Here are a few of the responses:

## Sept. 5: What were your first impressions of Ouachita?

**Momph21:** My first impression of @Ouachita: I didn't apply anywhere else for my undergraduate degree. I knew it was the place.

**MerMer\_29:** My 1st impression @ Ouachita was youth lock-in, Steven Curtis Chapman concert in JPAC, & wanted to attend after rainy day tour.

**leannewaters610:** Legacy. Tiger Tunes. My dream school at age 10. Only place I applied. Sweet people & amazing profs.

**321RachelF:** My first impression of @Ouachita was the old cafeteria when we moved in my brother. I remember thinking, "Whoa, this place is like Luby's!"

**obutiny:** My first impression of @Ouachita was can I stay here for the rest of my life?

**erinelizsmith:** Almost everyone in my family went to @Ouachita—first time I was old enough to remember being on campus, I knew why.

**JOSHgROVES:** My first impression of @Ouachita was going to a baseball camp/showcase in 2005. Thankful God used baseball to draw me there.

**Mike\_Kizzar:** My first impression was getting to sit in with the Greatest Band in Tigerland. They got me hooked.

**lanniebyrd:** My first impression of @Ouachita was how friendly everyone was on campus when I went to visit students and professors.

**lydiadanielle10:** My first impression of @Ouachita was a preview day! It changed my life! I didn't even apply to another school. #foreverblessed

**john\_jacob:** My first impression of @Ouachita was taking a campus tour and realizing that I had found a place that felt just like home.

**doughibbard:** First impression of @Ouachita? For good or for ill, it was the Gum Tree by the old bridge. Almost fell for "Leave a piece, take a piece." :)

**jmarkwhite:** First impression of @Ouachita was a Wayne Watson concert in Mitchell Auditorium circa 1991—great memories of my years at OBU!

**toddwparr:** I knew @Ouachita was for me when I was being toured around the campus & Prez Elrod greeted students by name.

## Sept. 6: What is your favorite Ouachita memory?

**Bno28:** Happy @Ouachita Day! I'm so happy to be here on the best campus with the best people. #ilovemyschool



**jessicajune** Jessica Barksdale

Happy 125, @Ouachita! I think of you as a home, not a college. Thank you for giving me the best memories of my life!

**aomusic38410:** Happy Birthday @Ouachita! Here's to many more years of cultivating great Christian leaders around the world! Proud to be an OBU alumni!

**murphicus:** The time everyone was given \$20 in chapel. That was kind of awesome.

**pastorcwright:** Happy 125th Birthday @ouachita you will always be family to me & thanks for changing lives every year.

**RamblinRod13:** Favorite @Ouachita memory. Getting prayed for by name, with the other incoming students in JPAC.

**sten\_rodgers:** Happy birthday @Ouachita! I get butterflies when I think of you! I can't imagine who I would be without your influence!

## Sept. 7: What is your favorite caf or Walt's moment @Ouachita?

**enwmorris:** My Walt's memory @Ouachita—Twinkle the Kid and Minnie. Waffles with peanut butter weren't so bad either! Walt worked with love!

**TannerWard:** My favorite caf moment was the time we were stuck inside it for three hours because of the armed robber on campus.

**mrskellystamps:** I loved Walt's and Minnie! I loved Turkey Cutlets, the good pie on Sundays, and the theme nights.

**personalitykids:** Favorite Walt's memory? Sweet, sweet, Minnie!

## Sept. 8: What is your favorite Tiger Traks or intramural team name @Ouachita?

**JFink34:** Favorite intramural team is the Rebel Alliance. The force is always with us.

**JulieHagar:** Definitely Title 9, our softball coed team name. It made sense since we had to have so many girls on the field!

**CaseyG1980:** Favorite intramural team? Flying Wombats!! Love and miss those girls and our coaches.

**jess\_scogg:** "Game Over" with pacman ghosts painted on the back. #traks2011

**jakesligh:** Team FEAR was without question the greatest sports franchise in Ouachita intramural sports history.

**JUSTINJAMESFOTO:** @jakesligh I beg to differ. Team REX HORNE was without a doubt the greatest flag football franchise in OBU history.

**jwin1:** Definitely being a part of Team Becky Horne for bball and Enfuego for football the last 3 years, awesome memories w/ awesome girls.

**TXshelby:** My favorite Tiger Traks team name @Ouachita is most def Team Chicken Dinner!

**jamesataylor:** I don't remember my freshmen football team name because I got a concussion thanks to @chris\_babb.

**EricOpperman:** We were terrible, but nobody had more fun than Zen Zen Wakaranai...

## Sept. 9: What was your favorite way to spend weekends @Ouachita?

**blitz5:** My favorite way to spend weekends @ Ouachita? Find a spot outside or @ the student center & play guitar, board games & watch movies!

**ljhilburn:** @Ouachita we loved making up stuff to do—geocaching, making gingerbread houses, hide & seek in cars, scaring people w/ masks ... etc.

**austinwadlow:** Favorite way to spend weekends: Going fishing at Dr. Eubanks' pond.



# 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS



Images of Ouachita's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration throughout the fall semester include:

**1** President Horne presents the first copies of *Ouachita Voices: Celebrating 125 Years of Academic & Christian Excellence* to two of President Conger's great-grandchildren, Margaret Fanning of Albuquerque, N.M., and Edwin Shapard, of Oklahoma City, during the university's Founders Day Convocation. //

**2** Founders Day festivities on Sept. 6 concluded with a Musical Showcase in Jones Performing Arts Center, featuring the Ouachita Singers, Ouachita Sounds, Ouachita Jazz Band, Tiger Blast and other solo and group performances. //

**3** Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe declared Sept. 6 "Ouachita Baptist University Day" throughout the state. Citing the Old Testament book of Esther, Gov. Beebe said, "We are challenged sometimes by God for a time such as this. I hope all of you will understand when that time comes that you are not alone, that there are people on whose shoulders you stand." //

**4** Former Gov. Mike Huckabee ('76) was among this semester's featured chapel speakers. "As the years pass, I think the one decision you will surely agree was one of the smartest of your life was to study at Ouachita," he told students. He added that there is "an extraordinary, unbelievably loyal network of Tigers you will see all over the world." //

**5** Ouachita's outdoor Community Celebration, held Oct. 19, offered a thank you to Arkadelphia for serving 125 years as OBU's home. Program participants included (L-R): Ian Cosh, chair of the 125th anniversary steering committee; Arkadelphia Mayor Chuck Hollingshead; President and Mrs. Horne; Connie Nelson of the Arkadelphia Area Chamber of Commerce; and Student Senate President Jacob Lively. //

**6** Dr. Gerald Pillay, vice chancellor of Liverpool Hope University, Ouachita's newest international education partner, delivered a Birkett Williams lecture Nov. 15. "We not only seek truth, but we're seeking beauty and goodness, as well," he said of the two schools. "For the Christian university, these three things are non-negotiable." //

photos by Kristen Barnard, Nicole McPhate



photos by Nicole McPhate,  
Jason Pullano & Brooke Zimny



## 2011 Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon honors Margaret Wright

Ouachita's second annual Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon was held Nov. 10 in honor of Margaret Wright, professor emerita of accounting, and benefiting scholarships for outstanding women students at Ouachita.

"When I hear people speak of Margaret Wright," said President Rex Horne, "they talk about Margaret and her life and the impact that she continues to have upon students, upon lives, upon this institution.

"I often wish there was a more concrete way of saying thank you to those who have so helped and inspired those of us here at Ouachita," Horne continued. "Today we will give a couple of gifts to Margaret to say thank you, but as we give them we're reminded that we're the ones to really say thank you because of the gifts that she has given to all of us in her service to Ouachita."

Wright was presented with a one-of-a-kind ceramic bowl painted by 2005 Ouachita alum Beth (Woolley) Carlisle, owner of Firefly Studio in Little Rock.

"To be recognized by my alma mater as well as my former employer in such a beautiful way is indeed very special, and I thank you so much," Wright responded. "Former students ... what a thrill to see you. ... I hope you know that you are truly, truly the reward of being a teacher, and I love each one of you very much and thank you for being here."

The event, sponsored by Southern Bancorp, was held on campus as part of Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration and featured a FASHIONating History Vintage Style Show, courtesy of Little Rock philanthropist Grace Steuri. Terri King, a 1983 Ouachita alum and mother of a current Ouachita student, served as chairperson for the Stepping Up advisory committee, and Keisha Pittman, OBU development officer, served as staff coordinator.

"I've read in recent years that when you refer to Ouachita, you always refer to students as difference makers," Wright said. "I want to say thanks to each person in this room today for being a difference maker. With your purchase of a ticket to this beautiful luncheon today, you've made an investment in the lives of many young women and you will forever be a difference maker in their lives.

"What a beautiful thing you are doing, and thank you so much for giving me this special, special memory. I will treasure it for all of my life."

## Knight to succeed Jeffers as Patterson School dean

Dr. Tim Knight has been named dean of Ouachita Baptist University's J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences, effective next summer, according to Ouachita President Rex M. Horne, Jr. Dr. Knight will succeed Dr. Joe Jeffers, founding dean of the Patterson School, who has announced plans to return to full-time teaching after serving as dean since 2002.

"The Ouachita community is indebted to Dr. Joe Jeffers for his service in the classroom as well as his leadership as the founding dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences," said Dr. Horne. "I am most pleased that Dr. Jeffers will continue to serve our students and Ouachita in the classroom.

"In appointing Dr. Tim Knight as dean of the Patterson School, I knew we were fortunate to have someone ready to serve who is one of us," Dr. Horne added. "Dr. Knight is a man with vision, a proven record and an exemplary commitment to Ouachita."

Dr. Knight, who has served since 1999 as the J.D. Patterson Professor of Biology, has served as a faculty member in biology since 1989 and as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences since 1994. A 1984 Ouachita graduate, he also holds degrees from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Reflecting on his decision to accept the position as dean, Dr. Knight cited his recent leadership responsibilities related to academic assessment and the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation process. "Coupled with other administrative duties, I saw the dean position as being a place of service where my talents could be best utilized in serving both students and my colleagues," he noted.

Dr. Knight said primary goals include seeking to "maintain or improve in both classroom instruction and the availability of research opportunities for faculty and students."

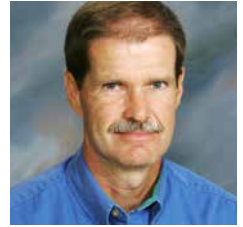
Affirming his predecessor's impact, Dr. Knight said, "I think everyone on the faculty both in and out of the natural sciences realizes the impact Dr. Jeffers has had at Ouachita, especially over the last decade. He has set a high standard."

Dr. Jeffers, who recently marked 40 years as a Ouachita faculty member, said he does "take pride in our continued reputation as one of the best science programs in the region."

He said the major accomplishment during his tenure as dean "was the development of an undergraduate research program. It was not totally new ... but this program was more systemic." In addition to gaining major research grants, he said another priority was recruiting quality faculty members.

"Teaching has always been the best part," Dr. Jeffers said. "Great colleagues, yes, both within natural sciences and in other schools. But students are the reason we are here. To watch them develop and to have a small part in that process is immensely gratifying."

Concerning Dr. Knight's leadership, he said, "Tim Knight has been excellent in chairing biology, in serving as the university advising guru and in being the university assessment coordinator. He brings skills and passion to the job that will serve him and us well."





Homecoming 2011 celebrated memories and milestones as part of Ouachita's 125th year.

**1** The Clark County Alumni Dinner was one of many reunions and events that brought OBU alums together during Ouachita's Homecoming festivities.

**2** Students enjoyed activities throughout the week that promoted spirit and community, many hosted by student clubs and organizations in support of the Tigers.

**3** OcTigerfest, one of Ouachita's newest Homecoming traditions, provides an opportunity for the Ouachita community to visit with classmates and friends as well as academic departments, athletic teams, social clubs and more.

**4** Tally the Tiger kept spirits high, greeting Ouachitonians of all ages and cheering on the Tigers.

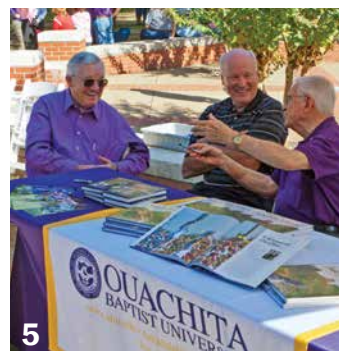
**5** As contributors to the book, *Ouachita Voices: Celebrating 125 Years of Academic & Christian Excellence*, former presidents Ben Elrod and Daniel Grant as well as 1970 grad and Dallas Cowboys star Cliff Harris were available to autograph copies.

**6** The Cub Zone at OcTigerfest provided parents a place for the youngest Tigers to play, color and have their faces painted.

**7** Stephanie Batsel, a senior music and business administration/marketing major from Mansfield, Texas, was crowned Homecoming Queen during the pre-game ceremony at A.U. Williams Field.

**8** The 2011 Homecoming Court included (L-R): Ashley Briggs, Kendall Calvert, Stephanie Batsel, Grace Johnson and Cara McKinney.

photos by Heather Ellis, Bekah Hall, Wesley Kluck and Nicole McPhate





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**9** Point of Grace member Shelley Breen ('91), a 2011 Alumni Milestone Award honoree, sang the national anthem at the Homecoming football game.

**10** Ouachita's cheer and pep squads performed throughout the week at pep rallies and events leading up to the Saturday football game.

**11** The Tigers fell to the No. 13-ranked Valdosta State Blazers, former Gulf South Conference foes, in this year's Homecoming football matchup.

**12** Tiger Tunes hosts and hostesses took the JPAC stage Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to sold-out crowds and as much excitement as ever.

**13** The men and women of Campus Ministries earned third place in this year's Tiger Tunes competition as professors. More than 450 participants put in more than 21,000 hours of practice for this year's Tunes performances.

**14** Kappa Chi Men's Social Club placed second in Tiger Tunes 2011 as nerds. The online version of *The Signal* produced a live webcast of the show for Tunes fans across the country and around the world.

**15** EEE Women's Social Club won first place overall in Tiger Tunes for their outer space show. Tiger Tunes, coordinated by the Ouachita Student Foundation, earns tens of thousands of dollars for student scholarships each year.



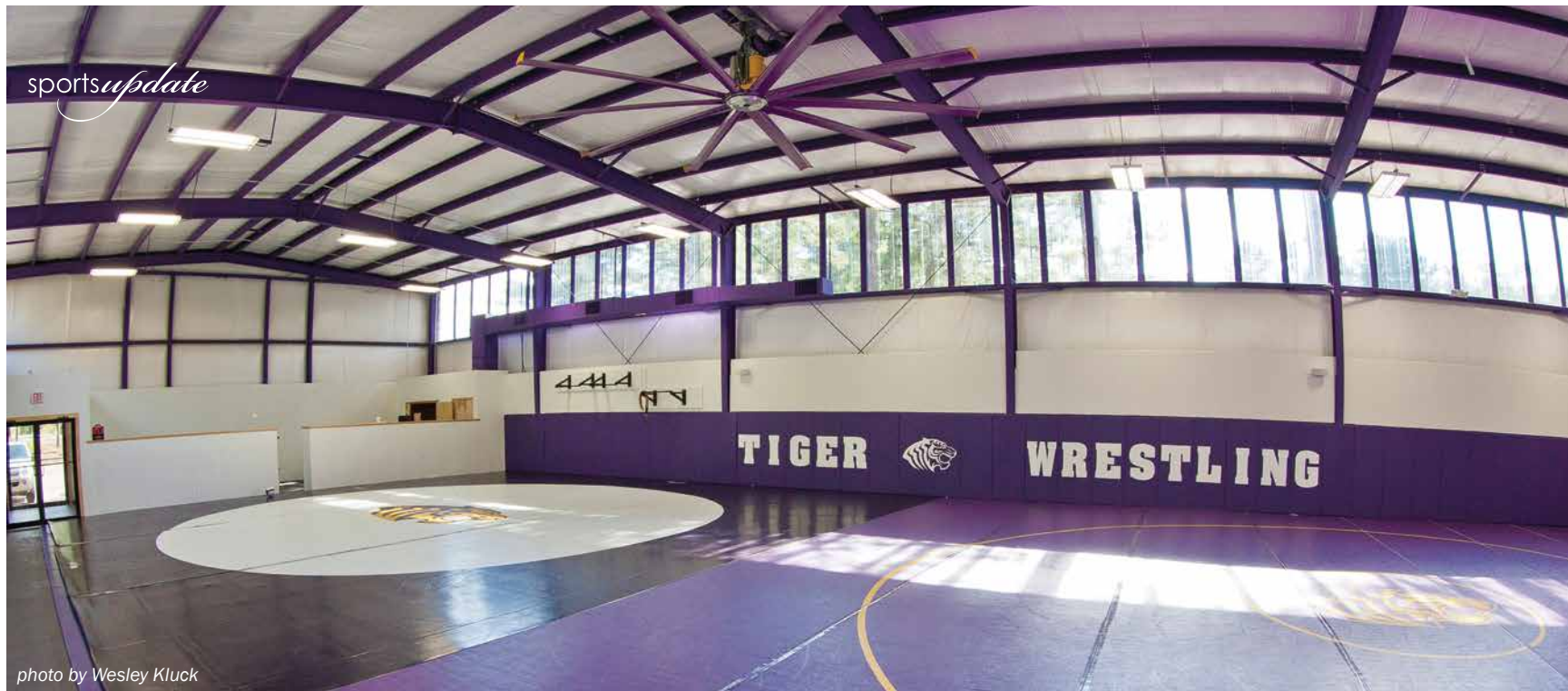


photo by Wesley Kluck

## Ouachita officials dedicate Hatcher Wrestling Complex

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Ouachita officials unveiled the Hatcher Wrestling Complex, the new home of the Ouachita Tiger Wrestling Program, during an Oct. 27 dedication and open house. Tiger Wrestling, which debuted last year as the first collegiate wrestling program in the state, includes 26 wrestlers from nine states.

Hatcher Wrestling Complex was named in honor of Greg Hatcher, president of the Arkansas Wrestling Association and founder and owner of the Hatcher Agency. Hatcher has been instrumental in helping establish and fund Tiger Wrestling, including providing funds for the wrestling complex.

The 8,200-square-foot practice facility features a large wrestling room with two regulation wrestling mats as well as a spacious locker room, cardio and weight area, computer lab, office and other amenities.

Kevin Ward, head coach of Ouachita's NCAA Division II wrestling program, described the complex as "one of the finest wrestling facilities in the country."

"I hope we are able to use this facility to add to the already rich tradition of OBU athletics," said Ward, a 2005 Big XII wrestling champion at Oklahoma State University. "This building means a lot to our wrestling team, and we are very thankful for the efforts of everyone who made this possible."

Ward affirmed the opportunity "to honor the man who made this possible." Noting that "it took a lot of hard work by many people here on campus," he said the facility "wouldn't have been possible if not for the generosity and commitment of Greg Hatcher."

A crowd of approximately 200 students, faculty, staff and other supporters gathered for the dedication, reception and open house.



Photos courtesy of Curt Youngblood, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Tri-Lakes Edition

Introducing Coach Ward to the crowd, Ouachita President Rex Horne said, "The thing that we're so excited about is that he is the first coach of the first collegiate wrestling program in the state of Arkansas. We have a fine man to lead us in this way and fine athletes who have come to wrestle under his guidance."

"The type of support we have been getting since we started the program at this school has

really been encouraging," Ward responded. "I feel very lucky to be able to use this facility and hope we can build a program that can make all of us proud here. I think it really goes back to Greg Hatcher and his vision for growing wrestling in the state of Arkansas and his commitment to see that vision through."

Acknowledging the 26 wrestlers lined up behind him, Ward said, "We've been able to give opportunities to these guys from all the way across the United States to come to Ouachita to receive an education and compete at the college level. ... This building really contains everything we need to build the type of program that will make us and the whole Ouachita community proud. We're looking to build a team that's really going to compete for regional and national titles here at this school."

Describing Hatcher as a difference maker who is a devoted husband, father, coach and mentor, President Horne presented him with a plaque that reads: "In grateful appreciation to Greg Hatcher for visionary and generous support of the Ouachita Baptist University Tiger Wrestling Program and Hatcher Wrestling Complex."

Noting that the wrestling complex previously served as the university's facilities management building prior to extensive renovation and remodeling, Hatcher said, "Speaking of vision, you guys saw this thing before, right? ... It gives me chills looking at what it's like today."

Addressing the wrestlers, Hatcher added, "When you get through at Ouachita, make sure you always give back and do something for your college, for your communities. ... I'm very proud of Ouachita. This is a business of changing people's lives."

# OBU Athletic Hall of Fame inducts six new members

The newest members of the Ouachita Athletic Hall of Fame were inducted during a Sept. 10 luncheon emceed by Tiger football announcer Rex Nelson. They also were recognized that evening at halftime of Ouachita's football victory over East Central Oklahoma.

Inductees include Bubba Cope and John Furqueron as well as four honorees who were inducted posthumously: Jim Herrington, Myrna DeBerry Lorick, Dr. Jake Shambarger and Mac Sisson.

**Bubba Cope**, a four-year letterman in baseball, played on four consecutive AIC championship teams from 1969 to 1972. Cope was named twice to the All-AIC Team and also was named an NAIA All-America player.

**John Furqueron** was an outstanding three-sport athlete from 1942 to 1947, excelling in basketball, baseball and track. Furqueron was a four-time All-State guard in basketball, and led the Tigers to four Arkansas AAU championships. After a two-year stint in the U.S. Marines, he returned to Ouachita and was an All-State shortstop in 1947 and 1948.

**Jim Herrington**, a U.S. Navy veteran, started every game for the Tiger football team from 1946 through 1948, playing on both the offensive and defensive lines. His play earned him All-Conference honors and a professional contract offer from the Detroit Lions.

**Myrna DeBerry Lorick** was one of the most honored female athletes in Ouachita's history from 1969 to 1973. She scored more than 2,000 points in her four years at Ouachita, earning All-America basketball honors each of those years. She was selected to play for the U.S. in the Pan Am Games, and also served as a player representative for the U.S. Olympic Committee from 1970 to 1973.

**Dr. Jake Shambarger** served 30 years at Ouachita. His baseball teams won or shared six consecutive AIC championships from 1967 to 1972 as well as three NAIA District 17 championships. He also served as assistant basketball coach during those years. Following his coaching years, he continued to serve as a professor of education at Ouachita.

**Mac Sisson**, a 1969 OBU graduate, served Ouachita Athletics for almost three decades. Sisson's role as assistant director of public relations included serving as sports information director. His countless hours spent reporting about Ouachita athletic events provided widespread publicity for OBU's athletic teams.



## Knight and Cooper honored as Tigers win inaugural GAC title

After capping their fourth consecutive winning season and being crowned the inaugural Great American Conference champions, the Ouachita Tiger football team earned 13 All-GAC selections as well as Coach of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Head Coach Todd Knight was named GAC Coach of the Year after leading the Tigers to a 7-3 season record and a 6-1 conference record. The GAC title marks the Tigers' first football conference championship since winning the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference in 1982.

Junior quarterback Casey Cooper earned the GAC Offensive Player of the Year award after finishing second in the conference and 15th in the nation in rushing yards.

The Tigers earned four All-GAC First Team selections, including Cooper, senior linebacker Terrence Garrett, senior offensive lineman Roy Richard and senior defensive tackle Taurus Williams. Garrett also earned a Defensive Player of the Week award this season.

The Tigers received six All-GAC Second Team selections, including senior offensive linemen Cory Godbolt and Kyle Smith, senior tight end Phillip Supernaw, senior cornerback A.J. Williams, junior wide receiver Brett Reece and junior center Hunter Soper.

The Tigers also received three Honorable Mention selections, including junior linebacker Augustine Ume-Ezeoke, sophomore punter Clark Gaddis and sophomore running back Chris Rycraw.

In other sports, the Lady Tigers qualified for the GAC conference soccer tournament and beat Southwestern Oklahoma State University

1-0 in the first round. The Lady Tigers lost in the championship game to East Central University.

Six Lady Tiger soccer players earned All-GAC honors and senior goalkeeper Whitley Hoppe also was named Goalkeeper of the Year.

In addition to Hoppe, All-GAC First Team members include senior forward Beth Wendl who led the Lady Tigers in scoring, junior midfielder Lauren Hatch and junior defender Carrie Lieblong. Earning All-GAC Second Team honors were senior midfielder Miranda Lytle and junior defender Mary Whisenhunt.

In men's soccer, two players earned All-Gulf South Conference honors. Junior Payam Pourjavad was named to the All-GSC First Team and junior Rizvan Ceka was named to the All-GSC Second Team.

In volleyball, two Lady Tigers were named to All-GAC teams. Junior Allison Frizzell was named to the All-GAC First Team and senior Libby Harrington was named to the All-GAC Second Team.

In cross country, sophomore Johanna Casey was named to the All-GAC Second Team. Casey helped lead the Lady Tigers to victory in Ouachita's Bob Gravett Invitational as well as the Harry Denson Memorial in Monticello.

The OBU men's tennis team was named an Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team. The Tigers are one of only 13 Division II teams to receive the honor. The ITA All-Academic Team award is open to any ITA program with a cumulative team grade point average of 3.20 or higher. Senior Till Heilshorn and freshman Helge Knuth also received individual awards as ITA Scholar Athletes.



photo by Nicole McPhate

## Tiger Serve Day attracts 1,000-plus volunteers

Ouachita's semi-annual Tiger Serve Day, one of the largest community service projects in the state of Arkansas, set a record with more than 1,000 volunteers serving throughout Arkadelphia on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The community service blitz, now in its 15th year, attracted 1,003 Ouachita students, faculty and staff members who completed almost 100 service projects ranging from yard work to painting to minor home repairs for senior adults and other residents throughout the area.

The student-led event is sponsored each semester by Ouachita's Ben M. Elrod Center for Family & Community. Since Tiger Serve Day's debut in 1997 in response to a devastating tornado that hit Arkadelphia, volunteers have logged more than 49,000 hours of community service.

This fall's record turnout was especially significant as part of the university's 125th anniversary celebration. Tiger Serve Day also was honored this year as one of Arkadelphia's Volunteer Organizations of the Year.

## OBU ranked nationally by U.S. News, Forbes

After four years as the No. 1 Regional College in the South, Ouachita Baptist University has moved up to a national ranking in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual assessment of "America's Best Colleges."

"I am so pleased to see that we are one of only six schools to move to the national category and still be ranked in the top tier," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "After leading our region for years, we are now being recognized nationally. I expect as we become even better known across the nation that our ranking in the top tier will rise."

Ouachita also is ranked nationally among "America's Top Colleges" by *Forbes* magazine for the third year in a row. According to *Forbes*, the annual ranking of the nation's top undergraduate schools "focuses on the things that matter the most to students: quality of teaching, great career prospects, graduation rates and low levels of debt."

Ranked by *U.S. News* in the top tier among the Best National Liberal Arts Colleges, Ouachita also was recognized as an "A+ School for B Students" and for being among colleges and universities with the least student debt.

Ouachita is "known as a strong academic institution in varied disciplines and academic programs," President Horne said. "I want to thank our committed faculty, staff and students for their roles in Ouachita earning this recognition."

## Ouachita Voices chronicles OBU milestones

As Ouachita Baptist University celebrates its 125th anniversary, Ouachitians around the globe can enjoy *Ouachita Voices: Celebrating 125 Years of Academic & Christian Excellence*, a new commemorative history book highlighting the many memories and traditions that make Ouachita what it is today.

"In honor of Ouachita's 125th anniversary, we wanted to publish a commemorative book that offers a fresh perspective of Ouachita's rich legacy and bright future," said *Ouachita Voices* Editor Trennis Henderson, OBU vice president for communications. "The book is designed to be an approachable, engaging account of Ouachita's history with lots of photographs and personal anecdotes."

The 132-page coffee table book debuted during Ouachita's 125th anniversary Founders Day Convocation, with President Rex Horne presenting the first copies of the book to descendants of Dr. John W. Conger, Ouachita's founding president.

The book features more than 20 first-person essays by faculty members, trustees and students, both past and present, including former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee; Terry Jones, one of the founding members of Point of Grace; and Cliff Harris, a member of the Dallas Cowboys Ring of Honor.

*Ouachita Voices* can be purchased in the campus bookstore or online at [www.obu.edu/125/OuachitaVoices](http://www.obu.edu/125/OuachitaVoices).



photo by Kristen Barnard

## Schoolhouse Rock comes to life in Verser

The Ouachita Theatre Arts Department presented the children's show *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.* at Verser Theatre as part of the 2011-2012 season.

The stage version of the Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning cartoon series follows a young teacher named Tom who nervously anticipates his first day in the classroom. When he turns on his TV for a few minutes, he is swept away by a flood of his own *Schoolhouse Rock* memories. Tom says, "In all my years of serious training to be a teacher, they forgot one important thing ... that learning should be fun!"

"I'm thrilled that we have the opportunity to bring the fun-filled, exciting and educational experience of *Schoolhouse Rock* to a new generation," said OBU Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Mary Handiboe, who directed the production. Mary Worthen, assistant professor emerita of music, partnered with Handiboe to serve as music director for *Schoolhouse Rock*.

The cast of *Schoolhouse Rock, Live! Jr.* included C.J. Bernard, a sophomore theatre major from Sherwood, Ark., as Tom; Ben Perry, a sophomore musical theatre major from North Little Rock, Ark., as George; Gemma Guiomard, a sophomore musical theatre and studio art double major from DeSoto, Texas, as Shulie; Shay Michael, a senior musical theatre major from Grapevine, Texas, as Jo; Amanda Murray, a junior musical theatre major from Racine, Wis., as Dina; and Heather White, a junior musical theatre major from Houston, Texas, as Dori.

## DiPippa delivers 2011 Constitution Day lecture

Ouachita hosted John DiPippa, dean of the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, in a Constitution Day lecture Sept. 15.

DiPippa, who joined the UALR faculty in 1983, has written extensively on the topics of legal ethics and constitutional law. He currently teaches Constitutional Law and Public Service Law and also teaches The Legal and

Ethical Dimension of Public Service at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.

"Dr. Rex Horne often speaks of people who are 'difference makers' and he encourages our students to aspire to become difference makers," said Bryan McKinney, dean of OBU's Hickingbotham School of Business. "As part of this 125th anniversary celebration, the university is seeking to invite 125 difference makers to campus throughout the course of the academic year. As a leading voice in legal education and a leading constitutional law scholar, Dean DiPippa is one of those difference makers."

## OBU Christmas ornament features the Tiger

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Ouachita Baptist University—at least in the campus bookstore.

As part of Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration, the university's anniversary steering committee recently unveiled a limited edition anniversary Christmas ornament. The custom-designed ornament, which features the Ouachita Tiger statue and the 125th anniversary logo, is available in the OBU Bookstore and at campus events throughout the fall semester.

"The 125th Steering Committee decided to take a Ouachita icon, the Tiger, and blend it with our distinctive 125th logo to form a Christmas ornament that would be meaningful to Ouachita graduates and friends," explained steering committee chairman Ian Cosh. He said the ornament is designed "to commemorate for years to come this important milestone in our institutional history."

"The Tiger and 125th logo represent both the experiential and the educational realities of Ouachita," added Cosh, OBU's vice president for community and international engagement. "Our graduates often talk about the value of the Ouachita experience as well as the value of the educational experience, so our hope is that the ornament will remind us of those two important aspects of Ouachita."



# class notes

connecting the circle

## —1950s—

**Jo Ann (Hightower '51\*) Knight** and her husband, Don, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 4. They live in Little Rock, and have two daughters, Jan Eager and Jill Gray, and three grandchildren.

**Jesse Kidd ('52)** was featured in the *San Angelo Standard Times*, recounting his memories of World War II and his service as a missionary in Brazil. He and his wife, Wilma, currently reside in San Angelo, Texas.

## —1960s—

**Jim and Beverly (Worrell) McDaniel ('61)** celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug. 5. He is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Brinkley, Ark. They have three children, Joel McDaniel, Dina McDaniel and Michael McDaniel, and four grandchildren.

**Linda (Digby '61) McFarland** and her husband, William, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug. 25. She teaches college writing. They have four children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**2nd Lt. David Basham ('64)**, a 15-year veteran of the U.S. Army, is now a private investigator and teaches basic private investigator courses for the state of Georgia. He and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Mableton, Ga. They have four daughters and 10 grandchildren.

**Dr. David Blase ('64)** has retired as pastor of First Baptist Church of Nashville, Ark., after 25 years of ministry. He and his wife, Anna, celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on Aug. 11. They have two sons, **John Blase ('89)** and Shawn Blase.

**Hoyt Bunn ('64\*)** and his wife, Lee, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug. 20. They both retired from teaching five years ago and now reside in Benton, Ark. They have two children, Charley Bunn and Susan Kennedy, and five granddaughters.

**Ellajane (Inman '65) Sutley** and her husband, Dr. Cecil Sutley, retired OBU professor of religion, have retired as volunteers to the Senior Adult Center. They have delivered meals there for almost 20 years. They have five children, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Beverly (Leonard '68) Baker** was honored recently at the dedication of the Davis-Baker Preschool at Henderson State University in recognition of her longtime service.

**Cherie (Ellis '69) Cone** co-owns the business Carter & Cone Type Inc., which produces fonts and type designs. She and her business partner attended a luncheon and award ceremony at the White House hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama in September.

**David Lau ('69)**, who retired from teaching in the public school system in 2005, is now an adjunct math professor at Northlake College. He also volunteers teaching an exercise class for senior adults.

**Judith Roberson ('69)** has retired from Mena Public Schools after 39 years of service. She serves on the Mena School Board and the Mena Regional Health Systems Board of Directors and travels in her free time.

## —1970s—

**Martha (Perry '72) Morgan** and her husband, Quinn, recently retired from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board after serving for 37 years in Zimbabwe. They now reside in Parsonsburg, Md. They have three sons, **Andrew ('01)**, **Paul ('03)** and **James ('05)**.

**Dr. Ross Brummett ('77)** was appointed vice president of student affairs at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. He has served there 24 years as a faculty member.

## —1980s—

**Sue (Powers '80) Shults** was honored as a 2011 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals during an Oct. 21 awards banquet in Washington, D.C. She has served as principal of Benton Middle School since 1999. She and her husband, **Jim ('78)** have two children, **Joy (Shults) Ligon ('08)** and Jarrod Shults.

**Ron Burnett ('82)** was featured in the Public & Safety Q&A of the *Arkadelphia Daily Siftings Herald* for his involvement in public safety since high school. He is currently an EMT at Baptist Health Medical Center in Arkadelphia. He and his wife, Dana, have four children and one grandchild.

**Paulette (Burriss '82) Hill** has been named executive director of Serenity Inc., where she will lead the organization's operations.

**Trey Berry ('84)** has been named dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts at Southern Arkansas University.

**Kelly Shipp ('88)** of Conway, Ark., recently won a photo contest for "Project Imagin8ion" by Hollywood film director Ron Howard. Shipp's entry, "Where One Day Ends, One Day Begins," was one of eight winning photographs selected from more than 96,000 entries.

# 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](http://www.obualumni.org) or by contacting Lauren Land at [landl@obu.edu](mailto:landl@obu.edu) or (870) 245-5111.

**Andy Allison ('89)** has been named director of the Division of Medical Services for the Arkansas Department of Human Services. He will be responsible for overseeing the Arkansas Medicaid program.



**Marla (Reeves '89) Maxson** married Bob Quimby on May 28 at their lakeside home in Heath, Texas. They have four children, Austin (25), Chelsea (22), Audrey (15) and Bailey (12). Marla is a stay-at-home mom.

## —1990s—

**Dr. Beth Maloch ('91)** was honored on Sept. 22 with the Elizabeth Shatto Massey Award for Excellence in Teacher Education at the University of Texas in Austin and was named to the university's Academy of Distinguished Teachers. She has served since 2000 as a faculty member in UT-Austin's College of Education.

**Brian Smith ('91)** is serving as business administrator for Pinelake Church in Brandon, Miss.

**Jon ('94) and Suzanne (Norris '95) Rushing** are living in Southaven, Miss., where he serves as the worship pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, and she is a homemaker and home schools their two sons, Eli (10) and Josiah (6).

**Brian McKethan ('97\*)** recently married Caree McKethan. He currently is a history teacher and football coach at Mabank High School in Texas.

**Aaron Ward ('97)** and his wife, Rachel, have moved to Murfreesboro, Tenn., where he rejoined Murfreesboro Medical Clinic's pediatrics department. He previously worked at Arkadelphia Clinic for Children and Young Adults from 2007 to 2011.



**Megan (Mims '96) Kyle** is a teacher with the Mother's Day Out program at First Baptist Church of West Monroe, La. She and her husband, Chris (former OBU head athletic trainer) have two children, Katie (7) and Allison (2).

**Julie (Packwood '97) Welch** and her husband, Scott, and their two daughters recently moved to the Seattle, Wash., area.

**Jessie (Newton '98)** married Jessie Pippenger on April 7, 2010. She recently accepted a Literacy Interventionist position in Fort Smith, Ark. She has one son, Scott (11).



**Karen Nix ('99)** of Greensboro, N.C., **Dr. Mary Beth (Barton '97) Long (current faculty member)** and **Laura Elkins (former faculty member)** took in a polo lesson while vacationing in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## —2000s—

**Beau Bishop ('00)** has joined the staff of Arkansas Farm Bureau as coordinator of local affairs and rural development.

**Suzanne (Morton '00)** married Isaac Michaels in July 2010. She is serving as music department chair at Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany, where she teaches piano and choir. They both teach and serve missionary kids at Black Forest Academy through Wycliffe USA.

**Joel Schrap ('00)** is the business development manager for Express Employment Professionals in Franklin, Tenn. He also serves as an ambassador for the Cool Springs Chamber of Commerce.



**Amy (Bull '01)** married Dr. David Manning in November 2010 at Fellowship Bible Church in Conway, Ark. They currently reside in Maumelle, Ark.



**Eric ('01) and Rachel (Payne '02) Harrison** and their two children, Addelyn Ryne (3) and Payne Evers (1), recently moved to Grove, Okla., where Eric is working as a physical therapist for Rehab Visions.

**Michael ('01) and Paula-Beth (Rutherford '04\*) Toller** live in Hamlin, Texas, where he is worship/media pastor at First Baptist Church of Hamlin and she is the church pianist. They also serve as missions leaders for the church. They have one daughter, Lucy.

**Craig ('05) and Michelle (Guehler '04) Langford** currently reside in Centerton, Ark., where he is a financial analyst with JB Hunt and she is the student ministry assistant at First Baptist Church of Centerton. They have five children: Kalel (8), Edan (4), Brynlee (2) and twins Karis and Makena (1).

**Rachel (Bridges '05)** married Dr. Brandon Walser on July 9 at Manchester United Methodist Church in Arkadelphia.



photo by Wesley Kluck

This year's Alumni Milestone Award recipients include (L-R): Robert "Bob" Scott ('61), Brent S. Gambill ('01), Shelley Phillips Breen ('91), Kristen Glover ('11), Kevin Crass ('81) and Euodias Goza ('71).

## OBU honors six Alumni Milestone recipients

Ouachita's second annual class of Alumni Milestone Award recipients was honored during this year's Homecoming Week festivities. The individuals, recognized by the Ouachita Alumni team, are selected based on their personal and professional achievements as outstanding Ouachita alumni.

During Homecoming Week, the award winners were honored at a luncheon, participated in a GROW (Getting Ready for Ouachita's World) panel discussion and were recognized during halftime ceremonies of the Homecoming football game.

"We are pleased to recognize six alumni who are the second class of the Ouachita Alumni Milestone Award," said Lauren Land, director of alumni. "These alumni were selected by the Ouachita Alumni team to represent their class during their reunion year."

This year's recipients are Robert Scott, Euodias Goza, Kevin Crass, Shelley Breen, Brent Gambill and Kristen Glover. Their individual accomplishments include:

**Robert "Bob" Scott ('61):** After graduating from Ouachita in 1961 with a Bachelor of Arts in business/economics, Scott was employed by Sherwin Williams Co., in Jackson, Miss., where he led sales and marketing efforts. Pursuing a career in communications and public affairs, he became as assistant to the CEO of the Mississippi Forestry Association in 1966. Three years later, he was named president of the newly formed South Carolina Forestry Association where he served for 42 years. In 2007, he received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian

recognition, in honor of his leadership in forestry and conservation. He also served as president of both the South Carolina and the National Council of Forestry Association Executives.

**Euodias Goza ('71):** Goza is the senior vice president and director of internal audit at Southern Bancorp. In addition to graduating from Ouachita, he attended the Arkansas School of Banking and graduated from the University of Wisconsin's Bank Administration Institute of Bank Auditing. He also earned a master's degree from Mercy College in New York. Goza serves on the board of directors for the W.P. Sturgis Foundation, the prestigious KIPP School in northeast Arkansas and the Clark County Industrial Commission. He previously was the board chairman for the Economic Development Corporation of Clark County and will serve as the Ouachita Alumni Advisory Board president in 2012.

**Kevin Crass ('81):** After graduating from Ouachita, Crass earned his law degree at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He joined the Friday, Eldredge and Clark law firm in 1984 and became a partner in 1990. In addition to his commercial litigation practice, Crass served as personal counsel to Gov. Mike Huckabee. He was nominated by President George W. Bush to serve on the President's Advisory Committee for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Crass also was recognized in 2010 as the Outstanding Lawyer-Citizen by the Arkansas Bar Association.

**Shelley Phillips Breen ('91):** After graduating from Ouachita, Breen planned to pursue graduate school at Texas Christian University. Around that

time, "Say So" (later Point of Grace) was formed with three fellow Ouachita students. Today, Point of Grace has earned two Grammy nominations and has sold more than 6.5 million albums and earned 24 consecutive No. 1 singles, a feat unmatched by any other artist in any genre. Point of Grace also has earned 13 prestigious Dove Awards, including three in 2011: Recorded Song of the Year for "There Is Nothing Greater than Grace," Country Album of the Year for "No Chargin' Us" and Christmas Album of the Year for "Home for the Holidays."

**Brent S. Gambill ('01):** Gambill received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law. After law school, he went to work for the Los Angeles Dodgers. In 2005, he relocated to Washington, D.C., to work with XM Satellite Radio and Major League Baseball. He currently serves as the executive producer for MLB and Sports Social Networking for SiriusXM Radio, providing extensive coverage for most Major League Baseball events.

**Kristen Glover ('11):** Glover was crowned Miss Arkansas 2011 with a platform titled "Second Chances: Empowering Youth to Rise Above," which focuses on the importance of mentoring. Glover, a 2011 *magna cum laude* graduate with a major in chemistry, also is the reigning Miss Ouachita Baptist University. Named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, Glover also was involved in leadership positions in Tri Chi and Ouachita Student Foundation. After competing in the Miss America pageant in January 2012 and completing her reign as Miss Arkansas, she plans to attend pharmacy school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



**Laura (Hafer '03)** married Nicholas Falzon at the New Amsterdam Theatre in New York City on Sept. 19. She is a sales account representative for the Shubert Organization and they reside in Hoboken, N.J.



**Leslie (Blake '04)** married John David Windham, Jr. on April 2 at Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs, Ark. They live in Waco, Texas, where she serves as a disability advisor with the Office of Access and Learning Accommodation at Baylor University.

**Eric Segovis ('06)** married **Krysteena (Koiner '10)** in May 2010 in Fort Worth, Texas. They live in Birmingham, Ala., where he is the training coordinator for Books-A-Million and she is working as a nanny.

**Angela Bloodworth ('08)** has relocated to Atlanta, Ga., where she is serving as an actor/educator at Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Program. She helps script and act out health and safety information for schools, community groups, churches and homeless shelters through educational theatre.

**Ashly (Buelow '08)** married Tyler Cummings on Aug. 27 at First Baptist Church of Hope, Ark. They currently reside in Benton, Ark.

**Daniel Byrd ('08)** has been named head athletic trainer at Sterlington High School in Monroe, La. He oversees the treatment of athletes in all sports and teaches a sports medicine class.

**Austin ('08) and Ashton (Berry) Samuelson ('08)** opened their restaurant "Pitza 42" on Sept. 20 in Conway, Ark. The restaurant donates proceeds to Feeding My Starving Children with every meal served.



A group of Ouachitonians gathered for an informal reunion during a World Changers mission project in St. Louis this summer. Left to right: **Andrew ('09) and Rachel (Oswell '09) Riddle**, who brought a youth group from Idabel, Okla., visited with **Devan Malone ('13)**, a World Changers summer staff member, and **Ron Robinson ('78)**, the worship speaker for the week.

## -2010s-

**Sky Howard ('10)** and his wife **Sarah (Partida '11)** are living in Houston, Texas, where he is the worship leader for Jersey Village Baptist Church and she is the operations administrator at Barhorst Insurance Agency.

**Austin Walker ('10)** married **Emma (Smith '10)** on July 2 at the Terry House in downtown Little Rock. They now reside in Cabot, Ark.



**David "D.J." Jacks, Jr. ('11)** married **Leslyn (Ichter '11)** on Aug. 6, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. They now reside in Monticello, Ark.



**Devin Waters ('10)** married **Leanne (Cushman '11)** on July 2 in Fayetteville, Ark. They are currently living in Plano, Texas, where they both serve at Prestonwood Baptist Church. Leanne is administrative assistant to the student discipleship minister and minister of junior high students, and Devin is working in the administration department in membership services as the data entry team leader.

## -Current Students-

**Benjamin ('12) and Libby (Merritt) Harrington ('12)** were married on Aug. 6 at Fellowship Bible Church in Conway, Ark.

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## Faculty & Staff Update

More than 30 faculty and staff members were recognized for service milestones during this year's Faculty/Staff Banquet. Individuals honored include:

**40 years:** Dr. Ray Granade, Director of Library Services and Professor of History; Dr. Joe Jeffers, Dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences and Professor of Chemistry; Tona Wright, Professor of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies.

**35 years:** Dr. Hal Bass, Professor of Political Science; Russell Hodges, Associate Professor of Music and Music Librarian.

**30 Years:** Jim Dann, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies; Jim Rothwell, Assistant Dean of the Hickingbotham School of Business and Assistant Professor of Accounting.

**25 Years:** Dr. Randall Wight, Dean of the Sutton School of Social Sciences and Professor of Psychology and Biology.

**20 Years:** Harrell Beckwith, Chemistry Stockroom Clerk; Dr. Terry Carter, Associate Dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies and W. O. Vaught Professor of Christian Ministries; Teresa Jones, TRIO Administrative Assistant; Carol Morgan, Associate Professor of Communication Disorders; Dr. Jeff Root, Dean of the School of Humanities and Professor of Communications; Dr. Irene Trofimova, Professor of Modern Languages.

**15 Years:** Darin Buscher, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; Jacque Cash, Post Office Clerk; Stacy Freeman, Associate Professor of Dietetics; Dr. Patrick Houlihan, Professor of Music; Eugene Pate, Facilities Management; Anping Wu, Associate Professor and Catalog Librarian.

**10 Years:** Sandy Atkins, Administrative Assistant to Vice President for Student Services; Chris Babb, Development Officer and External Alumni Director; Dr. Lei Cai, Associate Professor of Music; Karen Clark, Facilities Management; Dr. John Cox, Associate Professor of Marketing and Holder of the Harvey Jones Chair of Marketing; Daren Crow, Facilities Management; Del Hancock, Facilities Management; Dr. Tim Hayes, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Holder of the E.A. Provine Chair of Chemistry; Dr. Rob Hewell, Associate Professor of Music and Director of the Worship Studies Program; Julia Jones, Instructor of Modern Foreign Languages; Dr. Marvin Pate, Elma Cobb Professor of Christian Theology; Dr. Barbara Pemberton, Associate Professor of Christian Missions; Marsha Whalen, Secretary of Academic Affairs.

## future *tigers* —1990s—

**Jana (Taylor '90) Becker** and her husband, Scott, welcomed son John Callan on June 23. He joins brothers Ellam (4) and Dalton (2). Jana works part time as a client manager for the Nielsen Company. They reside in McKinney, Texas.

**Kyle and Rebekah (Kinney) Hollaway ('93)** welcomed son Isaac Thomas on May 13, 2010. He joins Moriah (17), BJ (15), Andrew (13), Eden (11), Lydia (8), Joshua (6) and Keren (3). Kyle has accepted a position as senior director of shared platform management at Merkle, Inc.

**Brice Hester ('95)** and his wife, Rikki, welcomed daughter Hannah Grace on October 19. She joins big sisters Rachel (4) and Lauren (2).



**GyElla (Swanigan '96) Hinton** and her husband, Jess, welcomed son Caleb Ryan on March 14.

**Courtney (Braziel '96\*) Smith** and her husband, Shayne, welcomed daughter Addi Faith on July 8. She joins big sister Hannah Grace (10). The Smiths recently moved from Wisconsin to Castle Rock, Colo., after Courtney was named director of gifts and records for the University of Denver.

**Jamie ('97) and Tammy (Billings '99) Alexander** welcomed their son Ryne Maddux on April 14. He joins big brother Nathan (5). They currently reside in Arkadelphia.

**Jason ('97) and Abby (Hughes '97) Holsclaw** welcomed their son Whitman Adler on August 8.

**Allison (Coates '98) Davis** and her husband, Chris, welcomed son Collins Biggs on May 25, 2010. He joins sister Ella Marie (7) and brothers Cole (4) and Connor (3).

**Luke ('99) and Courtney (Ray '02) Brewer** welcomed their daughter Avery Claire on June 30. Luke graduated with his MFA in animation from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in August 2011. Courtney works at SCAD as an admissions counselor.

**Terry (Williams '99) Lewallen** and her husband, Kyle, welcomed twins Tesa and Tyce on July 15. They join big brothers Kade (4) and Ryne (2). They reside in DuPont, Wash., where Terry is a stay-at-home mom.



**Sarah (Clements '99) Smith** and her husband, Brian, welcomed daughter Whitley Irene on July 7. She joins big brother Owen (2).

## —2000s—

**Rachel (Deckelman '01) McCormack** and her husband, Brad, welcomed son Jack Charles on July 28.

**Bridget (Stroope '01)** and her husband, Paul Schmidt Jr., welcomed daughter Presley Addison on Nov. 8, 2010.



**Laura (Norris '02) Haywood** and her husband, Brent, welcomed son Jackson Landon on June 27.

**Brad ('03) and Jennilee (Hayes '06\*) Rogers** welcomed daughter Millicent Hayes on Dec. 9, 2010.





**Adam ('03) and Taylor (Neill '04) Barker** welcomed daughter Riley Tate on June 24. She joins big brother Brayden Matthew (2). Adam is a department operations manager for Capital One Auto Finance and Taylor is a stay-at-home mom.

**Sharla (Tanton '04) Campbell** and her husband, John, welcomed son Andrew Odell on Feb. 19.

**Julie (Bradley '04) Shepherd** and her husband, Lee, welcomed daughter Anastasia Gail on April 5. They have moved back to Istanbul, Turkey, to serve another term of ministry.



**Danielle (Buck '03) White** and her husband, Ben, welcomed daughters Adeline Renee and Tenna Kelsey on March 29.

**Nathan and Avery (Ampan) Shelburne ('04)** welcomed son Logan Andrew on Aug. 22.

**Scott and Katie (Holmes) Haynes ('06)** welcomed daughter Suzanne Marie on Oct. 11. In July, Scott accepted the position of director of residence life at Ouachita and hall director of Flippen-Perrin Hall.

**Joshua Mills ('09)** and his wife, Amanda, welcomed daughter Ava Sue on June 16.



**Greg Henderson ('05)** and his wife, Brandie, welcomed daughter Ava Grace on May 19.

## —Faculty & Staff—

**Steven Thomason** and his wife, D.J., welcomed son Gabriel Edward on Sept. 26.

## Pillay highlights higher education in OBU's Birkett Williams Lecture

By Lacey Brooks

Ouachita Baptist University hosted internationally respected scholar Dr. Gerald Pillay on Nov. 15 as part of the university's Birkett Williams Lecture Series. Pillay's lecture addressed the status of and challenges facing global higher education, emphasizing that "Christian foundations influence universities all around the world."



Pillay serves as vice chancellor and rector of Liverpool Hope University in the United Kingdom, a university with which Ouachita has recently entered into an international education partnership. Pillay is respected throughout the world for his scholarly work, having served on the faculty of institutions in South Africa, New Zealand and the U.S. He earned his Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from the University of Durban in South Africa as well as his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Rhodes University in South Africa.

Pillay explained that from the start, the

world's first universities were faith-based. Today, this principle still rings true for many universities. Institutions such as Liverpool Hope and Ouachita need to join together with one common goal, he said, to make a difference and seek truth throughout the world.

"It is a great opportunity to bring an English university alongside an American university and to create pathways between both our intuitions," Pillay said. "In some ways, it's easy because we have a common mission and vision about the world. We can do much more together."

Although Pillay acknowledged he is unsure about what the future holds, he said is confident about Ouachita's and Liverpool Hope's purpose in the world. "As a church foundation, we bring a great vision about the world. We want to make a difference to our world," he said. "Every one of our staff members and students must have that in mind. We must have the judgment to know what knowledge is and what information is not. Our world needs wise people, not just clever people."

It is important to remember, Pillay added, that "good universities allow freedom of thought, to think and question. We not only seek truth, but we're seeking beauty and goodness, as well. For

the Christian university, these three things are non-negotiable."

Pillay was hosted as part of Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration. In addition to delivering a Birkett Williams lecture, he spoke during Ouachita's Tuesday morning chapel service.

Ian Cosh, Ouachita's vice president for community and international engagement and chair of the 125th anniversary steering committee, affirmed the opportunity "to have an educator with Professor Pillay's extensive international experience on our campus to share his insights with every member of the campus community."

Ouachita's Birkett Williams Lecture Series was established in 1977 through a gift from the late Birkett L. Williams, a 1910 Ouachita graduate. His generous endowment established the lectures as an opportunity to extend the concepts of a liberal arts education beyond the classroom by bringing outstanding scholars and public figures to Ouachita's campus.



Lacey Brooks is a junior mass communications major from Benton, Ark.



photo by Heather Ellis

Ouachita won this year's Battle of the Ravine Blood Drive against Henderson State University. The annual blood drive is sponsored by the American Red Cross. Ouachita students, faculty and staff donated a total of 166 units during the third annual competition. Red Cross representative Randy Stribling presented the 2011 blood drive trophy to Ouachita during chapel on Nov. 8.

## in memoriam

### —1930s—

**Vivian (Lavasgue '37) Oglesby** died on April 25. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hardie.

### —1940s—

**Dr. James Adkins ('40)** of Augusta, Ga., died on Oct. 29. He is survived by his wife, Bess Adkins; sons James Adkins, Jr., Thomas Adkins and George Adkins; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Paula (Park '43) Stout** of Southaven, Miss., died on Oct. 3. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, **Lynn Stout ('43)**, four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**John Henry Ponders, Jr. ('46)** of Little Rock died on Sept. 7. He is survived by his children, Michael Ponders, Robin Miller and Joanie Skinner, and five granddaughters.

**Dr. Vestal Smith Sr. ('46)**, of Marked Tree, Ark., died on Sept. 4. He is survived by his wife, Mary Smith; children James Smith, Michael Smith, Stephen Smith and Vestal Smith Jr.; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Elizabeth "Betty" (Poindexter '47) Smithers** of Benton, Ark., died on Aug. 29. She is survived by her children Charles Smithers and Katherine Dortch, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Chaplain (Col.) Dallas Roscoe ('48)** of Hixon, Tenn., died on April 12, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Ruth Ellen (Quinn '48) Roscoe**.

**Thomas Lee Ashcraft ('49)**, a former member of the Ouachita Board of Trustees, died on Nov. 1. He is survived by his wife, Bea Ashcraft, children **Ginger (Ashcraft '73) Terry**, **Cynthia Ashcraft ('80)** and **Richard Ashcraft ('80)**; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

### —1950s—

**Rev. Horace "H.B." Marks ('50)** of Merced, Calif., died on Jan. 18.

**Dexter Blevins ('51)** of Norman, Ark., died on Aug. 2. He is survived by his sons Paul, Bill and Dean Blevins and six grandchildren.

**Laura (Turner '51) Maurer** of Arkadelphia died on Aug. 14. She is survived by her husband, John Maurer; four children, John Maurer, Karen Dillard, Sharen Maurer and Edward Maurer; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Jack Bledsoe ('52)** of Fordyce, Ark., died on Aug. 28. He is survived by his wife, Myrta "Ann"; sons Floyd Bledsoe and Robert Bledsoe; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Jim Orr ('52)** of Gadsden, Ala., died on Oct. 11. His wife, **Virginia (Cavness '52) Orr**, died on Oct. 17. They are survived by their children, **Rozanne (Orr '73) Yancey**, **Frank Orr ('78)** and Blake Orr, and six grandchildren.

**Martha (Pearson '56) Johnson** of DeKalb, Texas, died on Aug. 18. She is survived by her husband, Walter Johnson, and daughter, Betsy Langley.

**Bobby Ray Miller ('57)** of Longview, Texas, died on Aug. 16. He is survived by his wife, Deane Miller, and children Gary Miller, Mickey Miller, Terri Miller, Christy Miller, Kelly Hall and Tracy Gallant.

### —1960s—

**John "Eddie" Giles ('63)** of Quitman, Ark., died on Sept. 12. He is survived by his wife, **Susan (Todd '71) Giles**; sons Jason, Robert and Jonathan Giles; and seven grandchildren.

**Claud Ann (Sutton '64) Freeman** of Little Rock died on Aug. 2. She is survived by her husband, **William Freeman ('64)**; daughters **Jennie (Freeman '93) Sexton** and **Sarah Freeman ('99)**; and three grandchildren.

**Mary Ewing ('65\*)** died on Sept. 8. She is survived by three grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

**John Tatom Sr. ('65)** of Fayetteville, Ark., died on June 29. He is survived by his wife, Ann; sons John Tatom, Jr. and Matthew Tatom; and one grandson.

**Margaret (Kilbury '66) Smith** of Little Rock died on Oct. 29. She is survived by her husband, **Allen Smith ('66)**, and children **Richard Smith ('92)**, Katherine Cothorn and Jennifer Haskett; and three grandchildren.

**Nancy (Gennings '69) Parker** of Raleigh, N.C., died on Aug. 3. She is survived by her husband, **William Parker III ('69)**; children William Parker IV, Andrew Parker and Meredith Parker; seven grandchildren; and sister **Helen (Gennings '71) Musgrave**.

## —1970s—

**Mona (Rowe '78) Rowland** of Nashville, Tenn., died on Nov. 19. She is survived by her husband, Bill Rowland, and children Matt and Hannah Grace.

## —1980s—

**DeAnn (Ward '81) Clouse** of Valrico, Fla., died on Oct. 26. She is survived by her husband, Perry Clouse, and daughter Morgan Clouse, two stepchildren and four step-grandchildren.

**Dr. Allen Sandifer ('81)** of Baton Rouge, La., died on Aug. 25. He is survived by his wife, Mary Sandifer, and children Amanda Sandifer and Ryan Sandifer.

**Nancy (Stephenson '83) Plunkett** of Camden, Ark., died on Sept. 29. She is survived by her husband, Judge Charles Plunkett; children John Plunkett, Mark Plunkett and Kathleen Andrews; and two grandchildren.

**Susan Brown ('85)** died on Nov. 1. She is survived by her parents, Johnie and Mary Dell Brown.

## —1990s—

**Zeke Moore ('92)** of Crestwood, Ky., died on Nov. 8. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth (Atkinson '92) Moore**, and children William, Anna and Lindsey.

**Ashley (Crocker '93\*) Elliott** died on Aug. 27. She is survived by her husband, Britt Elliot, and daughter Eden.

**Brandon Dillingham ('94\*)** died on Aug. 25. He is survived by his mother, Dianne Dillingham Noggle.

## —Faculty & Staff—

**Dr. Ralph Williams** of Little Rock, associate professor of biology at Ouachita in the 1960s, died on Aug. 17. He is survived by his wife, Catherine; children Ronald Williams and Joanie King; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

*\* denotes former student*

# Ouachita SIFE team uses national grant to benefit Boys & Girls Club

By Nicci Fillingner

Ouachita's chapter of Students in Free Enterprise was honored with a grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation to remodel the teen area of the Clark County Boys & Girls Club. The team initially received a \$1,200 grant in January and after submitting their Impact Report to SIFE USA and Lowe's Charitable Education Foundation in June, was awarded a second grant of \$2,000 in September.

The SIFE team worked to make the Boys & Girls Club a place where teens are excited about visiting by removing and replacing the carpet, painting and sealing the floor and putting in new furniture.

"We saw that the area of the Boys & Girls Club for middle school and older students was not really an encouraging, inviting atmosphere for that age group of students," said senior SIFE member Britta Stamps. "The Boys & Girls Club is in the old Goza Middle School gym so some areas of the facility are showing signs of age.

"When we heard about the grant, we knew we could make a huge difference in the environment these kids spend every afternoon in," Stamps said. "The director of the Boys & Girls Club wanted to improve the space but since it was the first year the Boys & Girls Club had been open, they did not have the resources to take on the project at that time. They worked with us to design and plan the new space around the needs and preferences of the kids."

The response to the remodeling project has

been overwhelmingly positive. "After we remodeled the space, the kids were eager to go there. Several of the kids said they were so happy to have a quiet place to read in the reading nook we created for them," Stamps said. "It is also teaching the kids responsibility and ownership."

After the remodel, the Boys & Girls Club was filled to capacity for its summer program. The SIFE team continues to go there once a week to teach a class for the teens. In the spring, they taught a "Money Matters" class.

"In our Money Matters class, we addressed important economic factors. The children learned everything from saving for large purchases and gifts to saving for college," explained Chris Chandler, SIFE project leader for the weekly classes. "The older students were taught about credit scores and investments while younger students learned the basics of savings and debts. An entire unit of the course was devoted to teaching entrepreneurship. Essentially, we empowered the children to make informed decisions about how to spend their money."

"Smart Moves," the class they are teaching this semester, seeks to provide the children with positive knowledge, skills and peer support necessary to combat everyday issues such as substance abuse and sexual relations.

SIFE USA has partnerships with several companies that provide grants to SIFE teams for various projects such as the Boys & Girls Club.

The grant OBU SIFE received was from the Lowe's Charitable Education Foundation to be used to improve community areas.

"After receiving the initial grant, teams had to submit an Impact Report about the project and work they did with the grant," Stamps explained. "We worked all during the spring semester and submitted our Impact Report in June."

Because the second award does not have to be used for the Boys & Girls Club project, SIFE is dividing it among all its projects.

"We will use part of the money to buy the prizes for the Boys & Girls Club kids in the weekly class we teach there," Stamps said. "We will also use it for transportation to a women's shelter in central Arkansas as we work with women there and purchase new clothes for them to wear to job interviews. Another large portion of the money will be spent on our new Heart for Honduras project as we develop sponsorship packets for orphanages there."

Chris McGough, director of the Clark County Boys & Girls Club, said he has been very impressed by the SIFE team, noting, "They are amazing. Not only did they donate their time and money, they did all the work and continue to come and volunteer. They are definitely appreciated."



Nicci Fillingner is a senior mass communications and Christian studies/Biblical studies major from Morrilton, Ark.



## Rob Hewell, Director, Worship Studies Program

“Students should be equipped to use their gifts and skills to become advocates for faithful worship among Christians in the places they will serve.” This philosophy guides Dr. Rob Hewell in his work as director of Ouachita’s new Worship Studies Program, a collaborative effort between the School of Fine Arts and the Pruet School of Christian Studies.

Launched this fall, the Worship Studies Program encompasses three majors: Bachelor of Music in Worship Arts, Bachelor of Arts in Worship Ministry and Bachelor of Arts in Church Media/Production Arts. Each major is collaborative and interdisciplinary, which gives students opportunities to engage in dialogue with fellow students also pursuing ministry that incorporates theology and the arts in worship. According to Hewell, “Our graduates need to be prepared for leadership in worship and ministry in a very dynamic, diverse and demanding environment.”

“Ouachita has given me the perfect opportunity to faithfully follow the call of music ministry by having a Worship Arts major available,” said senior Worship Arts major Russell Shaw. “Every day, I look forward to hearing what Dr. Hewell might say in class that could change my view of worship for the better.”

“This program is very unique at the undergraduate level,” Hewell noted. “We have students who want to be pastors, media ministers and minister-musicians in the same classes already working together, collaborating and discussing how worship shapes the church for its collective witness in the world.”

Hewell joined the Ouachita faculty in 2001. He previously served for eight years on the staff of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and for 13 years as a church music and worship minister. “I never set out to teach, but Ouachita made me an offer I would have been a fool to refuse,” he said with a laugh. “When approached with the opportunity to invest my life in students preparing for ministry, I jumped at the chance.”

Hewell holds degrees from Midwestern State University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Cyndy, recently celebrated 35 years of marriage. The Hewells have two daughters, Kaylyn and Karyn, and one grandson, Damian.

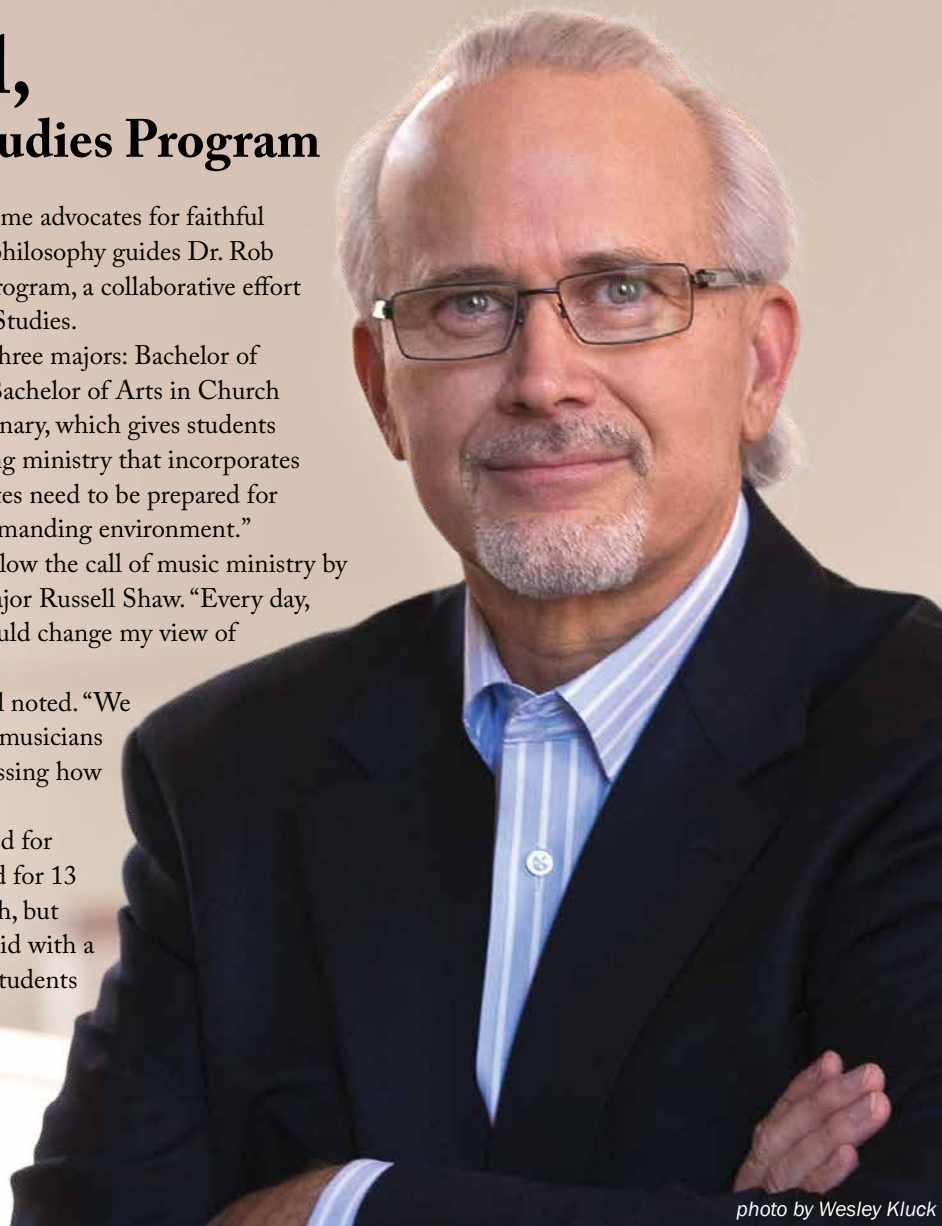


photo by Wesley Kluck

## READY FOR AN ITALIAN ADVENTURE?

Join the President’s Tour of Italy July 15-24, hosted by Dr. Rex & Becky Horne

During the summer of 2012, President and Mrs. Horne will lead a special trip for Ouachitonians and guests through Italy’s most storied cities, including Rome, Siena, Florence, Padua and Venice. For complete itinerary and registration information, visit [www.obualumni.org](http://www.obualumni.org).

# Judy Duvall, Assistant Director, Elrod Center

staff *profile*

Judy Duvall ('82) always knew she was simply called to serve. When asked by a friend 20 years ago about her ideal job, she thought for a moment before responding, "I want to be in a position where I can help people, but I don't know what that looks like." Today, Duvall is the assistant director of Ouachita's Elrod Center for Family & Community and works daily to help students plug into meaningful volunteer opportunities.

One major project on Judy's to-do list each year is the semi-annual Tiger Serve Day community service emphasis. This fall's Tiger Serve Day had record-breaking success with a total of 1,003 volunteers, 97 teams and 99 projects. "It is a day totally centered on meeting the needs of others," she explained. "Most of the people our volunteers will help are senior adults and those with special needs. The volunteers not only meet practical needs but develop relationships with the people they serve, often returning to help throughout the year. That's our goal—that the spirit of service will continue long after the day."

According to Abbey Jamieson, a Tiger Serve Day leadership team member, "Judy Duvall is a joy to work with. She has a lot of experience with Tiger Serve Day and so she knows what she is doing, but more than experience, it is so nice to work with someone who has such a heart for the Lord."

Duvall also leads a number of year-round programs that provide service to the Arkadelphia area. She coordinates the ElderServe program, an outreach to senior adults. She also works with students to provide Thanksgiving baskets to families in need, leads any disaster relief efforts and coordinates the TranServe program that documents student volunteer hours for their transcripts.

Ian Cosh ('87), vice president for community and international engagement, said, "Judy provides attention to the operational details of the Elrod Center that are so critical in providing effective programming for volunteers. She brings to the Elrod Center a passion for students, for her faith and for the elderly."

Judy is married to Scott Duvall ('80), a professor in OBU's Pruet School of Christian Studies. The Duvalls have three children, Ashley Duvall ('09) Wright, Amy and Meagan, a freshman at Ouachita.



photo by Nicole McPhate



photo by Wesley Kluck

**Do you know an outstanding high school senior who plans to attend Ouachita this fall?**

**Nominate a deserving student for a 2012 Tiger Network Leadership Award!**

Thirty-five incoming freshmen will be chosen and all applications must be accompanied by a recommendation from an alumnus or former student. Learn more about the Tiger Network Leadership Award program and download an application at [www.obualumni.org](http://www.obualumni.org). Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 20, 2012.

# Reflections give rise to future aspirations

I have found reflection to be a characteristic of mine. I most often think back over the year in November around Thanksgiving. I suppose it is natural to consider the past months and entertain thoughts on what did or did not happen in the near past. I also reflect in a way that I would describe as spontaneously. So there are times I plan to reflect and other opportunities that present themselves.

When one serves a beloved institution that has impacted lives and this world for 125 years, one must have moments of grateful reflection. It is significant that the reflections of three of our finest, Ray Granade, Joe Jeffers and Tona Wright, combine for more than 120 years of service. I reflect with gratitude upon their call to Ouachita, their consistent service and their choice to invest their lives here.

Wherever one goes close to campus, whether classroom buildings, offices, chapel, churches, sites of recitals, plays, operas, athletic contests, lectures or those favorite solitary places, reflections are a part of the walk. You can almost hear voices of the past if you listen carefully. A frequent happening is for some reminiscence to be offered accompanied by a smile or laugh. This is most common in the Ouachita community.

During our fall convocation, members of Dr. Conger's family were among our special guests. This first president and Mrs. Conger are buried on our campus. One of my frequent thoughts was to have something done to their gravesite that would be more becoming to our founders. I am pleased we accomplished that project during this milestone year. There are times I wonder what the good man would think of the university to which he was instrumental in giving life.

In the spirit of our anniversary celebration, it is not too soon to reflect upon the good days with Gov. Mike Beebe, former governor and Ouachita alumnus Mike

Huckabee and visits by Professor Gerald Pillay of Liverpool Hope University and our Festival of Christmas concert with Point of Grace. These are representative of dozens of large and small events throughout our anniversary year.

Reflections give rise to future aspirations. Our Ouachita stands strong, optimistic and engaged today. Our people do great work. Our students are gifted, relational and hold great potential. Our deans and professors are

*“Our Ouachita stands strong, optimistic and engaged today. Our people do great work.”*

thoughtful, considerate, professional and a treasure to Ouachita whose value cannot be overestimated.

I cannot remember the first time I heard of Ouachita. It was no doubt through my home church where my pastor, former board member Bob Parker, would talk about “our college” and use faculty and students often in our services. Now a long time later, I have the opportunity to lead “our university” at this important time.

Perhaps in the future, we will have time to reflect more fully on the blessing of Ouachita. In the meantime, never forget Ouachita is worthy of your support, prayers and students. As trustee Frank Hickingbotham recently reminded me, “God has loved Ouachita far longer than any of us have.” Indeed He has! We give thanks to God for His love and care before we were born, during our service and long after our time has ended. Now, that is truly worthy of reflection.



*Rex Horne*

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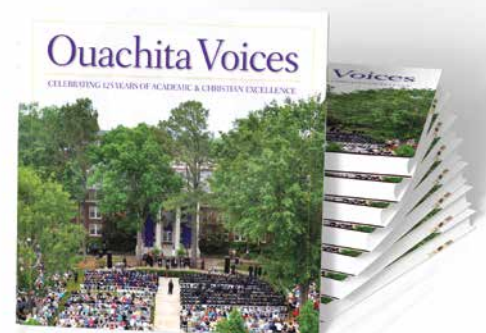
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