

Winter 2017

Newsletter Winter 2017

Grant Center for International Education
Ouachita Baptist University

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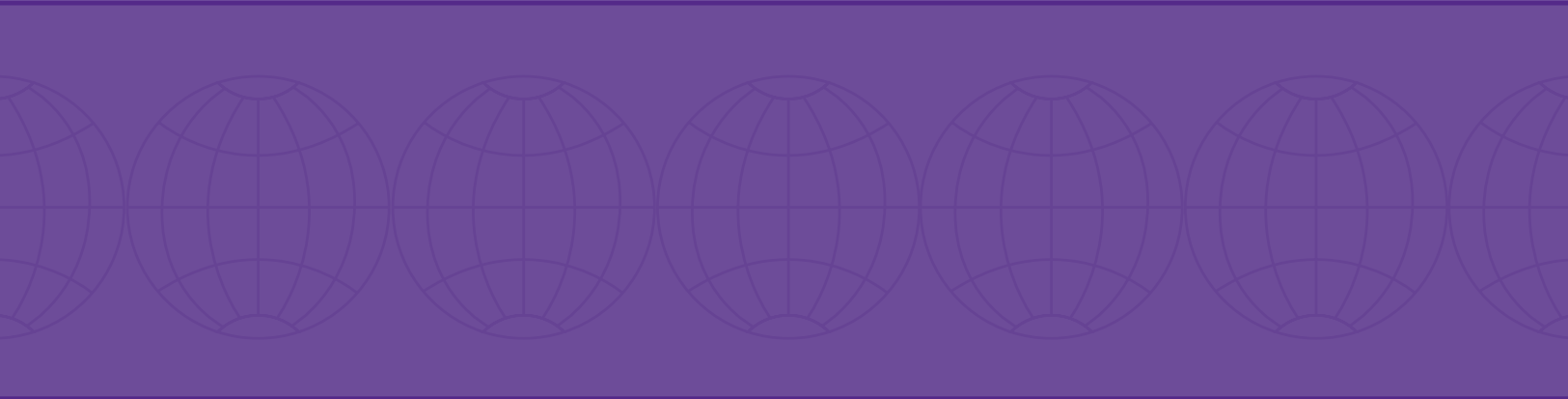
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DANIEL & BETTY JO GRANT CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
WINTER 2017



Dear Friends of the Grant Center,

It's almost Thanksgiving Day as I am writing. First of all, I am thankful for the gift of salvation made possible by God's love and grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. I am thankful for many other gifts. A significant one is Ouachita. I was still in high school when I made a commitment to ministry. My pastor must have suggested that I go to Ouachita; I have no memory of thinking about going anywhere but there. What a blessing: the best possible education with Christian professors, and life on campus with them, staff and students that provided every opportunity to grow spiritually and mentally.

And a big plus, I met a young lady who was committed to following Christ wherever he led, as I was, and she later agreed to be my wife. Evelyn and I still serve together after many years of stateside and international missions/ministry.

I am grateful that our two sons and five grandchildren have benefited from a Christian education and the spiritual life made possible at Ouachita. I am thankful that the best opportunities for spiritual, mental, emotional and physical growth are still found on that campus. I can enthusiastically recommend Ouachita to any student.

And very importantly, what a blessing life on the campus is for missionary kids and international students needing the right place and environment for a good education and adjustment to life in the US! My heart overflows with thanksgiving!



Bill Bullington
President, Friends of the Grant Center



A Note from President Sells

In September, the staff of the Daniel and Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education hosted a reunion for some former missionaries and former international students.

Dr. James Hampton is a 1951 alumnus who had a distinguished career with the International Mission Board, including service in Africa and an administrative leadership role in Virginia with CSI initiatives. Retired and living in Texas, he recently traveled to Arkansas for a Missions Celebration at The Bible Church of Cabot AR.

Also invited to the celebration were Elijah Wanje and other members of his family, whose ministry has developed a missions partnership with the church. The Wanje family was led to Christ through the influence of Dr. Hampton during his service in Kenya. As a result, Elijah and his brother, Steven Hapi Wanje, came to the U.S. to study at Ouachita. (Elijah graduated in 1982. Hapi, who was unable to make this trip, graduated in 1985.)

The Grant Center staff arranged a campus visit and reunion luncheon for the group while they were in Arkansas. They had a great time seeing the campus again and sharing Ouachita memories. President Emeritus Dan Grant and I had an opportunity to visit with these special guests while they were here.

I look forward to hearing other inspiring stories about Ouachita alumni who are making a difference for God's kingdom, literally around our world. Thank you for helping to make this important part of our mission possible.

Ben R. Sells
President of Ouachita Baptist University

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DIRECTOR'S REMARKS



Seeking Understanding!

Many years ago Ouachita's faculty introduced a course entitled "The Contemporary World" to ensure that we graduated informed global citizens. The course offers a toolbox of perspectives designed to allow a student to look at the world through the eyes of various disciplines ranging from world religions to global economic systems. I taught it for 7 years and found it to be one of the CORE courses which was interesting to teach and provided a solid learning experience for students. It helped students to make sense of some of the hotspots in our world.

The Lord's Prayer also reminds us of the importance of our relationship to the whole world through prayer as we are taught to say "thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We cannot escape the fact that we are called to be Kingdom people who understand that all the nations of the world are part of our reality and we are to pay it attention.

The work of the Grant Center is therefore a spiritual as well as an educational undertaking. We provide experiential insights into a world that can be very confusing to the uninformed. That is not to diminish in any way the troubles that abound, but we want our graduates to have an uncommon comfort level with their ability to engage with and influence the lives of others, no matter where they live. Our task is to guide students in their understanding and help them to know and to do God's will in their lives wherever that may lead them.



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



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SAN ANTONIO OR BUST!

Each year, the Grant Center sponsors a Fall Break trip for international students, third culture kids, and American friends. This provides an excellent opportunity for new connections to be made and for relationships to deepen.

This year, San Antonio was the destination. Thirty-five students and five faculty/staff members traveled to this vibrant Texas city for an thoroughly enjoyable, all too short adventure. They had the chance to visit Sea World, the Alamo, and the famous River walk.



FROM ZIMBABWE TO ARKADELPHIA

A sophomore was recently overheard telling a freshman about the origins of the majority of students at Ouachita. "There are a lot of people from Arkansas, Texas, and Zimbabwe."

While there are actually only 9 Zimbabwean students currently on campus, their level of involvement has indeed made them visible and well-loved members of the Ouachita family. According to Education USA, which is associated with the US State Department, Ouachita has one of the highest populations of Zimbabwean students in the country!



Bud & Jane Fray visit with Ian & Sharon Cosh.

Ouachita has historically had ties to Zimbabwe through OBU alumni serving with the IMB. Bud and Jane Fray, followed by Jerry and Barbara Schleiff invested decades of their lives in what was then Rhodesia. The paths of Sharon and Ian Cosh frequently intersected with both families. Two years after the Coshes were married; they immigrated from Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) to South Africa for 4 years before coming to Ouachita as international students in 1984 on Bud Fray's recommendation. The Frays returned to the States in that same summer of '84 to serve as Missionaries in Residence at Ouachita and to this day continue to be dearly loved mentors in Ian and Sharon's lives.

The ties between Zimbabwe and Ouachita have remained strong through the years. Through meaningful connections in churches and active recruiting, Arkadelphia has become "a great place to call home" for many Zimbabwean students, and Ouachita has helped to become their family away from home in very troubled political times. We are proud of the current students for their engagement on our campus.



A recent photo of most of the Zimbabweans in Arkadelphia (including two current Henderson students and a UCA alum currently working in town) taken after a Sunday meal at the Cosh home.

ESL PROGRAM CELEBRATES 23 YEARS!

It's remarkable to note that Ouachita's English as a Second Language program is celebrating its 23rd year!

This fall, we have 9 ESL students from 7 different countries!

Ouachita's ESL program provides non-native English speakers the opportunity to study at Ouachita. Some students come to OBU as exchange students with the goal of improving their English during their time here. Others go through the ESL program on their way to becoming degree seeking students. Twelve hours of ESL credit can be counted toward elective credit for those students who are degree seeking.

We celebrate the many positive ways that the English as a Second Language program has been contributing to the Ouachita family and the community of Arkadelphia for the last 23 years!



NEW ESL ENDORSMENT

An exciting point of collaboration with the Huckabee School of Education is a new endorsement for teaching English as a Second Language.

By participating in four online courses that cover multicultural issues in the classroom, second language acquisition, methods of teaching second language learners, and assessment, students can satisfy requirements for ESL endorsements for teachers in Arkansas and Texas.

These courses can also be used towards a Christian Studies degree with an emphasis in Missions as well as towards an International Studies minor.

We are excited for the many ways that this new endorsement will benefit future generations of Ouachitonians by equipping them well to teach English Language Learners in classrooms here in the States and across the world.



FRIENDS OF THE GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

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



_____ \$50 Joint Membership
_____ \$35 Individual Membership

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Address _____

WHAT DO THE FRIENDS OF THE GRANT CENTER DO AND HOW CAN YOU JOIN?

The Friends of the Grant Center began in 2008 as a way for alumni and other advocates to relate more closely to international education at Ouachita. Each February, the Friends gather for a special meeting before the annual International Food Festival to hear reports from students who have spent time abroad and to discuss business. The Friends of the Grant Center contribute financially to scholarships for international education.

If you are not already a part of this important group, and if international education was an important part of your experience at Ouachita, we invite you to join us! Complete and mail in the form below or join online at www.obu.edu/give by entering "Friends of the Grant Center" as instructions for your gift.

Please make checks to Ouachita Baptist University & mail check and form to: Development Office, OBU Box 3754, Arkadelphia AR 71998-0001

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