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Alumni Newsletter

Ouachita Baptist University

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OUACHITA!

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ALUMNI BULLETIN • ARKADELPHIA, ARK. • MARCH, 1981 • VOL. IXC NO. 2



"Gentle Chiaroscuro" by Rochelle McMahan, a watercolor on display during the "Arkansas Art '81" exhibit in Mabree Fine Arts Center through Saturday, March 28.

Virgil Conner, '12, sets record

Ouachita grad earns Ph.D. at 92

What Grandma Moses did for Art, Virgil Conner, a 1912 graduate of Ouachita, is doing for the Ph.D. He has made frontpages across the nation for receiving his doctor's degree in history from Florida State University on December 23, 1980, and is on his way to making Guinness Book of Records as perhaps the oldest doctoral recipient in the world.

Conner, born April 11, 1888 in Toledo, Ar., was in the same Ouachita College generation as Doak Campbell ('10), late president of FSU. The two were Rhodes Scholar candidates, but Ouachita was ruled ineligible to submit their names.

After his graduation from Ouachita ("just a few weeks before Woodrow Wilson was nominated for president"), Conner planned to study law at Columbia University. He failed to obtain the necessary loan, and instead, went to work for one of the largest law firms in Little Rock where he gained valuable experience in researching utilities and land judgments.

Eventually he left the law firm to manage a client's land holdings. In 1929 he moved to Orlando, Fl., and in 1932 settled in Apopka where he conducted a real estate and insurance business. He retired at the age of 80, turning over the business to "young Virgil," his 64-year-old son. Then he took a trip behind the Iron Curtain.

Journalism has been a side interest, and Conner has contributed to the "Apopka Chief" and the "Orlando Sentinel-Star." He has further been active in politics and public affairs, taking part in many local and statewide campaigns. At present Conner is a dollar-a-year aide to Rep. Dick Batchelor, D-Orlando, researching economic issues such as utilities and capital investments.

In 1970 Conner decided to return to school and enrolled at FSU, staying in Tallahassee for only one quarter that first year. He took English, Russian, and history, and spent the full academic year of 1972-73 in American Studies.

An Associated Press release summarizes him as a humanitarian, a legal researcher, a lover of democracy, a land salesman, a foe of privilege, a vegetarian, an insurance agent, an inveterate political campaigner, a newspaperman... a "phenomenon."

"Why is this interesting?" Conner asks. "To me, this is the most normal type of development for a human being."

His dissertation is about his grandmother, who single-handedly drove a covered wagon with her three small sons from Mississippi to Arkansas in 1849, and his father, a farmer-turned-politician. He placed both of them into the historical and political perspective of the United States after 1876.

Conner and his wife of 65 years, Willie Mae, have a son and two grandsons. His niece is Mrs. John Carl Meador of Fordyce, Ar., whose three grandsons Jay, Bill, and Robbie Meador now attend Ouachita. Jay's two-year-old son is a great-great-nephew of Conner.



'... the most normal type of development'

CELEBRATION—Virgil Conner, (above) a 1912 Ouachita graduate and 92 year-old recipient of a Ph.D. in history from Florida State University, responds to crowd applause when he received his doctoral hood. HAVING FUN—(top right) "Going back to school was the best thing I ever did," Conner vows. "And it was the most fun I ever had." (MID-SULTING—(center right) Conner's major professor, Dr. William Rogers of the history department, says Conner's political perspective and personality make him a "national treasure." INTERVIEWED—(bottom) Dr. Virgil and Willie May Conner talk with a newspaper reporter after graduation.

Donors talk about why they gave

It's great to receive substantial gifts to Ouachita and the icing on the cake is contained in the nice testimonials that sometimes accompany them. Since Roger Harrod has become vice president for development at OBU, for example, Ouachita has received a substantial number of major contributions. Among those were four gifts of \$10,000 each and here is what the former Ouachitonians and friends had to say:

Mrs. B. R. Walker (Wanda Gary '35) of Jonesboro and her sister, Mrs. Earl H. Cochran (Maxine Gary, '38) have contributed \$5,000 each to establish the Lawrence M. and Minnie H. Gary Scholarship Fund in memory of their parents.

"I had been thinking of (making this contribution) for some time," said Mrs. Walker. "When my mother died, I sent a memorial to OBU and intended to do the same when my father died. My parents were very proud that they could send us to OBU, and my sister and I thought this would be an appropriate way to honor them. My father was a school superintendent and also what was at that time called a county school superintendent."

Mrs. Walker has recently retired from Arkansas State University where she had served for 33 years as an associate professor of English.

Her sister, Maxine, was graduated from Ouachita in 1938 with a degree in piano and a minor in English. She taught in public schools for three years and married Mr. Earl Cochran, a Portland farmer. "I just wrote my former suite-mate who now lives in Baton Rouge," she recalled, "and

in the letter I said, 'Aren't you glad we went to Ouachita!' That's just the way I feel about the school!"

Earl Verser of Eudora, a former student and member of Ouachita's Board of Trustees, has made many significant contributions to the University over the years including major gifts toward the construction of Verser Drama Center and for campus beautification.

Two of the Versers' daughters are Ouachita graduates, another is a former student and a fourth daughter is currently enrolled at OBU. Earl's wife, Mollie, is the daughter of the late Federal Judge Thomas C. Trimble of Lonoke.

A farmer and owner of a car dealership in Eudora, Earl has been active in local civic affairs, including serving as a member of the school board for several years.

Early in their marriage, incidentally, Earl wanted to live on a farm and Mollie preferred to live in town. Recalling recently how they reached a compromise, Earl said that since their farm comes up to the edge of the city limits, they built their home at precisely that spot and both of them have been happy ever since.

Explaining his long-time support of OBU, he said, "The first thing that influenced me was an article I read about J. C. Penney after he first went broke. He said at that time that all he had left was that which he had given away. That influenced Mollie and me, and we just felt we should share that which the Lord has given us. We felt that some could go to

the mission field, others could work full time and we count giving as part of our service."

Leonard Price, '38, became assistant business manager at Ouachita immediately after graduation, while Dr. J. R. Grant was president. He became business manager in 1939 and remained in that position until 1949, when he accepted a similar position at Southern State, now Southern Arkansas University.

Remembering the night when Old Main burned, Mr. Price recalls going into the flaming building, rescuing the records and locking them in a vault for safekeeping.

During the period of 1932 to 1938, he spent several years teaching in the Russellville public schools and also operated a chain of cotton gins.

Mr. Price's gift to Ouachita was prompted, he said, by his belief that the University has "something to offer in addition to a good education. And I'm of the opinion that that's what we need in the kind of time we're passing through."

Chesley Pruet, an independent oil dealer in El Dorado with interests in drilling and exploration, says he and his wife, Elizabeth, first became interested in Ouachita "through our church and our work with Dr. Ben Elrod in the El Dorado campaign in the 70s. We've had some good leadership in church and I think it's a good school. And I favor small universities over large ones."

YOUR YEAR IS HERE!

1981 Reunions

The year for the 1's and the 6's

COMMENCEMENT
May 8-9

1901-1931—Gold Tiger Reunion;

HOME COMING
November 20-21, OBU vs. HSU

'36, '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66 '71, '76

Mailings with details will be sent to each class. Other interested groups wanting to schedule get-togethers, friends, or former students interested in joining any of these class reunions, are asked to contact Mrs. Agnes Coppenher, OBU Box 702, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR 71923.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Kind Words from the President

Since this will be my last time to write the FSA President's column, I felt it only proper I pay tribute to a person who plays such an important role in our Former Student Association.

She is always there when you need her, pleasant, smiling and usually is moving at a very fast pace to enable her to get to the next meeting on time. She always stays in the background, doing her planning, decorating, making sure everything and everybody is in place, seeing to it that everyone feels welcome and I could go on and on. I am sure you have already figured out that I am talking about our FSA Administrative Secretary, Agnes Coppenger.

How fortunate we were when the Lord saw fit to place the Raymond Coppenger family at Ouachita University in 1970. She, her husband Raymond, daughters Anne and Susan, and son Mark, have been and are all truly assets to Ouachita. I'll never know how Agnes manages to do what she does in raising a family, carrying on her church responsibilities, fulfilling her role as a grandmother, in addition to her duties as FSA Administrative Secretary and other responsibilities in the Placement Office. Our hats are off to you Agnes, you have to be a SUPERWOMAN.

Don Elliott

Ouachita names in the news

McBeth featured in Southern Living

The Chairman of the Theory-Composition Department of the Ouachita School of Music, Dr. W. Francis McBeth, was featured in an article entitled "The Many Happy Lives of Francis McBeth" appearing in the December, 1980 edition of "Southern Living" magazine.

The magazine's feature was authored by Mark Childress, editor of the "Southerners" section of the publication, that has a national circulation of 1,750,000 and is headquartered in Birmingham, Al.

McBeth, a member of the Ouachita faculty since 1957 and recognized by "The School Musician" magazine as one of the top 10 music educators in the nation, has been surprised and amused at the article's reception.

"I've authored two books on music theory which evoked almost no comment from my friends," he said. "Since this article appeared, I've heard from folks all over the country."

Those textbooks, by the way, are reprinted as "guides" to the field.

Charles Wesley, 43, dies of heart attack

Charles Eugene Wesley, age 43, associate professor of music at Ouachita, died Wednesday, December 17, 1980, of a heart attack in Arkadelphia.

Wesley came to Ouachita in 1980 and had taken one leave of absence when he attended graduate school at the University of Arizona from 1976-77.

He graduated from Arkansas Polytechnic College, and attended graduate school at the University of Arkansas from 1959-61. He did additional graduate work at Northwestern University.

Wesley was a member of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra from 1963-76, and was conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Chamber Orchestra from 1971-72. He was a guest recitalist, adjudicator, and lecturer, and was an active member of the College Music Society.

His interests included Arkansas folk music, the songs of Schubert, and photography. Mrs. Wesley and friends presented the one-man photographic exhibit he had readied for Mabee Fine Arts Gallery on campus, in January.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Jeanne McCulloch Wesley and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Van A. Wesley of Russellville. Burial was at Dardanelle.

Bonnie Franz joins OBU staff

Bonnie Franz of Arkadelphia has been recently employed as a secretary by the Ouachita Student Financial Aids department, according to Harold Johnson, director of student financial aids at Ouachita.

Mrs. Franz is the wife of Ouachita business manager Joe Franz. The couple has three daughters, Christina, Holly and Kathryn.

Betty McCommas appointed to Peck chair

An endowed professorship in English at Ouachita has been funded by George Peck, Sr., of Texarkana, Ar., in honor of his late wife, Betty Burton Peck. A gift of land and stock valued at approximately \$300,000 will provide permanent endowment for the professorship.

Mrs. Betty Raspberry McCommas, who came to Ouachita in 1954, has been appointed as the Betty Burton Peck Professor of English by action of the OBU Board of Trustees at a recent meeting.

"I'm very grateful to George Peck for this generous gift," said OBU President Dr. Daniel R. Grant, "which will provide permanent support for a strong faculty in the field of English."

"In making this gift to support quality teaching at Ouachita, he is also giving permanent recognition to an outstanding friend and alumna of Ouachita, and citizen of this community."

Betty Burton Peck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Burton of Lewisville was a 1939 cum laude graduate from Ouachita with a major in English. She taught one year at Arkadelphia High School. She and Peck were married in 1937. At the time, Peck was co-owner of Clark County Lumber Company in Arkadelphia with Ralph Williams, Jr. The Pecks moved from Arkadelphia in 1942.

The Pecks have two children, Mrs. Harold (Julia) Mobley of Hope and George Peck, Jr. of Texarkana, Arkansas and New York City.

Faculty development opportunities flourish

Ouachita faculty members now have many opportunities for development as individuals and as a group. Opportunities include orientation seminars for new faculty members, grants for research or further academic study in the summer months, faculty colloquiums and the Chautauqua program.

"I'm amazed at the number of things that the Ouachita faculty is doing to update and improve their education and teaching techniques," said Dr. Carl Goodson, vice president for academic affairs.

The National Science Foundation Chautauqua Short Courses, for example, are an annual series of forums throughout the United States in which faculty members in the different sciences meet with college teachers intensively for four days, two in the fall and two in the spring. The primary aim of the forums is to enable teachers of undergraduate students in the sciences to keep their teaching up-to-date and relevant to today's world.

Since the Chautauqua Program for the OBU faculty is located in Memphis, Tn., many professors prefer to continue their education right in Arkadelphia. Faculty colloquiums are held monthly on campus for faculty members to exchange ideas and experiences with each other.



Discover the magic!

Mrs. Mary Ann Briscoe Campbell, '67 (Mrs. Guy Campbell, top), assistant professor of marketing at UALR, and a magician who is increasingly recognized for her televised course, "Money Magic," provoked thought and laughter at the FSA Senior Luncheon, January 28. Brent Polk, Class of 1980 president, now a first-year medical student, shared the noon program with Mrs. Campbell.

Mrs. Jamie Blackmon Dale (left), vice president of the Former Students Association and chairman of the Alumni

Career Committee, presided at the luncheon attended by over 200 seniors as guests of the FSA. The students received placement packets to assist in their job search as an additional feature of the day.

Brian Burton (right), president of the Class of 1981, followed Polk's lead in establishing Senior Week, the Senior Follies, and the luncheon as a successful Ouachita tradition. He plans to repeat the Senior Breakfast on Commencement Day.



'83 DIPLOMA—The 1893 Ouachita College diploma of Benjamin Young Searcy (1869-1915) is presented to Dr. Daniel R. Grant (center), president of Ouachita Baptist University, by (center to far r.) Mrs. Lewis (Louise) Bennett of Rison, Mrs. Hugh (Iris) Owen of Malvern and Ms. Alice Searcy of Rison; all daughters of Searcy. Mrs. Agnes Coppenger (far l.), OBU placement director and administrative secretary to the Former Students Association, and Mrs. Juanita Barnett (l.), librarian at Ouachita's Riley Library, are also present to receive the restored parchment diploma for the archives.

Ouachita Clubs being formed throughout state

According to Larry Bone, director of alumni affairs, Ouachita Clubs are currently being formed throughout the state to "strengthen student recruitment, public relations, and fund raising efforts while providing organized fellowship with others interested in Ouachita."

OUACHITA CLUB MEETINGS

Van Buren

6:30 p.m., April 2

For information, please contact

Bob Robinson, 474-6806

Pine Bluff

6:45 p.m., April 17

Pine Bluff Country Club

Efforts began last July to organize clubs in Crawford, Sebastian and Union Counties. Approximately 150 people became involved and officers were elected.

Officers for Crawford County are Bob Robinson of Van Buren, president; Rick Douglas of Van Buren, vice president; and Debbie Deffenbaugh (Mrs. Daniel) of Van Buren, secretary-treasurer.

Sebastian County officers include Mike Carroll of Fort Smith, president; Rex Terry of Fort Smith, vice president; and Shirlene Howard Schuh of Fort Smith, secretary-treasurer.

Officers of Union County are Bob Peck of El Dorado, president; Jarrell Felton of El Dorado, vice president; and Bobbi Beeson Shepherd of El Dorado, secretary-treasurer.

Ouachita is currently organizing clubs in the Pine Bluff, Texarkana and Little Rock areas. According to Bone, these clubs will give members an opportunity to support Ouachita in an organized way. "We are seeking an image-building program to present OBU to the general public."

A representative from OBU will meet with the clubs on a regular basis and present programs about Ouachita happenings.

"We will offer suggestions for club projects (scholarships, trips to the campus, etc.), but it's up to the clubs to decide what they will do," said Bone.

Anyone interested in joining or forming a Ouachita Club should contact Bone, Box 754, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR 71923 or call 501-246-4531, Ext. 169.

Elderhostel to host senior citizens

This summer Ouachita will host a group of senior citizens for two weeks of classes, field trips, and extracurricular activities in its second year of the Elderhostel program, according to Dr. Carl Goodson, vice president for academic affairs.

Last year Ouachita and Arkansas College became the first state sponsors of Elderhostel, a nationwide summer study program for elderly Americans, bringing small groups of older citizens to a college campus for one week.

The "Elderhostelers" stay in a residence hall and take non-credit courses from university faculty, that exclude homework or testing. They meet three classes daily for five days, in three different subjects. The senior citizen may elect to take either or both of the two weeks of instruction.

Courses offered June 14-20 are: "The Circles of Faith," a study in comparative religion, taught by Dr. Jim Berryman, professor of religion and philosophy; "Surveying Modern Music," led by Dr. William Trantham, dean of the OBU School of Music; and "Trees of Arkansas," taught by Kenneth Sandifer, associate professor of biology.

From June 21-27, the course offerings are: "Readers' Theater," taught by Dr. Bob Derryberry, professor of speech; "Foreign Policy in the 80's" by Mike Thomson, instructor in political science; and a repeat of "Trees of Arkansas" by Sandifer.

For more information, address inquiries to Goodson at OBU, Box 755, Arkadelphia 71923, or call 501-246-4531, Ext. 196 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.



TRUSTEES—The 24-member Ouachita Board of Trustees, elected for three-year terms by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, customarily meets four times each year. The Board is the ultimate legal authority within the University, primarily concerned with policy, defining University needs and interpreting educational aspirations of the ABSC's 1,241 churches. Members of the Board are (front row, l. to r.) Jess Odom of Little Rock, H. E. 'Pete' Raines (Chairman) of Stuttgart, Mrs. Walter Mizell of Benton, Mrs. L. L. Morrow of Mena, Mrs. George Jordan of Camden, Mrs. Glenn Burton of Little Rock, Dr. Daniel R. Grant (OBU President), (second row, l. to r.) Robert Gladden of Little Rock, Rev. Al Sparkman of Crossett, Jeral Hampton of Booneville, Dr. Glenn Hickey of Batesville, Judge Edward Maddox of Harrisburg, James Baugh of Dermott, (third row, l. to r.) Jim Wooten of DeWitt, Sherwin Williams of Arkadelphia, Russell Miller of Mountain Home, Rev. Jack Bledsoe of Des Arc, Rev. Johnny Jackson of Little Rock, Earl Verser of Eudora, (back row, l. to r.) Earl Robinson of Van Buren, Clarence Anthony of Murfreesboro, Rev. James Walker of Mount Ida, and Rev. Harold White of England. Not pictured are Dr. John McClanahan of Pine Bluff and Rev. Don Moore of Fort Smith.

Fikes family represented at OBU since 1966

When Jennifer Fikes finishes her freshman year at Ouachita this May, the Stuart Fikes family of Benton will have had one student or more at Ouachita for 15 straight years—or 30 straight semesters.

The oldest of the five children, Mike, came to Ouachita in the fall of 1966. Connie Fikes (now Connie Mitchell of Arkadelphia) followed two years later in 1968. Mark enrolled in 1971 and Corinne in 1975 (now Corinne Thomas). Jennifer enrolled at OBU last fall.

To add to the list are all of the four in-laws who also attended Ouachita.

Jennifer admitted there wasn't much of a choice of where she could go to college. But she has enjoyed living in the same town as one of her sisters. While living in the dormitory, she can still have the comforts of home.

"I go over to Connie and Frank's a lot," she said. "I like to babysit for their three children, wash my clothes there and eat with them on Sundays after church."

When the weather was warmer, she went water skiing with them.

"DeGray Lake is a real plus," she said. "I even went swimming early last fall. But I also like to go to Lake Catherine where my family has a lake house."

Miss Fikes also works at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Arkadelphia—owned by her father, Stuart Fikes, and managed by her brother-in-law, Frank Mitchell.

Stuart Fikes also owns the KFC stores in Malvern, where Mike is manager, and Benton, where Mark is manager. Corinne's husband, Keith, is also working at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Benton as a manager trainee.

Mark is the only business major of the five children—although Jennifer is still undecided. Mike graduated with a biology degree and taught five years before working at KFC. Connie taught mathematics before she had her children, Trey, 7; Clark, 5 and Lindsey, 1. Corinne has a degree in elementary education.

The Kentucky Fried Chicken business began 14 years ago for their father when he got his franchise, which was issued to him in an office in a barn behind Col. Sanders' house in Kentucky.

Fikes didn't go to college at Ouachita but his wife, Betty Sue Hightower Fikes, attended OBU from 1946-1947.

Why did all their children go to Ouachita?

"We felt like it was a good Christian school," he said, "and a good place to receive an education. Especially since we are Baptist, we felt like it was the best school to send them to. We think highly of Ouachita and all the devoted professors and Christians there."



KINFOLK—Jennifer Fikes of Benton, a Ouachita freshman, visits with her brother-in-law Frank Mitchell, an OBU graduate ('71) and manager of the Kentucky Fried Chicken store in Arkadelphia, which is owned by Miss Fikes' father, Stuart, of Benton.

Kelvin Story, '77, wins 'Emmy,' lands job with WABC in New York

Kelvin Story of New Haven, Ct., a 1977 Ouachita graduate, is receiving national recognition quickly as a television photographer. Last fall he won an Emmy Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for sports footage within a local newscast at television station WTNH (Channel 8) in New Haven.

In Mid-March he begins a new job as one of 28 news/sports photographers for WABC Television in New York City, the flagship station of the ABC Television Network.

Story and two other station photographers combined to receive the high recognition with sports director Mike Elliott as the host. WTNH, an affiliate of the American Broadcasting Company, is among the top 25 television markets (New Haven-Hartford) in the United States.

As a student at Ouachita, Story served as the chief student photographer in the public relations office. Upon graduation he was employed by Little Rock television station KATV (Channel 7) as a photographer, prior to his move to New Haven.





Dr. Daniel R. Grant looks back over his first

THE FIRST 10

by Jill Tilley Hankins



As President Dr. Daniel R. Grant reflects over his 10 years at Ouachita he feels a sense of achievement and a sense of anticipation for the 1980 decade. "After the last 10 years," said Dr. Grant, "my greatest sense of achievement is that Ouachita has grown stronger academically and has also strengthened in its Christian objectives."

Coming to Ouachita in February, 1970 with the assumption that a church-related school could achieve academic and Christian excellence at the same time, Grant said these two goals are compatible and that the alumni, former students and friends of the University, are supporting both goals.

Looking back to when he came to Ouachita, Grant remembers Ouachita battling problems such as a declining enrollment, a \$200,000 deficit, accumulated needs for building and campus maintenance, and especially for new construction, such as a new student center.

But within the next 10 years, OBU began operating "in the black." Evans Student Center was built and the enrollment started climbing upward. "I am inclined to believe the national experts' opinion that the enrollment of private universities will level off or decline in the next 10 years," said Grant. "But I am biased enough to hope that Ouachita will hold its own or have modest growth."

Looking toward the next 10 years means focusing on the Ouachita

Centennial Advancement Program (OCAP), culminating with the 100th anniversary of the institution in 1986.

"We have looked at the areas where greater progress and strength are needed," said Grant. "Ten goals were drawn up during more than a year of study and planning by faculty-staff members, trustees, former students, alumni, current students, denominational leaders and other friends."

The new Vice President for Development, Roger Harrod, is planning for the spring of 1981 as "launch time" for OCAP with the first target being the OBU campus.

"We need to get a vote of confidence from the people at Ouachita," he said. "And then we will go off-campus to the Arkadelphia and other Arkansas communities."

The needs of the campaign are divided into two parts: "bricks and mortar" for seven new buildings or major additions, and "people-oriented" or program needs.

One of the needs is an increase in the faculty and staff salaries.

"Salaries are still low," said Grant, "but we have closed the gap considerably. Endowed chairs of instruction will help us increase salaries more than any other way."

Endowed chairs are part of the development program at OBU, along with an increased level of annual support from alumni, former students, friends and churches of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Other development activities include planning programs for wills, estate planning, capital campaigns and working with the admissions counseling program.

"The development program is the lifeblood of Ouachita and all independent schools," he said. "The more successful the program, the lower the tuition can be."

The long-term answer for independent schools is in the area of deferred gifts such as endowed chairs, wills and estate planning, according to Grant. He said Ouachita is especially blessed to have Lloyd Cloud and Ed Seale to be leading in this program for the development staff.

"But the dilemma is that many of our needs are immediate needs," he added. "At the present, we must raise money for those needs, but continue to work on the deferred gifts program."

One immediate need is a way to cope with the rising costs of a college education.

Grant defined the tuition problem as being in two parts. First, tuition is going up for all private schools, and second, a large number of potential stu-

dents aren't aware of the financial aid offered at OBU.

Some of the aid available is through the federal and school work study program, Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, (now called "Pell Grants"), state scholarships and loans.

The University Scholarship Program awards seven \$7,000 (four year) scholarships to graduating high school students each year so the very best students can get a quality education.

"While the national average of entering freshmen's test scores is lowering, the OBU 1980 freshman class shows a seven percent increase," he said. "Scholarships and recruiting programs seem to be reaching these students."

Another goal of OCAP is "maintaining diversity" in the student body, especially in the area of minorities and students who

percentage of professors with terminal degrees.

"On surveys sent to Ouachita graduates of 1974 and 1978," said Grant, "both groups gave their highest score to Ouachita on the individual attention given to student by teachers."

With this individual attention, students are able to think, to write, to communicate and to be informed about the universe, God, man, and history—the goal of Ouachita's liberal arts program.

"Studying liberal arts courses is learning a life style," said Grant. "I have been very pleased that Ouachita has resisted the tendency to go vocational."

"Those who specialize too soon may find their education obsolete in a few years. I'm not opposed to students learning a trade but I am committed to their learning to live as well."

"... part of learning to live is learning that the Christian life is one's vocation — no matter what job a person may have."

may be termed "higher risk," academically.

Part of that goal to Grant is "having academic standards and commitments to avoid exclusiveness" and providing an academic skills program to help students develop to their greatest potential.

"We don't want to serve just one group of people," said Grant. "I believe an education is more effective if a campus has diversity in cultural, ethnic and economic backgrounds."

This diversity is often difficult to maintain and part of Ouachita's answer is having adequate assistance available and communicating to these groups that they are wanted.

Diversity among faculty members is also difficult to maintain because of the "lure of larger salaries and the big cities."

"But we have that goal and commitment," he said. "We will keep working on it."

There are more full-time faculty members and a lower turnover rate than when Grant came to OBU. There is also a higher

According to Grant, part of learning to live is learning that the Christian life is one's vocation—no matter what job a person may have.

Ouachita offers special features for those students who do want to go into full-time vocational church work.

Grant listed four of these features: nurturing function, special curriculum (design, testing and resources).

"I'm convinced we will play an increasingly strategic role in training young people for church-related work," he said.

"Ouachita has a missions emphasis that is second to none, with a missionary-in-residence program, faculty members with past missionary experience and special programs such as summer missions and Missions Emphasis Week."

Grant said he sees Ouachita as the place to help students respect the Baptist denomination, and yet be the "loving critics" to help perform missions more effectively."

Dr. Daniel R. Grant looks back over his first decade at Ouachita

THE FIRST 10 YEARS

by Jill Tilley Hankins

Daniel and Betty Jo Grant in front of the "megastucture," a building complex completed in 1978, consisting of Evans Student Center, Math Fine Arts Center, Life Hall and McClellan Hall.

CLASS NOTES

1911

Mrs. Charles Wesley Merritt of Beckley, W. Va., has sent a copy of "Curtis Edward Presley 1894-1975: A Pictorial Diary of World War I" which she compiled from her father's World War I papers and memorabilia. Mr. Presley was a native of Arkansas who attended Ouachita from 1909-11. The book is housed in Riley Library.

1927

William W. Condray of Lubbock, Tx. was honored January 27 by the Lubbock Chapter of Certified Public Accountants for his fifty years of service and dedication to the accounting profession. There was a reception at the Lubbock Club, and Mr. Condray was presented with a book of letters of appreciation from friends and colleagues.

An additional red-letter day for the Condrays in January was the one when his great-niece, Mary Catherine Condray, passed her CPA exam. She lives in Austin, Tx. and is the namesake of Ouachita's Mary Catherine Condray ('35) of Arkadelphia, Assistant Vice President of Merchant's & Planters Bank.

After the death of Ben Condray ('21) in 1935, Mr. William Condray assumed the grandfather role for his great-niece. He is extremely proud of her position with Arthur Anderson & Co., largest accounting firm in the U.S.

1933

Rev. Paul Elledge celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the gospel ministry November 30, 1980, with Kansas City, Ks. Baptist Assn. declaring "Paul Elledge Day" and Emmanuel Church, Overland Park, giving a reception. He received three portfolios of letters from friends and well-wishers covering all areas of his ministry. He completed the day with a standing ovation following his preaching of the evening sermon.

1940

J. Carol Come (f.s.) of Bethesda, Md. in August, 1976, was one of five pioneer pilots to be honored for their contributions to aviation by the Arkansas Aviation Historical Society at its first Hall of Fame Banquet in Little Rock, Ar. recently.

Come distinguished himself as a fighter pilot in World War I, and trained Eddie Rickenbacker in combat flight. Back in Arkansas, he helped organize the 154th Observation Squadron of the National Guard, one of the few such in existence. He visited Calvin Coolidge in person to get federal approval for the unit which utilized surplus equipment.

He served as Arkansas' assistant to the secretary of state, and then two terms as state auditor. In 1924 he campaigned unsuccessfully as democratic candidate for governor in a biplane.

His contributions as state aeronautics director, instigator of the state's first airport development program, organizer of the Little Rock Air Meet Assn. that sponsored the National Balloon Race and Air Race at Little Rock in 1926, and advisor on commercial aviation to Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, earned him the accolade of "fabulous."

As a lieutenant colonel in the Guard, he did aerial photography for the highway department and helped during emergencies such as the floods of 1927 and 1937. He helped to start an airplane manufacturing company, was later manager of Pan American's North Atlantic Division, and eventually became a vice president. His establishment of a string of airports along the north side of South America proved most strategic during World War II.

He further distinguished himself by raising over \$1 million dollars for the Democratic Party as a member of the national finance committee.

1943

Dr. D. Wade Armstrong, Director of Missions for Yates Baptist Association, Durham, NC, lost his wife, the former Beatrice Davis, in August, following a long bout with cancer. Their seven children have been located in six states.

Mrs. Andrew Hall (Harriet Grant), a trustee of Palm Beach Atlantic College, Boca Raton, FL, had an article, "Some Trustees Ask What Makes a Christian College Different?" published in "The Southern Baptist Educator." Dr. Hall is pastor of Delray Beach First Baptist Church.

1949

Robert C. Ellen has been promoted from sales manager of Manville Forest Products Corporation's container plant in Albany, Ga. to plant manager. He has been with the company for the past 17 years in sales, and product and sales management. Before that, he was athletic director in Monroe, La., Texarkana and DeQueen, Ar. school systems. He received an M.E. degree from East Texas State University, and is married to the former Marian Smith. They have two sons.

Paul K. Henry, of Batesville, Ar., vice president-broiler operations of Banquet Foods Corp., has been elected president of the Associated Industries of Arkansas. Mr. Henry is a member of the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission and is vice chairman of the Arkansas Good Roads and Transportation Council. He served two terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives. He and his wife, the former Virginia Southerland (f.s.) have three daughters. He is a former Ouachita Trustee and a Distinguished Alumnus of Ouachita.

Jack Farris, professor of English at Southwestern at Memphis college, has received critical acclaim for his drama, "Into Thy Narrow Bed" It concerns itself with the basic conflict between a man's inflexible devotion to duty and his obligation, if not devotion, to his family. The Memphis "Commercial Appeal" recognizes it as "a play with the potential for wide recognition and a prominence extending far beyond the humble little playhouse at 1947 Poplar (Memphis Circuit Playhouse); and urges seeing it just in case it does not win its due. Or, in case it does, to be able to say you were there at the start of something big."

Mr. Farris has been approached about making a movie from his play.

1950

Dr. Alton Butler, pastor of Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, Pensacola, FL has been elected president of the Florida State Baptist Conference. He has been president of the state Pastor's Conference and has served in numerous denominational and civic places of responsibility. He and his wife, the former Audrey Nelle Ross, are parents of two sons and a daughter.

Sam Badley, Associate Athletic Director for the Crimston Tide of the University of Alabama, has the satisfaction of seeing his school win more official Bennie Moore Memorial Trophies as Southeastern Conference All Sports champion than any other SEC institution. He was a three-sport letterman at Ouachita.

He received his master's degree from East Texas State University, and served as an 8th Air Force bombardier over Germany during World War II. In 1956 he

joined Coach "Bear" Bryant's staff at Texas A&M, and went with him to Alabama in 1958, where he served as assistant head football coach before becoming fulltime administrator.

He and his wife, the former Mildred Washington, have a son, Darryl.

Calvin (f.s.) and Bernice Howard "Bee" Watson, parents of four children, are in New Orleans, La. where he manages St. Charles Grain Elevator, at Destrehan, and she is a homemaker. She teaches Sunday School in the First Baptist Church, is Day Baptist Women President, is a member of Sellers Home & Adoption Center Guild, is a volunteer at Southern Baptist Hospital, and has held almost all of the offices in the Republican Women's Club.

1951

Dr. John and Gena Ledbetter Hampton, who are serving as Associate to the Area Director of East Africa (formerly designated Field Representative), are undertaking to minister in Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, and Burundi. Their responsibilities are helping them to adjust to the "empty nest" now that Connie ('78) and Don Lindsey are in Little Rock, making them grandparents: Laura is a freshman at Ouachita; and Lisa and Scott are boarding students at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya.

1952

Robert D. Melton of Little Rock, Ar., has been elected Senior Vice President and Manager of Union National Bank's Real Estate Division. Before joining Union in 1976, he was self-employed in the mortgage loan business. He is immediate past president of the Mortgage Bankers Association and is a member of the Little Rock Executives Association and Little Rock-North Little Rock Board of Realtors.

1954

Sid and Ruth Holland Carswell, missionaries in Itacoatiara, Amazonas, Brazil, are missing their grown and growing children. "They ran for us, taught for us, sang for us and in general increased our missionary outreach." Except for the brief weekend, they had together last May they are scattered over three continents: David ('79) is in Santarem, Brazil as an accountant for Reynolds Metals Co.; Carla ('80), is in Japan as a missionary Journeyman. Marcia and Kevin are present-students at Ouachita.

In August the Carswells had a lay team come from Florida, Alabama, Texas and Tennessee who did the basic construction on a building for them in six days. They were beauticians, a seamstress, nurse, lawyer, engineers, farmer, public relations worker, contractors, carpenters, student, real estate dealer, nuclear physics professor, postal inspector, fireman and preachers. A Kentucky dentist and pastor and their wives provided a smaller but equally useful team at another point in the year.

1955

Dr. Bill and Martha Buckner (f.s.) Arrington, parents of three children, are in Monroe, La. where he is associate professor of health and physical education. He has authored three college texts and numerous articles for publication. They are active at First Baptist Church and he is a colonel in the Army Reserve.

Lewis and Alma McCutcheon McClendon, parents of three children, are in Ketchikan, Ak., where he directs Church Extension Missions for Southeast Alaska under the Home Mission Board.

Kathryn Marie Smith is Deputy Director of Administrative Services for the Arkansas State Library, and is living in Little Rock. She belongs to AAUW and the Arkansas Library Association.

1959

C. D. and Roberta Jean Andrews (f.s.) Birdwell, parents of Ouachita students John and Robin Elizabeth, are now pastoring 5th Avenue Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tn. He served in numerous posts, receiving numerous awards and citations, as an Air Force chaplain before going to Trinity Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ar., from which they recently moved. She is an elementary reading teacher.

Mrs. Mary Dell Patillo Pierce (f.s.) is in Pine Bluff, Ar. where she has been employed with First Federal Savings & Loan Association for 18 years. She has been promoted recently to assistant loan service officer.

1960

Winston Bryant of Malvern, Ar. has been re-elected as Arkansas Secretary of State. He held the office previously before running for Congress in 1978, a race he narrowly lost. A lawyer, Bryant served two years as an aide to the late Sen. John McClellan, and served four years in the State House of Representatives. He has further served as a part-time instructor at both Ouachita and Henderson. Classmate Bill Scrimshire, also a Malvernite is also in government as mayor of Malvern.

Dr. Conrad and Theda Stuckey (f.s.) Carroll, Constance Michele and J. Christian, are in Conway, Ar. where he is dean of the College of Business Administration at UCA. She is in management analysis.

Al and Rose Rogers Hamilton, Chuck, Dickie and Janet, are also at UCA where he labels himself a "bureaucrat," serving as Deputy Director of the Dept. of Economic Development. She is a part-time instructor.

He has been a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business, has been financial advisor for various political campaigns, served with the Distributive Education Committee, the United Way, and teaches Sunday School.

1962

Sam and Mary Ann Howell (f.s.) Whitlow are in Little Rock where he has entered the field of evangelism after 15 years in the youth and music ministry, and four in the active pastorate. He is primarily a preaching evangelist but will also lead revival music.

1963

Continuing the saga of David Blaylock (f.s.) whose son Lane we featured in September, we were pleased with the front-page spread on the Weekend Entertainment section of the "Arkansas Gazette" in January entitled "Singer David Blaylock Back Home To Entertain in Church and State."

A professional singer who usually performs on cruise ships, and lounges and clubs across the country, he was home for a month singing, visiting with relatives, and starting a house near Lake Nimrod. He sang at Gov. Frank White's inauguration, at the Afterthought, a Little Rock lounge, and at the Nimrod Baptist Church in Perry County. His current assignment is a Caribbean cruise.

1964

William L. Freeman is director of pharmaceutical services for the Baptist Medical Center System in Little Rock, Ar. He has been with the system for seven years and was assistant director of pharmacy at Memorial Hospital before assuming his present position last November.

Ben and Barbara Batchelor Utley, Danya and Stacey, are in Cabot, Ar. where he is area supervisor with Remington Arms, Lonoke. She formerly taught in the Cabot schools and was secretary with Bancroft Industries.

Mrs. Sue Graves (f.s.) Dahl is Executive Director of the Durango, Colo., Energy Conservation Center, promoting energy conservation and solar energy by organizing energy fairs, solar workshops, educational seminars, etc., through a five county region. Her husband is a building contractor, and they have a six year old daughter.

1965

Jerry and Dorothy Smart (f.s.) Hubbard, Jason Andrew and Shelah Ruth have moved from a general evangelist assignment in Serenje, Zambia, to Lusaka where he is teaching in the seminary.

James and Bobbie Mackey (f.s.) Baker, Brent Andrew, Leah Beth, and Blake Aaron, are in Dallas, Tx. where he is a research chemist with Mobil Oil Co., and she works part-time as a medical technologist. He owns Baker Enterprises, an income tax and bookkeeping service.

Barry L. Crow is Senior Vice President and Controller and Leon Clements is Senior Vice President in the Real Estate Loan Division of Simmons First National Bank in Pine Bluff, Ar.

1966

Robert and Annette Perkins Crockett and Robert Andrew were presented with a unique and effective way to identify with the people with whom they serve as missionaries in Azul, Argentina. Within one week torrential rains registered the year's normal total, with 80% of the town under water.

The Crocketts moved some of their belongings upstairs and spent a week in a local hotel, faring better than some of the 7,500 people evacuated from their homes. "I don't think that we can suffer over our loss when we see that so many others have lost everything," she writes. They were grateful, as Southern Baptists familiar with the daily Prayer Calendar, that the rains came during Annette's birthday week.

1967

Doug and Kathy Magouirk Holt, Matthew and Christopher, and two 18 year old foster children for whom they care, live in Cimarron, Ks. They own and operate the Cimarron Hotel and restaurant, farm, have an interest in the Chevrolet-Olds dealership, and he is Executive Director of KANZ FM radio. He is Representative for the 115th district of Kansas, serving on the Federal & State Affairs, Public Health & Welfare, and Insurance Committees.

He holds master's degrees in Psychiatric Social Work and in Administration from Tulane, and has done graduate work in Theology at SMU. He is further engaged in private psychiatric counseling.

1969

Richard and Carolyn Chaney (f.s.) Clements are in Little Rock, where he has been named Sales Manager of Mutual of New York (MONY). He is responsible for the agency's professional training programs and a particular sales unit. He holds a variety of company and industry awards.



COLLECTORS—William ('40) and Mary Cochrane (f.s.) Mowrey of Little Rock, Ar., are shown with one of their five player pianos (a Kimball grand, at that), with two others farmed out at son Richard's home. It started on Father's Day six years ago when she indulged his lifetime desire for a player piano. Now his collection includes 800 piano rolls, an antique organ, 1940 Wurlitzer jukebox, 8 antique radios, three wind-up Victrolas, and 15,000 cigar wrappers. Mary has three Chihuahuas and a goose! Bill is a CPA, collecting for the love of it, not investment.

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