

Fall 2012

The Ouachita Circle Fall 2012

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/alumni_mag

Recommended Citation

University, Ouachita Baptist, "The Ouachita Circle Fall 2012" (2012). *Alumni Magazine*. Book 19.
http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/alumni_mag/19

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Ouachita Alumni at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alumni Magazine by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

The background image shows the interior of a building, likely a church or chapel, with a series of tall, arched, multi-paned windows. Sunlight streams through the windows, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. A staircase is visible in the lower right corner. The text is overlaid on the top and bottom of the image.

The ouachita
Circle
FALL 2012

IMPACT

Lile Hall gets new look

Berry Chapel turns 50

Lasting impact is worthy goal

What kind of impact will your life make on future generations?

While watching Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln* recently, I was intrigued by the fact that more than 150 years after President Lincoln's election, viewers are flocking to theaters to watch the latest version of his biography. That's impact.

Another plus as I sat in the theatre was getting to view Ouachita's recent cinema ad on the big screen. The fast-paced 15-second production, which cited Ouachita's stellar grad school acceptance rate, strong athletics program and Christ-centered campus community, was featured before every movie on more than 180 cinema screens in 12 theatres across Arkansas and the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex throughout November. A key focus of the marketing project was to communicate to prospective students and their parents about Ouachita's significant impact as a leading Christian liberal arts university.

Dr. Keldon Henley, vice president for institutional advancement, wrote this issue's "Impact" theme interpretation article (see page 2). Among those who are Ouachita alumni, "it's not difficult to identify faculty and staff members—and often fellow students—who have had a profound impact on our lives," he wrote. "Faculty and staff within the Ouachita community frequently seek to know students personally and are keenly interested in their lives, their struggles and their hopes for the future."

Ouachita's long-term academic and spiritual impact is reflected through the iconic J.E. Berry Chapel which has stood for half a century as a treasured landmark in the heart of campus. It remains an enduring testament to OBU's focus on a love of God and a love of learning (see page 9). The recent renovation of Lile Hall as the new home of the School of Humanities, complete with new computer labs, video production studio and publications newsroom, also reflects Ouachita's commitment to ongoing investment and impact in the lives of current and future students (see page 4).

In the Office of Communications, our staff seeks to produce quality resources—including each issue of *The Ouachita Circle*—that effectively communicate Ouachita's influence and impact. We are pleased that several of those efforts recently were honored by the Arkansas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. The commemorative 125th anniversary *Ouachita Voices* coffee table book received an IABC Bronze Quill Award of Excellence. Other projects, including *The Circle*, the "Discover the Ouachita Difference" promotional DVD and OBU's 125th anniversary logo, were each honored with Awards of Merit.

Whether it's personal relationships, campus facilities, communications projects or other efforts, making an impact for the benefit of Ouachita and the kingdom of God remains a worthy goal for each of us to pursue.



Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

“Physical strength can never permanently withstand the impact of spiritual force.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

Jackie Robinson

“If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito.”

Anita Roddick

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.”

Charles Swindoll

“The heartfelt supplication of a righteous man exerts a mighty influence.”

James 5:16

President
Rex M. Horne, Jr.

Vice President for Communications Editor
Trennis Henderson

Assistant Director of Communications Associate Editor
Brooke Zimny

Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Keldon Henley

Director of Alumni
Jon Merryman

Assistant Director of Alumni Programs
Julia Thompson

The Ouachita Circle is a publication of Ouachita Baptist University's alumni and communications offices.

Send address changes and class notes to:
Ouachita Alumni Office
410 Ouachita St., OBU Box 3762
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001
E-mail: alumni@obu.edu
Phone: 870-245-5506

Contact the Communications Office:
E-mail: newsbureau@obu.edu
Phone: 870-245-5208

Printed by TCPrint Solutions in North Little Rock, Ark.

Cover photo by Nicole McPhate, a senior mass communications & graphic design major from Conway, Ark.

Board of Trustees

Curtis Arnold	Mollie Morgan
Steven Collier	Ken Shaddox
Clay Conly	Rita Spillyards
Julie Dodge	Scott Street
Susie Everett	William H. Sutton
Jay Heflin	Jeff Teague
Frank Hickingbotham	Susan Wamble
Craig Jenkins	John C. Ward
Taylor King	Gene Whisenhunt
Larry Kircher	Larry White
Richard Lusby	Gus Williamson
Terri Mardis	

Chancellor Ben M. Elrod
President Emeritus Daniel R. Grant

Ouachita Alumni Advisory Board

President Euodias Goza
First Vice President Heather Brandon Spruill
Second Vice President Shari Deaver Edwards
Immediate Past President Sarah Atkinson Bennett
Arkansas Advisors Shawn Barnard, Brent Black, Donna Byers Carozza, Joe Franz, Krisie Holmes, Wendy Wofford Johnson, Caroline Woodell Luck, Julian Rainey, Christine Roberson Street, Bob White, Mel Thrash, Misty Brewer Wilson, Amy Witherow (Young Alumni Board Liaison)
Out-of-State Advisors Chris Campbell, Joy Johnson Floyd, Scott Meador, Carmela Hunt Mechling, Mike Treadway, Jan Mitchell Williams



4



6



9

2 University impact

Dr. Keldon Henley, vice president for institutional advancement, explores Ouachita's long-term impact on generations of OBU students, faculty, staff and alumni.

4 Lile Hall gets new look

Lile Hall, originally dedicated almost four decades ago as part of the campus megastructure, was rededicated this fall as the new and improved home of the School of Humanities.

6 "It's time to come home"

Highlights of Homecoming 2012 include senior Hannah Pilcher of Maumelle being crowned Homecoming Queen, the Tigers 32-12 football victory and the EEEs winning Tunes—again!

9 Happy birthday, Berry!

J.E. Berry Chapel, a treasured landmark for half a century, was dedicated in 1962 "to the glory of God, the exaltation of Jesus Christ and the proclamation of the truths of the Holy Bible."

10 Arkansas Black Hall of Fame

Army Lt. Col. Yolonda Summons, a 1992 Ouachita graduate, serves as deputy chief of staff at the Pentagon. She was inducted this fall into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.

11 Sports Update: Rex Nelson ('82) marks 30-plus years as the voice of Tiger football

12 Campus Update: OBU joins lipdub craze. Check it out at vimeo.com/obu/lipdub

19 Class Notes: Molly Kircher honored at 2012 Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon

22 Faculty Profile: Danny Hays, dean of Pruet School, makes impact as scholar & author

23 Staff Profile: Athletic Director David Sharp nurtures faith, family and friendship

24 Closing Thoughts: President Horne affirms Ouachita's impact starts with individuals

Ouachita makes lasting impact on generations of students

By Keldon Henley

A new and significant tradition for entering students was established at Ouachita several years ago. After new students are hosted in faculty and staff homes for dinner on their first night in Arkadelphia, the next evening's "Tigers and Torches" ceremony introduces them to the history of Ouachita Baptist University.

Central to the story presented to the newest Ouachitonians is the college's founding president, John W. Conger, a 29-year-old Baptist minister who ultimately would invest 21 years of his life working to ensure the survival and success of Ouachita.

When Dr. Conger answered the call of Arkansas Baptists to be the founding president of a college on a bluff overlooking the Ouachita River, he couldn't possibly have known the lasting and extraordinary impact his efforts would have. But with the clear vision that more than a century and a quarter lends, we who are looking back see with great clarity the return on Dr. Conger's investment. Through unwavering commitment to his calling as a Christian and as an educator, through personal sacrifice and through an ever-present desire to put the needs of the students first, Dr. Conger succeeded in not only establishing a university, but also in establishing a culture of vision, integrity and service that still today is embodied in the work of the faculty and staff of Ouachita Baptist University.

For we who are alumni of Ouachita, it's not difficult to identify faculty and staff members—and often fellow students—who have had a

define the course of my life. But the impact works both ways, as the lives of those of us who have the honor of serving as faculty and staff are enriched by our relationships with our students. Having returned to Ouachita as a staff member in Student Services 20 years ago, I cherish the remarkable impact that students and former students have had on my life and my family.

Lives are influenced at Ouachita not just by other individuals, but often by groups or organizations within the university. For many students, involvement in campus organizations such as Campus Ministries, an athletic team, performing group or social club can have an immeasurable impact as well.

For me, such was the case with the Ouachita Student Foundation. Rummaging through my closet recently in the midst of a long overdue cleanout, I spied a bright flash of orange on a hanger in a far corner. Reaching in and retrieving it rewarded me with an immediate rush of memories from my student days in OSF. In the mid-1980s we fondly called the color "OSF Orange." Bright enough to be worn on any deer stand, the sweatshirt featured a blue "Students Helping Students" logo on the front, with figures arranged in a circle and grasping hands. I was only slightly offended when it was described excitedly by my daughter Annelise, a junior at Ouachita and a modern-day OSF'er, as "vintage," as though it was a relic from long ago. She has taken possession and the shirt once again brightens the campus with its

during Ouachita's Tiger for Life emphasis. The bows signify that funds for the building were provided by a generous donor to the university. In many instances, the building simply wouldn't exist were it not for the sacrificial giving of an individual or family. The bows remind all of us on campus of the impact the gifts of others have on the university, and hopefully inspire all who see them to contemplate our own potential for impact through giving back to this institution that has given so much to us.

In addition to financial support of the university, alumni and other friends of Ouachita can have a meaningful impact in two other important ways:

- Influencing a high school student to choose Ouachita for college can have a lifelong impact on the young person by introducing him or her to a Christ-centered and academically exceptional place of study and preparation, where he or she will be challenged and encouraged to grow in every area of life. Our Admissions Counseling staff welcomes help from alumni and friends in spreading the Ouachita story to a new generation of students. Gather names and contact information for high school students you know and who you would like to learn more about Ouachita and submit them by email to admissions@obu.edu or by phone at 870-245-5110.
- Alumni and friends can have an immense impact by considering Ouachita students for internships and graduates for employment. To help facilitate connections between employers and our students and graduates, our Career Services office hosts the Tiger Career Connection, a resource for posting employment opportunities. More than 3,300 Ouachita students and alumni are registered, as well as 840 employers. More than 150 positions were posted during the fall semester. For more information, call 870-245-5593.

HOW HAS OUACHITA IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

SHARE YOUR STORY AT [FACEBOOK.COM/OUACHITA](https://www.facebook.com/OUACHITA)

profound impact upon our lives. Faculty and staff within the Ouachita community frequently seek to know students personally and are keenly interested in their lives, their struggles and their hopes for the future.

More than 25 years after my own graduation, I can vividly recall conversations that encouraged me, challenged and motivated me and helped

neon orange, while I ponder the implications of something I owned in young adulthood qualifying as "vintage."

Along with Tigers and Torches, another new tradition at Ouachita commemorates the impact of those who support the university with their gifts. Many of the buildings on campus are adorned each year with large ribbons and bows

“DR. CONGER
SUCCEEDED IN
... ESTABLISHING
A CULTURE OF
VISION, INTEGRITY
AND SERVICE.”

President John W. Conger almost certainly had no inkling in 1886 of the impact the college he was founding would have on students, or the impact those college graduates would have on the world. Nor could Dr. Jack, as he was affectionately called by students, have anticipated that his nickname and mutton-chopped likeness would promote the most popular destination on campus a century and a quarter later. Dr. Jack's Coffeehouse opened this fall on the main floor of Evans Student Center in the area previously known in succession as the Formal Lounge, the Fishbowl and the Growlery. Incorporating space from the former game room and mirrored by the renovated Evans Food Court, Dr. Jack's Coffeehouse provides campus newcomers a friendly introduction to the founder of our beloved Ouachita Baptist University.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit campus recently, I hope you will drop by someday soon, have a cup of coffee in Dr. Jack's and check out all the changes made to campus in the past few years. We would love to show you around and listen as you reminisce and tell of the impact that Ouachita Baptist University has had on your own life. We look forward to seeing you!



Dr. Keldon Henley ('86), vice president for institutional advancement, previously served as vice president for student services and dean of students. He and his wife, Celeste, are the parents of three children: Annelise, a junior at Ouachita; Grayson, a senior at Arkadelphia High School; and Parker, a freshman at AHS.





photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Lile Hall updated as new home of School of Humanities

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Ouachita's Lile Hall, originally dedicated in 1973, was rededicated Sept. 13 following extensive renovation of the longtime campus facility.

Declaring that "progress is a wonderful thing," Ouachita President Rex Horne told donors, trustees, students, faculty and staff gathered for the outdoor dedication service, "How proud we are of the work that has taken place here in Lile Hall."

Noting that the upgraded facilities and technology "will have an impact on generations of students to come," Dr. Horne told those who helped make the project a reality, "We will not forget what you've done. We will always be grateful."

The classroom and faculty office building was constructed almost four decades ago as part of Ouachita's campus megastructure. It was named in honor of J.G. Lile, a longtime Ouachita professor and staff member. R.A. Lile Hall, added in 1989, was named in honor of his son, R.A. "Brick" Lile, a 1927 Ouachita graduate and former trustee. The facility previously housed Ouachita's Division of Business and Economics and later the Hickingbotham School of Business before the School of Business moved to Hickingbotham Hall in 2006.

With the recent renovation, Lile Hall is now home to the School of Humanities and Rogers Department of Communications. Other departments, centers and offices housed in the facility include the Academic Success Center, Office of Communications, Grant Center for International

Education, Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, Department of History, Publications Newsroom, Speer Writing Center and Foreign Language Lab, TRIO Programs and Video Production Studio.

Named facilities include the Bill and Sharon Arnold Multimedia Center; Grant Center for International Education; Hammons Suite – Office of the Dean, School of Humanities; Luther King Capital Management Classroom; Dr. Wesley Kluck Photography Studio; William Fenna and Emily Rogers Department of Communications; Katie Clift Speer Digital Design Laboratory and Speer Writing Center; and "A Movie Musical" Video Editing Suite.

"It is with great pleasure and excitement that we come together today to dedicate this renovation of Lile Hall for the betterment of Ouachita Baptist University and to the glory of God," said Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the School of Humanities. "Just as the facility has been renewed and equipped to achieve its purpose in teaching and learning, we can see a new enthusiasm among our students and colleagues.

"Each major taught in Lile Hall will benefit from the renovation," Dr. Root added. "In addition to paint, carpet and new classroom furniture, the technology in Lile will allow us to use new tools in the classroom today and be ready for what the future may hold. In addition, the new television/video production studio, audio recording space and publications newsroom take us to a new level of professional growth and opportunities."

Dr. Brett Powell, vice president for administrative services, supervised the renovation project. He said the primary goals of the project were "to make the space more inviting and functional" and "to meet the expectations of our faculty and staff for what would be considered a premier learning environment." He said key examples include the creation of a new video production studio and student publications newsroom.

Nicole McPhate, a senior mass communications and graphic design major from Conway, Ark., told donors, "Thank you so much for your sacrifices and gracious gifts to make this dream a reality. The move to Lile Hall was an incredible gift that you have given to me, my peers and students to come."

Representing the diverse languages taught in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages housed in Lile, four faculty members offered a blessing in English, Spanish, French and Japanese.

The blessing, written by Dr. Jay Curlin, Kathryn Maddox Professor of English, expressed thanks to God for a facility that has been "given new life this summer though the generosity and hard work of others. ... Please make this renewed building and the campus as a whole a place where both teacher and student grow daily in both knowledge and spirit."

In addition to Dr. Curlin, faculty members who recited the blessing included Dr. Margarita Pintado,

Editor's Note : "Somewhere in the Distance," written by Dr. Johnny Wink, Betty Burton Peck Professor of English, was presented as a poem of dedication during the Sept. 13 dedication service of Lile Hall.

SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANCE:

*A Meditation on Homes
& Homes Away from Home,
Temporary and Permanent*

By Johnny Wink

In the dream I had three nights ago
Someone or something was lost.
I went on a quest.
I went through a labyrinth.
I went through a swamp.
I waded a great shallow body of water.
I came at last to a city. I still hadn't
Found what I was looking for,
But I was still looking
When the dream ended.

And, on the day of the night of the dream,
A bright lad in my Latin class, in the process
Of choosing his Latin name, asked me how to say
"Beggars telling another beggar where to find bread."
How gladly I told my pupil how to assemble his name in Latin!

This summer, in heat and dry, many workers assembled
To pound and sand, to knock holes in walls,
To open spaces to new vistas, lay new patterns
On refurbished floors, create new environments
For further quests, arrange new assemblies
Of teachers and scholars, syntax, the rich medley
Of human communications come together again
In stirring linguistic combinations: Sehr gut!
Ochen horosho! Sobresaliente! Exquisite!
Enaviganda! Thalassa! Thalassa!
Going down the river on the way to the sea,
Breadseekers, questers, would-be-growers in wisdom.

instructor of Spanish; Dr. Mary Beth Long, assistant professor of English; and Dr. Ray Franklin, associate professor of Christian missions.

The service concluded with a poem of dedication by Dr. Johnny Wink, Betty Burton Peck Professor of English. The poem, "Somewhere in the Distance: A Meditation on Homes & Homes Away from Home, Temporary and Permanent," paid tribute to construction workers, a current student and former colleagues. The day's activities also featured tours of Lile Hall and a dedication luncheon.



photo by Callie Stephens

Twenty-three years ago, a White Rabbit stood outside Lile Two and helped dedicate the building
In a speech lovely beyond my saying,
Tom Greer spoke of circles that day,
Of buildings 'abuilding, of widening circles,
Of questing. Tom Greer spoke of starting in Homer,
A town down in not faraway Louisiana.
He spoke of the spokes of the wheel of his life,
Moving out on the rays of that wheel,
On his ever-widening journey: Louisiana,
Indiana, China. He spoke of the ground
That we hallowed that day. He spoke of a center,
A place in which questing, from which questing,
We would manage to make a something like home
On the way to our ultimate home.
And there in the something-like-home,
There in Room 206 of The Bugtruck
He stayed at his pedagogical game
In the magical building until he was called home
On a raw day in November some eighteen years later,
Some six years ago, a splendid White Rabbit,
A glorious beggar telling us other beggars
To the best of his knowledge where to find bread.

Ghosts haunt the halls of these refurbished buildings.
Ghosts of pasts present in us and with us, from near and afar:
Cervantes, White Rabbit, Pushkin and Goethe, Catullus,
Proust, Shakespeare, James Joyce, Lera Kelly and Jonathan Kelly.
Here we feel also the presence of those who are living but gone
From these corridors now: Herman Sandford, Jane Quick
And Betty McCommas. O strange chemistry of present and past.
How woven they are! How movingly woven they are!

Happily are we haunted as we continue our questing,
The circle growing larger, the light brighter,
Swamps, labyrinths, the river, the shallow water,
The great depths, the buildings built, 'abuilding,
The city-to-come shimmering somewhere in the distance.



"It's time to come home," Ouachita's 2012 Homecoming theme, offered students, faculty and alumni a timely reminder of Ouachita's close-knit campus community. In addition to the reunions and meals geared toward those already a part of the Ouachita family, Getting Ready for Ouachita's World offered high school students a first look at the Ouachita community. Hannah Pilcher, a senior Spanish and secondary education major from Maumelle, Ark., was crowned Homecoming Queen, and the Tiger football team came away with a 32-12 win over Southwestern Oklahoma State.

PHOTOS BY KRISTEN BARNARD, GARY GERBER, NICOLE MCPHATE & TYLER ROSENTHAL

Game Day



The Queen



The Court





Tiger Tunes



Ouachita Student Foundation's production of Tiger Tunes again raised thousands of dollars for student scholarships. The women of EEE won first place as garden gnomes, Campus Ministries won second place as summer campers, the men of Eta Alpha Omega won third place as lumberjacks and Campus Activities won fourth place as gym class students. The women of Tri Chi won the People's Choice Award, and Campus Ministries was awarded the OSF Award.

OSF Auction



Oct Tiger Fest





Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Tri-Lakes Edition photos by Rusty Hubbard

Cancer research offers valuable learning experience

By Wayne Bryan, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Tri-Lakes Edition writer

If anyone asked Ouachita student Ryan James what he did for his summer vacation, his answer, “I worked on curing cancer,” would probably draw some attention.

James, working under the direction of Dr. Lori Hensley, associate professor of biology and holder of the J.D. Patterson Chair of Biology, spent weeks conducting research on a drug that has shown promise in treating tumor cells.

During this past summer, more than 30 Ouachita students and faculty worked on research projects both on and off campus, said Dr. Tim Knight, dean of OBU’s J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences.

“Our goal is to provide research experiences for our students that set them apart from their peers,” said Knight, who also is a professor of biology.

Hensley said students and faculty at Ouachita have worked for 11 years under a program aimed at getting students into scientific research early in their college careers.

In 2002, the research program began to receive funds from the Arkansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence, funded by the National Center for Research Resources and the Institutional Development Award Program.

“It has transformed the study of science at Ouachita,” Hensley said. “We have received more than \$2 million in funding for three project leaders at OBU, as well as equipment, all funded by INBRE.”

During the summer, Hensley and her student assistant continued her research on a drug known as ajulemic acid, or AJA. Her earlier research has shown that the drug could kill Ewing’s sarcoma tumor cells without harmful side effects.

Hensley called Ewing’s sarcoma an aggressive form of pediatric bone cancer with only a 20 percent survival rate.

“AJA is a cannabinoid that has anti-tumor properties,” she said. “We have focused on how and why AJA can kill tumor cells and leave healthy cells intact.”

In addition, Hensley said that in order for cancer cells to grow, they often tap into a person’s blood supply with the formation of new blood vessels.

“This summer, we wanted to figure if AJA could stop blood-vessel growth,” she said. “We were able to create tumor-like growth in the lab, and we used the drug on it and tested the results.”

James, a senior biology major from Benton, said he wanted to work with Hensley. “It fascinated me to know somebody was curing cancer at Ouachita, in the science building where I take classes every day,” he said. “I wanted to be a part of it and to make a difference.”

James said he expected the project to make a huge breakthrough.

“Then we would announce the discovery and write a huge paper,” he said. “I found out research makes small steps, and the next step of this work will have to come later. I was humbled by that.”

The results were not as successful as the team had hoped, Hensley said.

“I don’t think we found that [AJA] inhibited blood-vessel growth,” she said. “However, we are seeing some progress in treating tumors in mice. The tumors are regressing. We can kill individual cells and stop the cancer cells from migrating.”

She said students get a real-life look at biomedical research.

“Our students pick up the technology quickly and can plan the next step, but they learn that research is not an 8-to-5 job,” Hensley said.

“Sometimes you start an experiment, and you have to check it at 2 a.m. They also find out why it is called re-search. If you get a result, you have to get the same result three times for it to be valid.”

Other research projects conducted at Ouachita in the summer included testing the ability of cranberry juice and mouthwash to inhibit what the researchers called biofilm formation.

“The study of biofilms has increased drastically in recent years, due to the awareness of the impact of biofilms on natural and industrial systems, as well as human health,” said Skylar Hearron, a senior biology major from Monticello who worked under Dr. Ruth Plymale, assistant professor of biology.

© Reprinted with permission of the Arkansas-Democrat Gazette Tri-Lakes Edition.

Berry Chapel: Treasured OBU landmark celebrates half a century

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

J.E. Berry Chapel, dedicated in 1962, has stood as a prominent campus landmark for 50 years with its classic columns and steeple. The chapel and Berry Bible Building, constructed during the tenure of President Ralph Phelps, were built on the site of the former President's Home that dated back to 1904.

The chapel was funded by James Earl Berry, a 1914 graduate and former Ouachita trustee. According to a historical display in Berry, the facility was "dedicated to the glory of God, the exaltation of Jesus Christ and the proclamation of the truths of the Holy Bible." Mrs. Berry provided a gift in 1964 to install the chapel bells' symphonic carillon.

Poetically describing the structure's strong spiritual symbolism, Arkansas Baptist State Convention minutes from 1962 note that as the steeple "reaches upward toward God, it symbolizes Ouachita's constant upreach for the power and presence of God."

"Building Berry Chapel right in the very center of campus was not an accident but a clear statement of the mission and identity of Ouachita Baptist University," said Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies. "For 50 years the towering white steeple has served as the central and most recognizable landmark on campus. Indeed, even now the chimes in the steeple continue to call us to class each day, a beautiful reminder of the centrality of Christ in our academic pursuits and in all that we do here at Ouachita."

During its first half century, Berry Chapel has been the site of weddings, funerals, worship services, Bible conferences and Noonday services. Among recent campus events was a presentation and panel discussion on "Pastor to Power: Billy Graham from Truman to Obama," part of the Pastors & Presidents Symposium held last year during Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration.

"Berry Chapel stands at the center of campus as a physical reminder of the faithfulness of God and the people who preceded us here," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "Many commitments that have shaped lives and eternity have been made in this chapel. Just last summer we were pleased that our son, Truett, and his bride, Nicole Daye, were married in Berry Chapel."

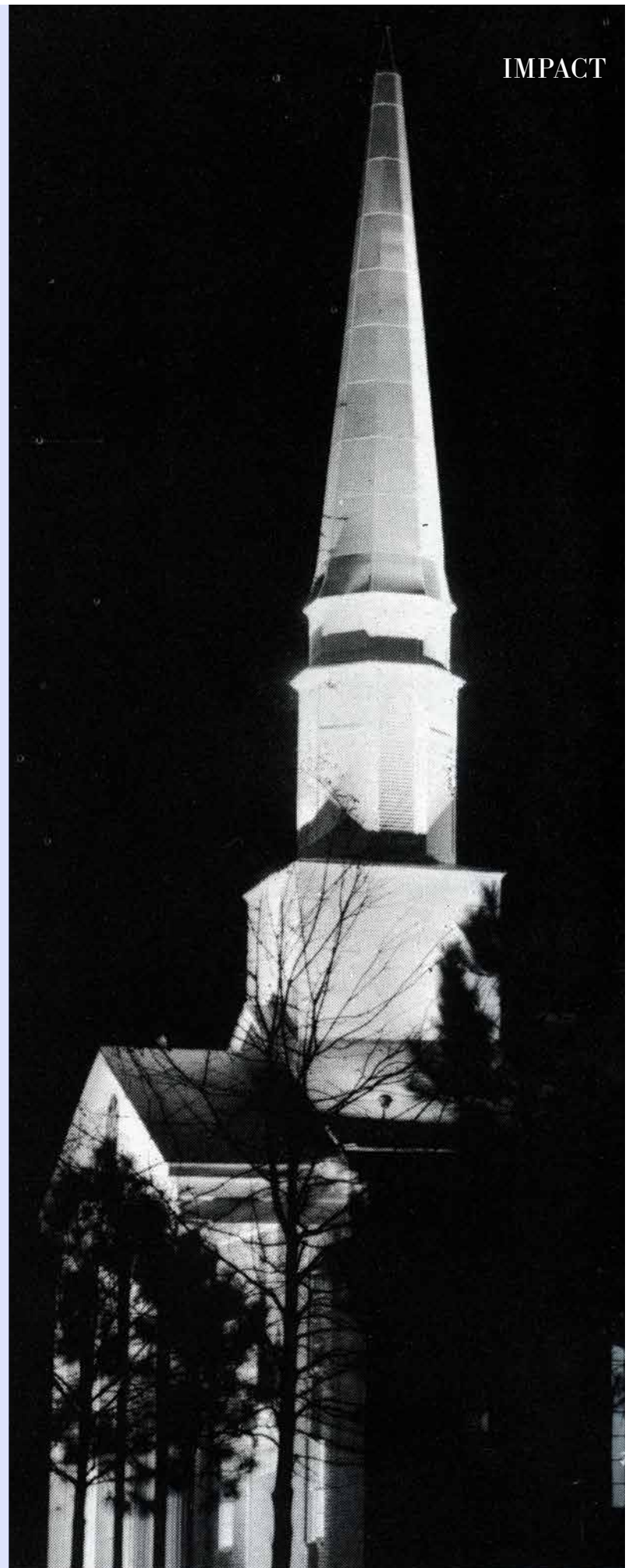
Many couples with Ouachita ties have exchanged wedding vows in Berry over the years. Margaret (Wingfield) Frazier, a 1965 graduate, married her husband, Paul, on her graduation day with Dr. Ben Elrod officiating. "We became engaged in front of the chapel and wanted our wedding to be there," she said. "Many memories were made on this campus and the chapel will always hold a special place in my heart."

Margaret has served on the OBU staff since 1989, including the past 15 years as director of campus housing. Driving onto campus each day, "it is special to look up Fifth Street and the chapel is the first thing you see—wonderful sight!"

Jenny (Logan) Crow, a 2002 graduate, and her husband, Kevin, were married in 2005. They were among couples who had their photos taken in front of Berry during Homecoming this fall in honor of the chapel's 50th anniversary.

"God used Ouachita to change my life," Jenny Crow reflected. "And part of that life-changing happened in Berry Chapel during Noonday services and occasional worship services held there. My husband generously agreed to be married there, even though he had never stepped foot on Ouachita's campus, because he knew how much Ouachita meant to me."

"Several things struck me as I thought about Berry Chapel being a landmark at Ouachita," she added. "On the outside, the architectural aspect of the steeple points to God, reminding us of who we serve and what His mission is. It can be seen from most of campus. The bells remind us in their ringing to pause in our busy day. They remind us of the time, call us to worship and to contemplate the simple beauty of ringing bells. On the inside, Berry Chapel looks like a sweet little country church and reminds us of the little country churches we've seen and been part of all over the great state of Arkansas. In these ways, Berry Chapel reminds us to hope, reminds us of our Father and reminds us of home."



Arkansas Black Hall of Fame honors OBU alumna

By Helaine Williams, Features Writer, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

For years, Army Lt. Col. Yolonda Summons just knew she was going to be a physician.

She remembers praying, at the age of 7, and promising God that “if you make me a doctor, I will minister to your people.”

“I spent my entire life ... trying to get accepted into medical school.” But she was turned down, even after she entered military service.

One day, God answered her: “I never said you would be a medical doctor.”

In fact, the Ouachita Baptist University alumna and decorated military leader is pursuing a doctorate in divinity at Howard University’s School of Divinity while serving her country as deputy chief of staff at the Pentagon.

Summons, 43, is among a group that was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame during a 20th anniversary ceremony and gala Oct. 20 in the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Other honorees include Jerry T. Hodges, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen; Charles E. Phillips Jr., international business leader and chief executive officer of Infor Global Solutions; Pearlie S. Reed, retired assistant U.S. secretary of agriculture; Lenny Williams, noted R&B recording artist and songwriter; and the late Sister Rosetta Tharpe, a music pioneer.

Summons moved with her family to Los Angeles at the age of 2. She returned to Little Rock in her eighth-grade year and went on to become a star basketball player for McClellan High School, where she was chosen for the Arkansas All-State Girls Basketball Team. She won a four-year basketball scholarship to Ouachita, where she joined ROTC and was appointed commander of her unit. She also has a Master of Arts degree in organizational leadership from Chapman University in Orange, Calif.

After graduating from Ouachita with a major in biology and being commissioned as an officer in May 1992, Summons took the Army Medical Department’s officer basic course and entered active duty in 1993. She thought she’d do three years and then do something else “and I never turned back.”

Since then she has received more than 30 awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star and the Army Aviation Badge. She also received the Lt. Col. Karen Wagner Leadership Award for services rendered during a 15-month deployment to Iraq with the 62nd Medical Brigade in 2007-2008. Given by the U.S. Surgeon General, the Wagner Award was established in 2004 to honor Summons’ friend, an Army Medical Department health services human resources manager who died at the Pentagon in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Now, Summons sits at the same



desk, in the same spot, where Wagner was killed, she says.

“I’m filling her shoes. ... It’s funny how things come full circle,” Summons says. “And I remember rededicating my service to her loss.”

The 15-month stint was Summons’ second tour of duty in Iraq. She also served in Iraq and Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm—“battling Saddam [Hussein] himself,” she says.

In 1998, Summons was awarded the Army Aviation Badge. And after graduating from flight school, she became the Army’s first and only black woman to be an Emergency Medical Services Blackhawk pilot. She became a lieutenant colonel in 2009 and will be eligible for consideration for colonel status in 2013.

What is the biggest thing Summons would like people to understand about what she faced in Iraq?

“A lot of times people end up thanking us for our service, and the biggest thing I cannot understand is that’s just what we do,” she says. “It’s not something that you do and look for something in return. It’s literally something that you do.

“When you get over there it’s definitely a different mindset ... like, never ‘Woe is me,’ or ‘How did I get into this situation?’ ... It’s definitely a survival type mode; it’s never a selfish thing. It’s always a selfless type of mentality.”

And when people do thank her for her military service, “I’m profoundly humbled,” Summons says.

“This is what I said I was going to do.”

Summons’ official job title is Army Medical Department Policy Integrator. She works with more than 20,000 medical officers in the military, managing their promotions, selections for schools and selections for command. In the meantime, she’s taking four prerequisite classes for her doctorate. Actively involved at her church, First Baptist of Glenarden, Md., Summons sees herself doing a lot of speaking, political advising and executive coaching, discipling people on a one-to-one basis. She “definitely” has a passion for developing women in discipleship, she says.

One who “doesn’t like to talk about things that are not good,” Summons remembers a dark time in her Arkansas past, a time during which “I was being persecuted ... because they thought I was doing something illegal.”

In November 2008, a Little Rock federal jury acquitted Summons, then a major, of money laundering. According to a Nov. 27, 2008, story in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Summons had bought a Cadillac Escalade from her younger sister, shortly after the sister’s home was searched. Prosecutors accused Summons of making the purchase to help her sister, who was accused of helping her boyfriend launder drug-dealing proceeds by placing their property in her name. At the time, Summons lived in Washington, was attending an Army school in Leavenworth, Kan., and had no idea the vehicle might be involved in illegal activity, Little Rock attorney Richard Holiman had argued.

Summons says her mother had helped instill in her a resilient attitude. “She made it seem like I could do anything,” Summons says. And, fortunately, she had enough people in her corner.

Now, the most eye-opening thing for her is “basically to be honored by the state—the same state that tried to take me out,” she says. “It’s just God, how that whole thing flipped.”

A self-described humble person, Summons says she didn’t pat herself on the back when she found out she would be inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.

“I always take things in stride” while looking to do her very best, she says. Her family and friends are making a big deal out of the honor. Her response? “I say thanks. Cool.”

But as someone to whom many look, Summons has advice to offer those who aspire to a distinguished military—or any other—career: “I would always say, put God first [and] be true to yourself.”

Also she says, “‘No’ is not an option. You try and try again to get the things that you want.”

© Reprinted with permission of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Nelson marks 30-plus years as voice of Tiger football

By Josh Fink, OBU Sports Information Director

More than 30 years ago, the Ouachita Tigers football team was searching for a play-by-play announcer. That search led to Rex Nelson who has helped build the Ouachita Football Network into one of the largest Division II football radio networks in the nation.

Nelson, a 1982 Ouachita graduate, has been associated with Tiger football for as long as he can remember. He grew up two blocks from A.U. Williams Field and has been a part of the Ouachita football program ever since. As the 2012 football season wrapped up, so too did Nelson's 33rd season on the air as the voice of the Tigers.



"My wife and close friends will tell you that calling the Ouachita games on the radio is a huge part of who I am," Nelson said. "I grew up going to Ouachita football games. Those 10 football games each fall are truly special. As soon as one season is over, I'm already planning what we're going to do the following season to make our radio network even better."

This season, the Ouachita Football Network aired on seven stations, reaching parts of six states. Nelson's dedication and efforts are noticed by many, especially Todd Knight, head coach of the Tiger football team.

"I don't know that words can really describe Rex Nelson," Knight said. "The support that he has given me and my staff has been immeasurable. There's not any one person who has been more dedicated to the Ouachita football program than Rex Nelson."

Nelson took over full-time play-by-play duties while he was still a student at Ouachita. Although he has worked in very demanding professional positions over the years, including his current role as president of Arkansas' Independent Colleges & Universities, Nelson always makes time for his beloved Tigers. His longtime broadcast partner, Dr. Jeff Root, speaks highly of his counterpart.

"His devotion to Ouachita is really incredible, because he stays so busy," said Root, dean of the School of Humanities. "From his political days in Washington to his days as a sportswriter and a radio personality, the idea that he would come back to Ouachita or travel to wherever the team is playing on Saturdays really speaks to his devotion to the school and the program. It's really admirable that he has wanted it to remain a part of his life."

Although he spends a lot of time and effort on the Ouachita Football Network, Nelson is not paid for his on-air work. The only compensation he receives is for travel expenses. He said he considers what he does a donation to his alma mater, adding that his goal is to reach audiences that might not otherwise know about Ouachita.

Every Saturday during football season, whether the team is playing at A.U. Williams Field or is on the road, Rex Nelson is there. And he doesn't see himself quitting anytime soon. "I'll continue working on the Ouachita Football Network until my wife says, 'You're too old, you don't sound good anymore, you're getting names wrong, you can't see and you need to quit.' Until then, I'm going to try to make our broadcast the best in college football."



The Lady Tiger Volleyball Team was honored with the inaugural Great American Conference Sportsmanship Award initiated this year by GAC officials. The award honors Volleyball Head Coach Danny Prescott and the Lady Tigers for their level of sportsmanship toward other players, coaches and fans throughout the season. The award was voted on by league officials and coaches.

OBU Athletic Hall of Fame inducts latest honorees

Ouachita Baptist University inducted three former athletes, a former coach and the 1969-70 women's basketball team into the Ouachita Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 19.

"Ouachita Baptist University and the Ouachita Athletic Hall of Fame are very proud to recognize and honor these individuals and team for their accomplishments," said David Sharp, OBU Director of Athletics.

The 1969-70 women's basketball team, known as the Tigerettes, burst onto the scene in the late 1960s. Coached by Ouachita Athletic Hall of Fame member Carolyn Moffat, the Tigerettes recorded a 22-3 regular season record and competed in the AAU National Championship in 1970 where they were runner-up to Wayland Baptist College. Led by three AAU All-America players, the team also was the first to play 5 on 5 and use a 30-second shot clock.

Mike Branson, a native of DeQueen, was an All-State high school golfer. As a Tiger, he was instrumental in leading the Tigers to three straight AIC Golf Championships and NAIA District 17 Championships from 1977-79. Branson earned All-AIC and NAIA All-America honors along with receiving the Ouachita Outstanding Golf Student-Athlete Award each of those three years.

Luther Guinn, a native of Arkadelphia, earned All-State recognition in both football and track. As a Tiger, he earned All-AIC honors for football in 1973 and 1974, and track in 1973-1975. He was a recipient of The Ouachitanian Leadership Award and inducted into the Arkansas Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2011.

Donald Ray Williams, also a native of Arkadelphia, earned All-Conference and All-State honors while playing only one year of high school basketball. At Ouachita, he earned All-AIC and All-NAIA District 17 honors for three consecutive years in 1976-78. Williams also was recognized with NAIA Honorable Mention All-America honors.

Tona Wright, also a native of Arkadelphia, joined the faculty and staff of Ouachita in 1971. During her 24-year tenure as women's volleyball head coach, she led the Tigerettes to three AIC Championships, two NAIA District 17 Championships and two NAIA Bi-District championships. Wright also was head women's tennis coach, and her teams won four AIC Championships during her 21 years of coaching tennis. She was named NAIA District 17 Volleyball Coach of the Year three times, Women's Tennis Coach of the Year twice and AIC Coach of the Year in both volleyball and tennis.



See the OBU LipDub at
vimeo.com/obu/lipdub



photo by Wesley Kluck

What's a lipdub? Find out at OBU's Vimeo site

What do Waldo, a dancing banana and a hot air balloon have in common? They were all part of a campus lipdub music video filmed Nov. 4 on the Ouachita campus. The lipdub—a fast-paced, lip-synced musical production typically featured on social media video sites—was produced for Ouachita by OBU alumnus Andy Dean of Dean Film & Video. Dean, who previously produced Ouachita's current promotional video, donated his services to produce the latest video project.

The lipdub features hundreds of students and dozens of faculty and staff members who gathered to perform as part of the production. Lip-syncing to original lyrics recorded by the Ouachita Sounds and the Tiger Tunes Hosts & Hostesses, the production was staged from Grant Plaza through Evans Student Center, past the amphitheatre and across Heflin Plaza with a grand finale in the Student Village circle.

The project was coordinated by staff members from the offices of Admissions Counseling, Campus Activities and Communications along with several student leaders. "Our goal was to involve as many students, faculty, staff, clubs and organizations as possible," said Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications. "That way it truly represents Ouachita."

To view the lipdub, visit www.vimeo.com/obu/lipdub.

2012 Ouachitonian earns All-American rating

Ouachita's 2012 *Ouachitonian* yearbook has earned an Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) All-American rating. This is the second year in a row the *Ouachitonian* has received the All-American rating, which is the highest honor given by ACP.

ACP rates each yearbook in five categories based on criteria including personality, liveliness, imagination, appeal and creativity. The *Ouachitonian* received Marks of Distinction in four of the five categories: concepts/essentials, content, layout/design and photography.

"As soon as I saw your cover, I knew I was in for a delightful time," said Kel Lemons, the ACP judge for the *Ouachitonian*. "It's really amazing that only 10 students put it together, a true testament to their dedication and effort."

Tanner Huffman, editor-in-chief of the 2012 yearbook and a 2012 mass communications and graphic design graduate, noted that the yearbook coincided with Ouachita's 125th anniversary. "I wanted the book to be a perfect mix of old and new to celebrate the rich history of Ouachita while successfully reflecting on the current year," he said.

Mauri Sparks, assistant editor of the 2012 yearbook and editor of the 2013 *Ouachitonian*, is a junior mass communications and Christian studies major from Queen City, Texas. Dr. Deborah Root, chair of the Rogers Department of Communications, has served 21 years as yearbook adviser.

Students, faculty honored at INBRE conference

Dr. Lori Hensley, associate professor of biology, and three Ouachita students were recognized for outstanding work at the 2012 Arkansas INBRE Research Conference. Twelve OBU students and seven faculty and staff members participated in the conference, with 10 students presenting research. Jane Goodall, renowned primatologist and United Nations Messenger of Peace, was the featured speaker.

Dr. Hensley, holder of the J.D. Patterson Chair of Biology, was invited to speak about "Antitumor Effects of Ajulemic Acid on Ewing's Sarcoma." Her research focuses on the drug ajulemic acid which has shown the ability to kill Sarcoma cells without any damaging side effects.

Tim Horton, a junior chemistry and physics double major from Arkadelphia, was one of six undergraduates selected to give an oral presentation in chemistry. Ryan James, a senior biology major from Benton, Ark., received a third place award for his poster in the biology division. Valerie Nickel, a senior chemistry and biology double major from Richardson, Texas, also won third place for her poster in the chemistry division.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Hansel and Gretel comes to life in fall opera

Ouachita's Music Opera Theatre in the School of Fine Arts presented Engelbert Humperdinck's famous opera *Hansel and Gretel* on Nov. 15-17 in Jones Performing Arts Center.

"This is one of the most beautiful scores ever written for an opera," said Dr. Jon Secrest, co-director of the opera and coordinator of Ouachita's vocal studies program. He said Humperdinck's rendition of the familiar Brothers Grimm fairy tale is infused with "soaring melodies and beautiful harmonies," making *Hansel and Gretel* "one of the richest musical experiences in the repertoire."

Set in the haunted Ilsenstein forest of Germany, the opera's cast encounters the Sandman, the little Dew Fairy and, of course, the Gingerbread Witch. "It has a nice moral," said Dr. Glenda Secrest, co-director of the opera and professor of music at Ouachita. The repeating theme "When life's burdens bring us grief, God the Lord will send relief" was revisited throughout the opera.

The entire opera was double cast, with one cast performing on Thursday and Saturday and a different line-up performing Friday and Sunday. Title characters included Victoria Mantooth, a junior vocal performance major from Sherwood, Ark., and Meredith Martin, a junior music education and vocal performance major from Garland, Texas, as Hansel and Hannah Garner, a senior vocal performance major from Saginaw, Mich., and Caitlin Secrest, a junior vocal performance major from Arkadelphia, as Gretel.

OBU among nation's Top 10 in Pell Grant grads

Achieving a major milestone for the benefit of low-income students and their families, Ouachita has been named among the top 10 universities in the nation that graduate low-income students.

The findings, posted by USNews.com, also show that Ouachita is the only university, private or public, in the state of Arkansas to earn that recognition. Other universities in that category range from the University of San Francisco to Stonehill College in Massachusetts.

"U.S. News' study confirms that Ouachita is one of the most affordable universities for all students," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "With our generous financial aid, personal attention and commitment to student success, Ouachita is exceptional among all universities, public or private."

The U.S. News study cites the percentage of Pell Grant recipients who graduate compared to the rest of the student body, according to USNews.com. Pell Grants provide federal financial aid to undergraduates from low-income families, generally to students with family incomes below \$20,000. The graduation rate of Pell Grant recipients, coupled with other graduation rate statistics, indicate whether schools are effectively serving students from diverse income levels.

Nine faculty members awarded university grants

Seeking to encourage and support creative educational efforts throughout the university community, Ouachita Baptist University has awarded five strategic initiative and program enhancement grants to nine faculty members.

Specific grants include two strategic initiative grants awarded to Dr. Lori Hensley for 3D instructional technology and to Rebecca Jones and Dr. Doug Sonheim for students to attend the Sundance Film Festival and examine the interaction of faith, film and culture. Program enhancement grants were awarded to Dr. Terry DeWitt and Dr. Mike Reynolds for experiential learning and undergraduate research via concussion testing; Dr. Craig Hamilton, Dr. Scott Holsclaw and Dr. Gary Gerber for music technology for music education students; and Dr. Rob Hewell for a seminar series for majors in Ouachita's Worship Studies Program.

Dr. Byron Eubanks, chair of the Planning Committee that awarded the grants, said the 17 submitted grant proposals "reflect significant creative thinking and lots of hard work." Citing the impact of the inaugural grant awards, he said, "Our whole campus benefits when we think strategically and innovatively about how we accomplish our mission."

class notes

connecting the circle

—1930s—

Robert Young ('30) was inducted into the Greenwood Education Foundation's Hall of Honor on Oct. 6, recognizing him as a distinguished associate.

—1950s—

Robert Mayes ('50) and his wife, Bettie, celebrated 66 years of marriage on Aug. 25. They now live in Sun City, Ariz., and have two sons, Daniel and Carl.

Irene "Sunny" (Horne '52) and **Ed Johnson ('51)** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 10. Ed is retired from the State Highway Department. They have five children, Dana Brasel, Monica Wooten, Jeffrey Johnson, Mona Hewitt and Kerry Johnson, and eight grandchildren.

—1960s—

Jimmy ('60) and Marion (Williams '65) Peacock will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 27. Jimmy is a freelance editor and blogger. Marion is retired after teaching elementary school for eight years in Arkansas and 31 years in Oklahoma. They have two adult sons, Sean and Keiron, and two grandsons.

Charles "Bud" Welch ('61) has concluded his service with the Civil Air Patrol where he has served since 2001. He served first as commander of the Hot Springs squadron and then was named the Arkansas Wing Standards and Evaluation Officer in 2003. His service in the CAP followed his service in the U.S. Air Force and the Arkansas Air National Guard and after retiring from U.S. Airways in 2000.

June (Hines '62) and Homer Moore ('58) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 10. She is an author and etiquette consultant and he is a retired district manager for Sherwin

Williams Co. They have two children, Jeff Moore and Greg Moore, and two grandchildren.

David Rickard ('67) was named vice president of regulatory affairs for ICL-IP America Inc. He and his wife, Mary Lu, moved to Hurricane, W. Va., from Arizona, where he had been a research fellow at Henkel Corporation.

—1970s—

Charlotte (Chism '73) Wicks retired this spring after serving 39 years in public education. She and her husband, Steve, live in Marion, Ark.

Cindy (Burks '74) Phillips retired from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services on Dec. 30, 2011, after more than 37 years of service.

Lisa (Brown '77) Thomas had her first professional classical piano CD released by Toccata Classics in London, England.

—1980s—

Rebecca (Danner '80) Remley received her Doctorate of Musical Arts in August from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Her dissertation was on *Quadratic Progressions*, a composition for saxophone quartet. Rebecca currently is teaching theory, composition and music technology at Birmingham-Southern College.

LeAnne Daniel ('81) was appointed Pike County District Judge by Gov. Mike Beebe in August.

David Boyett ('82) and his wife, Virginia, currently are living in Williams Junction, Ark. He has started his own business, D.V.B. Boyett Nonprofit Chicken Ranch, which is dedicated to helping families start their own backyard chicken ranch.

Margo (Bearden '86) Turner, a former education professor at Ouachita, is now the chair of the education department at John Brown University after spending a year in

Honduras working with orphaned children at Rancho Ebenezer. Her husband, **Doug Turner ('86)**, is working as a facilitator and project manager at the Soderquist Center, a leadership development center at John Brown University.

Ancil Lea ('88) was appointed as the new coordinator for the Arkansas Office of Health Information Technology by Gov. Mike Beebe.

—1990s—

Lennox Adams ('90) was inducted into the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Olympic Hall of Fame on June 14. He is the founder and first president of the National Olympic Committee.



—2000s—

Whitney Bailey ('02) married Joseph Stewart on July 28 at the Memphis Botanic Garden in Memphis, Tenn. They now live in Germantown, Tenn.

Michael Neathery ('05) was named winner of the 2012 BKD PRIDE Award at BKD in Little Rock. He was chosen from among 2,000 employees for exemplifying the firm's values of Passion, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence (PRIDE).

Suzanne Spillyards ('05) married Tony Juneau on Aug. 11 in Bentonville, Ark. The couple lives in Rogers where she is a sales manager at Daisy Outdoor Products.



Sam Castleberry ('07) graduated with a Master of Theological Studies from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in May and is now working on his Master of Arts in Religion at Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Cameron Magby ('09) married **Jennifer Files ('09)** on Dec. 17, 2011, in Berry Chapel. They currently live in Waco, Texas, where she is a nurse and he is a student at Truett Theological Seminary.



Becca Woodall ('09) married Chuck Owens on Aug. 3 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church in Little Rock. They now live in Wake Forest, N.C., where he is attending seminary and she is taking prerequisite courses for a Physician Assistant program.

—2010s—

Alan Thomas ('10) is living in Nashville, Tenn., where he is working in the field of Christian music. He is a member of the band The Running Back, which leads worship for Fellowship Bible Church's student ministry and travels, leading worship and playing concerts at various churches and venues.

Joshua Hesse ('10) married **Allie Baldwin ('11)** on Aug. 11 at Pratt Place Inn and Barn in Fayetteville, Ark. They are now living in Little Rock.

Victoria Adams ('10) married Robert Jones on Aug. 11 in the State Capitol Rotunda. They are now living in Little Rock.



Tiffany Murphree ('09) married Clint Tucker on Aug. 25. They now reside in Hot Springs, Ark., where she is the newest associate at Tapp Law Firm after passing the Arkansas Bar Exam in July.

Emilee Wade ('09) married Shea Harborth on June 9 at First Baptist Church of Gilmer, Texas.



future tigers

—1990s—

Lee Coon ('98) and his wife, Beth, welcomed daughter Laurabeth Nicole on Sept. 27.



James ('99) and Amy (Gaden '02) Taylor welcomed son Jack Edward on Dec. 9, 2011. He joins big brother Benjamin (3).

—2000s—

Tim ('00) and Nancy (Day '98) Harrell welcomed son Charles Brian on July 26. He joins big brothers Henry (4) and Peter (2).

Robyn (Kuntz '01) Campbell and her husband, Ian, welcomed twins, daughter Karrah Leigh and son Kallen Leighton, on April 25. They are living in Fort Worth, Texas.



Wesley and Mollie (Huffstuttler) Davis ('01) welcomed daughter Makenzie Reagan on July 1. She joins big sister Kaylin Reese (3).

Where's your class note?

Submit your **class notes**, including **wedding**, **baby** and **alumni reunion photos**, by logging on to the Ouachita Online Community at www.obualumni.org or by contacting Jon Merryman at merrymanj@obu.edu or (870) 245-5111.



photo by Emily Coles

Ouachita honors five Alumni Milestone recipients

Ouachita Baptist University honored five distinguished alumni as 2012 Ouachita Alumni Milestone Award recipients during recent Homecoming festivities on campus.

This year's honorees are Dan Dipert ('62), CEO of Dan Dipert Tours in Arlington, Texas; Tom Spillyards ('72), CEO and president of Simmons First Bank of Northwest Arkansas; Rex Nelson ('82), president of Arkansas' Independent Colleges and Universities; Angela Magers ('92), founder of the Montessori Academy of North Texas; and Bonnie Montgomery ('02), a composer, singer and songwriter based in Little Rock.

"The Ouachita Alumni Milestone Award allows us to honor and celebrate alumni 'difference makers' in various fields during their reunion year," explained Jon Merryman, director of Ouachita Alumni. "This year's recipients are great representatives of their classes and we are honored to recognize them for their vision, integrity and service as well as their career achievements."

"Our hope and prayer is for our graduates to make a difference in this world. Fortunately, so many do," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "Our Alumni Milestone Awards this year exemplify the fact that our alumni serve in varied fields in many places. I congratulate them on behalf of all who love Ouachita."

This year's honorees are the third class of recipients of the Ouachita Alumni Milestone Award. Their educational and professional experience includes:

Dan Dipert: After graduating from Ouachita in 1962, Dipert served three years as youth

director at First Baptist Church of Little Rock. In 1965, he moved to Texas to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his Master of Religious Education degree. While there, he served as youth and recreation director at First Baptist Church of Arlington. In 1972, Dipert purchased a small travel agency and built it into the largest independent tour and travel company in the Southwest. 2012 marks the 40th year in business for Dan Dipert Tours.

Tom Spillyards: After graduating from Ouachita in 1972, Tom attended the University of Arkansas and earned his Master of Business Administration degree in 1974. After a short time of service in the U.S. Army, he and his wife, Rita, moved to Pine Bluff where he began his career in banking at National Bank of Commerce (now Worthen Banking Corporation). He became president and CEO of that bank in 1992. In 1996, Spillyards accepted the position of president and CEO of Simmons First National Bank of Pine Bluff and in 2004 accepted his current position as president and CEO of Simmons First Bank of Northwest Arkansas.

Rex Nelson: Nelson, who graduated from Ouachita in 1982, has been the radio voice of Ouachita Tiger football for three decades. Nelson served as Gov. Mike Huckabee's director of policy and communications for nearly a decade. In 2005, he was named by President George W. Bush as one of two appointees to the Delta Regional Authority. Known as an expert on Arkansas history, Southern culture and Southern politics, Nelson also writes a weekly column for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and is the author of the popular blog

rexnelsonsouthernfried.com. He also directs the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, serves on numerous boards and since 2011 has served as the president of Arkansas' Independent Colleges and Universities, an association of Arkansas' private schools of higher education, including Ouachita.

Angela (Bell) Magers: After graduating from Ouachita in 1992, Magers earned her Master of Arts in Teaching degree in 1998 and spent two years teaching business courses at Sherman High School. In 2005, she opened the Montessori Academy of North Texas, a private school for students 18 months through grade 8. Magers also serves on the advisory committee for the Austin Teacher Program at Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

Bonnie Montgomery: After graduating from Ouachita in 2002, Montgomery traveled to China to teach English and later returned to the U.S. to complete her Master of Arts in Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. Montgomery recently created *Billy Blythe*, a folk-opera based on the life of young Billy Blythe, President Bill Clinton's birth name, portraying his life growing up in Hot Springs during the late 1950s. The opera debuted in New York in 2011. She is currently on tour traveling the country singing in a country duo and has been featured on MSNBC and in the pages of *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *The Huffington Post* and *The New York Observer*. She recently released a three-song EP titled *Cruel* on the Fast Weapons label based in Portland, Ore.



Guy and Julie (Bowen) Green ('02) welcomed son Matthas William on Feb. 23. He joins big brother Shepherd (2).

Kenny and Jerilyn (Swalve) Wasson ('03) welcomed daughter Emma Michele on Aug. 25. Emma, who was diagnosed with a rare congenital heart defect and genetic disorder, remains hospitalized at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Updates are available at www.caringbridge.org/visit/Emmawasson



Wesley ('05) and Melanie (Jones '06) Benjamin welcomed daughter Caroline Ellyse on May 11. They currently live in Forney, Texas, where Wes is a teacher at Forney High School and Melanie is a speech pathologist in home health.

Tony ('03) and Dayle (Cosh '01) Carozza welcomed son Paxton on Aug. 9. He joins sister Karoline (5) and brother Brock (2).



Pamela (Stone '03) Hookstra and her husband, Kyle, adopted Ezra Kalil Stone in August 2011. He joins big sister Lois Hazel Bell (3). The Hookstra family recently relocated to Little Rock, Ark., from Austin, Texas. Pamela is a stay-at-home mom and assistant for Noonday Collection.



Tim ('04) and Katy (Burnett '07) Remington welcomed son Luke Burnett on Aug. 9.

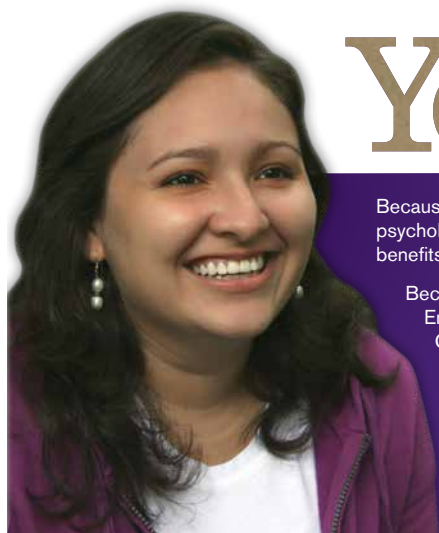


Christin (Robinson '06) Saulsbury and her husband, Scott, welcomed son Christian Edward James on July 19.

Matt ('05) and Molly Jo (Watts '10) Banks welcomed son Charles Davis on March 30.



Kevin ('07) and Lindsay (Dowd '08) Jones welcomed son Ace Monroe on May 2. Kevin serves as the youth minister at First Baptist Church in Mexia, Texas, and Lindsay is a stay-at-home mom.



You **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** to Ouachita.

Because of donors like you, Judith Brizuela attends Ouachita. The senior psychology and business administration double major from Honduras directly benefits from several endowed scholarships and the Ouachita Annual Fund.

Because of you, **Judith already makes a difference.** As president of OBU Enactus (formerly SIFE), Judith has worked with the Pregnancy Resource Center for Southwest Arkansas to raise support as well as Casa Hogar Luz, an orphanage in Judith's hometown, to produce a website and an orphan- sponsorship program.

When you give to Ouachita, you ensure that regardless of financial situation, those students who want to make a difference, can.

You make a difference. Make your year-end tax-deductible gift at www.obu.edu/give or use the envelope included in this issue.



Labin Duke ('09) and his wife, Mallory, welcomed daughters Shiloh Jordan on Aug. 3, 2010, and Moriah Ruth on Aug. 31, 2011.

Faculty & Staff Update

Curlin published in *The New Yorker*

"The Evidence of Things Not Seen," a poem by Dr. Jay Curlin, Kathryn Maddox Professor of English, was published in the July 30 issue of *The New Yorker* after Dr. Curlin was contacted by the magazine's poetry editor. According to Dr. Johnny Wink, Betty Burton Peck Professor of English, "Most poets in America try a time or two or 23 or 200 to interest *The New Yorker* in publishing poems of theirs. Jay never has made such an attempt. ... That venerable publication came looking for him!" The poem about the subatomic "Higgs boson," often referred to as the "God particle," is reprinted below with Dr. Curlin's permission.

The Evidence of Things Not Seen

How strong the lens, how keen the eyes
To see what we hypothesize,
To watch so small a thing in motion
As what we've christened the "Higgs boson,"
A tiny, massive thing that passes
For what can best explain the masses
Of other things we cannot see
But somehow, nonetheless, must be.
A thing so small is surely cute,
Though weirdly shaped, perhaps hirsute,
And just as real as any wraith
Imagined with the eyes of faith.

Copeland artwork displayed in NY

"The Boundary Hunters" art exhibit at Alfred University's Fosdick-Nelson Gallery in Alfred, N.Y., recently featured abstract works by Donnie Copeland, assistant professor of visual arts. Three of Copeland's large, 48"x36" pieces, as well two smaller canvasses, were included in the exhibit in addition to the work of six other artists.

Long presents scholarly paper

Dr. Mary Beth Long, assistant professor of English, and her former student, Sarah Stark, presented a scholarly paper at the 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Mich. Long also chaired a panel at the Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Land joins Leadership Arkansas

Lauren Land, director of career services, has been named to Leadership Arkansas, a Chamber of Commerce program that explores state economic development, education, politics and culture.

in memoriam

-1930s-

Ava (Fish '35) Halbert of Star City, Ark., passed away on Sept. 21. She is survived by her daughters **Charlotte (Halbert '67) Kirby**, **Judy (Halbert '69) Leagans** and **Sammye (Halbert '73) Fuller**; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

-1940s-

Martha (Warren '40) Anderson of Tulia, Texas, passed away on Nov. 1. She is survived by her son, Joe Anderson; three grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.

L.M. Keeling, Jr. ('40) passed away on April 14. He is survived by his son, L.M. Keeling III.

Helen Fredene Moseley ('40*) of Little Rock passed away on Sept. 26. She is survived by her brother.

Margaret (Wiley '41*) Denney of Wadsworth, Ohio, passed away on July 26. She is survived by her children, Martha Bowden, David Denney and Phillip Denney; five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Martha (Whiteley '41*) Ramsey of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Nov. 14. She is survived by her husband, **Walter "Jiggs" Ramsey, Sr. ('42)**; children **Walter "Jiggs" Ramsey, Jr. ('67)** and Rebecca Bane; and eight grandchildren.

H.B. Arnold ('43*) of San Antonio, Texas, passed away on Oct. 29. He is survived by his children, Gordon Arnold, Andrea Arnold, Hank Arnold and Katie Spriggs and step-son Robert White.

Thelma (Wallace '43) Mattox Hamilton of Little Rock passed away on July 26. She is survived by her children **Bill Mattox ('66)**, Eddy Hamilton, Keith Hamilton and Sherry Mattox Dunn; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Ted Phelps ('43*) of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on Sept. 4. He is survived by several nephews and one niece.

Minnie (Holt '43*) Woodruff of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Oct. 3. She is survived by her son, Ronnie Woodruff; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Opal (Crutchfield '44) Cussons passed away on March 30. She is survived by her husband, Clayton Cussons; children, Carolyn Shultis, Jackson Cussons, **Cathryn (Cussons '76) Martin** and **Julie (Cussons '80) Sarrett**; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Frances (Brashears '45) Hallekamp of Port Costa, Calif., passed away on Oct. 22. She is survived by her brothers and sisters.

Marchie Porter ('45*) of Little Rock passed away on Oct. 6. She is survived by her nieces and nephews.

Marvin E. Tate Jr ('47), a longtime Old Testament professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, passed away Nov. 16 at age 87. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Julia; five children, Sarah McCommon, Martha Kent, Betsey Tate, Andrew Tate and Virginia Phelps; and five grandchildren.

Vera (Sallee '49) McClain of Mt. Ida, Ark., passed away on Sept. 8. She is survived by her children, **Kenneth McClain ('56*)**, Scotty McClain, Julie McClain and Cherri Childers; six grandsons; and several great-grandchildren.

Anne (Lee '49*) Millsapps of Tulsa, Okla., passed away on Nov. 1. She is survived by her daughter, Sheri Farmer; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

-1950s-

Malcom Sample ('50*) of Russellville, Ark., passed away on Aug. 9. He is survived by his wife, Stella Sample; daughters, Sharon Sample, Bonnie Sample, Danna Schneider and Susan Guetzlaff; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Charles Thompson ('50) of Atlanta, Texas, passed away on Sept. 11. He is survived by his wife, **Joanna (Bell '51) Thompson**; children, Lee Mays and Joel Thompson; and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Daniel Martin ('52) of Manhattan, Kan., passed away on June 16. He is survived by his wife, Helen Martin.



photo by Lauren Hardy

Molly Kircher honored at 2012 Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon

by Brooke Zimny

In Ouachita's first graduating class in 1888, two of the three graduates were women. This was more than 30 years before women were granted the right to vote, 10 years before Harvard founded Radcliffe College as the "Harvard Annex for Women" and nearly 100 years before most Ivy League institutions became truly coeducational.

Today, nearly 54 percent of Ouachita Baptist University's 1,532 students are women; there are six women on Ouachita's Board of Trustees; and there are 64 women on Ouachita's faculty.

Ouachita's third annual Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon was held to benefit these outstanding women students and to honor an outstanding Ouachita alumna, Molly Kircher.

"Part of what we do at Stepping Up for Ouachita is that we want to recognize women who have made a difference in life and continue to make a difference and embody that which Ouachita stands for at her best," said President Rex Horne. "And we have certainly found such a one in Molly Kircher this year.

"Molly embodies the very best of Ouachita," Horne said. "Her devotion over her lifetime is exemplary. Her gifts of time, resources and goodwill to Ouachita have an immeasurable impact. While many talk about devotion, Molly goes quietly about living her commitment."

Kircher, a 1965 Ouachita graduate, lives in Bald Knob with her husband Larry, also a '65 grad and a member of Ouachita's Board of Trustees. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, the Kirchers moved to St. Louis, where she served in the office of the Ladue Board of Education until

the birth of their first daughter. She has served as a member of Ouachita's Alumni Advisory Board and Development Council and has served throughout the Bald Knob and Central Arkansas communities with a variety of boards and organizations.

"We all know that, from that old song, Jesus is the lighthouse," Larry said at the luncheon. "Well, I'll tell you that Jesus is our lighthouse, but in our family, Molly is the lighthouse keeper. She's always kept the oil supplied and kept the wick trimmed so that that light shines. I appreciate her so very much, and I don't get very many opportunities to say that, but Molly Kircher deserves the recognition today, and I'm so happy that they've chosen her to honor."

In recognition of her service to Ouachita, President Horne presented Kircher a one-of-a-kind James Hayes original glass slipper, provided by Dr. Peter and Carla Emanuel.

"Thank you very much. It's such an honor to be standing here today. I feel very unworthy, very undeserving," Molly said, "but it's such an honor, and I do appreciate every one of you that came today."

Kircher affirmed the importance of Ouachita's work educating young women, saying, "We are proud of the education that they receive at Ouachita, and all of you have had a part in that today by hosting this luncheon and being here. I thank you for that. ... Young women have a place in the world, and they are looked up to and respected."

"Women have played a significant role in Ouachita's rich history," emphasized Terry Peeples ('83), OBU vice president for development. "They have worked diligently in the classroom, excelled

as campus leaders and graduated as difference makers. By funding scholarships, we can ensure women will continue to be afforded a quality Christian education at Ouachita. Set the example. I encourage you and I challenge you."

"It is my privilege," added President Horne, "on behalf of all of us who serve and for those students who study at Ouachita, to thank you for your prayers, for your support, for your interest in what we believe is an excellent university, one who continues to be true to her founding, to the moorings that our founders and those who came before have made sure that we continue to offer a place where Christ is exalted, but also where the education is second to none."

The event, held Thursday, Nov. 15, at Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, was presented by Citizens State Bank and featured a live interior design demonstration by Providence, Ltd. Design of Little Rock. Cheryl Williams ('83) of Little Rock served as chairperson for this year's luncheon and worked with OBU's development staff and a Stepping Up advisory committee to coordinate the event. Kircher's granddaughter, Kaitlyn Self, performed the violin solo, "O' Come Little Children," which was followed by a performance of "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" by Sandy McDonald. McDonald serves as assistant concertmaster for the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.



Brooke Zimny, a 2008 graduate of Ouachita, serves as OBU's assistant director of communications.

Donald Travis ('53) passed away on April 2. He is survived by his wife, Johnette Travis.

Patricia (Smith '58*) Dwiggins of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Oct. 26. She is survived by her children, LeAnn Baldy and Mike Dwiggins, and four grandchildren.

Ralph Sullinger ('58) of Morganton, N.C., passed away on Feb. 18. He is survived by his wife, Estelle Sullinger; children, Teresa Sullinger, Stuart Sullinger and Adam Sullinger; step-children, Donna Flowers and James Wicker; six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Glen Jackson ('59) of Bentonville, Ark., passed away on Aug. 18. He is survived by his wife, Jackie Jackson; children, Kenneth Jackson and Marsha Haley; and one granddaughter.

Glen Seaver ('59) passed away in March. He is survived by his wife, Mary Seaver.

—1960s—

Eldon Good ('60), formerly of Stuttgart, Ark., passed away on Oct. 4. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Good, and daughter **Joy Good ('95)**.

L.B. Jordan ('61) of Hot Springs passed away on Aug. 3. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Jordan; children, Lynn Jordan, **Jennifer (Jordan '71*) Babcock** and **Nancy (Jordan '75*) Sanders**; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Gary Manning ('61) of Arkadelphia passed away on Oct. 9. He is survived by his children David Manning and **Stacey (Manning '86) Loden**; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Suzanne (Deaton '63*) Currey of Curtis, Ark., passed away on Sept. 7. She is survived by her children Brett Currey, Michael Currey and Katye Halliday; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Jackie Hatley ('64) of Cape Girardeau, Mo., passed away on Dec. 3, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Hatley.

Rebecca (Sherman '69) Watson of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Sept. 20. She is survived by her husband, **Rev. James Watson ('71)**; and children, **Joy Watson ('99*)** and **Jonathan Watson ('04*)**.

—1970s—

Kim Patterson ('70) of Warren, Ark., passed away on Sept. 11. He is survived by his parents, Arthur and Mildred Patterson, and three siblings.

Rev. Jimmie Taylor ('70*) of Crossett, Ark., passed away on Sept. 19. He is survived by his wife, Betty Taylor; children, Susan Roberts, Michael Taylor and Mark Taylor; and six grandchildren.

Kinesiology & Leisure Studies introduces new emphases

By Rachel Gregory

Ouachita Baptist University's Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies has created two new emphases: pre-professional studies and recreation/sports ministry. Together, these two emphases offer Ouachita students a more directed focus toward specific education and career opportunities.

"I've been working with our deans, encouraging them to consider new degree programs that draw on our strengths," said Dr. Stan Poole, Ouachita's vice president for academic affairs. "I'm pleased that our faculty have been so willing to work across their department lines to develop creative degree plans that meet the needs of our students."

Prior to these new emphases, students needed additional minors, such as biology and mass communications, to specialize or enhance their kinesiology/leisure studies majors. These new options will incorporate various departments on campus, offering individualized degree programs for students while utilizing Ouachita's current faculty and staff.

The emphasis in recreation/sports ministry was developed in order to fill a growing need in today's ministry landscape. Ouachita graduates currently working in that field played a pivotal role in helping to create the new emphasis.

Keith Chancey ('80), president of Kanakuk Institute and director of Kanakuk K-Seven, a

popular Christian summer camp, is just one example of a Ouachita graduate dedicated to recreation and sports ministry.

"I have literally seen hundreds of thousands of kids and counselors come through the gates of Kanakuk Kamps," Chancey said. "They have had their lives changed for eternity because of what Christ has done. God uses this camp to give proper self-image, courage, community, faith and truth. ... What we are doing is very important to making a difference for Christ in our world. Camping is an investment into eternity."

More than 100 students at Ouachita work at camps similar to Kanakuk each year and, according to OBU's Fall 2011 Ministry-Related Vocation Survey, many of those students hope to follow a similar career path in the future.

The recreation/sports ministry emphasis will incorporate courses from the Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies, the Pruet School of Christian Studies and the Rogers Department of Communications. For kinesiology/leisure studies majors who chose an emphasis in recreation/sports ministry, employment opportunities after college may include work at sport-, outdoor- and church-related ministries in addition to Christian camps.

For students who are considering graduate/professional programs in athletic training, exercise science or physical/occupational therapy, the new pre-professional emphasis is an ideal fit. It

features a partnership among the Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies, the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition.

"There is such flexibility in the pre-professional emphasis," said Dr. Mike Reynolds, chair of the Kinesiology and Leisure Studies Department, adding that the emphasis can be adapted to fit the prerequisites for a variety of professions or graduate programs. This new strategic approach will increase the amount of flexible elective hours for each student.

"If you have a desire to coach, work as a church recreation minister, become a personal trainer, run your own camp, work for the National Park Service or pursue a career in a health-related field, one of these emphases is for you," Reynolds said.

Our faculty "are excellent at advising and counseling students toward an emphasis that matches a student's interests," he added.

The Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies is part of Ouachita's Michael D. Huckabee School of Education. It offers four emphases for its students, including fitness, pre-professional studies, recreation and recreation/sports ministry.



Rachel Gregory is a junior English major from Malvern, Ark.

Elizabeth (Adams '73) Jackson of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Sept. 15. She is survived by her daughter, Glendean Davis.

Gene Mason ('73) passed away on Dec. 13, 2011. He is survived by his wife, **Judy (Nichols '71) Mason**; children, Mitchell Mason and Merrilee O'Meilia; and two grandchildren.

Paul Sharp ('75) of Little Rock passed away on Oct. 26. He is survived by his wife, **Sherrie (Brown '80*) Sharp**; children **Aaron Sharp ('05)** and **Adam Sharp ('08)**; and three grandchildren. Paul was the son of former Ouachita trustee and Development Council member **Ike Sharp ('51)** and **Billie (Geurin '52) Sharp**, and brother of **Jane Sharp ('77)** and OBU athletic director **David Sharp ('80)**.

—1980s—

Margaret (Nicks '80) McGhee of Fordyce, Ark., passed away on July 24. She is survived by her husband, **Robert McGhee ('79)**.

—1990s—

Sandra (Palsgrove '95) Patterson of Warren, Ark., passed away on Sept. 11. She is survived by her children, Christina Nelson and Stephen Nelson, and one granddaughter.

—2000s—

Matt Turner ('03) of Little Rock passed away on Oct. 6. He is survived by his wife, **Julee (Bell '05) Turner**, and daughter Preslee Turner.

—Faculty & Staff—

Major Kenneth Phelps, retired OBU maintenance supervisor, passed away on Nov. 13. He is survived by his wife, **Ina (Loomis '51*) Phelps**; sons, John Phelps and **Joseph Phelps ('86)**; and three granddaughters.

Mary Sue Shinn of Magnolia, Ark., a former OBU Development Council member, passed away on Oct. 6. She is survived by her children, Sarah Newton, Linda Grace, Becky Shinn and Jay Shinn; five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

* denotes former student

COMING SOON

Friday, March 8, 2013

Ouachita Baptist University

presents a concert by the



ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PHILIP MANN MUSIC DIRECTOR



Jones Performing Arts Center
featuring the music of
W. FRANCIS MCBETH

Ticket information
available in January



Danny Hays, Dean, Pruet School of Christian Studies

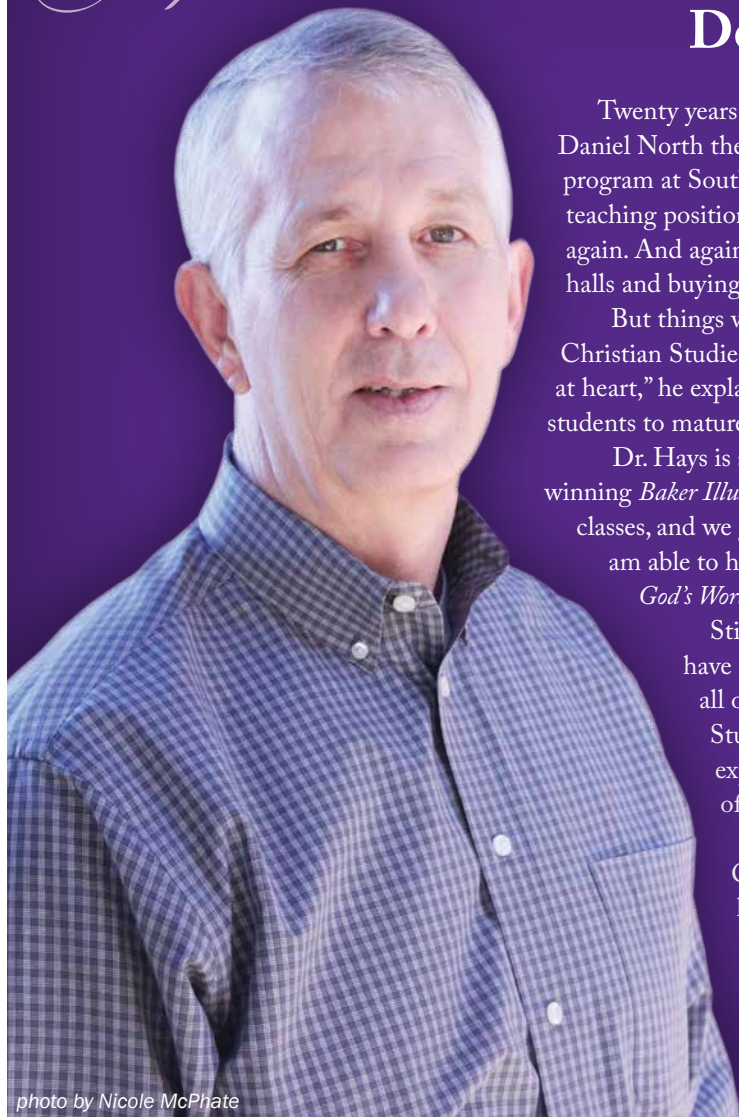


photo by Nicole McPhate

Twenty years ago this spring, Dr. Danny Hays was shown to his on-campus accommodations in Daniel North the night before teaching his first college class at Ouachita. Fresh out of his doctoral program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, this was his interview for an Old Testament teaching position, and nerves were swirling. As his head hit the pillow, he heard a commotion. And again. And again. His room was across from the Coke machine and students were running through the halls and buying sodas all night. He didn't sleep a wink.

But things went well the next day, and 20 years later, Dr. Hays is dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies. In addition to his work as dean, he teaches a few classes each semester. "I'm a teacher at heart," he explained. "To see students 'get it'—to watch them go from being 18-year-old, 'green' students to mature Ouachita graduates entering the ministry—that is my greatest joy."

Dr. Hays is also a prolific author. He has written and edited numerous books, including the award-winning *Baker Illustrated Bible Handbook* with Dr. Scott Duvall. "I can pour into 60 students a year in my classes, and we graduate 30 to 40 Christian Studies students a year, but it is amazing to me the impact I am able to have as tens of thousands of students around the country and the world will study *Grasping God's Word*, the first book I wrote with Dr. Duvall in 2005, in their college courses this year alone."

Still, what Dr. Hays views as his greatest impact on the world is the influence he is able to have on students at Ouachita. "I'm constantly running into missionaries who have been sent all over the world, ministers, seminary professors—all who have come through our Christian Studies classes. The impact these students are making around the world is huge and exponential. The work we do here trains and equips them to minister and meet the needs of people all over the world."

What excites Dr. Hays the most these days is the future of the Pruet School and Ouachita. "We're working on plans to expand our facilities, majors offered and who knows? ... We continue to strive toward preparing and equipping our students to best meet the needs of the church today."

Dr. Hays is also devoted to his local church. He teaches an adult Sunday School class, serves on mission teams and is chairing a current building program at Second Baptist Church of Arkadelphia. He and his wife, Donna, are the parents of two adult children, Hannah McMillan ('03) and J.D. Hays ('07).

DRIVE WITH



TIGER PRIDE



Proceeds from each license plate purchase will go to the Tiger Network Scholarship Fund. Plates are \$35 in addition to renewal fees. See a revenue office representative for further details.

David Sharp, Athletic Director

staff profile

It's obvious to those who call Ouachita home that our athletic program and student-athletes make a huge impact. More than 25 percent of our students compete on one of 16 NCAA Division II sports teams. Yet the impact of OBU's athletic program reaches far beyond the scoreboard.

David Sharp, Ouachita's athletic director since 1999, loves watching young men and young women grow and succeed not only in sports but academically, socially, spiritually and eventually professionally. "Our student-athletes learn discipline, how to work as a team, hard work and perseverance," he said. "But our students also learn a lot from the example set by their coaches—like integrity, character and what it looks like to have a relationship with Jesus Christ."

While Coach Sharp expects great intensity from his coaches on the field and on the court, it's their concern for each student and their desire for them to personally encounter Christ that sets Ouachita athletics apart.

Recalling a recent conversation with a coach about a student-athlete who was asking a lot of questions about God, Sharp suggested several people with whom the student could visit. "A few days later I received another call from that coach and the student was ready to follow Christ and become a Christian. That evening I had the privilege of praying with this young woman and being there as she prayed to accept Christ."

The past few years have been tough for Coach Sharp and his family—losing his dad, Ike, in 2010; his mom, Billie, in 2011; and his brother, Paul, this fall. "I love my family dearly. My dad and my brother were my mentors; my brother was my closest friend." His family has "modeled absolute unconditional love that guides me today."

Family remains extremely important to Sharp. He affirms the love and support of his wife, Carrie ('85), an OBU instructor of education; his daughter, Ashlee ('12); his son, Jordan, an OBU freshman; and his sister, Jane.

Just over a year ago, Sharp said he became concerned that his days with his family might be cut short. He said Dr. Wesley Kluck, a friend and campus physician, came to him concerned. "He told me if I didn't do something about my weight, I was going to die—suddenly and sooner than I would expect. And that did it."

Since that day, Coach Sharp has lost more than 200 pounds and the change has had a huge impact on his life. "It's changed the way I think, my attitude and, of course, my appearance. I'm thankful for friends who cared enough to walk through the last year with me and look forward to many more years with my family that I might not have had otherwise."

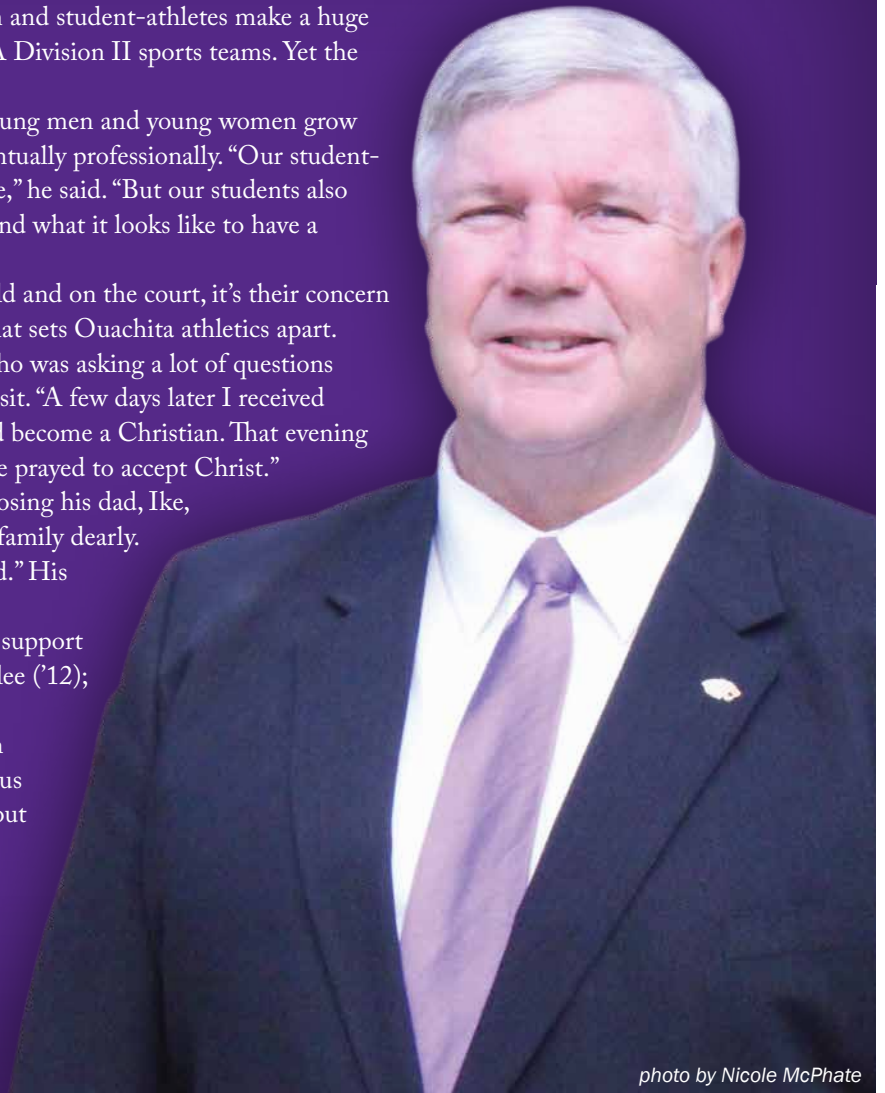


photo by Nicole McPhate

OBU faculty & staff honored for combined total of 545 years of service

A total of 28 Ouachita Baptist University faculty and staff members were honored with service awards during the university's annual faculty-staff banquet. The 28 honorees have a combined total of 545 years of service at Ouachita.

"There is nothing more important to fulfilling the mission of Ouachita than the people who serve here," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "No matter one's calling and responsibility, each is vital to Ouachita being all she can be for the Lord, our students and constituents. We are grateful for those who have invested their lives among us."

Faculty and staff members recognized with 2012 service awards include:

35 years of service: Frances Williams, building services staff.

30 years of service: Evalyn Cowart, acquisitions and administrative assistant, Riley-

Hickingbotham Library; Clark Kuyper, research assistant, Sutton School of Natural Sciences; David Sharp, athletic director.

25 years of service: Mike Ayres, printing department director; Jeanie Curry, assistant professor of accounting; Dr. Byron Eubanks, professor of philosophy and director of the Sutton Center for Integrity; Bill McCrary, coordinator of academic services, Academic Success Center; Dr. Dave Ozmun, professor of communications; Dr. Deborah Root, chair of the Rogers Department of Communications; Donna Sisson, switchboard/accounts receivable, Office of Business Services.

20 years of service: Phil Hardin, assistant to the president for administration; Shirley Hardin, assistant registrar; Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies; Susan Hurst, director of student financial services; Eric Phillips,

professor of theatre arts; Dr. Doug Sonheim, chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages.

15 years of service: Sharon Gattis, data entry specialist, Office of Development; Bryan McKinney, J.D., dean of the Hickingbotham School of Business; Dr. Marty Perry, Nell I. Mondy Professor of Chemistry.

10 years of service: Kathy Fendley, building services staff; Brenda Gorman, building services staff; Kristin Grant, assistant professor of music; Dr. Lori Hensley, associate professor of biology and holder of the J.D. Patterson Chair of Biology; Robert Hesse, instructor of music and director of athletic bands; Joey Licklider, manager of Jones Performing Arts Center; Dr. Jeff Sykes, professor of mathematics; Misty Thacker, building services staff.

Ouachita's people make lasting impact

What picture does the word “impact” flash upon your mind? I think of tests that automakers perform to assess the performance of their vehicles. Particularly, I think of the orchestrated crashes with dummies that reveal whether a vehicle’s safety features are satisfactory. These tests are important for those of us who have ever experienced the impact of an automobile accident. There are moments of impact that are clear, direct and immediately recognized. When something is hit by something else, the impact is readily seen.

There is another kind of impact that is not so much a forceful contact as it is influence. This influence is seen every day here at Ouachita. The sum of Ouachita’s days extends beyond 126 years now. That is both a long time and a lot of influence. Institutions have influence. Certainly our university does. Testimonials are common from men and women of various ages when it comes to the effect Ouachita has made on their lives. The influence may be spiritual, relational or educational. In most cases it is all of these or more. The nurture given and the debt owed are fresh with every thought of this place. Ouachita is truly their alma mater.

Ouachita holds a place of influence because of individuals. We speak of Ouachita’s influence, but likely are thinking of a professor, coach or classmate. Ouachita always has been her people. I see professors working through the day, teaching and meeting students, preparing for classes, attending recitals, plays and games. I know of their time given to attend an event in Little Rock, across our land or in India or South Africa because of the impact these experiences will have on their students.

I can illustrate. Dr. Johnny Wink is one who has influenced students, colleagues and this institution for decades. Professor Wink recently attended an Arkadelphia-Malvern football game. I don’t think Dr. Wink is a diehard football fan, though

he may be. I know that he is a dedicated teacher and mentor. I offer this observation and educated guess: Dr. Wink was there supporting a former student who excelled in English classes and on the football field. Furthermore, this continued interest will inspire the young teacher/coach to continue to make a difference in the lives of his students. I could be wrong about this, but I am not!

Influence, whether by institutions or individuals, is not as direct or quick as running a car into a wall. It is not always a straight line, but more like concentric circles that share a

“We speak of Ouachita’s influence, but likely are thinking of a professor, coach or classmate.”

common center. The influence of Ouachita is multiplied many times greater than the number of students who have attended here. The effect is seen upon the families, friends, cities, churches and countries where our people may live, work and serve. This is incredible impact.

The common center is a beautiful campus where men and women teach and young men and young women learn. The circles expand throughout this world and even to eternity. Now that is impact. How I thank God for this place and her impact.



Ref Horne

DISCOVER THE Ouachita DIFFERENCE



[DIFFERENT IS GOOD]

READY TO LEARN MORE?

DISCOVER THE OUACHITA DIFFERENCE
FOR YOURSELF AT VIMEO.COM/OBU



OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

- Nationally recognized academic programs
- Great 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio
- Student debt rate below state and national averages
- Incredible international study opportunities
- Caring, dedicated faculty and staff members
- 96% graduate school acceptance rate
- Strong commitment to faith and learning
- Close-knit campus community

www.obu.edu // 1.800.DIAL.OBU

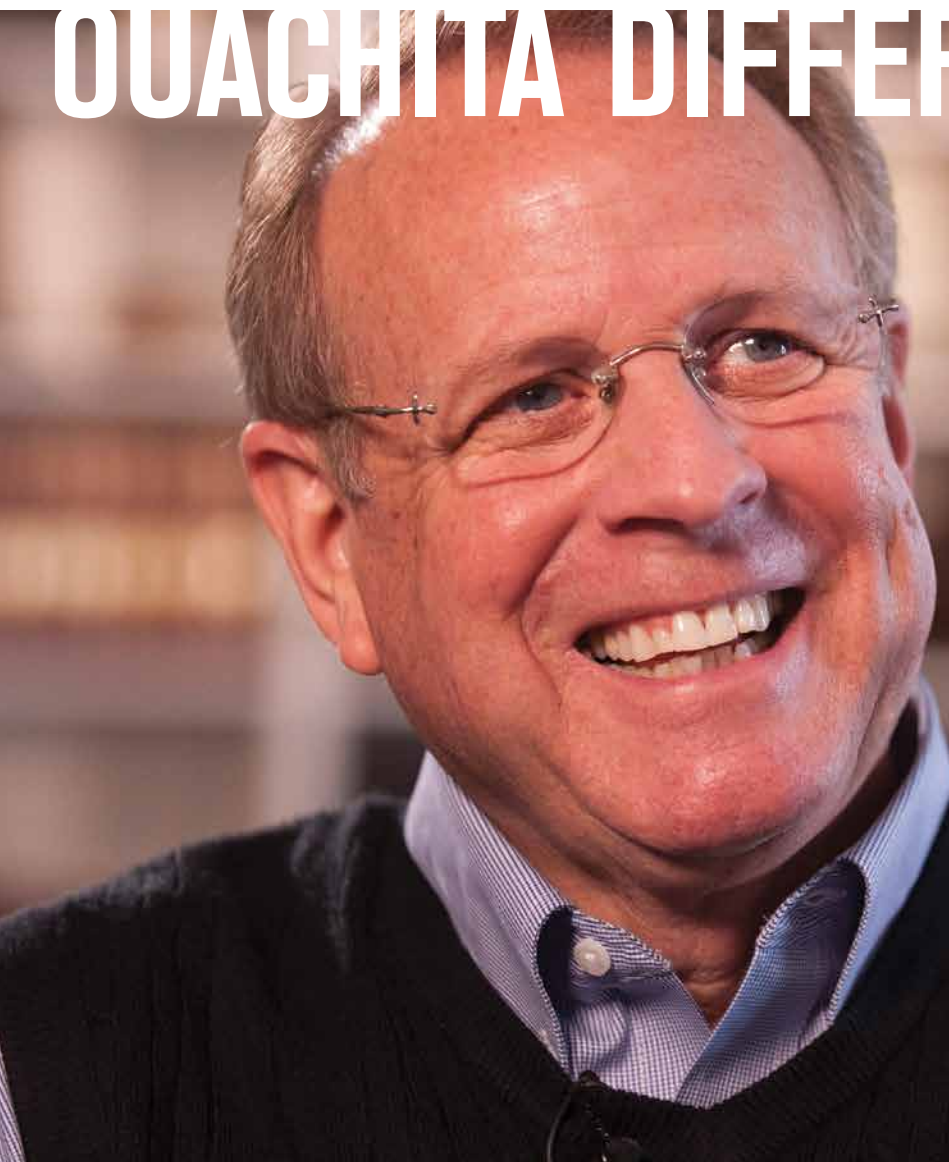


OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI OFFICE
410 Ouachita Street • Box 3762
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71998-0001

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LITTLE ROCK, AR
PERMIT NO. 211

OUACHITA DIFFERENCE MAKERS



DR. TOM ELLIFF (OBU CLASS OF 1966)

President, Southern Baptist International Mission Board

Speaking during a recent chapel service at Ouachita, Dr. Elliff reminded students that Jesus expects us to see something, feel something, know something and do something.

Elliff has faithfully modeled those words, serving as a longtime pastor, Southern Baptist Convention leader and international missionary. He was elected president of the International Mission Board in 2011, directing the work of thousands of missionaries around the globe.

Following his call to ministry, Elliff said God allowed him "to see all the advantages Ouachita had to offer in terms of education, campus life and spiritual emphasis. I look back on my days at Ouachita with joy and gratitude."

Affirming that "God has a plan for your life that is more grand than you can imagine," Elliff said, "The plans of God are revealed to any man or woman of God, by the Spirit of God, through the Word of God. This means that God's plan for your life is findable and knowable. Once you establish that fact in your mind, you can find God's plan and do it! That's where the real excitement and effectiveness begin."

Pursuing that truth has helped make Dr. Tom Elliff a Ouachita Difference Maker.