

Fall 2012

## Newsletter Fall 2012

Grant Center for International Education  
*Ouachita Baptist University*

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DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER  
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
FALL 2011



From the desk of the Director Ian Cosh

One of the highlights of our 125th anniversary celebrations this fall was a visit by Professor Gerald Pillay, rector and vice chancellor of Liverpool Hope University in the United Kingdom. As the CEO of his university, his presence provided another step forward in the building of a close relationship between an English university and an American university with shared values. As a professing Christian and respected international scholar, Professor Pillay articulated a vision for the pursuit of truth, beauty and goodness in our lives and in our institutions. He challenged us to live lives where the values we embrace and the truth we understand are lived out and manifested in practical ways. He also encouraged us to produce students willing to address the great questions and issues of our day and time.

International education at Ouachita provides practical pathways for faculty, staff and students to explore the world one person and one culture at a time. Open engagement with new friends in far away places allows us to take the abstract notion of living in a global village and transport it into our own lives. Teaching our students to build good relationships with those in other lands at a personal level has strategic value for the persona and our nation. Such relationship building early in life is part of the process of building goodwill and understanding in a world where ill will and misunderstanding is the unattractive alternative. Our hope is that as an institution of learners we will seek truth, appreciate beauty and model goodness in our relationships near and far.



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



Dear Friends of the Grant Center

Many of us on the campus have been talking lately about the new opportunities for international study and travel that are available to Ouachita students through the relationship recently developed with Liverpool Hope University in England. This exciting new option has been added to a list of programs Ouachita maintains with universities in thirteen other countries, scattered literally around our world.

As you read more about this important part of our work at Ouachita, please know how much I appreciate your support of the Grant Center and the programs which so richly enhance the educational experiences of our students.



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

DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER  
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
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Pillay highlights higher education in lecture



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 he 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."



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### Missionaries in Residence Snapshot

Trey and Elise Atkins' first overseas missions experience was 1985-1987 in Livingston, Scotland, where they served as evangelism ministers with the International Mission Board (IMB) Journeyman program. After Trey attended SWBTS (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) and pastored in Colorado and Canada for eight and a half years, they went to Sarajevo, Bosnia, with their two sons, Ryan and Bret, for four years in 1999 as IMB career missionaries.

After being on stateside assignment (STAS) in Austin, Texas, for a year, they moved to Zagreb, Croatia, in 2004 as team leaders for the country of Croatia and the Herzegovina. Trey and Elise continued in this role until 2009 when they were asked to serve as cluster strategy leaders for Central Europe. Trey and Elise have served with the IMB for a total of 14 years and returned to the U.S. on July 31, 2011, for STAS and are serving as MIRs at OBU for the 2011-2012 academic school year.



TREY & ELISE ATKINS

The Atkins have been teaching conversational English and American history and culture to five new international students and are involved in activities with the International Club, Elrod Center and Campus Ministries. Trey and Elise are enjoying the opportunity to serve on campus and impact the lives of OBU students.

The Atkins are planning to return to central Europe in the summer of 2012 and will continue in the same capacity as cluster strategy eaders.

### International students travel to Branson

Over fall break this year, The Daniel & Betty Jo Grant Center, the OBU ESL Program and the First United Methodist Church of Arkadelphia helped to sponsor a trip to Branson, Mo. The purpose of the journey was to learn about the northern region of Arkansas and the Ozark culture and to have time to enjoy fellowship and fun together off campus.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, BRANSON FALL BREAK TRIP 2011

Sixteen international students and one American were accompanied by Ian Cosh (Grant Center Director), Sharon Cosh (ESL Program Coordinator and Instructor) and Trey and Elise Atkins (Missionaries-in-Residence/ESL Instructors).

On the way to Branson, the group took a guided tour of The College of the Ozarks. Students had an opportunity to observe other students earning college scholarship through skilled labor on their campus in areas such as agriculture, culinary skills and hotel management.

That evening, the group attended *Noah, the Musical*. This captivating, engaging presentation of the Biblical story of Noah and his family's experience through faith is presented in a three-level in-the-round theater, bringing the ark experience to life for the audience.

The following day was spent in Silver Dollar City, providing hours of entertainment and learning about the Ozark culture and enjoying gravity-defying rides.

Dinner at Lambert's Cafe was another unique cultural experience as students experienced Lambert's famous "throwed" rolls.

After a final day of shopping and dining in Branson, the group returned to OBU late Saturday evening, glad to have had the chance to learn more about this country and to get to know each other better.

### Study abroad participants\*

- Costa Rica: 13
- European Study Tour: 15
- Liverpool, England: 1
- Orleans, France: 1
- Salzburg, Austria: 2

\*Summer 2011 - Fall 2011

David Butler, Lida Lee and Kyle Smith were awarded a Daniel & Betty Jo Grant Study Abroad Award to study at the University of Costa Rica in the summer of 2011. William Peckat received the same award to study at Liverpool Hope in Fall 2011.



Members of the Grant family recently gathered on campus to hear updates and discuss strategy on the strengthening international education at Ouachita.

### SIFE aids Honduran orphanages



JUDITH BRIZUELA

Ouachita's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) organization has begun a partnership with two orphanages in Honduras. The project aims to help offset some of the educational, nutritional and medical costs of the children living there and to help the orphanages to afford to take more children.

"We have always wanted to do an international project of some kind, but we thought it was impossible because of the expense of resources," said Judith Brizuela, a junior psychology major and the project's leader.

Because Honduras is her home country, Brizuela said she is very excited about the project. Last summer, she worked at the orphanage in Casa Hogar Luz.

"As a native of Honduras, I was always aware of the immense need of my people," she said. "However, being able to work with the children really opened my eyes to the reality."

After spending her summer at the orphanage, Brizuela shared her story with some of her fellow SIFE members.

"The people in need now had faces and names," Brizuela said. "Their hardships became so much more real to me. Knowing that I could be a part of change in my own country was truly humbling."



### Recruiting efforts in Brazil & Japan

This past August, Ian Cosh, Bill Viser and René Zimny traveled to Brazil to grow recruiting efforts in that country. They met with advisors and students at nine schools, seven EducationUSA\* offices, one recruiter and one recent OBU graduate, Mariana Divardin ('11).

Additionally, Ray Franklin traveled to Japan this past November to strengthen recruiting efforts there. He was able to travel to two schools and two Baptist conventions and was also able to meet with several IMB members and churches and one EducationUSA office. Franklin also met with Hiroko Nakamura ('07) who offered assistance during some of the appointments.



RAY FRANKLIN & HIROKO NAKAMURA

\*EducationUSA is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State. The ECA promotes mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through personal and professional ties between private citizens in the U.S. and abroad, as well

as by presenting U.S. history, society, art and culture in all of its diversity to overseas audiences. Students in foreign countries use these offices to learn more about opportunities at American universities.

