

Fall 2014

The Ouachita Circle Fall 2014

Ouachita Baptist University

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The ouachita Circle

FALL 2014

CELEBRATION



Jane Chu heads NEA

Affordability initiatives launched

Ouachita celebrations abound

Celebration! The very word sparks images of achievement, victory and joy. From Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Year's, most of us are in a celebratory mood. Even such infamous party poopers as Ebenezer Scrooge and the Grinch (spoiler alert!) eventually discovered the joy of true celebration.

This issue of *The Ouachita Circle* is filled with numerous examples of Ouachitonians celebrating milestones large and small. As Jon Merryman, director of Ouachita Alumni, points out in this edition's theme interpretation on pages 2-4, "With so much to celebrate on a regular basis, 2014 gave us many reasons to celebrate. ... It's the people of Ouachita who are at the heart of the celebration."

Among long-awaited celebrations this year was the dedication of Cliff Harris Stadium, providing a top-notch facility for Tiger football players and fans while also honoring Ouachita football legend Cliff Harris.

Declaring that "there's nothing like football in the fall at Ouachita," Harris told the crowd, "This beautiful new stadium is going to be a portal into Arkadelphia." For its part, the team responded by recording the Tigers' first-ever 10-0 regular season, culminating with a memorable win in the 88th Battle of the Ravine and a conference championship. Cue the celebration!

Not to be outdone, the women's soccer team closed out its season with three straight victories and its first Great American Conference championship. The Tiger soccer program also celebrated its upgraded facilities by naming the soccer field in honor of longtime supporters Dr. Wesley and Debbie Kluck.

But Ouachita celebrations aren't limited to athletic achievements. In the midst of current racial tensions across the nation, we celebrate the memory of Mike and Mary Makosholo of Zimbabwe, who broke the color barrier at Ouachita in 1962 as the school's first black students. Two years later, Ouachita admitted its first African-American students, making 2014 the 50th anniversary of that historic milestone.

This year, we also have celebrated the dedication of the renovated and expanded Rosemary Gossett Adams Department of Visual Arts and its beautiful new gallery spaces. Other celebrations highlighted the 40th anniversary of the Ouachita Student Foundation, a national Top 10 finish in *Forbes'* #MyTopCollege social media campaign and a pair of Telly Awards for the "Discover the Ouachita Difference" video produced in partnership with Dean Film & Video.

The list goes on and on. Ouachita not only has much to celebrate, but many blessings to cherish. Glory to God as we joyfully celebrate Ouachita's past, present and future.



Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

“cele-brate: 1. to do something special or enjoyable for an important event, occasion, holiday, etc. 2. to praise (someone or something); to say that (someone or something) is great or important.”

Merriam-Webster.com

“Celebrate what you want to see more of.”

Thomas J. Peters

“The celebration ... is a moment when the excitement of your goal makes you react to the moment.”

Peter Bondra

“We celebrate His holy birth with joy and love, with songs and mirth.”

Ernestine Northover

“But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.”

Psalms 13:5



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Jon Merryman, director of Ouachita Alumni and the Ouachita Student Foundation, reflects on widespread opportunities to celebrate academic, artistic and athletic accolades at Ouachita.

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A longtime dream came true when the Ouachita Tigers kicked off the 2014 football season in the university's new Cliff Harris Stadium dedicated in honor of a legendary Tiger football star.

10 Alumna Jane Chu chairs NEA

1979 OBU alumna Jane Chu, who literally grew up on the Ouachita campus, was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to chair the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Rosemary Adams, a 1963 Ouachita graduate and generous donor, came back to campus this month to help dedicate the renovated and expanded Rosemary Gossett Adams Department of Visual Arts.

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WITH EACH REUNION, DEDICATION OR MILESTONE, IT'S THE PEOPLE OF OUACHITA WHO ARE AT THE HEART OF THE CELEBRATION.

OUACHITA OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE EACH DAY

By Jon Merryman

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” It’s not difficult to find reasons to celebrate at Ouachita. A building or program is always reaching another “birthday” or milestone, new facilities are built and dedicated, athletic teams win and academic and artistic accolades abound. And we certainly, like Paul reminded the church at Philippi in Philippians 4:4, have reason to remain in a spirit of celebration and rejoicing for who the Lord is and all He has done.

With so much to celebrate on a regular basis, 2014 gave us many reasons to celebrate. If we look deeper into the “why” of celebration at Ouachita, we quickly discover the “who.” With each reunion, dedication or milestone, it’s the people of Ouachita who are at the heart of the celebration.

It’s people like Ouachita alumna Jane Chu (’79), confirmed by the U.S. Senate in June as the 11th chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Our alumni difference makers continue to give us reason to celebrate their outstanding achievements!

There’s former Dallas Cowboys football star and Ouachita alumnus Cliff Harris (’70), whom we celebrated and honored as we opened the much-anticipated Cliff Harris Stadium on Sept. 13. The facilities added great visibility and support for our Tiger football team as they celebrated their best season in school history, going 10-0 in the regular season, sending us to the NCAA Division II playoffs, and quite possibly more importantly, winning the 88th Battle of the Ravine!

We also celebrate Head Coach Todd Knight, in his 16th year of coaching at Ouachita, who led the Tigers to their seventh consecutive winning season, the most of any college or university in the state, and who was named Great American Conference Coach of the Year. On the basketball court, we celebrate with Head Coach Garry Crowder as he recently earned his 300th win with the Lady Tigers after previously earning his 700th career victory.

We celebrated former Ouachita presidents Dr. Daniel Grant and Dr. Ben Elrod who supported students like Pam (Vinson) Raspberry (’76) and Carol (Miller) Gresham (’76), in researching and establishing the Ouachita Student Foundation, which celebrated 40 years of “students helping students” this year at Homecoming.

Thousands of Ouachitonians have been able to stay and complete their education at Ouachita through the tireless work of the more than 1,000 students who have served as members of OSF, raising and awarding more than \$1.2 million in scholarships for fellow students. A gathering of 15 of the original 20 founding members of OSF was held between Saturday night Tiger Tunes shows this October where alumni shared stories of the early years and their amazement over all OSF has become.

It’s Shelby Seabaugh, whose memory lives on at Ouachita through the Shelby Seabaugh Spirit of Tunes Award and this year’s recipient, Aaryn Elliott (’15). The creation of the award, an act of love and

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remembrance from her fellow OSF members, endowed by the Kluck Family Charitable Trust, will allow the award to be given each year to the person or group that best exemplifies the spirit of Tunes. As Tiger Tunes continues to grow, sell out year after year and raise more and more scholarship funds, it's the students who work countless hours to produce such a great show that we celebrate each year.

We celebrate Kim and Craig Ward, who you'll read more about in this issue's staff profile. They have invested 25 years of their lives to grow Ouachita's tennis program into one of the best in the nation while keeping the primary focus on changing lives and making a difference. Through countless tournament trips, and with many of their players international students, the Wards have become like family to many of their players past and present. It's people like the Wards who make Ouachita a unique place where those competing in NCAA D-II athletics also experience love, support, encouragement, guidance – family.

And then there's Scott Meador ('84) who always finds a reason to celebrate with classmates. A few years ago, he asked, "Why not throw an '80s after party after the Homecoming football game?" This event is always a huge hit. This year, it was Meador's reunion year and he planned this year's outstanding "30 ROCKs" 30-year reunion, bringing together more than 100 classmates and friends to reconnect at Ouachita – one of our largest class reunions to date.

And there's Rosemary (Gossett) Adams ('63) whose generous donation allowed for the renovation of Moses-Provine Hall and the creation of the Rosemary Adams Department of Visual Arts and the Rosemary Gossett Adams Gallery. In addition to the Hammons Gallery in Mabee Fine Arts Center and the Verser Gallery in Verser Theatre, the Adams Gallery provides much-needed space for our outstanding students to display their work in a professional setting, helping prepare them for future shows in galleries around the world.

Next year, Ouachita will celebrate our 40th annual "Arkansas' Most Exciting College Weekend" featuring Tiger Traks, our 70th Ouachita Homecoming and the dedication of the new Elrod Center for Family and Community. As these events approach and as we look deeper, we'll see OSF members preparing for Traks, Homecoming queens crowned, football stars born and Tiger Tunes participants dazzling crowds. We also will no doubt celebrate the legacy of Dr. Ben Elrod, who continues to inspire the work of the Elrod Center.

As a memorable 2014 comes to a close, we reflect on so much and so many who give us cause to celebrate at Ouachita every day.



Jon Merryman, a 2000 Ouachita graduate, serves as director of Ouachita Alumni and the Ouachita Student Foundation.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

OUACHITA STUDENT FOUNDATION: A TRUE CLASSIC CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF CAMPUS IMPACT

By Deborah Root



40 YEARS OF
STUDENTS
HELPING
STUDENTS
1974 – 2014



Our family has listened to numerous hours of classic top 40 and traditional oldies on the radio during our vacation adventures and over two decades of football road trips. While most listeners like to belt out the song lyrics and be the first to name the artist, Jeff and I would hear this sweet voice from the back seat yell, “Tiger Tunes, Kappa Pirates, 1999.” For our family, a song didn’t achieve classic status by selling a million records. A song was a classic if it had made its way onto the Tiger Tunes stage.

While Tiger Tunes is the premier event of the Ouachita Student Foundation, the organization’s motto of “students helping students” is what has made – and continues to make – OSF worthy of being called a “classic.” Merriam-Webster defines classic as “serving as a standard of excellence: of recognized value.”

Whether it’s raising more than \$1 million in student scholarships, making a personal visit to a potential OSF donor, working the phone-a-thon, showing a prospective student around campus, refereeing an oozeball game at Traks or coordinating a show that involves more than 500 students and 5,000 spectators, the hundreds of students who have been members of OSF over its 40-year history have each played a part in the success of the organization and its mission.

Its mission is the reason why Jeff and I both joined OSF as students, why we served as faculty sponsors and why that voice in the back seat, who attended her first Tiger Tunes at five months old and has never missed a show since, is now a member of OSF and is co-directing a show this year.

OSF has gone through some changes in its 40 years. Gone are the orange polos with big blue letters across the back, bike races at the football stadium and celebrity tennis matches. Tunes was added to the mix my junior year with an on-stage band in Mitchell Auditorium. In 1992 we moved to JPAC, and sold-out audiences followed.

While some things change and evolve over time, one thing has remained the same, “students helping students.” When the mud is washed off and the pirate, sheep and elf costumes are stuffed in a dorm closet, what remains are not just the memories, but the fact that each person who donned a costume, bought a ticket, played in an oozeball game or made a donation – each of those individuals helped someone else complete a Ouachita education.

That is excellence. That is valuable. That is classic.

The above tribute is reprinted from this year’s Tiger Tunes program.



Founding members of OSF: (Back Row) Mike Locke, Cindy Elrod, Steve Lemmond, Tommy Bryan, Alan Burton (Third Row) Michelle Roussel, Pam Taylor, Sharon Ferguson, Melissa Maly, Ray Trantham (Second Row) Mike Goodwin, Jan Johnson, Carol Miller, Andrew Greene, Pam Vinson (Front Row) Rick Young, Vicki Morgan, Janis Cunningham, Penny Glass and Steve Carter.



Dr. Deborah Root is chair of Ouachita’s Rogers Department of Communications, a former OSF staff sponsor and former OSF member.

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2014

Homecoming & Tiger



1

The Purple Plaza Party, a new addition to this year's Homecoming activities, offered an afternoon of fun and fellowship.



The 2014 Hosts & Hostesses perform at Tiger Tunes.

The EEE "bEEEs" captured second place at Tunes.



The Eta Alpha Omega "Janitors" earned a third-place Tunes finish.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal 2



3

Tunes



photo by Grace Finley

Highlighting "Traditions, Touchdowns & Tunes," Ouachita students and alumni gathered the first week of October for Homecoming 2014.

1 Fans cheer for the Tigers in the new Cliff Harris Stadium. 2 Homecoming royalty includes Queen Anna Sikes and her court, Roxanne Easter, Hannah Pinkerton, Victoria Williams and Katie Theriot. 3 The Tigers won the Homecoming football game 54-21 over Southwestern Okla. State. 4 Tiger Alley provided a festive setting to gather for a meal between Saturday Tunes shows. *Photos by Wesley Kluck*



The cheer squad celebrates another Ouachita touchdown.

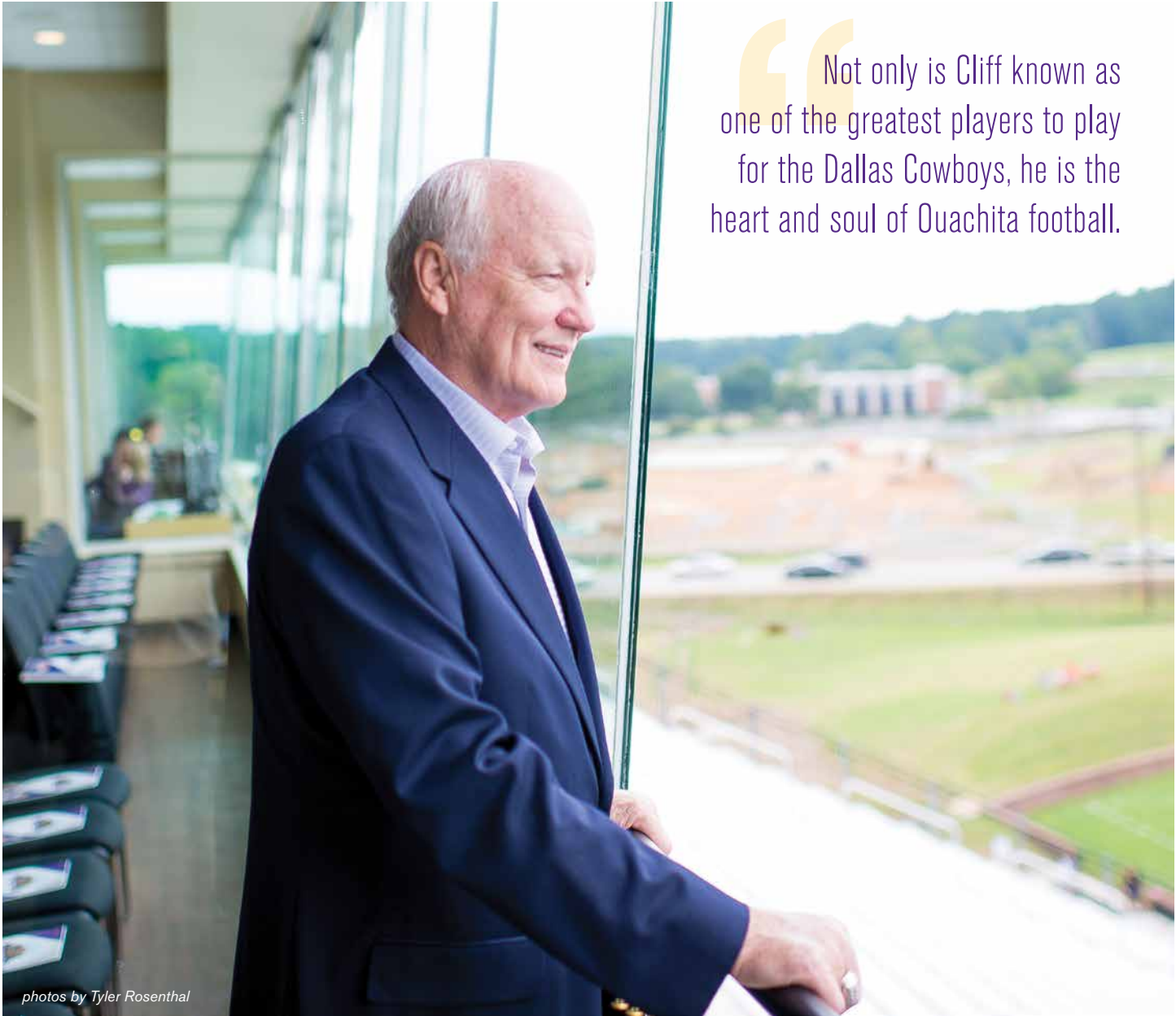


The Kappa Chi "Egyptians" won this year's Tigers Tunes title.



4

CELEBRATION



“ Not only is Cliff known as one of the greatest players to play for the Dallas Cowboys, he is the heart and soul of Ouachita football.

photos by Tyler Rosenthal



CLIFF HARRIS STADIUM HONORS LEGENDARY TIGER FOOTBALL STAR

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

As the Ouachita Tigers kicked off the 2014 season Sept. 13 in Cliff Harris Stadium, it marked the culmination of a longtime dream for Tiger football. The new stadium is named in honor of former Ouachita Tiger Cliff Harris, who went on to become Ouachita football's most successful alumnus to play in the NFL.

During dedication activities prior to kickoff and during halftime, university officials recognized Harris; lead donor Kelcy Warren; the George Dunklin family who provided funding for the state-of-the-art press box; Scott Street, a former Ouachita quarterback who chaired the stadium's "100-Yard Campaign" fundraising effort; and others who were involved in the project's design, construction and funding.

"What a beautiful day we have here at Cliff Harris Stadium," President Rex Horne told the crowd of more than 2,500 enthusiastic fans.

"We want to thank, first of all, Kelcy Warren, whose friendship, generosity and kindness have made our vision a reality," Dr. Horne said. Introducing the stadium's namesake, he emphasized that "Cliff Harris is certainly the right selection for this stadium to be named."

"There's nothing like football in the fall at Ouachita," Harris responded. "Today is a unique day. I'm surrounded by my friends and my Ouachita teammates and brothers that I had in such a unique place to play football here at Ouachita Baptist University."

Noting that "this beautiful new stadium is going to be a portal into Arkadelphia," Harris said, "I'm so blessed today to have generous, loyal friends. This is about contributions made; I thank every one of you who was involved with your contributions to the stadium."

"I'm so thankful for my wife, my friends, my teammates, my family," he added. "I'm a blessed man."

In addition to his wife, Karen, and other family members, Harris was joined on the field by members of the Ouachita Tigers football team who played alongside Harris in the 1960s under Head Coach Buddy Benson as well as three teammates from the Dallas Cowboys in the 1970s: Lee Roy Jordan, Mike Montgomery and Charlie Waters.

Among Harris' many accolades, he was an All-Conference and All-American free safety for the Tigers. He went on to play in six Pro Bowls and five Super Bowls, including two Super Bowl victories, during a decade with the Dallas Cowboys. Harris also was named to the prestigious Cowboys Ring of Honor; inducted into the Ouachita Athletics Hall of Fame, NAIA Hall of Fame and Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame; and named to the NFL's All-Decade Team for the 1970s. Last year, the national Cliff Harris Award for Small College Defensive Player of the Year was named in his honor.

Harris is "the best known athlete Ouachita has ever produced," Dr. Horne said in an interview prior to the dedication celebration. "His story is truly an all-American type of story. Not only is he our best, there are few in the National Football League who have had such an illustrious career."

"The overriding factor in our decision to honor Cliff is that he always has been proud of his alma mater, has been helpful to us and has continued his Ouachita experience across his life," Horne added.

"Not only is Cliff known as one of the greatest players to play for the Dallas Cowboys, he is the heart and soul of Ouachita football," said Ouachita Head Football Coach Todd Knight. "He is a Ouachita football alum and is as big as they get at the highest level. Every time his name is mentioned in reference to the stadium, it brings a high level of respect to Ouachita Tiger football."

The dedication of Cliff Harris Stadium was a milestone for Tiger football, which has a rich tradition dating back to 1895. A.U. Williams Field remains a central feature of the new stadium. The playing field is named for the Hot Springs physician who donated land for Ouachita's first football field more than a century ago in 1912.

The new stadium is an impressive 192 feet long, 110 feet deep and 82 feet tall, including the George Dunklin Family Press Box, which measures nearly 3,500 square feet. The home stands will seat 3,060 fans, including 572 reserved seats. The project planning and construction team included Dr. Brett Powell, OBU vice president for administrative services, architect John McMorran of Lewis Architects Engineers and general contractor Irwin Seale of Seale Construction.

Affirming the impact of the overall stadium project, Dr. Horne said, "Convenience, comfort and a great experience will be hallmarks of our new stadium. With the facilities located in our concourse, our fans will have easy access to concessions, merchandise and restrooms. Watching the game from our new stadium adds a dimension of sight that we have not enjoyed before."

Coach Knight also is excited about the facilities. "The new stadium enhances our ability to attract very talented student athletes," he said. "To be able to combine first class facilities with top notch academics is an added asset for the overall program. It also provides a sense of pride among our faculty, staff, students and alumni, which will create a great atmosphere and unity among the whole campus."

Athletic Director David Sharp said the facility "will completely change the experience for fans." Citing various features of the new stadium, he noted that the press box includes a presidential suite, athletic director's suite and reception area as well as coaches' boxes, radio boxes and areas for media, sports information, film deck, public address speaker and clock operations.

"The new stadium should bring a new life and a home field excitement for the players to the Ouachita football program," Harris declared. "Coach Knight and Coach Sharp always have done an excellent job in bringing quality athletes into the Tiger football program. A shiny, modern stadium certainly should help them with recruiting and team spirit at home games. Hopefully, we will see statewide and national recognition for the new stadium that will bring needed attention and focus to the Ouachita football program and how it benefits the university."



National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu (second from left) and Raneer Ramaswamy, founder of Ragamala Dance Company and a member of the National Council on the Arts, interact with Ragamala Dance performers Ashwini Ramaswamy, Aparna Ramaswamy and Tamara Nadel. photo courtesy of NEA

Jane Chu, new NEA chair, affirms strong Ouachita roots

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Dr. Jane Chu, the new chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, grew up at Ouachita Baptist University – literally. Chu’s father, Dr. Finley Chu, was chairman of the business and economics division at Ouachita from 1963 until he died of cancer in 1967. Her mother, Rosemary “Mom” Chu, became a hall director in Frances Crawford West when Jane was age 9. Mom Chu went on to serve more than 42 years in Frances Crawford before retiring in 2009.

“From the fourth grade through my Ouachita graduation, I grew up having the Ouachita campus as my personal neighborhood and the Ouachita faculty and staff as my family,” Jane Chu explained. “I’m so grateful to have had this unique opportunity, and am very appreciative of the Ouachita folks who helped to raise me. I am an only child, but it seemed like Ouachita was my family.”

During her years as a Ouachita student, Chu was active in a number of campus organizations, including the Ouachita Student Foundation, the Ouachi-Tones and Concert Band. She also was crowned Homecoming queen and was the recipient of a Ouachitonian Leadership Award.

Reflecting on the impact of her Ouachita education, Chu said, “Our world has become so globally connected and our future leaders must learn to synthesize diverse perspectives. My liberal arts education from Ouachita helped me learn how to address these multiple perspectives.”

In addition to earning a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Ouachita in 1979, Chu holds a master’s degree in piano pedagogy from Southern Methodist University, an MBA from Rockhurst University and a PhD in philanthropic studies from Indiana University. She also received an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Prior to her nomination and confirmation as NEA chair, Chu had served since 2006 as president and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City. She previously was vice president of external relations for Union Station Kansas City and vice president

of community investment for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

Chu, who was nominated as NEA chair in February by President Obama, was confirmed in June by the U.S. Senate.

“Jane’s lifelong passion for the arts and her background in philanthropy have made her a powerful advocate for artists and arts education in Kansas City,” President Obama said at the time of her nomination. “She knows firsthand how art can open minds, transform lives and revitalize communities, and believes deeply in the importance of the arts to our national culture.”

Affirming Chu’s selection to the national leadership post, Ouachita President Rex Horne said, “Jane’s passion for the arts has been evident across her adult life. Her legacy here at Ouachita extends across all of her life. We pray God’s guidance for her in this significant leadership position.”

Citing key goals in her new role, Chu said, “We believe that the arts are a public good; therefore, we will focus on our vision of all Americans having the opportunity to be engaged with and benefit from the arts. ... We will demonstrate that the arts infuse our everyday lives; that they are not isolated, nor are they a frill. This is a formidable goal, and we are ready for the task.

“On a practical level, the arts foster value in multiple ways,” she added. “They bring us personal value by helping us understand ourselves, as well as understanding the unfamiliar.”

Emphasizing that “the arts also spark the vitality in our communities large and small, and they give us a sense of identity with our hometowns,” Chu said, “They can serve as economic engines – creating jobs, encouraging innovation in businesses, and contribute to a potentially more stable and varied tax base. And the arts fill our world with beauty and give us hope, even in the darkest times.”

As she looks to the future, Chu continues to reflect fondly on her formative years at Ouachita. “My singular favorite Ouachita memory is of the people. They cared about you as a person first and foremost,” she concluded. “That’s the Ouachita brand.”



Ouachita President Rex Horne (right) congratulates 2014 Alumni Milestone Award recipients (from left) Nathan James, Mica Strother, Richard Lusby and Dr. David Blase. Not pictured is Jamie Fowler. *photo by Wesley Kluck*

Ouachita honors 2014 Alumni Milestone Award recipients

Ouachita officials recently honored five outstanding alumni for their personal and professional achievements and impact. The annual Alumni Milestone Awards recognize honorees representing graduation milestones over the past five decades.

This year's awards honored alumni from the classes of 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004, including Dr. David Blase ('64) of Nashville, Ark.; Richard Lusby ('74) of Jonesboro; Jamie Fowler ('84) of Dallas; Mica Strother ('94) of Little Rock; and Nathan James ('04) of Little Rock.

"Our Ouachita Alumni Milestone Awards are a great opportunity to highlight alumni making a difference in a variety of career fields," said Jon Merryman, director of alumni. "These recipients remind alumni, current students and prospective students of the quality of a Ouachita education and the future it affords those who study here."

This year's honorees' educational and professional achievements include:

Dr. David Blase ('64): In addition to his bachelor's degree from Ouachita, Dr. Blase holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary. His distinguished ministry career includes serving 25 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Nashville, Ark.

Dr. Blase previously was pastor of Westview Baptist Church in Chanute, Kan.; Springlake Baptist Church in Paris, Texas; First Baptist Church of Naples, Texas; and Highland Park Baptist Church in Texarkana, Texas. He currently is interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Dierks.

Dr. Blase and his wife, Anna, live in Nashville. They have two children, John David and Shawn, and five grandchildren.

Richard Lusby ('74): After graduating from Ouachita, Lusby was encouraged by two Ouachita professors, Betty McCommas and the late Dr. Jim Berryman, to accept a graduate assistantship in the philosophy department at Baylor University. After completing his master's degree at Baylor, Lusby attended law school at the University of Arkansas, where he met his wife, Sandra, and completed his law degree in 1978.

Lusby, former chairman of the Ouachita Board of Trustees, is

licensed to practice law in all Arkansas state courts, federal district courts and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a member of the Arkansas Bar Association and the American Bar Association and has served as a Special Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

He and his wife have two sons, Ted and John, and are active members of First Baptist Church of Jonesboro.

Jamie Fowler ('84): Following her graduation from Ouachita, Fowler attended graduate school at the University of Virginia and received her Master of Science in Accounting degree in 1985. Highlights of her career include becoming a partner at KPMG and later at Grant Thornton where she recently served as principal architect for Grant Thornton's shared services center in Bangalore, India.

Fowler recently was named managing partner of the Grant Thornton Atlantic Coast Market Territory and is now one of 22 members of their national leadership team.

Mica Strother ('94): After graduating from Ouachita, Strother moved to Little Rock to work on Jim Guy Tucker's gubernatorial campaign. She has worked in politics for 20 years, including 13 years for Gov. Mike Beebe. Strother manages the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions and runs a political fundraising consulting firm.

Strother is married to Greg Hale and has one son, Eli, age 12. An active member of Second Baptist Church of Little Rock, she serves on the board of the Arkansas Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as well as the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty and City Year Little Rock.

Nathan James ('04): After earning his bachelor's degree at Ouachita, James served in campus ministries at California Baptist University while attending Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He returned to Little Rock in 2005 and co-founded Epoch Church with fellow Ouachita alumnus Grant Harrison ('04).

James currently is completing his master's degree from B.H. Carroll Theological Institute. He lives in Little Rock with his wife, Natalie; their daughter, Audrey, age 3; and son, Luke, age 1.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Rosemary Adams invites students to enjoy updated facility

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Visiting her alma mater Dec. 11 to dedicate the Rosemary Gossett Adams Department of Visual Arts, the guest of honor told Ouachita students and faculty, “What was mine, I give to you. I only ask that you use it and enjoy it.”

Mrs. Adams, a 1963 Ouachita graduate with a major in art, said that during her years on campus, she went from being “little miss nobody in particular” to discovering she was special. “Do you know why?” she asked. “Because everybody at Ouachita is special.”

“In 1963, I left here with several goals,” she added. “One of my big goals was to make this world a better place, to leave a little something behind so that people would know that I had been here and that I had walked this way. Today, by jove, I think I’ve got it.”

In addition to her Bachelor of Arts degree from Ouachita, Mrs. Adams holds a Master of Arts degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and an associate’s degree in interior design from Louisville Tech. She and her husband, Glen, live in Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Adams’ gift funded the renovation and expansion project for the benefit of Ouachita’s visual arts program. Primary renovation details include a new front façade and entrance to Moses-Provine Hall which houses the visual arts program; creating gallery spaces to display artists’ works; upgrading classroom, studio and office space; and adding an elevator and safety features to the facility.

“If you’re a student, I want you to do three things,” Mrs. Adams said. “I want you to come in here and learn and learn and learn.”

“When you leave this place,” she told the students, “I want you to take this specialness and that learning and go out and make the world a better place.”

Surrounded by students, faculty, trustees and other guests in the facility’s new Rosemary Gossett Adams Gallery, she told the dedication crowd, “This is my legacy. ... God bless all of you and God bless Ouachita.”

Affirming that Ouachita “is a place about people, about our students, about those who teach them,” Ouachita President Rex Horne

said, “Today, in large part, is about Rosemary Adams. ... She’s devoted to Ouachita, she’s excited about Ouachita. She has invested a part of herself into this place that will be a lasting legacy to Rosemary and to the students and the faculty who come to this particular place.”

Dr. Scott Holsclaw, dean of the School of Fine Arts, noted that “Mrs. Adams has offered us a true gift not only in this present moment but with a vision for the future. In her generosity and love for Ouachita, she has presented the Department of Visual Arts with a definitive home.”

Emphasizing that the project “goes beyond the bricks and mortar of this building to the very heart of the educational process,” he added, “These gallery additions and the upgraded spaces provide a haven of freedom, safety and encouragement for young artists creating and exploring their artistic talents.”

Donnie Copeland, chair of the Adams Department of Visual Arts, told Mrs. Adams, “What a wonderful thing you have done for Ouachita. You’ve certainly dressed us up – this is beautiful and it’s functional.”

“It is our responsibility now as students and faculty to respond to your gift, to honor your gift and we will do so with our work,” he said. “We will design and produce and paint and build and write and we will create. I think that is the best and most fitting thank you that we can offer.”

Katelyn Smith, a junior art education major and president of the OBU Art Club, spoke on behalf of visual arts students. Expressing appreciation for such additions as the elevator, safety features and gallery spaces, she said, “For art students, this building really does become our second home. ... We truly appreciate the impact all these new additions have on our studies and our lives as art majors.”

The new gallery space already has featured two art exhibits, one by John Deering, chief editorial cartoonist and illustrator at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and the other featuring works donated by Dr. Loyde Hudson, a physician from Fayetteville. Among the paintings and sculptures donated by Dr. Hudson are works by renowned 19th century American artist Thomas Moran and German-American artist Albert Bierstadt.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Dr. Jack's Coffee changing lives at home & overseas

By Jessica Vanderpool

Students at Ouachita are learning how to combine business and missions – and the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries is benefiting in the process.

For students at Ouachita, going on a mission trip is not unusual. Students go on mission every year to see lives changed. But the students who went to Honduras in 2012 and 2013 also experienced change in their own lives.

While in Honduras, the students saw the empty beds at Rancho Ebenezer, a home for children run by World Gospel Outreach. The beds were empty because World Gospel Outreach did not have the funds to house more children. So the OBU students decided to market Dr. Jack's Coffee and send a portion of the proceeds to World Gospel Outreach.

The initiative became a project of Enactus, a student organization through Ouachita's Hickingbotham School of Business, and in 2013, Dr. Jack's Coffee was launched. The coffee is named after Dr. Jack's Coffeehouse, a campus coffee shop that opened in Ouachita's remodeled Evans Student Center the previous year. It honors the memory of Ouachita's founding president, Dr. John W. "Jack" Conger.

Bryan McKinney, dean of the Hickingbotham School, said Dr. Jack's is a cooperative effort among Enactus, the business school and Ouachita administration. He added that while Ouachita prepares many graduates who are successful in the secular business world, they also train students to combine business with missions. "Dr. Jack's is a great example of how that can happen," he said. "We are excited to give our own students ways to integrate their faith with their business interests."

Jayson Harris, a senior business administration/finance major from Maumelle, is serving as general manager of Dr. Jack's Coffee. He said the coffee beans come from Rwanda and Brazil and the coffee is sold on campus and online. Some churches also serve Dr. Jack's and it is being sold on the main campus of Baptist Health in their coffee house.

Dr. Brett Powell, vice president for administrative services at Ouachita, said they would love for Dr. Jack's to become a national brand.

"From the beginning, we have tried to create something that could be translated into other organizations and other areas," he said. "For example, we would love to see a Dr. Jack's coffee shop on the campus of every Baptist college and university in the country. We also hope that members of Baptist churches in the state will see Dr. Jack's at their church and begin serving our coffee in their businesses and drinking it at home. We think the possible ways we can use coffee to help children are endless."

Harris said a third of the profits from Dr. Jack's go to Enactus, a third go back into Dr. Jack's and a third are sent to World Gospel Outreach. Recently, the coffee company has also begun donating a portion of its profits to the ABCHomes. When an Arkansas Baptist church buys Dr. Jack's Coffee to serve or sell at church, instead of a third of the proceeds going to World Gospel Outreach, that third goes to ABCHomes.

"I'm proud of our students' efforts with Dr. Jack's," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "I speak often of OBU creating difference makers, and that's what these students are becoming. ... I'm hopeful that Arkansas Baptist churches will support these efforts and then together we'll all make a difference in the lives of many kids at the children's home."

"What a blessing to ABCHomes to have this great connection with Dr. Jack's Coffee," said David Perry, ABCHomes executive director. "However, this story is about so much more than great coffee. It is about a Christ-centered university, mission-focused and innovative-thinking students and making a positive difference in the lives of children."

Powell said there are three ways to get involved with Dr. Jack's Coffee: Serve Dr. Jack's Coffee or sell 12-ounce bags in a coffee shop, set up a Dr. Jack's display to encourage buying the coffee bags online and support Dr. Jack's through prayer and sharing the mission. For more information or to purchase coffee, visit drjackscoffee.com.

Jessica Vanderpool is assistant editor of Arkansas Baptist News. Reprinted with permission.

OBU and NLC partner to launch degree program in Conway

Ouachita Baptist University at New Life Church, a new educational partnership between OBU and NLC, officially has completed its first semester. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on the campus of New Life Church in Conway in June to launch the new initiative.

OBU at NLC is offering Associate of Arts degrees in general studies and Christian ministry with in-depth opportunities for students to serve with and be mentored by NLC pastoral staff in hands-on ministry experience. Eighteen students registered for OBU at NLC's inaugural semester which began Aug. 26.

The partnership was approved by Ouachita's Board of Trustees in December 2013. The Higher Learning Commission then approved Ouachita's request to offer associate degrees at the off-campus location.

Dr. Brandon O'Brien, a 2004 Ouachita alumnus, is serving as director of OBU at NLC. Noting that the program's inaugural class "is dedicated to establishing high standards for the classes that follow," O'Brien said, "They understand the unique vision of this program and they are rising to the challenge. They have excelled academically, as well as showing deep commitment to serving in the local church.

"In addition to attracting quality students, we've attracted wonderful adjunct faculty," he added. "Many of our instructors have OBU ties – either as OBU graduates or as friends of OBU who have taught on the Arkadelphia campus."



Emphasizing that he is "eager to see what lies ahead," O'Brien said. "It is clearer all the time that this program meets a unique and important need in central Arkansas. It's thrilling to be part of what God is doing here."

Dr. Stan Poole, Ouachita's vice president

for academic affairs, agreed that the program has "gotten off to a strong start."

"We've gotten very positive feedback from the students on their experience," he added, with many of them affirming the close interaction with their instructors. Looking ahead, Poole said the program "already has received several applications for next fall as well as some students who will be joining in the spring semester."

"Equipping the next generation of church leaders with a Christian education has been part of the NLC vision from the beginning," said Rick Bezet, lead pastor of New Life Church. "We are honored to be partnering with such a prestigious institution to make that vision a reality."

Ouachita President Rex Horne noted, "It is my hope and expectation that the endeavor with NLC will see more students experience the difference of a Ouachita education."

The 7,000-square-foot facility dedicated in June was remodeled specifically for OBU at NLC classes and administrative offices. It is located on the Conway campus of New Life Church at 633 South Country Club. A second phase to construct a permanent facility on the Conway NLC campus currently is in the planning stages.

OUACHITA ONLINE SET TO LAUNCH TWO ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Ouachita Baptist University's new Ouachita Online degree programs earned official accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission this fall. With the HLC accreditation finalized, Ouachita's first online term is scheduled to begin in January.

Ouachita's Board of Trustees approved plans a year ago to develop and launch online degree programs. Courses will be offered leading to Bachelor of Arts degrees with majors in either business administration or Christian studies. Additional majors will be added next fall.

"We are committed to providing an education that prepares students for a life of faith and service while engaging as difference makers in this world," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "I hope many will consider our current degree programs in business and Christian studies."

Ouachita's online Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration will offer adult learners a broad business education coupled with an emphasis in business management. The online BA degree in Christian studies will provide training in such areas as Christian ministry and missions, ethics and theology. Both programs will allow non-traditional students the opportunity to earn an accredited bachelor's degree with the flexibility of online learning.

According to Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs,

"Launching online degree programs is a major step for the university as we seek to provide educational opportunities to those who would otherwise not have access to a traditional Ouachita education. Our faculty are committed to providing a distinctive Ouachita educational experience in an online format."

Dr. Brett Powell, vice president for administrative services, is serving as director of Ouachita Online. Ashlee Giles, assistant director of admissions counseling, is serving as online enrollment coordinator.

Detailing Ouachita's commitment to online education, Powell said, "We recognize that not every person who seeks the quality education we can provide is able to complete a degree in the residential setting we offer on our Arkadelphia campus. As a result, Ouachita Online is being launched to extend the reach of our academic programs beyond our traditional campus."

"For anyone who is considering studying online, I would encourage him or her to contact us to find out more," Powell added. "Ouachita Online is not just another online university. Ouachita has been educating students for almost 130 years and the quality that has been evident for all those years will be integrated into our online courses. Whether you completed high school months ago or decades ago, you can earn your college degree through Ouachita Online."

3-YEAR BIOMEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM TO DEBUT FALL 2015

For highly motivated students interested in pursuing health-related graduate programs following graduation, Ouachita is introducing an accelerated three-year Biomedical Scholars Program.

The new program, available to incoming freshmen beginning in the fall of 2015, is the first of its kind in the region, according to Dr. Lori Hensley, Ouachita's J.D. Patterson Professor of Biology.

According to Hensley, the university's recent shift to 120-hour degree programs "makes a three-year degree much more possible."

"With much national attention on student debt and time to graduation," she added, "this program allows us to offer a meaningful degree that is packed with experiential learning while saving the student one year of time and tuition expenses."

Participants in the Biomedical Scholars Program will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical sciences with a minor in chemistry. Components of the high-intensity program include clinical shadowing, experimental research, study abroad options, community service and mentoring.

The competitive academic program will be limited to 10 incoming students per academic year. Application requirements include a 30 ACT or higher and at least six hours of transferrable college credit prior to admission as a Ouachita freshman.

"Six or more transferable hours accomplishes two things," explained Dr. Tim Knight, chair of Ouachita's Patterson School of Social Sciences. "First, it has hopefully given the student a taste of college level course work as opposed to the typical high school. Second, bringing in two or more college level courses provides flexibility in scheduling, especially in the first year."

"Having the six hours will allow students to earn the required 120 hours in the three-year period while still allowing time to study abroad and complete summer research," Hensley added. "Additionally, we are really looking for the kind of student who has thought ahead, is preparing for college and is already demonstrating that they are highly motivated and capable of more than the average high school student."

The Biomedical Scholars Program "is not for everyone," Knight acknowledged. He said it is specifically designed "for those students who are really focused and have a firm desire to pursue professional school after their undergraduate experience."



Alumni invited to spread word about new tuition affordability initiatives

How can alumni help recruit new students for Ouachita? One way is to spread the word about Ouachita's new tuition affordability initiatives.

With many families today concerned about keeping college costs as affordable as possible, Ouachita actually is doing something about it.

Trustees recently endorsed two major initiatives to help limit long-term higher education costs for incoming freshmen. Ouachita's groundbreaking Loan Affordability Pledge is the first of its kind among any college or university in Arkansas. It is being coupled with the new Finish in 4 Guarantee, which specifies that students who meet certain criteria will either complete their Ouachita degrees in eight semesters or have their tuition costs waived for any additional semesters.

"We are pleased to offer these two innovative financial assistance programs for the benefit of our students and future graduates," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "These programs enable students to obtain an exceptional education at an even more affordable rate."

"Ouachita strongly focuses on the student's best interest while they study here and as they establish themselves upon graduation," Dr. Horne added. "We encourage families to discover what national rankings have found. This private Christian university is a most affordable investment in a student preparing for a profession and for life."

Ouachita's Loan Affordability Pledge is being offered in partnership with the non-profit Loan Repayment Assistance Program Association. The pledge will be available to all incoming freshmen beginning in fall 2015. It

provides financial assistance to students and parents, helping with the repayment of federal student loans, private alternative student loans and Parent PLUS loans until graduates' salaries reach at least \$36,000 annually.

The Loan Affordability Pledge will be provided at no cost to students or their families. The loan assistance will continue until the graduate's income reaches the specified level or until the loans are paid off.

"For many families, an investment in Ouachita is one willingly made in order to provide the very finest education in a setting that integrates faith and learning," said Dr. Keldon Henley, vice president for institutional advancement.

While Ouachita students, on average, graduate with student debt levels below both state and national averages, Henley said Ouachita is seeking to further enhance the university's affordability. He said Ouachita's Loan Affordability Pledge "connects our graduates to a non-profit foundation making this simple promise: 'If your income after graduation is modest, we will help you repay your loans.'"

The university's new Finish in 4 Guarantee is designed to offer additional financial peace of mind to students and their families. Henley said the program is set up "to help families manage their investment in a college education by avoiding additional semesters of tuition."

In addition to the new affordability initiatives, Ouachita recently was recognized by CollegeFactual.com among the Top 100 "Best Nationwide Colleges for Your Money," based on "colleges that deliver a great education compared to their cost."



photo courtesy of Great American Conference

Tiger football and women's soccer earn GAC titles

Great American Conference championships in football and women's soccer highlighted a successful fall athletics season at Ouachita.

Tiger football completed a historic year in the new Cliff Harris Stadium with an undefeated regular season record, including an impressive 41-20 victory over Henderson State University in the 88th Battle of the Ravine. With the win, Ouachita claimed the GAC title outright and finished the regular season at 10-0 for the first time in program history.

Competing in their first NCAA Division II playoff game, the Tigers ended the year with a narrow 48-45 loss to the University of Minnesota-Duluth in an overtime thriller.

Along with their success on the field, the Tigers earned numerous awards and recognitions. Among major awards, Head Coach Todd Knight was named GAC Coach of the Year, Spencer Knight was named to the AFCA Allstate Good Works Team, Kyle Lamothe was named to the 2014 Capital One Academic All-America Division II Football Team and Etauj Allen was named Special Teams Player of the Year on the 2014 Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-Super Region Three Team.

Coach Knight, the unanimous selection for GAC Coach of the Year, earned the same honor in 2011. Coaching in his 16th season at Ouachita, he led the Tigers to their seventh consecutive winning season, the longest active streak among any college or university in Arkansas.

Senior fullback Spencer Knight of Arkadelphia was one of 22 collegiate football players named to the Allstate Good Works Team from a record 182 nominations from across the country.

This prestigious college football award pays tribute to a select group of student-athletes who have worked to positively impact the lives of others. Knight donated bone marrow earlier this year to a young boy in Canada as part of the "Be The Match" donor program. He also has participated in numerous local charitable events in his four years at Ouachita including Operation Christmas Child and Tiger Serve Day.

Defensive lineman Kyle Lamothe, a senior from New Iberia, La., was named to the second team of the Academic All-America Division II Football Team. Lamothe had 31 tackles for the season as well as three fumble recoveries, two forced fumbles and one interception. He has a 3.82 grade point average as a major in theology and Christian missions.

In addition to being named Special Teams Player of the Year, Etauj Allen, a senior from San Antonio, Texas, was named to the 2014 Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-Super Region Three First Team along with Zack Mitchell, a senior from Vilonia, Ark. Allen finished second in the nation with 18.5 yards per punt return. He also was the only player in Division II with three punt returns for touchdowns. Mitchell ranked sixth in Division II in interceptions per game.

Second team selections included offensive linemen Brent Calhoun, a senior from Des Arc, Ark., and Aaron Sprinkle, a senior from White Hall, Ark. Kiehl Frazier, a senior from West Fork, Ark., and Steven Kehner, a senior from Glen Rose, Ark., were named to the third team offense.

Five players also were named to the 2014 Daktronics Super Region Three Team, including Allen, Calhoun and Mitchell on the first team. Sprinkle and junior Michael Russell of Charleston, Ark., were named to the second team.

Women's soccer earned its first GAC title, defeating the top-seeded Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm 1-0 in the championship match. Tessa Woodcock of Keller, Texas, who scored the match's lone goal, was named Tournament Most Valuable Player. She also was named to the GAC All-Tournament Team along with teammates Morgan Allen of Little Rock; Abby Emanuel of Little Rock; Haley Hatcher of Maumelle, Ark.; and Lauren Llanes of Argyle, Texas.

Hatcher, who was named GAC Offensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, also was the first women's soccer player in GAC history to be named an All-American as a member of the Daktronics NCAA Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-America Third Team. She also was named to the All-Region Central First Team. Hatcher led the GAC and finished seventh nationally with 17 goals on the season. She led the GAC in shots, points, goals and game-winning goals.

Joining Hatcher on the All-GAC Women's Soccer First Team was Tessa Woodcock. Teammate Bryson Rial of Pontotoc, Miss., was named to the second team.

In men's soccer, Tinashe Chigede, a freshman from Tulsa, Okla., was named to the 2014 Daktronics NCAA Division II Men's Soccer All-Central Region Team. He was the only freshman named to the first team. Chigede led the Tigers with eight goals and four assists on the season, including seven goals in a five-game span.

CHRIS CHIONUMA NAMED INTERIM WRESTLING COACH

Chris Chionuma, a three-time All-American wrestler, has been named interim head coach of Ouachita wrestling, according to Athletic Director David Sharp.

Chionuma, who served the past year as a wrestling team graduate assistant at Ouachita, succeeds Kevin Ward, who was named wrestling head coach at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"We're excited to have Chris Chionuma during this interim time to continue the wrestling tradition here at Ouachita," Sharp said. "The fact that Chris has assisted with our program for the past year will help us maintain and build on Ouachita's outstanding wrestling program."



"I am honored to continue the tradition that Coach Ward has built here at Ouachita," Chionuma said. Noting that the Ouachita Tiger wrestling team has "an outstanding senior class," he added, "Our goal is to bring back another trophy accompanied by OBU's first national champion in this upcoming season."

Chionuma holds a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Oklahoma State University. While wrestling at Oklahoma State his senior year, he was the Big XII wrestling champion in his weight class. He previously wrestled at Lindenwood University where he was an NAIA national champion and a three-time All-American.

While in college, Chionuma's other honors included being named an Academic All-American and serving as wrestling team captain at both OSU and Lindenwood. He also has served as an Athletes in Action assistant coach in Mongolia. He is pursuing a master's degree in sports administration.

Ouachita's wrestling program, established in 2010, has had 10 All-Americans and two national runner-ups in just four seasons of competition. The Tigers finished fourth nationally in 2014 and gained a program-record five All-Americans. Ouachita wrestling has finished in the top 15 in the nation each of the past three seasons.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Soccer field dedicated in honor of Wesley and Debbie Kluck

Flanked by the members of the Ouachita men's and women's soccer teams, Dr. Wesley Kluck and his wife, Debbie, were recognized Oct. 21 with the university's soccer field being named in their honor.

Dr. Kluck, Ouachita's vice president for student services, and his wife have been longtime supporters of the soccer program and Ouachita athletics. They were honored during a dedication ceremony prior to a soccer match between the Ouachita men's team and Harding University.

Senior soccer player Megan Clay, a biology major from El Dorado, expressed appreciation to the Klucks for "your selfless service, for your teachings, for your encouragement, for your generous giving, for your leadership and for your cheerfulness."

"You are true examples of Christ's love for us," she added, "and we hope to show this love on Wesley and Debbie Kluck Field whether we're simply practicing with our teammates or competing against other teams. I can't think of a better name to represent our field."

Emphasizing that "it was so clear to me that it would be most appropriate to name the field the Wesley and Debbie Kluck Field," Ouachita

President Rex Horne told the Klucks, "We're thankful for you, for your friendship, for all that you mean to so many. Thank you for your loyalty to Ouachita. Thank you for all that you do for all of us."

Noting that "I love to minister to college athletes," Dr. Kluck said he and his wife were "proud but humbled" to have the soccer field named in their honor.

"It associates us with the things we love and are called to do," he added. "It's an honor to be associated with Ouachita and particularly the Ouachita Tigers."

Following Dr. Kluck's remarks, Ouachita Soccer Coach Kevin Wright presented the Klucks with a framed No. 1 Ouachita soccer jersey. An engraved plate on the frame expressed appreciation for the Klucks' "generous support of Ouachita soccer."

The ceremony concluded with the Klucks cutting a purple and gold ribbon to dedicate the field and freshman soccer player Eric Bentley, a Christian studies major from North Little Rock, leading a prayer of dedication.

In addition to naming the field in honor of the Klucks, recent improvements to the soccer complex include a new field house, press box and scoreboard.



photo by Wesley Kluck

CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY FOR NEW ELROD CENTER

Declaring that “life is found in reality only when you give your life away in the service of other people,” Dr. Ben M. Elrod helped break ground this past June for Ouachita’s new Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community.

The Elrod Center, established in 1997, was named in honor of Dr. Elrod who served from 1988 to 1998 as Ouachita’s 13th president and has served as chancellor since his retirement. Dr. Elrod and his wife, Betty Lou, were joined at the ceremony by their children and spouses, Cindy and Mac Stroud and Bill and Angie Elrod, and other family members.

“I’m thankful for the Elrods and for the Elrod Center,” said Ouachita President Rex Horne. “When a name matches with the mission, that’s a win-win. The mission of the Elrod Center is related to faith and family and community and service.”

The Elrod Center’s offices, currently located on North 6th Street on the Ouachita campus, will relocate to new facilities across the street on the corner of 6th and Cherry streets. Construction began this fall on the two-story facility which will include meeting rooms for campus and community programs, a conference room and staff offices as well as a reception area and kitchen.

The \$1 million construction project, scheduled to be completed in May, is being funded through more than \$800,000 in gifts from individual donors as well as a \$210,000 challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation. To contribute to the work of the Elrod Center, contact the OBU Office of Development at 870-245-5169 or www.obu.edu/give.

OUACHITA RECOGNIZED AMONG LEADING UNIVERSITIES

Continuing its string of national rankings, Ouachita once again was recognized among the top universities in the nation based on the recent release of annual college rankings by major publications.

This year’s ranking marks the fourth consecutive year that Ouachita has been named among *U.S. News & World Report’s* top tier of “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges.” It also is the sixth year in a row that Ouachita has been named among “America’s Top Colleges” by *Forbes* magazine.

Ouachita, which moved into *U.S. News’* national rankings in 2011, previously was ranked for four years as the No. 1 Regional College in the South. Among this year’s best national liberal arts colleges, Ouachita is one of only three schools in Arkansas ranked by *U.S. News* in the top tier.

Additionally, Ouachita was ranked among CollegeFactual.com’s “Best Nationwide Colleges,” including being cited among the best colleges in Arkansas and in the Top 100 among “Best Nationwide Colleges for Your Money.”

OUACHITA AND DEAN FILM EARN TWO TELLY AWARDS

The Telly Awards has named Ouachita and Dean Film & Video as a Bronze winner in the 35th annual Telly Awards for their video, “Discover the Ouachita Difference.” The awards typically receive about 12,000 entries from all 50 states and several countries.

“It’s an honor for Ouachita to be recognized for effectively communicating the university’s mission and message,” said Trennis Henderson, OBU’s vice president for communications. “We are especially grateful to Andy Dean and his talented team at Dean Film & Video for helping translate our vision into reality.”

“We are thrilled to be recognized for a project that was such a joy to work on,” Dean said. “Frankly, it’s easy to make OBU look good and a joy to do so.”

The video was named a winner in both the Recruitment and Videography/Cinematography categories of the Film/Video division. Among the list of Silver winners in the same division are Coca-Cola, Disney, ESPN, HBO, NASA and National Geographic. Other university winners include Notre Dame and Rutgers. View Ouachita’s award-winning video at vimeo.com/obu/discoverthedifference.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

HUDSON DONATES “TIMELESS MASTERPIECES” TO OBU

Donating several valuable works of art to Ouachita, Dr. Loyde Hudson told students gathered for a Dec. 4 reception that he donated the pieces “because of you.”

“I wanted it to be where students could enjoy it,” he said. “I wanted it to be on the walls where they could see it. I wanted it to be among young liberal arts students.” He encouraged the students to “enjoy it like I’ve enjoyed it for 50 years.”

The collection, which features works by renowned 19th century American artist Thomas Moran and German-American artist Albert Bierstadt, is on display in the new Rosemary Gossett Adams Gallery on the Ouachita campus.

“When you see a timeless piece of art like this one in front you, you realize people have enjoyed it for years,” said Dr. Scott Holsclaw, dean of Ouachita’s School of Fine Arts, as he stood beside the Thomas Moran painting. “Because it is so timeless, because it is a masterpiece, people will enjoy it for years to come.”

Describing Dr. Hudson as “a man who is marked by great intellect, great curiosity and great generosity,” Ouachita President Rex Horne said, “Not only is he giving us what he and his wife enjoyed for decades and decades, but he has given us friendship, he has given us a part of himself. For that we will always be indebted.”

OBU SENIOR CHAD BURRIS ON BROADWAY TOUR

Chad Burris, a senior musical theatre major at Ouachita, recently made his debut in the national tour of the Broadway hit *The Book of Mormon*. Performing in front of an audience of nearly 2,000 people, Burris played the role of Elder Cunningham, one of two lead characters in the production.

Burris, a native of Van Buren, Ark., was hired this past summer as a

standby for the character and now is traveling the nation with the production cast and crew. While on the road, he is working to finish his degree through online classes with a special degree plan devised with the assistance of Dr. Scott Holsclaw, dean of the School of Fine Arts.

Although Burris originally had planned to return to Arkadelphia this past fall, his plans changed when he had the opportunity to audition for *The Book of Mormon* and was offered a position on the national tour alongside several Tony-nominated actors.

Burris said his primary advice to students is: “The person who applies what God has given them and is constantly working on their talent and reaching out for opportunities will come across opportunities such as this. The early bird truly does get the worm.”

#MYTOPCOLLEGE CAMPAIGN: OBU RANKS IN TOP 10

With students and faculty enthusiastically sharing why Ouachita is #MyTopCollege, Ouachita earned a national Top 10 finish in *Forbes*’ social media campaign this year.

Ouachita, which ranked No. 8 among universities throughout the nation, was the smallest school among the Top 10 finalists. California State University, Fullerton, finished No. 1, followed by San Diego State University and Kansas State University. Ouachita is one of three liberal arts universities in the Top 10.

The #MyTopCollege social media campaign involved students, faculty and alumni of universities throughout the nation posting on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Vine about what makes their university special.

Forbes featured a post and photo on its site from each of the top schools. Caitlyn Johnson, a senior early childhood education major from Winnsboro, Texas, posted Ouachita’s featured tweet that included a photo of snow falling at night on Heflin Plaza. “#MyTopCollege is @Ouachita because it’s not only an awesome university but it’s also my home and my family!!!” she tweeted.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

OUACHITA OPERA THEATRE STAGES *THE MIKADO*

Ouachita's Division of Music/Opera Theatre presented Sir Arthur Sullivan's opera *The Mikado* on Nov. 20-23 in Jones Performing Arts Center. A quirky love story set in the town of Titipu, Japan, *The Mikado* is a two-act opera centered on themes of forbidden love and deception.

"This is one of the most entertaining operas that Ouachita has put on in a while," said Todd McNeel, a senior mass communications major from Grand Prairie, Texas, who played the Mikado. "We student-performers work really hard to put on a great production for our peers."

"We're just so proud of the students, their accomplishments and how they bring their vision within our vision," said Dr. Glenda Secrest, OBU professor of music, who served as stage director for the show.

Describing the production as "a visual spectacle," Dr. Jon Secrest, who serves as producer and music director of *The Mikado* and chair of OBU's department of applied music, said, "It's absolutely unbelievable what we do now with the visual aspect of the production compared to what we started with."

Joey Lickliger, JPAC manager, was technical director and Kacy Earnest, a freshman theatre arts major from El Dorado, Ark., was stage manager.

RED BUS PROJECT TARGETS GLOBAL ORPHAN CRISIS

The Red Bus Project rolled onto the Ouachita campus Oct. 22. The project is an initiative of the Show Hope nonprofit organization founded by Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife, Mary Beth, to help students learn about the needs of orphans and get personally involved.

The Ouachita event was sponsored by the Campus Activities office and the Ouachita chapter of the International Justice Mission with assistance from the Campus Activities Board and Henderson State University's Baptist Campus Ministries.

Hillary Hill, Campus Activities assistant director, said the Red Bus Project was designed to "provide students with a high-quality event, contribute to an important cause and raise awareness for a reality that often is absent from our daily thought."

So far, the Red Bus Project has reached out to more than 220,000 students from nearly 60 colleges throughout the Southeast and Midwest. It provides students the opportunity to learn about the needs of orphans, sign up to get involved and even shop for clothes and donate to help provide families for waiting orphans around the world.

TRUSTEES APPROVE NEW FACULTY & STAFF MEMBERS

Ouachita trustees approved three new faculty members during the board's summer 2014 meeting and nine new staff members during their fall and winter meetings.

New faculty members for the 2014-15 academic year include Drew Hampton, assistant professor of theatre arts in the School of Fine Arts; Justin Keeler, instructor of finance in the Hickingbotham School of Business; and Dr. Brandon O'Brien, assistant professor of Christian theology in the Pruet School of Christian Studies. O'Brien, a 2004 Ouachita graduate, also was named director of the new Ouachita Baptist University at New Life Church program in Conway.

New staff members include three admissions counselors: Jake Coffman and Dawson Pritchard, both 2014 OBU graduates, and Carli Sasser, who completed her OBU degree in December and will begin serving in January.

Other new staff members include Chris Chinomuma, interim head wrestling coach; James Phillips, resident director with responsibilities in the Office of Campus Activities; Rachel Roberts, director of the Office of Career Services; MaryLacey Thomson, a 2014 OBU graduate, Annual Fund coordinator; Susan Warren, a 1987 OBU graduate, development officer; and Chi-Emeke Worthington, assistant football coach.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

FESTIVAL PRESENTS “CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES”

Ouachita’s School of Fine Arts presented its 23rd annual production of A Festival of Christmas on Dec. 5 and 6 in Jones Performing Arts Center. Highlighting the theme of “Christmas through the Ages,” the production featured Christmas music from the 1930s to present day.

A Festival of Christmas began in 1992 with the opening of JPAC as a way to give back to the community. The performance traditionally marks the beginning of the Christmas season for Ouachita and Arkadelphia.

This year Ace Collins, best-selling author of *Stories Behind the Best Loved Songs of Christmas*, served as narrator, briefly describing the history behind some of the famous Christmas songs performed by Ouachita’s ensembles.

Five musical groups performed during this year’s production: Concert Choir and Ouachita Singers, both directed by Dr. Gary Gerber, musical director of A Festival of Christmas and chair of Ouachita’s Division of Music; Women’s Chorus and Ouachita Sounds, directed by Dr. Becky Morrison, assistant professor of music; and members of the OBU Wind Ensemble.

“The show gives the best of both secular and sacred Christmas music,” Gerber said. “It lets us enjoy the Christmas music that we as kids grew up singing during the holiday season, but it also reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas and how music is a powerful, emotional source of that meaning.”

FALL SHOWS RANGE FROM *THE GIVER* TO SHAKESPEARE

Ouachita’s Department of Theatre Arts presented its fall children’s play, *The Giver*, Sept. 25-30 as well as William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* Nov. 6-11 in Verser Theatre.

Based on the award-winning novel by Lois Lowry and adapted by Eric Coble, *The Giver* focuses on Jonas, a boy who receives the gift of memory in a society devoid of emotion, color and choice. Daniel Inouye, assistant professor

of theatre arts and director of the show, said Jonas struggles with the burden of these memories.

Among the featured cast members were Tyler Wisdom, a senior musical theatre major from North Little Rock, Ark., as Jonas, and Eli Ash, a freshman musical theatre major from Little Rock, as The Giver.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, a comedy by Shakespeare, “focuses on four groups of characters—a royal court, fairies, lovers and mechanicals (craftsmen)—who converge in dramatic and hilarious ways.” Drew Hampton, assistant professor of theatre arts, directed the show.

Hailey Weiner, a sophomore theatre major from Maumelle, Ark., played Helena. She noted that “although *Midsummer* is a comedy, there is ... a lot of hidden symbolism that the audience really doesn’t pick up on until the end.”

PATTERSON STUDENTS GAIN RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Nineteen Ouachita students and two students from Hendrix College participated in the Patterson Summer Research Program on Ouachita’s campus this past summer. Every year, students in the program are assigned to work with a faculty member, commit to a 10-week period to conduct their research and receive academic credit as well as a stipend.

“The hands-on research opportunity provides a setting where students are actually ‘doing’ science rather than only reading or listening to lectures ‘about’ science,” said Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences. “For our students this research serves as the capstone of their education.”

Along with conducting research, the students had the opportunity to present their research at the Central Arkansas Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences at Little Rock. Michael Rogers, a senior biology major from Little Rock, Ark., and Jesse Kitchens, a junior biology major from Lewisville, Ark., gave oral presentations while other students presented posters.

class notes

connecting the circle

1940s



Bettie (Franks '49*) Mayes celebrated her 88th birthday on June 13 with her husband, **Bob ('50)**, and two sons, Dan and Carl. Bob and Bettie also celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25.

1950s



Sally (Sullivan '54) Johnson attended the 2014 graduation ceremony at Ouachita to witness her granddaughter's graduation. Pictured with her are four grandchildren who have attended or are attending Ouachita. Left to right: **Hamilton Johnson ('17)**, **Lacey Johnson ('14)**, **Lauren Johnson ('16)** and **Cameron Johnson ('13)**.

1960s

Larry ('65) and Molly (Goforth '64) Kircher celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 22 with a reception. They have two daughters, Laura Hays and **Jennifer (Kircher '94) Self**; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mary "Ginger" (Bowden '66*) Kidd retired in May from Pulaski Academy in Little Rock after 25 years of teaching English.

Joe Bill Meador ('66) and his wife, Sandy, visited Alaska with all their children and grandchildren in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on May 30. This completed their quest to visit all 50 states.

Sharon (Evans '68) Bale will be honored Jan. 17 as the Woman of the Year at the 2015 Women & Children First gala.

1970s

Rex ('72) and Jennifer (Jordan '71*) Babcock both retired in May after teaching in USD 413 in Chanute, Kan., for 35 years. They both began teaching in Holly Grove, Ark., and then moved to Chanute in 1979 where he taught at Chanute High School and she taught at several different elementary schools. During retirement, they plan to spend time with family and friends and travel.

Beth (Gladden '75) Coulson was recently named president of the Board of Directors at Arkansas Baptist College.

Anne (Crump '76) Butcher completed her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in May. She retired from public education as superintendent at Centerpoint School District on June 30 and is now the director of board development for the Arkansas School Boards Association.

Mike Carroll ('77) has been named to Gov.-elect Asa Hutchinson's transition team. He and his wife, **Pam (Taylor '77)**, live in Fort Smith, Ark., where he is a CPA and partner at Beall Barclay & Company.

Dr. Richard ('77) and Susan (Fay '77) Edds have returned to Arkansas, where he will serve as pastor of Cherry Street Baptist Church in Clarksville, Ark. They have spent the past 37 years in ministry throughout Oklahoma, Indiana and Kansas.

Rhonda (Sealy '78) Thigpen announced her retirement in November from Henderson State University where she has coached volleyball for 25 years. She was named Arkansas Intercollegiate

Conference Coach of the Year in 1991 and Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year in 1994, 1995 and 2001.

1980s

Carlos Icther ('83) recently completed four years of service as minister of music at Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. He served as national president of the Baptist Church Music Conference for the 2013-2014 year.

Bill and Mary "Snookie" (Powers '83) Dixon took a trip to Europe in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on May 31. Dixon is vice president for student services emeritus. The Dixons have two sons, **David ('90)** and **Christopher ('92)**, and five grandchildren.

William "B.R." Strickland ('87) retired this spring from teaching after 25 years at Bethel Regional High School in Bethel, Alaska. In July, he began serving as executive director of the Alaska School Activities Association.



Gary ('88) and Norma (Spencer '89) Powell recently moved from North Augusta, S.C., to Fairfield Bay, Ark. He joined the staff of Fairfield Bay Baptist Church as associate pastor for music and outreach. Their oldest daughter, Emily, is a Baptist Campus Ministries intern at University of Arkansas-Little Rock and their two youngest daughters, **Grace ('17)** and **Bethany ('18)**, are current students at Ouachita. The Powells recently celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary and he will celebrate 30 years in ministry in January.

Kay (Cartmill '88) Steabman was appointed as corporate director of pediatric nursing for National Nursing and Rehab which is a

licensed and certified home health agency serving Texas. She previously was the policy and management coordinator for CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care.

1990s

Mitch Bettis ('90) was named president of Arkansas Business Publishing Group of Little Rock in May. He joined ABPG in 2013 as general manager and publisher of *Arkansas Business* newspaper. He has more than 30 years of experience in management and publishing.

Chris Norris ('90) is serving as lead pastor of Harvest Pointe Fellowship, a new church plant near Augusta, Ga., after serving for over 19 years as minister of music and worship at West Acres Baptist Church in Evans, Ga. He is also the part-time fine arts coordinator at Augusta Christian Schools, directing middle and high school choral activities. His wife, **Jennifer (Moseley '91)**, teaches women's Bible studies in the new church plant and teaches 5th grade at Augusta Christian Schools where she has served for nine years. They have three children, Drew, Rachel and Benjamin.

Kevin Coleman ('91) was named head football coach at Rose Bud High School. He and his wife, Sheila, have one daughter, Maddie, who is the team's water girl, and are adopting a son, Samuel, in January.

Kyle Hollaway ('91) joined the company nGage Labs, Inc., as chief technology officer in May. He will lead the nGage labs analytics innovation team of architects, analysts, modelers and developers. He previously was a senior executive at marketing service providers Merkle and Acxiom.

Joel Humphrey ('91) recently retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 27 years of service in the Army Reserve. During his service, Humphrey served two tours on active duty in Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He now works as a special offender specialist with the U.S. Probation Office and resides in Hot Springs, Ark., with his wife, Sharon, and two children, Kamryn (16) and Aaron (10).

Lamont Cornwell ('93) became the executive director of Saline County Economic Development Corp in Benton, Ark., in September. He previously was the director of economic and community development for Benton.

Jonathan M. Gary ('93) was promoted to the position of chair of the Department of Music at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. He also is completing his Doctor of Education degree in higher education leadership and administration at the university.

Lannie Byrd ('97) was named chief operating officer of Social Innovation in Little Rock in September. Social Innovation is a digital marketing firm based in Little Rock where Byrd recently served as executive vice president of operations.

voted on by all athletic directors each year at the AD winter conference held in Hot Springs. Babb currently is in his 4th year as athletic director for Arkadelphia Public Schools.

Dr. Brent Baskin ('99) graduated in December 2013, with a PhD in Church and Family Ministries from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In the fall of 2013, he accepted a faculty position as assistant professor of Christian studies and youth ministry at Shorter University in Rome, Ga. He is also the program coordinator for the youth and

BASS ALUMNI COMMEMORATE 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS AT OBU

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first African-American students admitted to Ouachita, more than 50 African-American alumni gathered Nov. 14-15 at the DeGray Lake Resort Lodge. Participants came from as far away as California and Georgia to take part in the weekend celebration. The event, hosted by the Black American Student Society (BASS) alumni, highlighted the theme "Trailblazers for Justice."

Carolyn Jean Green of Hot Springs was the first African-American student admitted to Ouachita in the fall of 1964 following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Two of her classmates, Willye Newburn Talley (left) and Gloria Roberts Fallins (right), both of Arkadelphia, attended the recent celebration. They were among the first African-Americans to graduate from OBU in 1967.

Rev. James "Bearcat" Reynolds, a 1971 OBU graduate who serves as the only black chaplain for the Pulaski County Jail, was the speaker for the event's awards banquet. Reynolds, the first



African-American to play football for the Ouachita Tigers, was introduced by Leroy Brownlee, the first president of OBU BASS. Brownlee is the retired chairman of the Arkansas Board of Parole.

The BASS alumni awarded scholarships to Kyaira Flagg, a sophomore mass communications and political science major from Houston, Texas, and Johnathan Boyce, a junior sociology and psychology major from Texarkana, Texas.

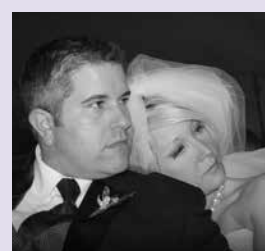
Josh ('97) and Shelley (Buck '98) Hughes opened the second location of JavaPrimo Coffee House, Café & More in downtown Arkadelphia in September 2013. The building at 614 Main Street is believed to be the oldest commercial building in Clark County and was completely remodeled prior to opening. The original JavaPrimo is located on Central Avenue in Hot Springs, Ark.

Ann (Browning '98) Hibbard is now the senior editor of print and online publishing for *Home Educating Family Magazine*. She and her husband, **Doug ('99)**, live in Almyra, Ark., where he is pastor of Almyra Baptist Church.

Chris Babb ('99) was selected this past summer by his peers as the 4A Athletic Director of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year. The award is

ministry degree and the faculty adviser for the Association of Christian Leaders. His wife, **Melissa (Ross '99)**, is an instructor of communication arts at Shorter University and serves as the faculty adviser for Shorter's yearbook, *The Argo*. They have two daughters, Lauren (10) and Julia (6).

2000s



Jodie Babb ('00) married Jason Wilson on March 22 at First Baptist Church of Hot Springs, Ark. They now live in Bryant, Ark.

FACULTY UPDATE

SECRET, MOTL HOLD ENDOWED CHAIRS

Dr. Jon Secrest and Dr. Kevin "Casey" Motl recently were named to endowed chairs by the Ouachita Board of Trustees. Dr. Secrest, chair of the Department of Applied Music and coordinator of the vocal studies program, was named to the Addie Mae Maddox Chair of Music. He has taught at Ouachita since 1994. Dr. Motl, associate professor of history, was named to the R. Voyt Hill Chair of History. He has taught at OBU since 2006.

JEFFERS HONORED BY ACS CHAPTER

Dr. Joe Jeffers, a longtime chemistry professor at Ouachita, has been named the 2014 Professor of the Year by the Central Arkansas section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Jeffers, Ouachita's Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Professor of Chemistry and Pre-Medical Studies, was nominated for the ACS honor by the Ouachita student ACS chapter.

HAMILTON VIP REP FOR CONN-SELMER

Dr. Craig Hamilton, Ouachita's Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music, recently was selected as a VIP representative for Conn-Selmer Inc., a leading manufacturer and distributor of musical instruments. The VIP program is part of Conn-Selmer's commitment to supporting music education around the world.

HALABY PRESENTS ACADEMIC PAPERS

Dr. Raouf J. Halaby, professor of visual arts and English, presented a paper at the 16th biennial international conference of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society held at Venice International University in Venice, Italy. His paper addressed "The Theme of the Quest: Gilgamesh and Enkidu as Prototypes for Hemingway's Robert Jordan, Frederic Henry and Santiago." He also presented a paper at the Olympia Arab Festival in Washington.

DUVALL, LEWIS PUBLISH NEW BOOKS

Dr. Scott Duvall, the J.C. and Mae Fuller Professor of Biblical Studies, and Dr. Ryan Lewis, assistant professor of music, recently had books published. Duvall's book on Revelation was published as part of the Teach the Text Commentary Series. Lewis' textbook, *MusiConnections: The Spectrum of Music Appreciation*, was released by GRT Publications.

Miles Wertz ('00) was named this fall as assistant professor of biblical and theological studies at Palm Beach Atlantic University. He and his wife, Sarah, have one son, Eliot.

Wes Ingram ('01) was named by the New York Mets as vice president of corporate partnerships sales and service. He previously was senior director of corporate partnerships and broadcast sales for the Kansas City Royals. He and his wife, **Cendi (Weatherford '02)**, have two children, Connor and Hannah.

Joshua Mayfield ('01) was promoted in September to administrator of chaplaincy services for the Arkansas Department of Corrections. He and his wife, Brooke, have two children, Noah Kent (5) and Elin Reese (2), and are expecting a third child, Jude Titus, in January.

Levi Simpson ('02) is now serving as senior manager of global sourcing for Walmart. He and his wife, April, live in Springdale, Ark.

Jeff Conaway ('03) was named head football coach and athletic director in June at Shiloh Christian School in Springdale, Ark. He served as head football coach at Greene County Tech in Paragould, Ark., for the past six seasons and previously was offensive coordinator at Shiloh Christian School.

Kellie (Blalock '03) Kostrubala was hired in May by Mascoutah Community Unit School District 19 as an assistant principal at Scott Elementary School in Illinois.



Shealyn Sowers ('03) married Chad Kirkman on Sept. 28 at Mount Nebo State Park. They now live in Little Rock where she is a producer at KARK/FOX 16 and he owns CKWoodesigns.

Dr. Stephanie Bezner ('04) married Carles Serres Garcia on May 16 in Barcelona, Spain. She holds a PhD and MD and he received his MBA from Emory University. They now live in Boston, Mass., where she is a general surgery resident at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a clinical teaching fellow at Harvard Medical School and he is a senior manager of retail pharmacy strategy at CVS headquarters.

Chessie (Mills '04) Holmes recently moved to Conway, Ark., to teach classes for Ouachita at New Life Church, including Composition I and Contemporary World. She has been teaching for nine years for various universities and institutions, including one year in Honduras. Her husband, Jason, is a programmer for FIS Global of Little Rock.

Michael Nutt ('04) married Kelsey Camp on Aug. 30 in Searcy, Ark.

Heather Tackett ('05) married Brian Wardle on May 17 at the State Capitol in Little Rock.

Sierra (Hagen '08) Laddusaw and her colleagues at the Texas A&M University Libraries were among the winners of the Esri Special Achievement in Geographic Information System (GIS) Award at the 2014 Esri International User Conference in San Diego, Calif. The winners of the annual award are chosen from thousands of organizations worldwide. Laddusaw serves as the Map and GIS Library program assistant at Texas A&M.

Brooke (Showalter '08) Zimny recently completed her Master of Arts degree in communication at Johns Hopkins University. She serves as assistant director of communications at Ouachita. Her husband, **René** ('08), is pursuing a master's degree in graphic design from Savannah College of Art and Design, serves as assistant director of graphic services at Ouachita and is the owner of Zimny Media.

Kody Gibson ('09) was named Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's admissions director in July. He graduated from Southern Seminary in 2012, with his Master of Divinity degree and previously served as the seminary's associate director of admissions.

Rachel Hardin ('09) received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Texas Woman's University in May.

Christopher Johnson ('09) graduated in May with a Master of Arts in History and Culture from Drew University and began the Master of Public Administration program at New York University in August.

Andrew Pyle ('09) recently completed his PhD at George Mason University and was named an assistant professor of strategic communication at

Clemson University. His wife, **Sarah (Monroe '09)**, is a senior associate with Pricewaterhouse Coopers. They also celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary in June.

2010s



Molly Magee ('10) married John Thomas Shepherd on Aug. 23 in Conway, Ark. They now live in El Dorado, Ark., where she is an attorney with the United States Federal Courts and he is in private law practice.



Jessica (Bruchan '10) Mensch and her husband, Stephen, moved to Puerto Lempira, Honduras, in July. They are serving the people of La Moskitia with the organization Reach Out Honduras. They have one son, Luke (1).

Josh Rovelli ('10) recently passed the Arkansas Bar Exam and is practicing law with the Frye Law Firm in North Little Rock, Ark.



Karlee Smith ('10) married Matt Owens on Oct. 17 at Pratt Place Inn and Barn in Fayetteville, Ark. They now live in Fayetteville where she works as an applied behavior analysis therapist with autistic children at a private center and he works at Walmart in the auditing department.

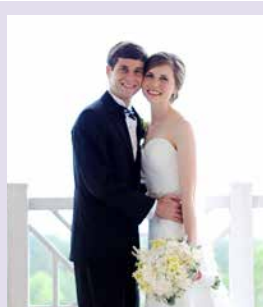
Frank Vaughn ('10) won the 2013 Upper Midwest Emmy Award (Governor's Award for Excellence) for his writing contribution to a documentary on the 2009 Iraq deployment of the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard. He recently was transferred to Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico by the U.S. Army to help facilitate ministry to soldiers and their families.



Joseph Anderson ('11) married **Rachel Gilmer ('14)** on July 5 in Farmersville, Texas.



Kristen Glover ('11) married Barrett Belew on Aug. 2 at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock. They now live in Bryant, Ark., where she is in her third year of pharmacy school at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and he is a CPA at Deloitte & Touche.



Sarah Greeson ('11) married Alex Bearden on May 25, 2013, in Hot Springs, Ark. They now live in Houston, Texas, where she is managing editor of absolutely! focus media and he attends graduate school at the University of Houston.

Drew Moore ('11) moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand, in March. He has earned his Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate and is teaching English to native Thai speakers.

Alex Ray ('11) was elected in June to a three-year term to the Board of Directors at Ballet Arkansas.



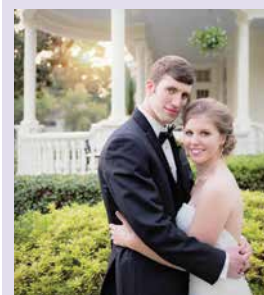
Chris Chandler ('12) married **Carrington Tillery ('14)** on May 31 in Hot Springs, Ark. They now live in Cordova, Tenn., where he is in dental school at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center and she is an agent for F & I Solutions.



Casey Cooper ('12) married **Kathryn Kelly ('12)** on June 1, 2013. They now live in Fayetteville, Ark., where he is a student at the University of Arkansas School of Law and she is a corporate relations coordinator for the Walton Arts Center.



Hannah Hilburn ('12) married Matt Crawford on April 26 at the Terry Mansion in Little Rock. They now live in Plano, Texas, where they both work at Prestonwood Baptist Church. She works in student ministry with high school girls and he works as an associate in the pastoral office.



Matthew Pope ('12) married **Holly Wray ('14)** on Oct. 18 in Berry Chapel. They now live in Shreveport, La.



Jesse Pruett ('12) married Melissa Sandgren on Aug. 9 in Racine, Wis. They now live in Fort Thomas, Ky.



Katelyn Smith ('12) married Ricardo Yzquierdo on May 24 at Anderson Baptist Church in Anderson, Texas. They now live in Houston, Texas, where she works as a pediatric dietitian and he is attending physical therapy assistant school at the Houston Medical Center.

*"How shall they hear
without a preacher?"*

(ROMANS 10:14)

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO RENOVATE OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY'S HISTORIC BERRY BIBLE BUILDING

BUILDING BELIEVERS & PREPARING PASTORS

The campaign to renovate Berry Bible Building is designed to update classrooms, offices and other resources. The renovation project will **allow students to study in an enhanced learning environment** as they prepare for ministry in Arkansas and around the world.

Consider honoring your pastor or other ministry leader by providing a gift to name a classroom or office suite in their honor or memory.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ouachita Office of Development // 870-245-5169 // www.obu.edu/give



Oliver Thomas ('12) married **Bethany Elliff ('10)** on May 31 at Summit Church in North Little Rock, Ark. They now live in Fort Worth, Texas, where he is attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Brandon Briscoe ('13) married **Karis Crosby ('13)** on Sept. 1, 2013. They now live in Columbia, Mo., where he is an area director for KLife and she is the middle school director at The Crossing Church.



Austin Evans ('13) married **Jenny Campbell ('13*)** on June 7 at The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock. They now live in Little Rock where he is a project manager for Mark Evans Media and she is a second grade teacher at Park Hill Elementary School.



Caitlyn Wamble ('12) married Timothy Robnett on Dec. 21, 2013, in Pine Bluff, Ark. She graduated in May from Georgia Baptist College of Nursing in Atlanta, Ga., with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and he graduated with a civil engineering degree from Georgia Institute of Technology. They now live in Pine Bluff, Ark., but plan to move to East Asia in the near future.



Michael Curtis ('13) married **Amberly Green ('13)** on May 31 at Berry Chapel. They now live in Richardson, Texas, where he has started his own audio production company, MKC Music, and she is a registered dietitian at Life Time Fitness.



Kelly Ferguson ('13) married Connor Smithson on May 3 in Scott, Ark. They now live in Benton, Ark., where she is the creative director at Ashley Furniture HomeStore and he is the worship and youth pastor at New Life Church in Hot Springs, Ark.



Rebecca Atkinson ('13) married Justin Smith on June 7. They now live in Waco, Texas, where she is a first grade teacher and he is attending Truett Theological Seminary and is the associate college minister at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church.



Jake Edwards ('13) married **Leah Whitlow ('14)** on Sept. 20 in Rogers, Ark. They now live in Rogers where he is a sales representative for club marketing and she is a second grade teacher at Elm Tree Elementary School.



Aubree Fry ('13) married Kelton Hays on Aug. 30. They now live in Little Rock where she is a dietitian at Arkansas Children's Hospital and he is an accountant for Pricewaterhouse Coopers.



Jena McCarty ('13) married Orry Lee on Sept. 6 in Dover, Ark. They now live in Dardanelle, Ark., where she is working as a nutritional consultant and he is working at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Austin Mitchell ('13) has been named the boys basketball coach at Conway Christian School in Conway, Ark.



Zach Penny ('13) married **Harmony Bussell ('14)** on May 31 in Texarkana, Ark. They now live in Searcy, Ark., where he is pursuing a doctorate degree in physical therapy at Harding University and she is employed at White County Medical Center.



Jacob Catlett ('14) married **Lindsey Fowler ('14)** on Aug. 16 at First Baptist Church of Hot Springs, Ark. They will live in Birmingham, Ala., after returning from a semester overseas in the Czech Republic.



Andrew Hassell ('14) married **Alyssa White ('14)** on June 28 at First Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas. They now live in Allen, Texas, where he is an accountant for Prestonwood Baptist Church and she is a kindergarten teacher at Newman Elementary School.



Leith Hobbs ('14) married **Mary Rachel Wolf ('14)** on July 26 at First Baptist Church of Hot Springs, Ark. They now live in Searcy, Ark., where she is attending physician assistant school at Harding University and

he is teaching physical science at North Pulaski High School in Jacksonville.

Timothy Horton ('14) married **Crista Riggs ('14)** on Aug. 9 at Henderson Hills Baptist Church in Edmond, Okla. They plan to relocate to Palo Alto, Calif., where he will pursue a PhD in biophysical chemistry at Stanford University and she will attend medical school at the University of Oklahoma.



Alana O'Brien ('14) married **Austin Kennedy ('15*)** on Jan. 3 in Eads, Tenn.



Austin Roden ('14) married **Kate Cody ('14)** on May 17 at First Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs, Texas. They now live in North Dallas, Texas, where he is attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and she is a marketing coordinator for Sky Ranch Christian Camps.



Evan Rogers ('14) married **Heather Ederington ('11)** on Aug. 11, 2012.

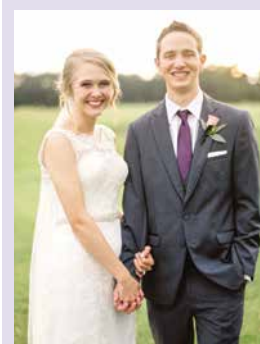


Hunter Threadgill ('14) married **Meghan Savage ('13)** on Jan. 2 at the Milestone in Krum, Texas. They now live in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where he is pursuing his PhD in social psychology and she is a kindergarten teacher.

Charles Tillery ('14) married **Rachel Rogers ('14)** on July 12 at Horton Farms in northwest Arkansas. They now live in Hot Springs, Ark., where he is a salesman at Allen Tillery Auto and she is working at Ideal Health Now.



Logan Webb ('14) married **Brittany Jackson ('14)** on Jan. 4 in Bartlett, Tenn. They now live in Wake Forest, N.C., where they both are studying at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree in international church planting and she is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Biblical counseling.



Will Wooten ('14) married **Laura Strossner ('14)** on June 20 at New Life Church in Conway, Ark. They now live in Memphis, Tenn., where they both are beginning their first year of optometry school at Southern College of Optometry.



Justin Young ('14) married **Kristen Barnard ('14)** on July 5 at Crossgate Church in Hot Springs, Ark.

future *tigers*

1990s



Josh ('97) and Shelley (Buck '98) Hughes welcomed son Alexander Evans on Jan. 21.



Cody ('02*) and Jordan (Douglas '02) Malone welcomed daughter Hazel Ann on Dec. 3, 2013. She joins big brothers Jack and Jace.



Sara (Smith '07) Cooper and her husband, Corey, welcomed daughter Ava Elizabeth on July 18.

Danny ('97) and Amber (Dean '04) Prescott welcomed son Jacob Miles on Nov. 11. He joins big brother Jackson and big sister Reagan.



Jill (Presley '99) Cox and her husband, Cory, welcomed daughter Emma Kate on June 9. She joins big brother Jay. They live in Maumelle, Ark.



Deanna (Spann '03) McGrew and her husband, Derek, welcomed twins Logan and Landry on Jan. 4.



Tyler ('08) and Erin (Carpenter '09) Ellis welcomed daughter Emma Mechelle on Aug. 3.

Evan ('08) and Carly (Hayes '09) Secret welcomed daughter Hayes Avery on July 22. Hayes is the granddaughter of Dr. Jon and Dr. Glenda Secret, professors of music at Ouachita.



Stephanie (Latiolais '99) Hall and her husband, Steve, welcomed son Landry on Jan. 15.



Matt ('03) and Jessica (Hemingway '04) Ramsey adopted son Judah on Aug. 19. He was born on July 7.



Laura (Stark '08) Willenburg and her husband, Kenny, welcomed daughter Isla Kate on Dec. 3, 2013.

Jennifer (Beaver '09) Crow and her husband, Orrin, welcomed daughter Emily Skye on Sept. 26.

2000s



Kristi (Foster '00) Ballard and her husband, David, welcomed son Logan Christopher on Sept. 7, 2013. He joins big brother Liam (6) and big sister Lauryn (4).

Kristi has been working as a child and family specialist at Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services since 2012.



Scott and Katie (Holmes) Haynes ('06) welcomed daughter Julie Kathryn on July 18. She joins big sister Suzanne (3).



Dr. Candice (Williams '09) Denison and her husband, Ryan, welcomed daughter Axia Jane on Jan. 10. They now live in Tyler, Texas, where she is a dentist at Smith Dental Care and he is studying for his PhD in church history and works for the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture.



Hannah (Farmer '06) Whitman and her husband, Adam, welcomed son David Reid on March 3.


 stepping
up
for
Ouachita


photo by Tyler Rosenthal

The 2014 Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon honored Susie Everett, an OBU trustee and former student, and benefited scholarships for women. Arkansas Department of Higher Education Director Shane Broadway shared about the Everett family, saying, "Not only are they great business leaders. They are a constant example of what a Christ-

centered life and giving back to one's community because you have been blessed is all about." In addition to a cancer research presentation by Dr. Lori Hensley and remarks by students Haley Dahl and Bridget Bloxom, Everett thanked attendees "for giving the gift of education to these special young women of Ouachita."



Turner and Meredith (Reeves) Roberts ('13) welcomed daughter Norah Kate on May 27.

2010s



Amy (Wentz '10) Burnside and her husband, Brandon, welcomed son Mason Richard on July 14.

Charles Hunter ('10) and his wife, Andrea, welcomed son Brody Maddox on Sept. 4. He joins big sister Emma Grace (2).



Rachel (Swayne '10) Trent and her husband, Benjamin, welcomed daughter Charis on July 31.



Jeremy and Jessie (Sanders) Briggs ('11) welcomed daughter Bailey Grace on Sept. 24. They now live in Bryant, Ark.



DJ and Leslyn (Ichter) Jacks ('11) welcomed son Emmett James on July 12. They live in Bryant, Ark.



Melissa (Butters '12) Elliott and her husband, Eric, welcomed son Luke Andrew on Oct. 7.



Wesley ('12) and Natasha ('11) May welcomed son Enoch Ryan on June 24. He joins big sister Esther Grace (4) and big brother Judah (2).

Devon (Melear '12) NeSmith and her husband, Grant, welcomed son Landon Kelby on July 10.



John ('13) and Lauren (Tallakson '12) Bacon welcomed son Ezekiel James on May 14.

Faculty & Staff

Kyle and Cindy Hope welcome the birth of their first grandchild, Gentry. She was born on Aug. 26 to Erin and Jordan Allen. Kyle is an assistant baseball coach at Ouachita.



Dr. Jeff and Sarah Sykes adopted son Oliver James. He was born on Sept. 19. Dr. Sykes is a professor of mathematics at Ouachita.

in memoriam

1930s

Marguerite (Rhodes '36) Brown of Jonesboro, Ark., passed away on April 29. She is survived by her two daughters, Nancy Talburt and Susan James, and son-in-law, John James.

Claudia (Mann '36) Manson of Malvern, Ark., passed away on Aug. 13 at age 100.

1940s

Pauline (Webb '42) Collinsworth of Stamps, Ark., passed away on May 12. She is survived by her two children, Tommy Collinsworth and Linda Hambrice; five grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Doris (Hickmon '42) Croxton of Cabot, Ark., passed away on Nov. 14. She is survived by her children, **Ann (Croxton '66) Parks**, Martha Taussing and Tom Croxton; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, EXPERIENCE

OUACHITA STUDENTS SERVE AS INTERNS ON KENDRICK BROTHERS' NEW FILM

How would you like to spend several weeks working on a film set? That's exactly what three Ouachita mass communications majors had the opportunity to do this past summer.

Nick Burt, a senior from Wake Village, Texas; Chelsea Byers, a May 2014 graduate from Campbell, Texas; and McKenzie Cranford, a senior from Irving, Texas, spent the summer in Charlotte, N.C., serving as interns on the Kendrick Brothers' latest movie.

Alex and Stephen Kendrick have directed and produced such movies as *Facing the Giants*, *Fireproof* and *Courageous* through Sherwood Pictures affiliated with Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga. They established Kendrick Brothers Productions last year to expand their filmmaking endeavors and train the next generation of Christian filmmakers.

Based on those goals, they reviewed hundreds of cast and crew applications and accepted intern recommendations from several universities, including Ouachita. Burt, Byers and Cranford, all of whom were students in Ouachita's Christian Communications course last spring, were among 18 interns chosen by the Kendrick brothers to work on Movie 5. (The film's actual title has not yet been announced.) Scheduled for release next fall by Provident Films and Affirm Films (Sony), the movie focuses on the power of prayer and its role in the Christian life.

"We had a very good shoot this summer," said Alex Kendrick, who is directing the film. "We had a total of 18 college interns from six different colleges, including Ouachita. They were fantastic! Although every shoot has hurdles, we worked together to complete every scene and wrap the production on time and under budget."

Expressing appreciation for Ouachita's "partnership and the students you sent to join us," Kendrick said the interns "served in almost every capacity, including production assistance, lighting, grip, wardrobe, camera and production office work."

"They were easy to work with and a pleasure to have on the team," he noted. "We're very excited to see the final result in the coming year."

"All three of the interns from Ouachita Baptist University that worked in our movie production crew this summer were great additions to our team," agreed Stephen Kendrick, the film's



Alex and Stephen Kendrick pose outside the Gem Theater in Kannapolis, N.C., after filming scenes for their latest movie.

producer. "They learned fast, worked hard, kept great attitudes and added so much value daily to their departments.

"They not only helped us make a better movie," he added, "but they gained professional experience and grew in their faith as they served in an environment where the Word of God and prayer were constantly affecting our daily decisions. I'm so glad we decided to partner with your school and utilize your students to intern with us."

"Working with the Kendrick brothers was the experience of a lifetime," Burt said. "Not only was I able to get real experience in the film industry, but I got to witness Christian filmmakers incorporate their faith into every aspect of the film.

"I was blessed to be given the opportunity to work on the film," he reflected. "This is a very hard career field to enter and through connections at Ouachita, I had the privilege to participate. It was truly an incredible opportunity."

Byers noted that "it was during an interview with Alex Kendrick in my Christian Communications class that I first heard about the opportunity to intern on the next Kendrick Brothers' film. Alex explained what they were doing, and how it was their passion to invest in the next generation of faith-based filmmakers. I was ecstatic about getting the chance to even apply, let alone be considered for the job. It wasn't until later in the semester that I

received word directly from Stephen Kendrick that I had landed the position. I could not believe that I had been chosen out of hundreds of applicants to join the Movie 5 crew.

"It was such a blessing to work on this film; meet such amazing, godly crew members who were masters of their craft; and get to see God move and work not only in the cast and crew's lives, but in my own life as well," Byers said. "It is opportunities like these that separate Ouachita from other schools. God used my class, my professor and my school to place me in a position that provided an unmatched experience and an intense period of growth in my life and faith."

According to Cranford, "When invited to apply for the Movie 5 crew during a class video chat with Alex Kendrick, I could not pass up the chance to potentially work with some of the leaders at the forefront of Christian film. The Kendrick brothers are paving the way for future Christian filmmakers, and I am grateful for the relationships the OBU mass communications department has fostered over the years to provide students opportunities such as this.

"Although the hours were long, every early morning and late night was completely worth it," she concluded. "I look forward to seeing how this film is used to touch countless lives across the world."

Imogene (Lacy '42*) Reed of Little Rock passed away on Sept. 6. She is survived by her brother, James Lacy; two sons, **Doug ('64*)** and David Reed; five grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Jack Wilson ('42*) of Danville, Ark., passed away on April 28. He is survived by his two children, Jack, Jr., and Martha; and one grandson, Wilson.

Lucille Martindale ('46*) of Hewitt, Texas, passed away on May 5. She is survived by her two children, Everett Martindale, Jr., and Kathy Whipple; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

John Furqueron ('47) of Arkadelphia passed away on June 26. He is survived by his wife, **Charlotte (McCaskill '47) Furqueron**; brother, Arthur Furqueron; four children, Ann Scotti, Medena Thurman, J. Philip Furqueron and Neil Furqueron; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Rev. Al Major ('47) of West Helena, Ark., passed away on April 28. He is survived by his wife, **Sarah (Myatt '47) Major**; sister, Kathryn Baker; two children, Fred Major and Liz Fitzgibbons; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Betty Schmitz ('47) of Evansville, Ind., passed away on July 2, 2013.

Reece Stiles ('47) of Malvern, Ark., passed away on Sept. 13. He is survived by his daughter, Susan Tanner, and three grandchildren.

William Bohannon ('48) of Little Rock passed away on May 5. He is survived by his wife, Eloise Bohannon; siblings, Holland and Ruby Bohannon; two sons, Stanley and Tony Bohannon; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Evelyn (Thompson '48) Crowe of Paris, Ark., passed away on Oct. 28. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Murry Crowe; four children, Maxwell "Tom" Crowe, Cheryl Adams, Susan Clark and Lauren Redfern; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Jack Morrison ('48) of Little Rock passed away on April 29. He is survived by his wife, Edwina Morrison; sister, JoAnn Sawyer; daughter, Rebecca Miller; five grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

James Waggoner ('48) of Houston, Texas, passed away on Nov. 27, 2013. He is survived by his

wife, **June (Howell '48) Waggoner**; daughter, Liz Quisenberry; and three grandchildren.

Albert G. "A.G." Newman ('49) of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on June 14. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Estes Newman; brother, Donald Newman; son, Gil Newman; two step-sons, Steve and Barry Smith; two step-grandchildren; and one step-great-grandchild.

1950s

Rev. Oscar Golden ('50) of Benton, Ark., passed away on June 22. He is survived by his wife, **Betty (Buck '50) Golden**; sisters, Katherine Graham and Jeanette Melton; three daughters, **Jana (Golden '73) Brumelow**, **Sherry (Golden '71*) Tatum** and **Sue (Golden '77*) Ulmer**; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Evelyn (Wilson '50*) McKinney Griffin of Arkadelphia, Ark., passed away on Nov. 19. She is survived by her sister, Lois Johns; two daughters, **Karen (McKinney '73) Johnson** and **Gayle (McKinney '76*) Wixson**; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Bobbie (Hansford '50*) Lowry of Little Rock passed away on May 16. She is survived by her daughter, **Vicki (Lowry '79) Haydon**; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Virginia (Southerland '51*) Henry of Batesville, Ark., passed away on Oct. 14. She is survived by her husband, **Paul Henry ('49)**; sister, Kay Southerland; three daughters, Paula Terrell, Mary Henry and Linda Wood; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Cecil H. "Sonny" Justus ('51*) of Tyrone, Ark., passed away on June 17. He is survived by his two sisters, Jane Johnson and Marijean Going; two daughters, Melody McDaniel and Cyndi Fischer; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jimmy Walters ('51) of Friendswood, Texas, passed away on Feb. 10. He is survived by his wife, **Peggy (Perrin '51) Walters**; brother, Bill Walters; two children, Ann Boss and Phil Walters; three grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Rev. Bill Burnett ('52) of Beebe, Ark., passed away on June 6. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy (Warren '52*) Burnett**; daughters,

Amy Lee, Marti Dodson and Debbie Adams; and five grandchildren.

Edith Camp ('54) of Little Rock passed away on May 10.

Max Elms ('54*) of Earle, Ark., passed away on Aug. 1. He is survived by his wife, **Sue (Franks '54*) Elms**; brother, **Zahle "Zeke" Elms ('53)**; and two sons, Max and Eric Elms.

Graydon Hardister ('56) of Benton, Ark., passed away on Nov. 1. He is survived by his wife, Betty Hardister; sisters, Jimmie Woodfield and Kay Bailey; three children, **Graydon "Tommy" Hardister ('86)**, **Carol (Hardister '93) Phifer** and **David Hardister ('93)**; and eight grandchildren.

Billie "B.J." Robertson ('56) of Ellington, Mo., passed away on July 26. He is survived by his wife, **Charlene (Lincoln '56) Robertson**; two children, Karen Logue and Mark Robertson; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Dr. Ben Hipp ('57) of Batesville, Ark., passed away on Aug. 1. He is survived by his wife, Marva Hipp; brother, Joe Hipp; two daughters, Melissa Potter and Melanie Daugherty; and five grandchildren.

Charles Whitlow ('58) of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on July 28. He is survived by his wife, **Kay (Lanford '58*) Whitlow**; two sisters, Jeane Williams and Wanda Tackett; three children, **Debbie (Whitlow '82) Monk**, **Chuck Whitlow ('84)** and **Stuart Whitlow ('91)**; and eight grandchildren.

Joie Gail (Taylor) Setliff ('59) of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Nov. 8, 2013. She is survived by her husband, Reuben "Sonny" Setliff; four children, Stephanie Collins, Taylor Setliff, Jennifer Veltkamp and Adam Setliff; and 13 grandchildren.

Annic (Eldridge '59*) White of Sherwood, Ark., passed away on May 2.

1960s

Henry Whitlow ('60) of Longview, Texas, passed away on May 9. He is survived by his wife, Linda Whitlow; brother, **Stanley Whitlow ('64)**; two children, Jason Whitlow and Emily Hudson; and two granddaughters.

MAKOSHOLOS LEAVE LEGACY AS OUACHITA'S FIRST BLACK STUDENTS & NOTED EDUCATORS

Michael and Mary (Keyi) Makosholo, the first students to break Ouachita's racial barrier in the early 1960s, died recently in Zimbabwe. Mrs. Makosholo passed away Aug. 19 at age 85 and her husband died six weeks later on Sept. 30 at age 93.

The Makosholos, originally from the former Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), were admitted as Ouachita's first black students in 1962. The university's first African-American student was admitted two years later.

Mike Makosholo became Ouachita's first black graduate, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English in 1965. Mrs. Makosholo also attended classes at Ouachita for several semesters. They also broke the color barrier at First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia, where they were accepted as members in 1962.

According to the Makosholos' oldest daughter, Mabel Tswana, her parents' role as "the first black students at the university and the first blacks to be admitted as members of First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia obviously had a huge impact on Arkadelphia" amid the American civil rights movement. She said those milestones "were not something they dwelled on too much except to use to emphasize societal and spiritual responsibility."

Following Makosholo's graduation from Ouachita, the couple returned to Southern Rhodesia, where they both taught at Sanyati Baptist Mission School. He also taught at Mater Spei College and was the principal of Shashe Secondary School, both in Botswana; was the principal of Letsie High School in Lesotho; and taught at the University of Venda in South Africa until his retirement in 1997. In addition to teaching, Mrs. Makosholo was a Woman's Missionary Union leader on the local and regional levels.

Ouachita alumni Jerry ('57) and Barbara ('61*) Schleiff, retired Southern Baptist missionaries to Zimbabwe, met Mike Makosholo at a missions conference at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1964. "We instantly became good friends since we were planning to go to Africa as missionaries," Barbara Schleiff recalled.

Jerry Schleiff arranged for a group of young people in his church to visit with Makosholo the following year. "This made a tremendous impact on them and changed their whole view of being with African people or black people," Schleiff said.



"Everything had always been segregated for them until that time. It opened their eyes to a whole new world they didn't even know was out there."

The two couples became colleagues at Sanyati where Makosholo served as headmaster and Schleiff was principal.

"We became neighbors and Mary became a very special friend to me," Mrs. Schleiff said. "She was one of the sweetest ladies I have ever known. She helped me many times in adapting to life in Rhodesia."

Florence Shirehwa, one of the Makosholos' former students, now works with the World Health Organization. She noted that she "will always treasure their contribution to my spiritual growth and foundation of who I am today."

"Our parents impacted so many people, it is impossible to list all," Tswana reflected. "They always had room for everyone, their own children, visitors and strangers. Even when they were broke, they would go an extra mile to help the needy. Our home was a home for everyone."

"We always had people at home because they enjoyed listening to our father," she added. "He was a storyteller, a motivator and a teacher to everyone who listened."

The Makosholos are survived by their five children: Mabel, Margaret, Mark, Martha and Melinda; 18 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Glenda (Roberson '61) Lanier of Dubach, La., passed away on May 10. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Don Lanier; brother, Roy Roberson; daughter, **Melissa (Nesbit '91) Whitlow**; and two grandchildren.

Mike Huckabay, Sr. ('62) of Little Rock passed away on Oct. 1. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Huckabay; siblings, Danny Huckabay and Patsy Bradley; two children, D. Michael Huckabay, Jr., and Layne Keenan; four grandchildren; four step-children, Katharine Adams, Justin, Leland and Patrick Couch; and four step-grandchildren.

Rev. Leroy French ('63) of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on Nov. 22. He is survived by his wife, **Helen (Tanner '63*) French**; six sisters, Trella Smith, Opal Coleman, Loretta Smith, Louella Tanner, Lovenia Stewart and Ruby Clark; one brother, Clarence French; one daughter, Janet Lightfoot; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Tilda (Seay '63) O'Neal of Rogers, Ark., passed away on Sept. 23. She is survived by her husband, **Gary O'Neal ('63)**; three sons, Bruce, Brent and Bart O'Neal; and three grandchildren.

Charles Knox ('64*) of Lonoke, Ark., passed away on Sept. 27. He is survived by his siblings, Richard Knox and Debbie Sanders; daughter, Kristi McGee; three grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Mary Oglesby ('64) of McGehee, Ark., passed away June 27.

John Wilson ('65) of Greenwood, Ark., passed away on Aug. 28. He is survived by his brother, **Thomas "Tom" Wilson ('63)**; three children, Janae Campbell, Rebecca Dickens and David Wilson; and six grandchildren.

Dennis Acklin ('66) of Melissa, Texas, passed away on July 20. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Acklin; brother, Travis Acklin; six children, Dennis Acklin, Jr., Debra Martin, Christopher Acklin, Amanda Bhuket, Joy Acklin and Abbie Acklin-Johnson; and five grandchildren.

Dr. Robert "Bob" Sykes ('66) of Nashville, Ark., passed away on Oct. 15. He is survived by his wife, **Sandra (McLaughlin '68) Sykes**; siblings, **Dr. Jo (Sykes '73) Chesser** and **Worthy Sykes ('61)**; two children, Karen and Timothy Sykes; and one grandson.

Judith (Travis '67) Hampton of Arlington, Texas, passed away on May 14. She is survived by her husband, **Larry Hampton ('67)**; sister, Kathy Hendrixson; two children, Jane Cook and Stephen Hampton; and four grandchildren.

Mary Walton ('67*) of Conway, Ark., passed away on June 11.

Sally (Boone '68) Marus of Little Rock passed away on Oct. 14. She is survived by her husband, **Paul Marus, Jr. ('67)**; two children, Robert Marus and Catherine Bell; and eight grandchildren.

1970s

Gary Haver ('70) of Sherwood, Ark., passed away on June 27. He is survived by his wife, Sherri Haver; brother, **Wayne Haver ('64)**; three children, **Joanna (Haver '98) Wakefield**, Layne and Sara Beth; three step-children, Tom, Tami and Tiffany; and 12 grandchildren.

Ronald "Ronnie" Coble ('71) of Van Buren, Ark., passed away on June 11. He is survived by his mother, Ruby Coble; siblings, Donna Edwards and **Charles Coble ('73)**; two children, Karen and Brad Coble; and two grandsons.

Rev. Bill Fitzhugh ('74*) of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Oct. 12. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Fitzhugh; siblings, Carl Fitzhugh and Flo Steward; two children, **Paige (Fitzhugh '87*) Lawson** and Micah Fitzhugh; and five grandchildren.

Ronald "Ron" Johnson ('77) of Little Rock passed away on April 4. He is survived by his wife, Hope Johnson; parents, Mary Ann Underwood and Edward Johnson; siblings, Phillip Johnson, Tammie Payton and Jacqueline Johnson; and son, Sean Johnson.

Susan (Erwin '78*) Bright of Arkadelphia passed away on April 29. She is survived by her husband, Lloyd Ivan Bright; two sons, **Jason Lloyd Bright ('97)** and Richard Andrew Bright; and three grandchildren.

Jerry Kinsey ('78) of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Nov. 1. He is survived by his wife, **Marta (DeRaine '78) Kinsey**; brother, James Kinsey; and son, Scott Kinsey.

Dr. Warren Watkins ('79) of Searcy, Ark., passed away on May 26. He is survived by his mother, Jane Watkins; brother, Robert Watkins; three daughters, Bethany Pardue, Rachel Allison and Rebekkah Watkins; and three grandchildren.

1980s

Bernice (White '82) Lasley of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 22. She is survived by her children, Oney Lasley, Jr., Robert Lasley, Coy Lasley, Susan Lasley, Shirley Eaton and Helen Lewis; sister, Amy Blankenship; three brothers, Henry, Jr., Elijah and Jackie White; 19 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

OUACHITA JUNIOR JAALEN WATKINS, 21, "WILL BE MISSED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

JaaLEN Watkins, a junior kinesiology major at Ouachita, died from injuries sustained in a car accident on July 3. He was a passenger in a car that was involved in a two-vehicle accident on I-630 in Little Rock, according to Arkansas State Police.

Watkins, the 21-year-old son of Keith and Sharon Watkins of Little Rock, was a former member of the Ouachita Tiger football team. A standout running back in high school, he earned the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Metro Sophomore of the Year honor in 2008.

A transfer student to OBU last year, Watkins was a redshirt sophomore for the Tigers. Todd Knight, OBU head football coach, said Watkins suffered knee problems during spring practice and opted to sit out the remainder of the season.

"Jaalen had many friends, met no strangers and was well liked and respected by both the

2010s

Kyle Tilley ('11) of Flower Mound, Texas, passed away on Oct. 25 at age 26. Tilley, a former graduate assistant swimming coach at Ouachita, is survived by his parents, Larry and Dona Tilley; sisters, Nicki Tilley and Hope Kuhlow; and grandparents, Don and Mary Owens.

Faculty & Staff

Betty Dixon Jones of Benton, Ark., passed away on July 18. She is survived by her husband, Henry Jones; siblings, Grady Dixon and Mary Harris; three children, **Dr. Randy Jones ('71*)**, **Marcia**

coaching staff and team," Coach Knight said. "He loved playing the game of football and seemed to never have a bad day. He will be missed but not forgotten at OBU. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time."



Watkins "worked hard in the classroom, on the field with his teammates and in his relationships with friends and family," said classmate Dixon Land, a junior Christian studies major at Ouachita. "We will all remember Jaalen for his love of God first, family second and others third. He will surely be missed."

A funeral service was held July 11 at The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock.

(Jones '72*) Grant and Karen (Jones '75*) West; seven grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. She served at Ouachita in the president's office.

Ralph Rauch of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on Sept. 27. He is survived by his two daughters, **Rev. Marilyn Rauch ('71)** and **Roberta (Rauch '73*) Richardson**. Rauch was assistant professor emeritus of music.

* denotes former student

1990s

Jeanna Dodd ('94*) of Little Rock passed away on May 22. She is survived by her daughter, Josie Beth; parents, **Paul ('63)** and **Jane (Wood '64*) Dodd**; and sister, **Christi (Dodd '91) Gillum**.



JON & GLENDA SECREST PROFESSORS OF MUSIC

By Chelsea Whelpley, OBU News Bureau

photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Ouachita professors of music Jon and Glenda Secrest have directed the school's opera production for the past two decades. But when the final curtain fell on this year's production of *The Mikado*, it also marked the end of the Secrests' roles as co-directors since 1994.

After 21 years of building the opera program, the Secrests have decided to hand over this responsibility. David Stanley, instructor of music and a former student of the Secrests, will take over direction of the opera productions after this year.

"Through the dedication and commitment to training professional singers, the Secrests developed the now renowned opera program at Ouachita Baptist University," said Dr. Scott Holsclaw, dean of OBU's School of Fine Arts. "Ouachita is one of the few universities in the region to produce a fully staged opera each year. A program of this caliber does not just happen but is nurtured by committed teachers and professionals in the field. Dr. Jon and Dr. Glenda Secrest embody this in their work with students."

"Our enthusiasm for opera is not going to change because we aren't directing anymore," said Dr. Jon Secrest. "Now we'll get to come and watch the efforts of our colleagues and be a part of the group that appreciates the final product."

The Secrests will continue to teach both in the classroom and in the applied lesson setting. "We are so blessed to be available to work with these students during such an important time in their life," said Dr. Glenda Secrest. "This period of growth is so important to them. The evolution they go through is incredible."

"The Secrests mean the world to me," said Todd McNeel, a senior mass communications major who performed the title role in *The Mikado*. "They have really invested in me during my time at Ouachita and have always been encouraging to me. They truly care about the opera department and invest a

lot ... to make sure we put on professional quality productions."

Affirming the support that the Secrests have given him over the years, Jacob Watson, a 2011 Ouachita graduate, said, "They push you to be your best, to be professional, all while maintaining an atmosphere of creativity and fun."

"The Secrests always believed that I could make an impact, not only at OBU, but in the professional world as well," added Watson, who recently performed in the Broadway musical *Violet* and is now on the national tour of *Chicago*. "They made it clear to me what I am capable of, but also how much hard work and dedication it really takes."

The Secrests said they feel a sense of fulfillment in how they have been able to lead the opera program's growth. Their first opera production at Ouachita was *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, with a cast of six students. Two performances were held in Verser Theatre with about 100 people in attendance. By 2010, the Secrests were producing operas that were fully staged and costumed with audiences totaling more than 1,000.

They have even staged productions with lyrics sung in Italian such as *Don Giovanni*. Jon Secrest described that production as "the mountaintop experience that we've had here."

Caitlin Secrest, who grew up with an insider perspective as the daughter and student of the two directors, said, "The level of professionalism, passion, care and outside time that they put into their successful productions is shown in every last area of consideration: musicality, acting, staging and more."

Describing her parents and voice instructors as "selfless and generous," Caitlin Secrest, a 2014 OBU graduate with a major in vocal performance, said, "The legacy of what they have created, along with the help of all the musicians, accompanists, technical directors, assistant directors and students of the past 20 or so years, will live on in an ever-inspiring way."



CRAIG & KIM WARD

MEN'S TENNIS HEAD COACH & TENNIS CENTER MANAGER

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni

photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Even after hearing “no” three times, Johnny Heflin, a member of Ouachita’s Board of Trustees at the time, would not give up. He knew Craig and Kim Ward needed to move to Arkadelphia and coach tennis at Ouachita, and Heflin wouldn’t take no for an answer. Finally, Craig Ward heard Heflin’s vision for tennis at Ouachita centered around changing lives and making a difference in the lives of players and the community, and he was sold.

It wasn’t an easy decision to give up working with outstanding junior players and serving as a tennis pro at a country club to take over a small college tennis team. But with passion and purpose, the Wards came to Ouachita in 1990 and got to work. He serves as head coach of men’s tennis and she is the tennis center manager.

With generous support from Johnny (’67) and Sharon (Windham) Heflin (’67), whose sons Jay (’93) and Marc (’95) would come through the Wards’ programs, things began to take off with the opening of the indoor tennis center in 1991. The next year, four new outdoor tennis courts were completed with two more in 1993, creating one of the best tennis centers in the state.

Reflecting on what helped the program become so successful, Craig said, “It takes money to build a great program. Great facilities, staff and scholarships are crucial. Through the generosity of the Heflin family and other generous donors and supporters, we’ve seen great growth these past 25 years and now have one of the best programs in the country.”

“Coach and Kim came to Ouachita in 1990 because they believed that Ouachita had a unique opportunity to reach out to kids from all over the world and help them to become difference makers through tennis and the Ouachita experience,” Jay Heflin noted. “Now as we look back over the last quarter century, we see a vision realized and a world changed because of Coach and Kim’s dedication to the service of others.”

Even with numerous awards and championships, including 1995 National College Coach of the Year and 2010 Gulf South Conference Coach of the Decade, it’s the people the Wards reflect on these days. “The most rewarding part of coaching has been the relationships built with the guys who have come through the program,” Craig said. “Wins are great, but successful coaches focus on building relationships with students as well as their growth, well-being and providing the opportunity to receive a great education.

“I have two national NCAA trophies in the tennis center and I cannot even tell you what year those were,” he added. “We’ve been to the NCAA tournament 16 or 17 times, which is a big deal to a lot of people. But the conversations I have all the time with those who have come through our program, the lives changed, the lives they are changing in their communities now, that’s what I find myself thinking about most.”

“Craig and Kim Ward are difference makers,” said Ouachita President Rex Horne. “Their long commitment to Ouachita is exemplary. The devotion the Wards have toward past and present players is reciprocated by those touched by this couple. Craig and Kim’s service to Ouachita, the community and tennis literally around the nation and world is incredible.”

At Homecoming this year, an unprecedented announcement was made at a dinner honoring Craig Ward’s 25th year at Ouachita. The Heflin family announced that the Heflin Tennis Center would be renamed the Kim and Craig Ward Tennis Center.

“Speechless. I was speechless! I don’t think I ever understood that word or experienced it until that moment,” Kim said. “The selflessness of the Heflins in so many ways, but especially in this act, has made a difference to all who have come through our program. The players and others who witnessed the renaming of the center have been greatly touched and impacted by this act of generosity.”

Milestones & victories call for celebration

Who doesn't enjoy a celebration? A celebration usually involves a number of people, often a large number. This occasion may be held because of a day, a person, an event or many other reasons.

I recently attended a birthday celebration for one of our grandchildren, Arabella Farrell. This young lady is now 4 years old. She has four sisters! Arabella is a little shy at times (and being the next-to-last daughter, it may be no wonder). I was surprised when she decided she wanted to go to a horse stable for her party. When I saw her face as she rode Charlie and Dallas (the horses!), I could see such joy. That is a celebration.

Ouachita is a place where hard work is pursued day by day. We do, however, celebrate often and with good cause. We will celebrate for a long time the first undefeated regular season of our football team. Remember that Ouachita has been playing football since the 1890s. Our Cliff Harris Stadium dedication started us off with an incredible facility, and a three-touchdown victory over the Reddies and an outright conference championship sparked a great celebration. Our women's soccer team upset the league-leading Southern Nazarene women's soccer team to win the conference tournament. Another celebration ensued.

We see a new Elrod Center under construction and the extensive remodeling of Moses-Provine Hall with the Rosemary Adams Department of Visual Arts as the centerpiece. We call together the Ouachita community to rejoice in the groundbreaking and completion of these projects.

There are daily celebrations of progress and achievement as we witness the growth of a student who presents a paper, performs a recital, chairs a student committee, joins with fellow students to serve others, travels to conferences, mission trips,

educational tours and places near and far to support and comfort others. How grateful we are for these difference makers.

Annual celebrations are experienced at Ouachita. This season we celebrate Christmas through Lessons and Carols, A Festival of Christmas and quiet moments of reflection. Christmas is a celebration like no other. Mary and Joseph, the angels, shepherds and wise men joined in shared joy at the birth of our Savior. Our faith is one of celebration. Think of some of the celebratory truths: Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection afford us the new

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birth, abundant life, victory over death and eternal life. Joy to the world and in the world for the Lord has certainly come!

There is a big celebration awaiting believers on the “other side.” In the meantime, celebrate birthdays with little ones riding horses, rejoice with Ouachita students who will change our world and thank God for His gifts to us, especially the gift of Christmas, Jesus Christ.



Rex Horne



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