

Spring 2015

The Ouachita Circle Spring 2015

Ouachita Baptist University
Ouachita Baptist University

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DR. HORNE CONCLUDES OBU TENURE

| ALUMNI PROFILE: ZIPADEE-ZIP TO *SHARK TANK*

| PRUET PROFS "TEACH THE TEXT"

THE QUACHITA CIRCLE

Spring 2015

Calling





Called to be a difference maker

When our staff chose to highlight “Calling” as the theme of this issue of *The Ouachita Circle*, we had no idea how timely the topic would be as we prepared to go to press.

Following his election in 2006 as Ouachita’s 15th president, Dr. Rex Horne emphasized that “this is not a choice I have made, but a calling I am following.” He reiterated that perspective in Ouachita’s 125th anniversary book, *Ouachita Voices: Celebrating 125 Years of Academic & Christian Excellence*, as he wrote, “When I speak of my privilege of serving as president of Ouachita, I speak of a calling I am following, not a choice I am making. When I committed my life to Christian vocational service, I had no idea where the journey would lead. Little did I know that I would come back to a place I had always respected within an hour of my boyhood home. God has certainly blessed me.”

Now, nine years after answering that call, Dr. Horne has sensed God’s call to a new opportunity for service as president of Arkansas’ Independent Colleges & Universities. While he will be deeply missed here at Ouachita, we are thankful for the multiplied influence and impact he will have on behalf of AICU’s 11 independent institutions of higher education throughout Arkansas.

During Dr. Horne’s tenure at Ouachita, the phrase that best summarizes his vision, commitment and leadership is “difference maker.” At almost every opportunity, President Horne encouraged students, faculty, staff and others to be difference makers for the sake of God’s Kingdom. He has provided an outstanding example of what it means to be a difference maker as he has faithfully upheld Ouachita’s historic and ongoing mission as a leading faith-based university dedicated to a love of God and a love of learning.

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Dr. and Mrs. Horne as Ouachita’s president and first lady. For those of us who have served alongside them here at Ouachita, they have left a tremendous legacy as mentors, friends and fellow servants of God.

We will, in the words of Philippians 1:3, give thanks to God “upon every remembrance of you.” Thank you, Dr. Horne, for sharing this part of the journey with Ouachita Baptist University. May God continue to richly bless you as you follow His calling in the next chapter of your life and ministry.

Treannis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

Calling

“Every calling is great when greatly pursued.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

“Whether I hear God’s call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.

Oswald Chambers

“If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.

Frederick Buechner

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

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THE OUACHITA CIRCLE

Spring 2015

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SUBMIT ADDRESS CHANGES AND CLASS NOTES

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CAMPUS NEWS



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

TIGER TRAKS MARKS 40 YEARS: CAMPUS COMPETITION CONTINUES

The Ouachita Student Foundation hosted Ouachita's 40th annual Tiger Traks competition on April 24-25.

"Tiger Traks is something that sets Ouachita apart from other schools," said OSF President Gracie Lundstrum, a senior mass communications and speech communication major from Springdale, Ark. "It is a great way to be involved with your classmates in a fun, competitive atmosphere.

"My favorite part about Tiger Traks is seeing how much fun everyone has and how competitive they get," she added. "All of the proceeds go toward student scholarships; this has to be the most fun fundraiser!"

The weekend, dubbed "Arkansas' most exciting college weekend," featured such events as an egg toss, mega relay, dodge ball, raft races, tricycle races, tug-of-war and ooze-ball – a mud volleyball event. Teams also participated in Relay for Life to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

"It is a fun weekend, but it really is all about raising student scholarships and giving back to the community," said Lauren Snow, a junior mass communications major from Wylie, Texas, and OSF co-chair for special events.

UPDATE

DEAN & STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT 2015 GOVERNOR'S CUP

Bryan McKinney, dean of Ouachita's Hickingbotham School of Business, was recently presented the C. Sam Wells Entrepreneur Educator Award at the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition in Little Rock. The award recognizes an educator who is impacting entrepreneurship in the state of Arkansas. Ouachita students also competed in the business plan competition, earning a place among the top six of more than 50 teams from across the state.

"It's nice to be honored with something like this on an individual level, but this honor truly is a team effort," McKinney said. "Our faculty, students, administration and Executive Advisory Board have all made an investment in the entrepreneurial process."

"I enjoyed watching our OBU team, Explosive Performance LLC, deliver an elevator pitch as one of the final six teams still remaining in the business plan competition," McKinney added. "Though they didn't win, they did a tremendous job and represented OBU beautifully."

Explosive Performance LLC is a mobile strength and conditioning service for middle school and high school athletic programs. The five-member team of business administration majors included Mitch Bledsoe of Collierville, Tenn.; Jalen Jones of Conway, Ark.; Barkley Legens of Martin, Tenn.; Matt Mainiero of Austin, Texas; and Brooke Schmidt of Rowlett, Texas. Their faculty advisor was Justin Keeler, instructor of finance.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

SHREK THE MUSICAL ENTERTAINS ALL AGES

Shrek the Musical came to life April 16-19 in Jones Performing Arts Center as the 2015 spring musical produced by Ouachita's Division of Music and Department of Theatre Arts.

"*Shrek the Musical* tells the story of Shrek, everyone's favorite ogre, who embarks on a quest to save his swamp. Joined by loyal and wisecracking Donkey, this unlikely hero rescues the beautiful and feisty Princess Fiona from her tower guarded by a fire-breathing, love-sick dragon," explained Daniel Inouye, associate professor of theatre arts and director of the production.

"We wanted to do a modern musical that has lots of audience appeal," Inouye said. "Everyone is familiar with the animated films, and when we got a chance to produce this musical it just seemed like a great fit for our students and a show that our audiences would love to see."

Will Stotts, a freshman musical theatre major from Jonesboro, Ark., played the lead role of Shrek. Other principal cast members included Kenderick Scorza, a senior musical theatre major from North Little Rock, Ark., as Donkey; Benjamin Stidham, a senior musical theatre major from Dallas, Texas, as Lord Farquaad; and Cami Willis, a senior musical theatre and church media/production arts double major from Flower Mound, Texas, as Princess Fiona.

CONCERT CHOIR PRESENTS HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

The Ouachita Concert Choir presented George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* on April 28 in Jones Performing Arts Center. The concert also featured members of the OBU Wind Ensemble and Arkansas Symphony Orchestra as well as OBU faculty, staff and alumni.

"It's a work that really never gets old," said Dr. Gary Gerber, Concert Choir director and chair of OBU's Division of Music. "There's always something new that you can find in the music and something interesting you haven't caught in years past."

Featured soloists included Dr. Margaret Garrett, associate professor of music; Aaron Harp, a 2007 Ouachita graduate; Dr. Becky Morrison, assistant professor of music; and David Stanley, instructor of music.



MUSE PROJECT DEBUT FEATURES STUDENT-PRODUCED *SECOND STAR*

Ouachita's Department of Theatre Arts presented *Second Star to the Right* Feb. 19-23 as part of its new student-produced theatre initiative, The Muse Project.

Second Star to the Right, created and directed by Kaylee Nebe, a senior musical theatre major from Mesquite, Texas, is a Cirque du Soleil-inspired exploration of Peter Pan. Aerial silks, hoops and a suspended cube were just a few of the Cirque-style acts featured in the performance. Serving alongside Nebe as musical director was Natalie Williams, a music and theatre arts double major from Little Rock, Ark.

The Muse Project is a new initiative by OBU's Department of Theatre Arts that invites students to submit theatrical experiences or shows that they would like to produce. One proposal is accepted each year and fully produced on a Ouachita stage.

ALPHA CHI STUDENTS EARN TOP RESEARCH AWARD

Three Ouachita students won first place for their research at the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society convention held recently in Chicago. Six universities accepted the challenge to explore the theme "The Nexus of Science and the Arts," with Ouachita's team earning the \$5,000 first prize.

Describing Ouachita's winning team as "an amazing group of bright and enthusiastic students," Dr. Lori Hensley, Ouachita's Alpha Chi sponsor, said, "I think the interdisciplinary focus of the collaborative research project is absolutely perfect for students from liberal arts universities. The nature of the project forces students to think outside their majors and consider their knowledge in a broader perspective, a skill that is critical in the real world."

Led by Dr. Allyson Phillips, assistant professor of psychology, the student team members included Stoni Butler, a junior psychology major from Camden, Ark.; Jessie Little, a senior biology major from Woodway, Texas; and Dustin Walter, a senior biology and chemistry double major from Marion, Ark. They worked together to research, plan and conduct the study. Butler and Little then presented the research, "Too Tired to Think Outside the Box? An Analysis of Ego Depletion's Effects on Creativity," at the convention.



ENACTUS TEAM PLACES IN TOP 12 NATIONALLY

Competing against 180 other schools from across the nation, Ouachita's Enactus team placed in the top 12 at the Enactus United States National Exposition in St. Louis. Enactus is an international non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together people who are committed to using entrepreneurial action to improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need.

"The students in our Enactus chapter have worked so hard throughout the years to generate the results necessary to enable our presentation team to thrive at the competition this year," said Bryan McKinney, dean of OBU's Hickingbotham School of Business and the Ouachita Enactus faculty advisor. "I have always said that our best students could compete with any school's top students, and this result is another indicator of that reality."

Beating three former national champions, Ouachita presented three projects: a Mobile Pack project, which sends meals to impoverished children across the world through a partnership with Feed My Starving Children; Dr. Jack's, a social giveback coffee company managed by the Enactus team; and a campus bookstore project, which provides internship positions for Ouachita students.

ELROD CENTER DEDICATION SET FOR JUNE 11

The new Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community will be dedicated June 11 in conjunction with the Ouachita Board of Trustees summer meeting. The new two-story facility, located on the corner of 6th and Cherry streets, will feature two large meeting rooms for campus and community programs, a conference room and several staff offices as well as a reception area and kitchen facilities. The center is named in honor of Ouachita Chancellor Ben Elrod who served from 1988 to 1998 as Ouachita's 13th president.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

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TRUSTEES APPROVE TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

The Ouachita Board of Trustees approved two new faculty members during the board's March 12 meeting. New faculty appointments effective in the fall of 2015 include Amber Chelette, assistant professor of kinesiology and leisure studies in the Huckabee School of Education, and Nevada Mills, instructor of music and assistant director of bands in the School of Fine Arts.

Chelette holds a Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training from East Texas Baptist University and a Master of Arts in movement science from Columbia University. She currently is completing her doctoral work for a Ph.D. in motor behavior. Chelette has served as an instructional assistant in health and human performance at the University of Houston since 2010. She previously was athletic director and physical educator at Manhattan Christian Academy in New York.

Mills earned a Bachelor of Music in Education degree from Henderson State University in 2006. He currently is completing course work to earn a Master of Science in Education degree from Arkansas State University. He has served for the past five years as a junior high band instructor in Pine Bluff and Hot Springs.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM EARNS 9 NATIONAL AWARDS



Highlighting a variety of communications projects produced over the past year, Ouachita's Office of Communications staff recently earned nine national awards from Baptist Communicators Association.

Among this year's BCA awards, René Zimny, assistant director of graphic services, earned first place for promotional poster for the design of the 2014 International Food Festival poster highlighting the theme of "Taste Our World." Working with Zimny on the project was Craig Martin, a senior graphic design major from Harare, Zimbabwe. Zimny also received second place for digital ad series for the Ouachita Online digital ad series.

Brooke Zimny, director of communications and marketing, was awarded first place in specialty item for the 2014 Tiger Tunes program and 3D glasses and third place for Internet-based media for a series of recruiting testimonial emails geared toward prospective students. She also was elected BCA's national communications vice president for the coming year.

Trennis Henderson, OBU vice president for communications, received second place for feature writing for an article published in the fall 2014 issue of *The Ouachita Circle* about alumna Jane Chu being named chair of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The communications staff also earned first place for design of the updated Ouachita athletics branding, which debuted last summer. Another athletics-related award included second place for Cliff Harris Stadium environmental graphics, including banners, signage, commemorative stadium logo and related design elements. Staff members also received a pair of second place awards for design of a Grant Center recruiting booklet for international students and missionary kids.



BROOKE SCHMIDT CROWNED MISS OBU 2015

Brooke Schmidt, a sophomore business administration/management and marketing major from Rowlett, Texas, was crowned Miss Ouachita Baptist University 2015. She will represent Ouachita in the 2015 Miss Arkansas Pageant this summer.

Along with being crowned Miss OBU, Schmidt received a \$1,000 scholarship from the university as well as wardrobe, photography and other stipends from supporting businesses. She also was awarded the Kristen Glover Belew Private Interview Award, the Kiley Jane Wright Alpha Award, the Bethany Whitfield Alpha Swimsuit Award, the Mac Sisson Alpha Talent Award and the People's Choice Award.

Schmidt is the daughter of Doug and Kelly Schmidt of Rowlett, Texas. She is a member of EEE women's social club and is an OBU cheerleader. Her platform is battling teen substance abuse.

First runner-up and winner of the Bethany Briscoe Toney Presence and Poise in Evening Wear Award was Kathryn Barfield, a sophomore biology major from New Boston, Texas. Second runner-up and winner of the Miss Congeniality Award and Photogenic Award was Mariah Gough, a sophomore biology and kinesiology/leisure studies major from Smackover, Ark. Third runner-up and winner of the OBU Student Senate Inner and Outer Beauty Award was Hailee Draughon, a freshman musical theatre major from Mesquite, Texas. Fourth runner-up and winner of the Academic Award was Ali Kinsey, a sophomore business administration/marketing and management major from Hot Springs, Ark.

STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL "SPEAK SIMPLY" AWARDS

Four Ouachita students earned the "Speak Simply" award in the Undergraduate Research Poster Contest at the recent American Chemical Society national meeting in Denver. A total of 13 students from Ouachita's J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences presented work at the conference.

Approximately 1,200 undergraduates from across the nation were eligible to compete in the contest and of those presenting, only 15 students were recognized. Ouachita students have now earned 14 of the 45 awards in the past three years of the "Speak Simply" contest, the most of any single institution.

"Our students are passionate about their research and communicate it effectively," said Dr. Marty Perry, OBU's Nell I. Mondy Professor of Chemistry. "They are well prepared by their faculty mentors as well as the entire Ouachita community that contributes to their overall education."

Students who presented in the "Speak Simply" division were given two minutes to explain the importance of their individual research projects. They were required to summarize their research simply and free of technical jargon.

Ouachita award winners included Baronger Bieger, a senior biology and English major from Rockwall, Texas; Nathan Hall, a junior biology and chemistry major from Jonesboro, Ark.; Rachel Tucker, a junior biology and chemistry major from Fordyce, Ark.; and Dustin Walter, a senior biology and chemistry major from Marion, Ark.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE

Ouachita's 2014 yearbook, the *Ouachitonian*, earned Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Gold Medalist rating, the highest honor presented through the CSPAs annual college yearbook critique. Individual staff members also earned a total of seven Gold Circle Awards, including two first place awards among more than 4,600 entries from across the nation.

"It is such an honor to be recognized in this way," said *Ouachitonian* Editor Aly Smith, a senior mass communications and graphic design double major from Sherwood, Ark. "We put in so much time and effort on this book; it feels great to have someone else appreciate it as much as I do."

Smith also was named Yearbook Editor of the Year and earned third place for Designer of the Year at the 2015 Arkansas College Media Association convention. Ouachita student publications earned a total of 32 ACMA awards, including 23 individual awards for *Ouachitonian* staff members and seven awards for staff members of *The Signal* student newspaper.

"We are blessed to work with such talented and dedicated students," said Dr. Deborah Root, faculty adviser of the *Ouachitonian*. "It's a joy to see them rewarded for their work."



photo by Grace Finley

Ouachita honors 343 graduates, awards honorary doctorate to Dr. Sonny Tucker

Celebrating Ouachita's 128th spring commencement on Saturday, May 9, university officials conferred a total of 350 degrees on 343 graduates, including the university's first three Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees.

Ouachita President Rex Horne also presented Dr. J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on behalf of the university's Board of Trustees. Dr. Tucker, a 1982 graduate of Ouachita, also holds Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

President Horne emphasized that Dr. Tucker "is adept at analyzing and engaging young adults in ministries within the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and beyond."

He added that "for many years, Ouachita has benefited from its relationship with this good man and the strong reputation he has built in service to God and the church."

"From the deepest place in my heart, I want to express my appreciation for this tremendous honor," Dr. Tucker responded. "To receive this recognition from a place that I love so deeply will be among my greatest honors and moments in life."

Citing Ouachita's "impact and investment in me" as a student, Tucker also expressed appreciation for Ouachita "being a place that has greatly impacted my two children." He and his wife Nicki's daughter, Megan Seyler, is a 2010 Ouachita graduate and their son, Curt, graduated from Ouachita this spring.

Tucker also affirmed Ouachita's "impact on Arkansas, the world and the Kingdom of God," declaring that "you are not a Bible college and you are not a church camp. You are a liberal

arts university that is Christ-honoring, Bible-based and Kingdom-focused."

Describing Ouachita's graduating class of 2015 as "smart, bright, energetic, enthusiastic, questioning, discerning and incredibly committed," Tucker thanked the graduates for "the impact you have already had and the lifelong Kingdom impact you will have."

In his remarks to the graduates, President Horne highlighted the values of opportunity, symmetry, community and legacy.

"Ouachita has afforded you opportunities to learn, mature, succeed, fail, serve, worship, grow and increase awareness of the good and not so good that is a part of our world," he said. "We pray that you will build on these opportunities."

Dr. Horne said symmetry in life involves searching for facts, truth and living by faith. He added that pursuing genuine community is among the values that differentiate Ouachita as an exceptional university.

Affirming the class of 2015's legacy as difference makers, he urged each of the graduates to "bear fruit and good works and do God's work throughout your life."

This year's graduating class featured 143 honor graduates, including 21 who graduated *summa cum laude*, 46 who graduated *magna cum laude* and 76 who graduated *cum laude*. University officials also recognized 26 graduates who completed Ouachita's Carl Goodson Honors Program and 34 members of the Alpha Chi national honor society.

Dr. Raouf Halaby, professor of visual arts and English, served as honorary marshal. Retiring after 42 years on the Ouachita faculty, he has been named professor emeritus by the Board of Trustees.



DISCOVERING LIFE'S CALLING

God calls followers to rejoice, pray and give thanks

By Bryan McKinney

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV).

I had the opportunity to attend the recent Enactus National Competition in St. Louis with 15 tremendously talented Ouachita students. Enactus is an international non-profit organization that connects student, academic and business leaders through entrepreneurial-based projects that empower people to transform opportunities into real, sustainable progress for themselves and their communities.

A total of 181 schools participated in this year’s Enactus competition. Each university’s team creates projects designed to elevate the lives of people in need utilizing business principles. The teams then present the results of these projects to judges at the competition. It is remarkable to think of the good that is done through all of these projects.

Our Enactus team has been working on several exciting projects this year. For example, have you heard of Dr. Jack’s Coffee? This is Ouachita’s own coffee company, named in honor of OBU’s founding president, Dr. John W. “Jack” Conger. Dr. Jack’s motto is “great coffee, better purpose.” We give one-third of every dollar of profit earned to benefit orphans in Honduras or to the children

served by the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes. The more coffee we sell, the more needy children we serve. It's a great project, and it is fully student-run.

Another meaningful project is our Mobile Pack project. Our students have partnered with Rosas Mexican Kitchen (a local family-owned restaurant) and Feed My Starving Children (a non-profit organization) in order to host what is known as a Mobile Pack. During these Mobile Packs, volunteers come together to pack and send nutritious meals to starving children around the world. Over the last year, we have assembled 900 volunteers and packed 209,000 meals – enough to feed 575 children for a year. Our student, Elva Rosas, traveled to Nicaragua last summer to personally deliver these meals.

These students aren't just working on projects such as these in hopes of winning a competition. In many ways, they are finding ways to live out their calling. So many students I encounter are seeking to find the intersection between their interest in business and their faith. While Enactus is a secular organization, our Enactus projects become very missional. These projects give students opportunities to utilize their business skills all while caring for the "least of these" as demanded by the New Testament.

I vividly recall my senior year in college. I was at a threshold moment in my life as I prepared to enter the "real world." I had several interesting options before me. What I knew is that I wanted to serve God through my vocation, but I wasn't sure exactly what form that service should take. I had a decent job opportunity. I was considering graduate school in several different disciplines. And I paid visits to two seminaries, wondering if God was possibly calling me into vocational ministry. I also remained highly interested in pursuing a law degree. Through this journey, I begged God to let me know what "His will" for my life might be. I prayed about it. I meditated on it. I spoke with trusted family members and other mentors about it. And what did I get? For months, I got nothing. I got radio silence.

Then one day I stumbled across what would prove to be a life-altering passage in 1 Thessalonians. It was as though the Apostle Paul jumped out of the pages, grabbed me by the hand, and said, "Here, this is for you." It was through this passage that I came to appreciate the possibility that God's will for my life might be something far more important than who signs my paycheck, or whether I have a graduate degree in business or psychology or history.

Scripture tells us that God's will for our lives is to rejoice always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all circumstances. For me, this discovery was liberating! I'd been begging God to share with me His will for my life, and He had already done so a couple of centuries ago.

I love serving a university that recognizes God can use all of us. Some are called to be preachers. Some are called to be teachers. Some are called to be physicians. Some might even be called to be lawyers. What I do know is that I'm

working with a great number of talented young people who surely seem called to be business leaders. These individuals will make a meaningful difference in the companies and communities where they serve. And I also know that all of us are called to rejoice always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all circumstances.

I try to leave the campus heavy lifting on theological matters to my friends in the Pruet School of Christian Studies and the Office of Campus Ministries. However, I'm pretty confident that 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 is one of those can't-miss passages. I find myself sharing these verses frequently with students as they attempt to answer the "What's God's will for my life?" question. And there's one thing I know for certain: I'm sure glad God led me to serve in this place at this time. It certainly feels a lot like a calling. As I watch my students seeking to find their calling, I have ample opportunities to rejoice, to pray and to give thanks.

"All of us are called to rejoice always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all circumstances."

During the recent Enactus competition, I loved watching our professionally dressed students make tremendously powerful presentations to panels of influential business leaders. For a moment, it's easy to forget that they are college students. They seem like people ready to conquer the world. But then, there are those frequent reminders that I am in fact enjoying a week with college students, not business professionals. For example, we took a trip to the St. Louis Arch. The students felt that the \$10 admission fee was too great; thus, we passed on ascending the Arch. Rather, they played Duck-Duck-Goose beneath the Arch. And yes, they insisted that I should join them. These students will either help me stay young, or they'll help me pull a hamstring.

In the meantime, I thank you for taking the time to ponder these thoughts. And, most importantly, I hope you will enjoy the journey to which God has called you. I pray that you will find many opportunities to rejoice, to pray and to give thanks.



Bryan McKinney, a 1993 graduate of Ouachita, has taught at his alma mater since 2000 and has served as dean of the Hickingbotham School of Business since 2008. He holds his juris doctor degree from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

A TRUE ‘DIFFERENCE MAKER’

President Horne leaves leadership legacy as Ouachita tenure concludes

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Dr. Rex M. Horne, Jr., president of Ouachita Baptist University since 2006, has announced his resignation as president effective this summer in order to serve as president of Arkansas’ Independent Colleges & Universities. He succeeds Ouachita alumnus Rex Nelson, who has been named director of corporate communications for Simmons First National Corp.

“My nine-plus years at Ouachita have been very rewarding,” Dr. Horne said. “I have been most impressed by the work performed by our faculty and staff. The sense of calling and commitment to duty have been evident on the campus. Our students are difference makers. I will treasure the time the Lord allowed me to serve here. Our prayers, continued interest and desire to help remain strong.”

During his tenure as Ouachita’s 15th president, Dr. Horne has led efforts to strengthen the university’s financial standing, including launching the “Defining the Difference” capital campaign. Other achievements include providing leadership for several significant improvements to the physical campus, including such major projects as the Student Village residence halls dedicated in 2009 and Cliff Harris Stadium dedicated in 2014. He also presided over Ouachita’s 125th anniversary celebration in 2011.

Throughout his years as president, Dr. Horne consistently challenged students, faculty and staff to be “difference makers” in their personal lives, careers and ministry opportunities. “You are difference makers,” he reminded Ouachita’s 2015 graduating class earlier this month. “Make this your lifelong passion and pursuit.”

Concerning his new role, Dr. Horne said, “I have known the presidents of our private colleges and universities as friends. I now have the opportunity to assist them personally and represent them corporately before the public and our legislature. The schools share a foundation of faith. I pray this time will prove beneficial for these friends and their institutions.”

“Rex Horne is a graduate of one of our Arkansas independent colleges and the president of another,” noted Dr. Don Weatherman, chairman of the AICU executive committee and president of Lyon College. “There couldn’t be a better background for the next

president of Arkansas’ Independent Colleges & Universities. Dr. Horne is respected throughout the state.”

Arkansas’ Independent Colleges & Universities is a consortium of 11 independent institutions of higher education throughout the state. In addition to Ouachita, member institutions include Arkansas Baptist College, Central Baptist College, Crowley’s Ridge College, Harding University, Hendrix College, John Brown University, Lyon College, Philander Smith College, University of the Ozarks and Williams Baptist College. The AICU provides support for the member colleges and universities in such areas as scholarships, governmental affairs and public affairs.

Dr. Horne, who attended Ouachita as a student, holds degrees from Lyon College, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Becky, are the parents of four adult children and have 11 grandchildren.

Prior to serving as president of Ouachita, Dr. Horne served 16 years as senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. He previously was pastor of churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana and served two terms as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

As the Horne era comes to a close at Ouachita, his legacy as a difference maker leaves OBU better and stronger for the years ahead.



JAY HEFLIN, Chair of the OBU Board of Trustees: “Dr. Horne has been a beacon of hope and light for Ouachita over the last several years. His leadership and vision have not only transformed the physical appearance of Ouachita’s campus, but they have strengthened the Ouachita community in very meaningful ways. He has put us into an enviable position among Christian liberal arts universities for attracting and retaining the best and brightest students.”

DR. SONNY TUCKER, Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention: “I have known Rex Horne for years as a great leader and personal friend. As president of Ouachita, not only was he a great friend to my two children while they were students there, he has been a great friend to the pastors and churches in Arkansas and has led the school to new heights as a national leader among private Christian universities. As an Arkansas Baptist and as a parent, I deeply appreciate Dr. Rex and Becky Horne.”



PRESIDENTIAL MILESTONES

- 1 Election as Ouachita's 15th president effective June 1, 2006.
- 2 Equipping and encouraging difference makers among Ouachita's students, faculty and staff.
- 3 Casting vision for the university's commitment to a love of God and a love of learning through annual convocation addresses and chapel messages.
- 4 Leading in the construction of the Student Village, Westside Hall, Georgia Hickingbotham Hall, Elrod Boulevard, Heflin Plaza, Cliff Harris Stadium, Whisenhunt Soccer Fieldhouse and the Elrod Center as well as the renovation of Evans Student Center, Lile Hall, Turner Studio, the Grant Center and the Rosemary Adams Department of Visual Arts.
- 5 Presiding over Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration in 2011, including chapel addresses by then-Gov. Mike Beebe and former Gov. Mike Huckabee, the publication of *Ouachita Voices: Celebrating 125 Years of Academic & Christian Excellence* and numerous anniversary events throughout the year.
- 6 Maintaining Ouachita's consistent rankings among top-tier universities by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Forbes*.
- 7 Overseeing consistent enrollment level of 1,500-plus students from Arkansas and throughout the world for five years in a row.
- 8 Commitment to a balanced university budget and fiscal responsibility, including launching the "Defining the Difference" capital campaign and reaching \$100 million in university endowment funds.
- 9 Introduction of innovative programs, including Ouachita at New Life Church's Associate of Arts degree program, Ouachita Online, Biomedical Scholars Program, Loan Affordability Pledge and the Tiger wrestling program, which has produced 14 All-American wrestlers and a national champion in the program's first five seasons.
- 10 Openness and accessibility to students, including establishing the tradition of outdoor spring commencement services on the front lawn of Cone-Bottoms Hall, teaching "Servant Leadership" and other courses, playing on the Team Rex Horne intramural football team, hosting the annual Senior Picnic and other campus events as well as attending and supporting dozens of student concerts, recitals and theatre productions each year.

GRACIE LUNDSTRUM, 2015 OBU graduate and 2014-15 Ouachita Student Foundation President: "Dr. Horne constantly challenged us to be difference makers. In doing so, he set the perfect example of what that looks like. The impact he had on students during his tenure has had a lasting effect. Anyone who came to Ouachita loved Dr. Horne and Miss Becky. They will both be missed by Ouachita and the Arkadelphia community."

DR. BEN ELROD, OBU Chancellor and 13th President (1988-1998): "Ouachita Baptist University has been greatly strengthened in every aspect of institutional life during the tenure of President Rex Horne. Financial soundness, increasing student enrollment, construction of numbers of new facilities and excellent representation to the constituencies of the university have been the hallmarks of his work there. He has been an outstanding, godly leader and the university will miss him and his lovely wife, Becky."

'While We're Waiting'

Ouachita alums establish retreat ministry to provide support for grieving parents

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

How do parents cope when their teenage daughter moves to heaven after a yearlong battle with cancer? For Brad and Jill Sullivan, the answer was to establish a retreat ministry for other grieving parents.

Brad, a 1989 Ouachita graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree, and Jill, a 1988 graduate with a major in speech pathology, began their heartrending journey with their 16-year-old daughter, Hannah, when she was diagnosed with brain cancer during her sophomore year of high school.

Recalling a youth discipleship leader who had explained, "God allows storms in your life to bring you closer to Him and allow others to see Him through your storm," Hannah told her parents that prior to her diagnosis she had "prayed for a storm that God might use me."

Looking back, Brad said, "God was preparing her for what we were about to find out."

Following surgery, a diagnosis of "the most fatal form of brain cancer" and rounds of radiation and chemotherapy, Hannah passed away Feb. 26, 2009, almost exactly a year after her initial diagnosis.

Hannah "kept her faith through the entire thing," Jill declared with motherly pride. "She was so strong."

"She took the news of her storm of cancer with grace and without fear," Brad added. "A conscious decision that we made as a family to trust God early on has been our foundation. Giving it to God, we began to feel the peace that passes all understanding that Philippians 4:7 speaks of."

Several months after Hannah's death, the Sullivans heard about a retreat for bereaved parents in Nashville, Tenn., and decided to give it a try. That experience "was very beneficial for us," Jill said. "One of the first things you discover when you've lost a child is that no one else fully understands. It was so comforting to spend a whole weekend with parents that understood. We were not the only ones going through those particular emotions or struggles."

As a result, the Sullivans began to sense a call and desire to start a similar ministry in Arkansas. "We came home and we talked about it a lot but we just really didn't know how to go about making it happen," she recalled.

They eventually connected with another grieving couple, Larry and Janice Brown, at their church in Hot Springs. The Browns' son, Navy SEAL Adam Brown, was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010, about a year after Hannah passed away.



Jill & Brad Sullivan

Hannah Sullivan

"We would catch eyes" at church, Jill noted. "There was this unspoken understanding between us." The two couples went to lunch together and the Sullivans shared their ministry vision. Jill said the Browns promptly responded, "Let's do it. Count us in."

As they brainstormed their new ministry venture together, the two couples decided to name their retreat ministry "While We're Waiting" and to hold their first weekend retreat at Family Farm, a Christian day camp located near Malvern, Ark.

Stan and Donna May, the owners of Family Farm, had lost their 25-year-old son in a drowning accident 15 years before the first retreat. Once the Sullivans approached the Mays with their idea, "they were all in from the beginning," Brad said. "That's how it started here."

Explaining the ministry's name, Jill said, "When Hannah passed away, I was 43 years old. If I live a normal lifespan, it will be 30 or 40 more years before I see Hannah again. What am I going to do with that time while I'm waiting? Am I going to abandon my faith or

am I going to apply my faith? How am I going to live well while I'm waiting to be reunited with my daughter?"

Citing the ministry's theme verse of Romans 8:25, "But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance," she said, "We want to wait actively, eagerly, with perseverance."

Against that backdrop, the first While We're Waiting retreat was held in April 2011. "We were scared to death that nobody was going to come and we were scared to death that they were going to come," Jill candidly admitted.

As it turned out, "these folks came and it was an awesome weekend," she affirmed, "and that began everything."

Since that time, the ministry has grown to include not only weekend retreats for couples, but moms' one-day mini-retreats in Hot Springs and dads' weekend retreats in rural Yell County. "On-the-road" retreats have been held in neighboring states. The ministry is funded by donations and retreat love offerings "because we don't want expense to keep anyone from coming," Jill said.

As While We're Waiting continues to expand, parents have attended retreats from more than a dozen states, traveling from as far as Florida and Ohio. Plans are under way to build a While We're Waiting Refuge retreat center on a 50-acre site donated in Hot Springs to accommodate more retreats.

As each group gathers and discusses specific issues that bereaved parents face, Jill said topics often range from such practical struggles as "How do you handle the holidays?" to "How do you handle your child's bedroom and their possessions?"

During the dads' retreats, which include outdoor activities, Brad said, "We do a lot of talking about our kids – not just their deaths but their lives and how they lived and what God has taught us."

As parents share their children's stories, Jill said, "we emphasize that the important thing about our children is that they lived, not that they died. In this setting, you have the opportunity to talk openly about your child."

One mom attended a retreat after receiving a hope package from While We're Waiting that included a journal, a book on grief and other resources. "When I first received my While We're Waiting box, I could not imagine that I would ever join this group of people. I could not imagine sharing my pain and my heart with people I didn't know," she acknowledged. "When I was finally ready, I believe it was the first time I felt hope since my son died."

"That's why we do what we do!" Jill declared. "They leave here with some tools to help them along the road – that God's not finished with them; that good can come out of very bad."

Emphasizing that "the years we spent at Ouachita grounded me in my faith," Jill said Hannah "wanted to go to Ouachita from the time she was in preschool," While she was never able to achieve that goal or fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher, the Sullivans established a scholarship in her memory to benefit a rising junior or senior majoring in education or science.

As they commit their ministry efforts to providing "faith-based retreats for bereaved parents," Brad concluded, "Our desire is to impact people for Jesus. That's our bottom line."

In keeping with Hannah's unwavering faith in the midst of life's storms, "we want to remind people that we're okay because of Jesus."

WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT WHILE WE'RE WAITING

From a parent whose son died suddenly after a brief illness:

"Losing my son has been the hardest thing I have ever had to happen in my life. I didn't know how a parent could survive such a devastating blow. How was I going to go on without him? Then a precious While We're Waiting mom sent me a sweet card, and so my grief journey changed because of her compassion for other mommas. Because of this group I heard the cries and laughs (they do happen) of other parents going through this heartache that no one wants to ever endure. I saw other parents coping with child loss – and it gave me hope!"

From a dad whose 5-year-old son died of cancer:

"The dads' weekend retreat was an awesome time for me in so many ways. I was encouraged as a Christ follower to keep my eyes on Jesus as I wait for the glorious day that I will see Jesus and Joel. I was reminded as a father that my child lives on in my heart and that is something that nobody or nothing can take away from me and this is a source of joy for me."

From a mother whose daughter died after being born prematurely:

"I had no intentions of going to the parents weekend retreat. I thought it wouldn't help and would only make things worse as my husband and I were barely hanging on. My husband got me there completely stressed out and a bit angry. ... The entire time was anointed with the Lord's healing grace. That weekend was life-changing for both of us and brought much healing in our marriage as well."

From a parent whose son was murdered in a home invasion:

"I cannot say enough good things about While We're Waiting! It has been one of the best things to enter our life since our son passed away three years ago. We finally have found parents who understand how we feel and the support and encouragement we have received has been amazing. Although it was very draining sharing our stories, it was rewarding and healing too."

MAKING DREAMS

OBU grad's path leads from Zipadee-Zip to Shark Tank and beyond

By Jon Merryman

Last September, during the fall series premiere of ABC's *Shark Tank*, many Ouachita alumni may have noticed a familiar face. Alumnus Brett Parker ('04) and his wife, Stephanie, creators of the Zipadee-Zip wearable blanket, pitched their company Sleeping Baby and waited to see who might invest. While three of the sharks sought to invest, the Parkers chose to sell a 20 percent stake in their company to shark Daymond Johns for \$200,000.

While at Ouachita, Brett played baseball and was a member of the Rho Sigma men's social club. After graduation, Brett jumped into corporate America and was successful but acknowledged that he struggled to fit in. Although his time in the corporate world was valuable, he felt that his out-of-the-box ideas were stifled and with a growing family, Brett was looking for a change.

Their Zipadee-Zip journey began one night as their daughter, Charlotte, refused to sleep. Out of desperation, Stephanie sewed a sleep sack for Charlotte. As a result, she and Stephanie were both able to sleep through the night.

The Parkers, who live in Fort Worth, Texas, with their children, Charlotte, 4, and Maverick, 1, went on to create Sleeping Baby, dedicated to "Inspiring Dreams One Night at a Time."

As friends asked for Zipadee-Zips to help their little ones sleep, orders started coming in. With a \$500 website, they were up and running and in just four months had earned \$70,000 in revenue. "We made it on *Shark Tank* after being in business for four months," Stephanie explained. "Knowing the show is watched by 7.2 million people and that we should expect 1 percent to check us out and 1 percent of those to place orders, we realized we didn't have the manpower to support manufacturing." Faced with those realities, the Parkers opted to skip the *Shark Tank* invitation.

After building a better website and locating a manufacturer, the company continued to grow, reaching an impressive \$1 million in sales in just 18 months before being selected again to appear on *Shark Tank*. That was when they succeeded in gaining the \$200,000 partnership investment as Stephanie explained in their *Shark Tank* pitch that "our product is a sleep and sanity saver for parents and babies everywhere."

The Parkers returned to Ouachita's campus this spring to speak to students in the Hickingbotham School of Business. "We just prayed that God would be glorified through our appearance on *Shark Tank*," Brett told the business students. "They made us sign a 60-page document saying they could edit the segment to paint us in any light

they wanted and we signed it and prayed. When the show aired it was perfect – our story just as we'd shared it."

After the show aired, the story of their personal faith and strength through the loss of a child after Charlotte was so evident that people started reaching out to the Parkers with their own stories.

"One mom reached out to us and said doctors told her that her child would not live long after he was born and to end the pregnancy," Brett shared. "But after seeing us on the show she felt she should keep moving forward, set up and decorate the nursery and prepare to welcome her son, Finn, into the world – however long he lived." Finn is doing well and his story has inspired the Parkers to create a special Baby Finn print Zipadee-Zip. They plan to donate one dollar to the Ronald McDonald House Charities for each Baby Finn Zipadee-Zip that is purchased.

Reflecting on Ouachita's impact, Brett said, "One of the most valuable things I learned at Ouachita was the ability to juggle and prioritize. There are so many great things going on at Ouachita all the time, which forced me to prioritize each and every event. As a business owner, there are many people and events needing your time and attention. If you do not carefully prioritize everything thrown at you, it becomes a

huge opportunity to spend time on things that don't affect the bottom line – and that is never good!"

"I am so pleased that Brett and Stephanie were willing to come share with our students," said Bryan McKinney, dean of the Hickingbotham School of Business. "Their energy is contagious. They told me they would need to leave shortly after their presentation concluded but they stayed around visiting with students and faculty for three more hours.

"We all learned much from them, and it was a great boost for the entrepreneurship program we are launching here at Ouachita," McKinney added. The new entrepreneurship program, set to begin this fall, will include an entrepreneurship emphasis, entrepreneurship minor and entrepreneurship certificate within the Hickingbotham School of Business, helping equip students to pursue ventures similar to the Parkers' success story.

Brett and Stephanie Parker "are the kind of young couple you want to cheer for," McKinney noted. "I hope their company thrives beyond their wildest dreams."



Brett and Stephanie Parker and their son, Maverick, visited Ouachita this past spring.



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

COME TRUE



“We just prayed that God would be glorified through our appearance on *Shark Tank*.”





Southwest
SUNDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL

As an instructor, what I've seen happen is the development of a learning community unlike any I've ever seen. Students are engaging intellect, emotion and spirituality within community.

— Rebecca Jones

— Ouachita at Sundance class explores —

INTERSECTION OF FILM & FAITH

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

From *Last Days in the Desert* starring Ewan McGregor and *A Walk in the Woods* starring Robert Redford to films featuring first-time actors, riveting documentaries and dozens of short films, the annual Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, is a movie buff's delight.

This year's 10-day festival included 184 films from more than 12,000 submissions.

For 15 Ouachita students, however, Sundance 2015 was more than a film festival. It became their classroom for a week in January. "Ouachita at Sundance," taught by Ouachita faculty members Dr. Rebecca Jones and Dr. Doug Sonheim, also features seminars and discussion sessions coordinated by Windrider Forum, a faith-based group that attracted 125 students, faculty and staff this year from 10 Christian universities and seminaries throughout the nation.

"Sundance offers our students an up-close look at what so many who shape thought and culture are thinking as they make documentaries and movies," said Ouachita President Rex Horne, who also attended part of Sundance along with the Ouachita students. "The Windrider Forum helps all of us to know how, as Christians, that we can understand what is being said and engage from a Christian perspective."

Citing filmmaking's influential impact on today's society, Dr. Horne added, "I am pleased to see that some of our students are interested in the possibility of producing documentaries and movies."

John Priddy, an entrepreneur and award-winning film producer, is a co-founder of Windrider, which has been hosting seminars during Sundance since 2004.

Reflecting on the genesis of the Windrider experience, Priddy said, "I started really seeing how story was becoming the principal means of cultural communication." Noting that "there's a world out there we need to pay attention to," he added, "To see our (Windrider) alumni make a difference in ministry or in the industry and the ongoing network and community, it feels like the hand of God in that."

Expressing appreciation for Ouachita's involvement in Windrider the past two years, Priddy said, "You guys being here is a blessing to us. It's rewarding to know we are meeting the needs of a leading Christian liberal arts university."

Doug Sonheim, chair of Ouachita's Department of Language and Literature, said he anticipates that

students who participate in the Sundance and Windrider experiences "will become thoughtful viewers who engage in conversations about films and also think theologically about films."

"At Windrider, you find people who love film and love God and talk about both easily and naturally," he added. "They're not separate compartments. Windrider offers a desire and an ability to talk about them together."

With each of the students and faculty members attending at least eight Sundance films during the week, Rebecca Jones reflected, "It's so thought-provoking to go to film after film that deal with questions of ultimate significance about life and death, heaven and hell that exist within our culture and be part of that conversation."

Jones, assistant professor of communications, said students involved in the class gain "one of those opportunities in life that put together your faith-life and your life-life. It's a model for living and engaging with culture as believers and doing that through the lens of our faith."

Describing the hands-on learning opportunity as "a very rich experience," she said, "As an instructor, what I've seen happen is the development of a learning community unlike any I've ever seen. Students are engaging intellect, emotion and spirituality within community."

David Winkler, a senior accounting major from Little Rock, said the experience gave him "a new appreciation for film and how to watch it – to enjoy it and ask yourself questions as you watch it."

Affirming the Windrider component of the week, he said, "It was cool to see how you could look at films from a faith-based perspective and openness from a Christian worldview."

According to Emily Grigsby, a senior art and mass communications major from Austin, Ark., "I have an interest in film – all aspects of it – and thought this trip would be very beneficial to hear from filmmakers and cast members and make connections with people in the business."

Reflecting on the emotional rollercoaster of viewing and discussing so many deep, intense films in a short span of time, Grigsby said, "You cry, you laugh, you get excited, you hear from so many people in the industry. It's so incredible we get to do this. It's a blessing to have this experience and get credit for it and learn and grow from it."

Pruet School professors making major contribution to new commentary series

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

When it comes to quality undergraduate theological education, Ouachita's Pruet School of Christian Studies has a strong reputation as one of the leaders in the field. But the Pruet faculty's impact isn't limited to the campus classroom setting.

Several professors also share their expertise and insights as noted authors in their respective fields. That focus is especially evident in a current commentary series project involving four faculty members as well as a former Ouachita professor.

The *Teach the Text Commentary Series* published by Baker Books is a 35-volume series that will cover all 66 books of the Bible. Five of the 35 commentaries are being written by scholars with Ouachita ties, including the series' inaugural volume on Romans written by Dr. C. Marvin Pate, Ouachita's Elma Cobb Professor of Christian Theology, and published in 2013.

Dr. J. Scott Duvall, J.C. and Mae Fuller Professor of Biblical Studies, wrote the volume on Revelation, and former Pruet School professor Preben Vang wrote the volume on I Corinthians, both published in 2014. Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruet School, is writing the volume on Jeremiah scheduled to be published in 2016 and Dr. Doug Nykolaishen, associate professor of Biblical studies, is writing the volume on Ezra-Nehemiah to be published in 2017.

Duvall's Revelation commentary also was a finalist in the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association's prestigious Christian Book Awards and was selected by Bible Study Fellowship as its leaders' resource for the organization's upcoming study on Revelation.

Designed to bridge the gap between scholarship and preaching, each section of Scripture highlighted in the *Teach the Text* series features a primary theme or "Big Idea" that drives the passage as well as key themes and sections focused on understanding, teaching and illustrating the text.

Noting that the series "is specifically targeted at pastors and Bible study teachers," Hays said, "The authors are all selected specifically as scholars who also preach. Thus the authors can bring in a high level of scholarship but with the understanding of how to streamline this massive amount of scholarly information into a manageable and interesting sermon. In streamlining the presentation, these commentaries are not 'light' or 'dumbed down,' but rather selectively deep."

Affirming the Pruet School faculty's involvement in the project, Hays added, "I don't know of any other university (or seminary) that has four current faculty members writing commentaries for this series. This points to the strength of the



Pruet faculty – the ability to combine top evangelical scholarship with practical edification of the church.”

As the author of the first volume in the series, Pate said, “Working through every verse in Romans in Greek, debating with the editor about how much to keep and delete, being the first book published made my manuscript the ‘guinea pig’ of the series.” He added, however, that “writing a commentary on Romans was a magnificent adventure, one I have wanted to do for years.”

Duvall noted that “most commentary series feature scholars writing for other scholars and they deal with technical issues that shouldn't really be the focus of sermons or small group studies.” By contrast, he said, “The *Teach the Text* series is written by reputable scholars for pastors, Sunday School teachers, small group leaders and others who work in the church to teach God's Word.

“The material is substantive but is delivered in non-technical language,” he explained. “It's one of only a few commentary series targeting the church as the primary audience.”

According to Duvall, “The actual writing process for the commentary took about three years. It's been an exciting learning experience for me as I've tried to capture the book's message in plain language. I've loved it!”

Nykolaishen said he sees the primary benefit of the commentary series is that “it gives pastors, teachers and other students of the Bible a resource that helps them see the central message of a passage in a way that is both efficient and effective.”

With the Pruet School faculty's significant involvement in the series, Nykolaishen added, “Students who want to see us practice what we preach should look in these commentaries. In this way also, the wider Christian community may get a chance to see and appreciate what we're doing here at OBU.”

For more information about Baker Books' *Teach the Text Commentary Series*, visit www.teachthetextseries.com.

'BOTH FEET IN' FOR JESUS

Longtime missionary shares ministry journey of faith and obedience

Dr. Bud Fray, who graduated from Ouachita more than six decades ago, has been committed to serving Christ with “both feet in” throughout his ministry career. Speaking during a recent chapel service at his alma mater, Fray issued that same challenge to today’s students.

“What a blessing it is to come back home,” said Fray, a 1952 OBU alumnus, who served with his wife, Jane, for 28 years as Southern Baptist international missionaries. His overseas missions work included 17 years in Zimbabwe as a church planter and 11 years in South Africa as associate to the regional director of Baptist mission work in 10 African nations.

Introducing Fray to the current generation of Ouachita students, Ian Cosh described him as “one of my own ‘fathers in the faith’ and one of my spiritual mentors.”

Cosh, OBU’s vice president for community and international engagement, invited the chapel crowd to “imagine coming back to Ouachita in 60 or 65 years to share some of your faith journey as Dr. Fray will do today.”

“The journey has been a sweet one and that journey began for me right here at OBU,” said Fray, a 1972 recipient of Ouachita’s Distinguished Alumnus Award and a former chairman of OBU’s religion department in the 1980s. Reflecting on his walk with God over the years, he said, “The little word ‘walk’ is a favorite word in the Bible to describe what a disciple does: He walks in the faith. He walks in love. He walks in the light as Christ is in the light. He walks full of the Holy Spirit.”

Marking the first public presentation of his book, *Both Feet In: A Journey to Surrender, Sacrifice and Service*, with an afternoon book signing at the Ouachita Bookstore, Fray said he was humbled that the Southern Baptist Woman’s Missionary Union’s New Hope Publishers invited him to write the book about his missions experience and philosophy.

“The idea of the book is to challenge you to walk with both of

your feet for Jesus,” he said. Explaining the basis of that concept, Fray quoted an old African proverb that says, “Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet.” He notes in his book that the proverb teaches to tread cautiously “because if you put both feet in, there’s no turning back.”

By contrast, he wrote of an African convert to Christianity who “committed both feet to Jesus,” adding that “every part of

him belonged to the Lord. He was a ‘both-feet follower,’ no doubt. He had listened to the words of Jesus, ‘Follow Me,’ with no hesitation.

“That is what the Christian walk is,” Fray said, “a walk with Jesus our Savior, following Him with both feet.”

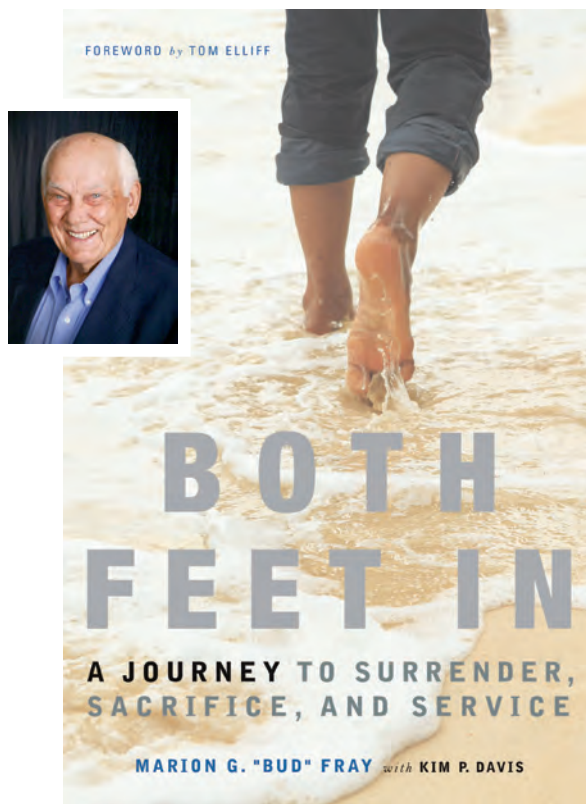
For his African friend, “following Jesus did not depend on his circumstances or how he felt,” he emphasized. “The transforming love of Jesus makes you something that you have never been.”

“We have no regrets,” Fray said during an interview following his chapel address. “Life is so full and so rich. We saw so many lives changed and made so many precious friends. We were just enriched for a lifetime through our years of service.”

Recalling that “it was a rich and fertile period in my life when I came to know how to walk with the Lord on this very campus,” Fray said, “I learned in this environment powerful lessons that stuck with me for life. I cherished every day I had here at Ouachita, both as a student and as a professor.”

Fellow Ouachita alumnus Tom Elliff (’66), retired president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, wrote the foreword to Fray’s book. “*Both Feet In* provides an opportunity for us to gather life-changing riches from the lives

of two of God’s most radiant missionaries, Bud and Jane Fray,” Elliff affirmed. “This is the story of simple faith, hot hearts, full surrender, fierce battles and overcoming joy. But most of all, it is a reminder that being filled with God’s Spirit is the starting point for any Christian to be truly effective.”



I came to know how to walk with the Lord on this very campus.



photos by Tyler Rosenthal



SOCCKER FIELDHOUSE DEDICATION HONORS GENE & KATHY WHISENHUNT'S SUPPORT

Dedicating Ouachita's new Gene and Kathy Whisenhunt Soccer Fieldhouse on March 12 capped a busy and successful season for Ouachita soccer.

The Tiger soccer teams previously celebrated the dedication of Wesley and Debbie Kluck Field last fall, the women's soccer team earned its first Great American Conference championship and the men's team welcomed new head coach Wilson Jones. Kevin Wright, who previously served as head coach of both the men's and women's teams, continues in his role as head coach of women's soccer.

With the dedication of Whisenhunt Fieldhouse, the new home of Ouachita soccer features state-of-the-art locker rooms as well as a team room, players' lounge and coaches' offices.

The dedication service honored the contributions of Gene Whisenhunt, a 1983 Ouachita graduate and immediate past chairman of Ouachita's Board of Trustees, and his wife, Kathy. Also recognized during the ceremony was Greg Hatcher, a major supporter of both Ouachita soccer and wrestling.

Jay Heflin, a 1993 OBU graduate and current trustee chairman, welcomed special guests, student-athletes, faculty, staff and fellow trustees to the standing-room-only dedication service held in the new facility's team room.

"Today is a special day in the history of an athletic program," Heflin noted. "This kind of facility shows students the value that Ouachita places on athletics."

Expressing appreciation to each of the major donors who contributed to the soccer facilities, Coach Wright told the dedication crowd, "We're obviously very grateful for the generous gifts that make all of this happen" and for the individuals "who facilitated the process and got us the wonderful building that you're sitting in."

Logan Hampton, a soccer midfielder and sophomore accounting major from Conway, Ark., spoke at the dedication service on behalf of the soccer teams, citing "our deepest gratitude

to everyone who was a part of making this building possible."

"As dedicated soccer players, we're grateful for the opportunity to play college soccer," he added. "It's an honor to play for Ouachita Baptist. This is a game we love."

Affirming the soccer fieldhouse donors and honorees, Ouachita President Rex Horne said, "There are no finer people than the Whisenhunt family. Gene is a great board member, churchman and a great businessman. Kathy is so supportive and so kind and does so much. We are indebted to these two."

Noting that Whisenhunt Fieldhouse "will be a lasting legacy to Gene and Kathy and also to their children," Dr. Horne said, "You honor us by caring about Ouachita and by being devoted. Thank you for what you do and thank you for your leadership."

President Horne also emphasized that "there's nobody who has more vision and ideas than Greg Hatcher," noting that "in some respects, he has changed the face of Ouachita athletics" through his generous support of Ouachita wrestling and soccer.

"Everybody gets to this point because they had good mentors," Hatcher responded. As a longtime youth soccer coach, he added, "There's nothing more important than the bonds you have with your kids, coaching and fighting those battles."

Encouraging the Ouachita soccer players to pursue lives of generosity and community service, he said his personal motivation has been based on the perspective, "If I ever do good, I'm going to give it right back to the things that meant a lot to me."

Voicing appreciation for the dedication service, Gene Whisenhunt said, "The reality is we're overwhelmed by this because so many participated and did so much that I don't feel worthy that our name is out there on this building."

Reflecting on his years as a Ouachita student, Whisenhunt added, "God provided the path for me to be a part of this institution. God opened the door and changed my life though this place. It's a great joy for us to give to Ouachita, be a part of this institution, and we plan to do that our entire lives."

MEN'S TENNIS EARNS RECORD FOURTH STRAIGHT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Ouachita Tigers men's tennis team made Great American Conference history this season by becoming the first team in any sport to win four consecutive GAC Tournament titles. The Tigers also earned the No. 1 seed in the Central Region for the 2015 NCAA Division II Men's Tennis Championships which was held this month in Arizona.

"This is a hard-working bunch of guys who understand the difference in effort and talent," said Ouachita Head Coach Craig Ward. "You're always hard to beat if you fight hard. It's all about effort. It was just a great win."

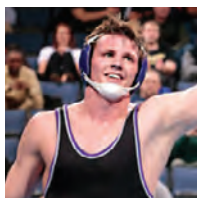


Ouachita rallied to defeat Southeastern Oklahoma State 5-3 in the GAC Men's Tennis Championship final. In the matchup between OBU, the top-ranked team in the NCAA D-II Central Region, and the No. 4-ranked Savage Storm, the Oklahoma team grabbed a 2-1 lead following the doubles portion of the title match.

After trailing 3-1, Ouachita's Jason Mechal, Vitor Oliveira, Marko Boskovic and Lennart Lonnemann reeled off four straight victories in singles play to close out the match and claim the title.

SMITH WINS NATIONAL WRESTLING TITLE

For the second straight season, the Ouachita Tigers wrestling team finished in the top five at the NCAA Division II National Championships. Competing under first-year head coach Chris Chionuma, the Tigers had four wrestlers earn All-America honors, including senior Dallas Smith, who earned the program's first national title by winning the 184-pound individual championship.



In just its fifth year of competition, Ouachita's wrestling program has produced 14 All-Americans, one national champion, two national runners-up and two regional champions. In addition to earning the national crown, Smith finished his career as Ouachita wrestling's first four-time All-American. Payne Hatter, Josh Meyers and Nate Rodriguez also earned All-America honors at this year's championships.



TIGERS WIN GAC BASKETBALL TITLE, NUTT NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR

How did the Ouachita Tigers men's basketball team spell success this season? A Great American Conference championship – check. GAC Coach of the Year honors for Coach Dennis Nutt – check. GAC Player of the Year honors for Tirrell Brown – check. Plus the program's first 20-win season since 2008 – check.

The Tigers clinched their first GAC regular season title with an 89-84 overtime victory over Southern Nazarene. Ouachita also defeated Henderson State 80-78 in the final home game of the season, finishing with an undefeated record of 13-0 in Bill Vining Arena. The Tigers went on to compile a 20-5 season record, the ninth 20-win season in program history. They also led the GAC in scoring margin, free-throw percentage, rebounding defense, steals and turnover margin.

Coach Nutt was unanimously named the 2014-15 GAC Coach of the Year. In his four years as head coach, Nutt has compiled an overall record of 62-46, including his first 20-win season at Ouachita.

Tirrell Brown, a junior transfer from Jacksonville, Ark., was named GAC Newcomer of the Year as well as Player of the Year, the first Ouachita player to earn either of those GAC honors. He also was a unanimous All-GAC First Team selection. Brown also was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches' Division II All-Central District First Team and was a Daktronics Second Team All-Central Region selection.

Colt Fason and Micah Delph also received All-GAC honors. Fason, a senior from Conway, Ark., earned First Team honors. He compiled 1,157 career points, ranking 10th in Ouachita history and second in GAC history.

Delph, a senior from Conway, Ark., was named to this year's All-GAC honorable mention team. He is the GAC's all-time leader in free-throw percentage at 87.8 percent.

CLASS NOTES

connecting the circle

1950s

Rev. Robert Holland ('57) retired after 58 years of active ministry. He led in establishing 27 Southern Baptist churches in six states. He has been named pastor emeritus of Fellowship Church of Richmond. He plans to continue ministry efforts, whether leading a mission trip to Costa Rica or rebuilding wheelchairs that are sent to recipients in six countries.

1960s

Bob Duffer ('61) received the 2014 Pono Award from the Hawaii Baptist Foundation at the foundation's annual meeting in Maui. The award is presented for excellence in ministry.

Dr. Joe Dell Brasel ('63) retired after working nearly 26 years for ACT, Inc., in Atlanta.

Linda Marie Davis ('65) recently retired after 27 years of teaching. Her husband is a retired minister and they plan to enjoy time with their five children and nine grandchildren.

Dr. Cecil and Ellajane (Inman '65) Sutley celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on Feb. 15. Dr. Sutley, professor emeritus of religion, served at Ouachita in such roles as university counselor, dean of students and professor of psychology and religion for a total of 33 years. The Sutleys have five children, **Marie (Sutley '65) Dallas**, Jeanne Hanson, **Bill Sutley ('77)**, **Susan (Sutley '70) Reed and Jacque (Sutley '79) Roble**; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Douglas Holt ('67) married **Linda (Yaeger '67*) Hough** on Nov. 15, 2014, at their home in Hot Springs Village.

1980s

Tina Kitchens ('81) was honored recently with the Jim Spain Professional of the Year Award at the State of Alabama Recreation and Parks Association conference for her service and involvement in recreation and parks on the local, state and regional levels. She also served as host and education committee chair for the 2015 state conference. She is a certified parks and recreation professional through the National Recreation and Parks Association and served seven years on the state board.

Dr. Trey Berry ('84), a former professor of history at Ouachita, has been named president of Southern Arkansas University effective July 1. Berry, who taught 18 years at Ouachita, most recently served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at SAU. He holds Master of Arts and PhD degrees in history from the University of Mississippi. His wife, **Dr. Katherine (Sims '92) Berry**, formerly was director of admissions counseling and director of development at OBU. They have two children, Tanner and Berkeley.

Jim ('86*) and Christie (James '85) Neal moved to Austin, Texas, in September 2014. He is the sales manager for Triple S Fuels and she is the client services manager for LIFT Aviation. They also are parents to Ouachita alumni **Casie Neal ('11)** and **Jordan Neal ('13)**. Their youngest son is a junior at New Mexico State University.

Mark Thomas ('88) recently completed a two-year tenure as president of the Arkansas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association. He is president of Cornerstone Energy in Magnolia, Ark., and currently serves on the board of directors for the National Stripper Well Association.

Chris and Michelle (Crocket) Turner ('89) currently live in Franklin, Tenn., where



photo by Blaine Surber

The Class of 1965 was inducted as the newest class of Gold Tigers and celebrated their 50-year reunion at events held April 16 and 17 in Walker Conference Center on the Ouachita campus.

he is director of communications for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and owns his own communications consulting business and she is a preschool teacher at a local Mother's Day Out program. They have a sixth grade daughter, Madison.

..... 1990s

Tony Christensen ('93) recently completed a bachelor's degree in information technology/applied technologies and is beginning his master's degree in information technology with a focus in project management.

Steven Bryant ('94) won the 2014 American Bandmasters Association Sousa/Ostwald Award for his *Concerto for Alto Saxophone*. The concerto was performed in March by the United States Air Force Band at the American Bandmasters Association convention in Reno, Nev.

Misty (Clark '95) Granade has been named to the board of directors of Global Women and began serving as treasurer in January. She and her husband, **Stephen Granade ('95)**, live in Madison, Ala. Global Women is a nonprofit organization that connects resources to the needs of vulnerable women worldwide, including addressing such issues as maternal health, education, economic development, clean water and sex trafficking.

Dr. Drew Bledsoe ('96) was selected as a fellow in the 2015 West Point Summer Seminar in Military History. The seminar will be held this summer at the United States Military Academy and will highlight the Civil War. He currently serves as an assistant professor of history at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn.

Scottie Johnson ('97) moved to central Arkansas two years ago to plant the Outdoor Church of Arkansas, a Southern Baptist church plant reaching outdoorsmen and their families. He and his wife, **Allyce (Plummer '97)**, live in Greenbrier with their two children, Henry (12) and Fisher (4). Allyce is a music specialist with Conway Public Schools.



Kerri (Newborn '98) Jones has been named principal of Forest Meadow Junior High in the Richardson (Texas) Independent School District.

Jennifer (Newton '98) Pippenger completed her second master's degree in December 2014. She received a master's in library science from the University of Central Arkansas.

..... 2000s

Barrett Baber ('02*)

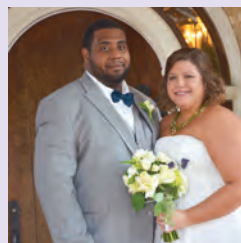
released a new EP titled *Falling Again* on May 8. He co-wrote all but one of the six, full-band tracks on the new EP. It was recorded at multiple studios including Blackbird Studios in Nashville, Tenn., and Haxton Road Studios in Bentonville, Ark.



Dustin Slaton ('03) and his wife, Melody, and their four children have moved to Tyler, Texas, where he is the campus pastor for Green Acres Baptist Church's South Campus.

Mandy Pierce ('05)

married Arron Asberry on Sept. 19, 2014, in El Dorado, Ark.



Dr. Brent Smith ('05) was elected treasurer of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation board of trustees. This position begins a four-year cycle to the presidency of the foundation. He is the youngest officer elected to the board of trustees. In his position, he will help guide the organization in its efforts to advance the values of family medicine by promoting humanitarian, educational and scientific initiatives that help improve people's health.

Chrissy (Shen '08) Starnes was hired as special education teacher with Azle Independent School District. She teaches a structured learning class for students with significant cognitive disabilities at Santo Forte Junior High.

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FACULTY/STAFF UPDATE

UALR AWARDS COLLINS TOP HONOR

Dr. Kathy Collins, chair of the Huckabee School of Education's Department of Education, was named Outstanding Doctoral Seeking Student by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's College of Education and Health Professions during a dean's reception and luncheon April 17. The award was based on Collins' cumulative coursework in higher education and her outstanding service to the profession and community.

HENSLEY, PERRY EARN INBRE GRANTS

Dr. Lori Hensley and Dr. Marty Perry were each awarded research grants from the Arkansas IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence – two of the nine INBRE grants awarded in Arkansas. Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences, said the grants will provide research funds for 15 to 20 students during the lifetime of the grants. Hensley holds the J.D. Patterson Chair of Biology and Perry is OBU's Nell I. Mondy Professor of Chemistry.

PITTMAN PUBLISHED IN ENCYCLOPEDIA

Jennifer Pittman, lecturer in English at Ouachita, was recently published in *The Social History of the American Family*. The social history encyclopedia highlights the important role of families and how they have adapted to change throughout American history. Pittman's article, "Southern Families," addressed how Southern families have played a role in popular culture, thus impacting the broader American public.

HOUSER SHARES RESEARCH IN VIENNA

Dr. Myra Ann Houser traveled to Vienna, Austria, to present a paper at the "African Thoughts on (Neo) Colonial Worlds: Toward an Intellectual History of Africa" conference. The gathering, hosted by the University of Vienna's African Studies Department, hosted more than 20 speakers from across Africa, Europe and North America. Houser, assistant professor of history, presented her paper, "The Making of Biko: Martyrdom and the Creation of an African Intellectual," and participated

in a panel with professors from the Vienna Diplomatic Institute and Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City.

PLYMALE & REYNA PUBLISH RESEARCH

Dr. Ruth Plymale and Dr. Nathan Reyna, contributed research to an article recently published in *PLOS ONE*, an international, peer-reviewed journal featuring primary research in the sciences. The article, "Comparative Genomics of Cluster O Mycobacteriophages," compares DNA of viruses to see how and why they react the way they do. Plymale, assistant professor of biology, and Reyna, associate professor of biology, completed their research at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and continue similar research with students at Ouachita.

PINTADO PRESENTS AT MLA EVENT

Dr. Margarita Pintado, assistant professor of Spanish, participated in two panels at the Modern Language Association's 130th annual convention in Vancouver, Canada. Pintado presented her paper, "The Question of Authenticity in Manuel Ramos Otero's *La novelabingo*," and moderated a panel on "New Trends in Puerto Rican Literature."

MCGRAW PUBLISHES TRANSLATION

Dr. Mark McGraw's English translation of Joseph Avski's book *A un paso de Juárez* (*One Step from Juarez*) has been published by Mouthfeel Press in El Paso, Texas. McGraw, assistant professor of Spanish, joined the Ouachita faculty in 2013. *A un paso de Juárez* tells Avski's personal journey of immigrating to the United States from Colombia.

RUNYAN: SUPPORT STAFFER OF YEAR

Diane Runyan, administrative assistant for the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community, has been named Ouachita's 2015 University Support Staff Member of the Year. The Staff Development Committee affirmed Runyan's "well-deserved recognition" and expressed appreciation for "her faithful service to the Ouachita community." Runyan has served on the Elrod Center staff since 2005.

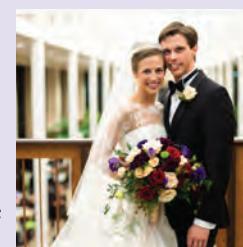
Rachel Paulk ('09) married Adam Brown on Jan. 16 in Benton, Ark.

..... 2010s

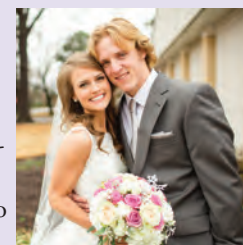
Philip Williamson ('10) married Katlyn Alley on May 31, 2014, in Charlottesville, Va. They now live in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Anne Bradford ('11) married Jordan Spencer on Jan. 30 at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Edmond, Okla. They now live in Edmond where she is a contract speech-language pathologist and he is an aide to Corporation Commissioner Todd Hiatt.

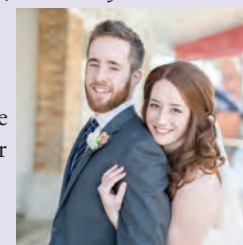


Kelly Magee ('11) married Zach Cates on Jan. 3 in Conway, Ark. They now live in Conway where she is a speech language pathologist at UAMS-Kids First and he is a pitcher in the Chicago Cubs organization.



David White ('12) has accepted an athletic video assistant position at Florida State University. He previously worked as an assistant football coach at Ouachita during the 2012 and 2013 football seasons and as a football video assistant at the University of Arkansas during the 2014 season.

Mary Castleman ('13) married Jared Farley on March 7 in Batesville, Ark. They now live in Arkadelphia where she is pursuing her Master of Arts in teaching and he is the Baptist Collegiate Ministry director at Henderson State University.



Franklin Featherston ('13) recently joined the Emory & Henry College men's basketball staff. He previously worked for Ecclesia College after graduation where he was responsible for recruiting, scouting, scheduling, travel and fundraising.

Michelle Lanza ('13)

married Jonathan Naranjo on Oct. 11, 2014, at Oak Forest Baptist Church. They now live in Houston, Texas, where she is a girls' ministry associate at Second Baptist Church and he is a Jiu Jitsu instructor at Revolution Dojo.



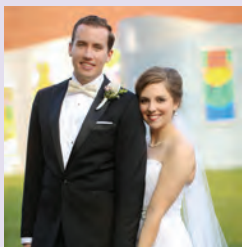
Hunter Soper ('13)

married Madeline Bell on Sept. 6, 2014, at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. They now live in Dallas where he serves as communication coordinator for Kimberly-Clark Corporation at their world headquarters in Irving and she is a project manager for Gemini Inspection in Dallas.



Justin Trewitt ('13)

married **Elizabeth Davis ('12)** on Aug. 2, 2014, at First Baptist Church of Ashdown, Ark. They now live in Sachse, Texas, where he is a client services associate at Integrated Financial Solutions Group in Plano, Texas, and she is a kindergarten teacher at International Leadership of Texas in Garland.

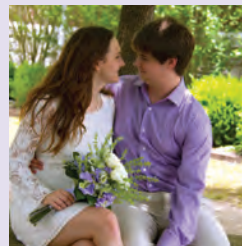


Kelsi Bodine ('14) has been named communications director and executive assistant to Arkansas Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin. She previously served as field director for his campaign.

Cara Cox ('14) has been named a field representative and constituent service representative in Hot Springs for U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman.

Danielle Moses ('14)

married **John Butler ('14)** on June 2, 2014, in Arkadelphia. They now live in Little Rock where John is in law school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law and Danielle is pursuing a master's degree in public history at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Kaitie Scott ('14)

married Ryan Gill on Nov. 22, 2014, in Alexander, Ark. They now live in Little Rock.



Wade Stotts ('14)

married **Samantha Cummins ('13)** on Dec. 27, 2014, at Hunt Chapel in Rogers, Ark. They now live in Jonesboro, Ark., where he serves as the worship pastor of the WORD Campus of Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro and she serves as a case manager for King's Ranch, Inc.



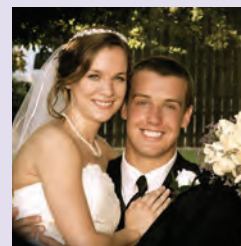
Cameron Terrell ('14)

married Annette Collins on Nov. 15, 2014, in Little Rock. They now live in North Little Rock, where he is an accountant at Windstream Communications and she is an advertising coordinator for Arkansas Business Publishing Group.



Jeb Little ('15)

married **Jessie Meyer ('15)** on Aug. 9, 2014, in Waco, Texas. They now live in Arkadelphia where she is working as a research director in the biological sciences department and will be applying to medical school. He is enlisting in the Arkansas National Guard and applying to physician assistant school.



FUTURE TIGERS

..... 1990s

Denver ('94) and Melissa (Bragg '02) Peacock welcomed son Hudson Reed on Oct. 13, 2014. He joins big brother Presley.



Laurie (Trull '98) Foreman and her husband, Todd, welcomed daughter Ansley Elizabeth on Sept. 20, 2014. She joins big sister Avery (2).



Janice (Hart '99) Richbourg and her husband, Daniel, welcomed daughter Isabel Ann on Oct. 12, 2014.

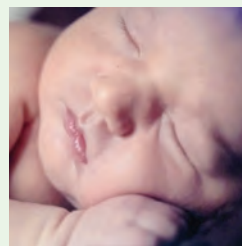


Josh Moore ('01*) and his wife, Melody, welcomed son Joseph Thomas on Feb. 17. He joins big brother Matthew.

Guy and Julie (Bowen) Green ('02) welcomed daughter Copeland Anabelle on Oct. 3, 2014. She joins big brothers Shepherd (5) and Matthas (3).



JoJo (Gattis '02) Smithpeters and her husband, Jay, welcomed son Zak Alan on May 7, 2014.

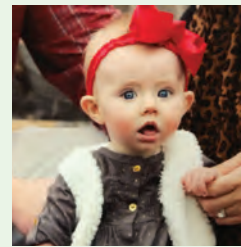


Sam and Becca (Capper) Cross ('03) adopted son Lincoln in August 2014. He joins big brothers Malachi and Nathan and big sisters Kierstin and Kyla. They now live in Northwest Arkansas, where Sam is a CPA at the Walmart home office and Becca homeschools their children.



Sharla (Tanton '04) Campbell and her husband, John, welcomed daughter Caroline Grace on March 17, 2014. She joins big brother Andrew.

Jennifer (Wagner '04) Richard and her husband, Nathan, welcomed daughter Cass Victoria on June 27, 2014.



Wally and Kelly (McGowan) Waldrop ('04) welcomed twins, daughter Abigail and son Gideon, on Nov. 6, 2014.



Hailey (Ford '06) Coburn and her husband, Bo, welcomed son Truett Henry on Nov. 19, 2014.



Michelle (Carney '07) Dewitt and her husband, Dennis, welcomed daughter Conley Jane on Feb. 15, 2014.



..... 2000s

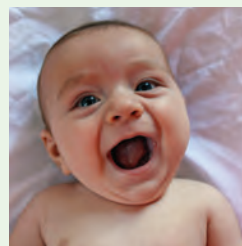
Todd Nettleton ('00) and his wife, Patricia, welcomed daughter Eva Kathryn on Jan. 15. She joins big brothers Noah and Collin.



Donnie and Lori (Cain '01) Copeland welcomed daughter Esther Rose on Dec. 4, 2014. She joins big brother Jack (5) and big sister Lydia (3). Copeland is chair of the department of visual arts at Ouachita.



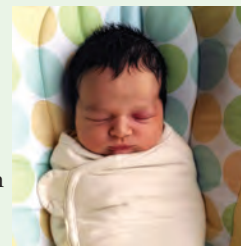
Laura (Hafer '03) Falzon and her husband welcomed son Asher Elias on Aug. 26, 2014.



Robert ('03) and Brooke (Smith '04) Ramsey welcomed son Robert "Kit" Lee, III on Oct. 31, 2014. He joins big sister Eva (5).



Labin Duke ('09) and his wife, Mallory, welcomed son Hosea Simeon on Jan. 12. He joins big sisters Shiloh (4) and Moriah (2) and big brother Lazarus (1).



2010s

Mallory (Gross '13) Allison and her husband, Jeff, welcomed son Beckett Scott on March 16.



Kurt ('12) and Macy (Buchanan '13) Bannert welcomed son Lane William on March 31.



IN MEMORIAM

1930s

Dr. James Thomas "J.T." Elliff ('39) of Moore, Okla., passed away on Dec. 12, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Wanda Elliff; four children, **Sandy (Elliff '63) Smith, Tom Elliff ('66), Jim Elliff ('70) and Bill Elliff ('74)**; three step-children, Nancy Lanford, Don Jackson and Steve Jackson; 26 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

1940s

Willye Theresa (Gann '42) Holcomb of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 19, 2014. She is survived by her husband, John Holcomb; three children, Theresa Meredith, William Holcomb and Timothy Holcomb; and four grandsons.

Dr. George R. Peebles ('44) of Gurdon, Ark., passed away on Jan. 7. He is survived by his wife, Jean Peebles; brother, Dr. Raymond Peebles; daughters, Georgia Peebles and Charlotte Smith; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

GERBER SUCCEEDS HOLSCLAW AS SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS DEAN

Dr. Gary Gerber, chair of Ouachita's Division of Music, has been named dean of the School of Fine Arts effective July 1. He succeeds Dr. Scott Holsclaw, who has served as dean since 2007. Dr. Holsclaw will return to full-time teaching and directing and serve as chair of the Division of Applied Arts, which includes theatre arts and visual arts.

"During his tenure as dean, Dr. Holsclaw has worked with our outstanding faculty and students to maintain and build on Ouachita's strong reputation in the arts," said Ouachita President Rex Horne. "We are grateful for his many contributions to the university."

Concerning Dr. Gerber's appointment as dean, Dr. Horne noted that he "brings an outstanding record of service to the university and to his profession. His demonstrated excellence in teaching, performance and administration, combined with his understanding of and deep commitment to Ouachita's mission as a Christ-centered liberal arts university, are all qualities that will serve to strengthen Ouachita's legacy of excellence in the fine arts."

Gerber, who has served at Ouachita since 2004, holds degrees from Tarleton State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Holsclaw has served at Ouachita since 1985. He holds degrees from the University of Kentucky, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and New York University.

During his eight years as dean, Holsclaw has provided leadership for a number of major projects including the development of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Arts Engagement Series and Professional Artists Series as well as the creation of the Williams/Arnold Dance Studio and naming of the Rosemary Adams Department of Visual Arts and related renovations and additions, including the Rosemary Adams Art Galleries.

Holsclaw said key priorities included "helping guide the future of the School of Fine Arts and encouraging and developing arts education and



Dr. Gary Gerber



Dr. Scott Holsclaw

arts programs throughout the university." Addressing his shift back to full-time teaching, he said, "As I begin to move toward retirement, it is my desire to reconnect to my first love of theatre and create art."

Gerber said Holsclaw has worked effectively in his role as dean to "help bring the three areas of the School of Fine Arts together." Citing the challenge of blending the priorities and needs of music, theatre and visual arts, he said Holsclaw has helped students and faculty "better understand the purpose and focus of the arts on the Ouachita campus."

As Gerber steps into the dean's position this summer, he said he is "looking forward to moving more into an administrative role and less in a choral conductor role. I will always enjoy conducting a choir but I'm looking forward to using my gifts to help faculty and students achieve their goals and dreams."

Holsclaw said he is confident that Gerber "will be a strong leader and he will continue to move the school forward. Having worked closely with him over the past several years, I feel very comfortable handing over the reins to him. I know the faculty, students and staff are in good hands."

Miriam (Jones '46*) Makris of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Jan. 21. She is survived by her husband, George Makris; three children, George Makris, Jr., Andrea Gary and John Makris; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mary (Morris '46*) Street of Cave City, Ark., passed away on April 13. She is survived by her sister, Betty Rainwater; four children, Morris Street, Judy Cooke, Bruce Street and **Scott Street ('87)**; 16 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Burnell (Manning '47) Chisoe of West Melbourne, Fla., passed away on Feb. 4, 2013.

Carl R. "Cotton" Cordell ('48) of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Jan. 6. He is survived by his children, Michael Cordell and Tracie Morrow; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Cordell served on Ouachita's Board of Trustees for six years. Memorial gifts may be made to the Cordell Endowment at Ouachita.

Willard "Coach" Forsythe, Sr. ('48) of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on March 16. He is survived by his son, Willard Forsythe, Jr., and two grandchildren.

Ray Barnett ('49) of Siloam Springs, Ark., passed away on Feb. 5. He is survived by his wife, **Dora (Hardcastle '49*) Barnett**; two sisters, Jeanette Pettey and Geneva Taylor; seven children, David Barnett, Robert Barnett, Mark Barnett, Jonathan Barnett, James Barnett, Jane Johnson and Mary Boxx; 19 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Bettie (Franks '49*) Mayes of Sun City, Ariz., passed away on Nov. 17, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **Rev. Robert Mayes ('50)**; and two sons, Daniel and Carl Mayes.

..... 1950s

Murray Elton ('50*) of Jonesboro, Ark., passed away on April 6, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Julia Elton; and two step-sons, Jeffery Hendrix and Brent Hendrix.

Billy King ('50) of Warren, Ark., passed away on Jan. 14. He is survived by his sister,

Mary (King '58) Barrett; two children, Jim King and Donna Garrett; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Alla Mae (Barfield '50) Taylor of Penton, Wash., passed away on Feb. 27. She is survived by her sister, Virginia Johnson; one daughter, Sheryl Freeman; and five grandsons.

Lillian (Strickland '50) Wasson of Springdale, Ark., passed away on Dec. 17, 2014. She is survived by her five children, **Ken Wasson, Jr. ('74)**, **Tommy Wasson ('78)**, **Ron Wasson ('76*)**, Doug Wasson and **Mary Ann (Wasson '84) Brinkman**; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Mary Jo (Horne '51*) Crowder of Fordyce, Ark., passed away on Feb. 11. She is survived by her children, **Paul Crowder ('77*)** and **Carol (Crowder '78) Veneman**; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mamie (Stranburg '52) Abernathy of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Jan. 1. She is survived by her grandchildren, Jennifer Parmley and Scott Abernathy; and five great-grandchildren.

James Conrad ('53) of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 5, 2014. He is survived by his wife, **Bettye (Newman '53) Conrad**; three children, Mark Conrad, **Cheryl (Conrad '79) Harris** and Lori Hamilton; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Rev. Al Sparkman ('53) of Rogers, Ark., passed away on Feb. 7. He is survived by his wife, **Bobbie (Stephens '53*) Sparkman**; two children, **Susan (Sparkman '75*) Bradford** and **Stephen Sparkman ('78*)**; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Sparkman was a former member of the Ouachita Board of Trustees.

Alice (Newman '54) Simmons of Benton, Ark., passed away on Dec. 21, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **Dr. Bill Simmons ('53)**; siblings, **Bettye (Newman '53) Conrad**, Buford Newman and Ted Newman; four children, **Dr. Rusty Simmons ('77)**, **Stephanie (Simmons '77*) Conrad**, Allyson Simmons and Dr. Creighton Simmons; and nine grandchildren.

Patsy (Smith '56) Gasperson of Marshall, Texas, passed away on Dec. 3, 2014. She is survived by her brother, Fred Smith.

Rev. Lynwood Henderson ('56) of Cassco, Ark., passed away on Dec. 23, 2014. He is survived by his children, Rebecca Amaral, Ken Henderson, David Henderson, Mark Henderson and Boyce Henderson.

Dr. Curtis Merrell ('57) of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Dec. 8, 2014. He is survived by his sister, Betty Jo Griffith; three sons, Craig, Drew and Col. Scott Merrell; and four granddaughters.

George Robinson ('57) of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Feb. 7. He is survived by his wife, Alyce Robinson; sister, **Evelyn (Robinson '58*) Bullington**; two sons, Lance and Neil Robinson; and two granddaughters.

Maryhal (Olsson '58) Hargis of Jacksonville, Ark., passed away on March 31. She is survived by her husband, Howard Hargis.

Joan (Dodd '59) Horton of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away on Nov. 23, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **Lt. Col. Frank Horton ('59)**; three children, John Horton, Tracy Brown and Robin Horton; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Don Nall ('59) of Little Rock passed away on March 11. He is survived by his wife, **Judy (Overton '62) Nall**; one brother, Cecil Nall, Jr.; two daughters, **Ashley (Nall '96) Stuckey** and **Felley (Nall '88) Lawson**; and four grandchildren. Nall, who served 25 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Batesville, Ark., was a former member of the Ouachita Board of Trustees. Memorial gifts may be made to Ouachita Baptist University.

..... 1960s

Wynelle (Poole '60*) Nutt of Little Rock passed away on April 4. She is survived by her husband, Donald Nutt; two brothers, Lee and Robert Poole; two children, Laurie Burrows and Lawrence Nutt; and four grandchildren.

Jackie Selman ('60*) of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on Feb. 20, 2014. He is survived

OBU HONORS SIX RETIREES WITH 180 TOTAL YEARS OF SERVICE

Six retiring faculty and staff members with a combined total of 180 years of service to Ouachita Baptist University were honored April 29 at a campus retirement reception.

Ouachita President Rex Horne affirmed the opportunity to “pay honor to a number of people who have spent many years of service at Ouachita,” adding that “we appreciate each and every one of you. We’re grateful for your service to Ouachita.”

Dr. Raouf Halaby, professor of visual arts and English, holds two degrees from Ouachita. He graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and earned his Master of Science in Education degree in 1970. He also holds a Doctor of Education degree from East Texas State University. Halaby, who has served 42 years at his alma mater, was named professor emeritus earlier this year by the Ouachita Board of Trustees.

John Cloud, senior development officer for estate and gift planning, has served at Ouachita 32 years. He graduated from Ouachita in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology. He also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Henderson State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. His wife, Yvonne Cloud, bookstore textbook manager, has served at OBU 31 years. She is a 1983 Ouachita graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in history. The Cloud House in Ouachita’s Student Village, was named in their honor in 2009.

Shirley McMillan also has served 31 years at Ouachita. She is director of Ouachita’s Foster Grandparent Program. She recently was awarded the Elrod Center for Family and Community’s 2015 Outstanding Service Award for her service to Ouachita and the Arkadelphia community.

Margaret Frazier, director of campus housing, is a 1965 Ouachita graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in French. She is retiring after 26 years of service, including the past 18 years in her current position.

Jackie Suggs, who serves on the carpentry crew for facilities management, has worked at Ouachita 18 years.



“The Good Book states that there is a time and a season,” Halaby told the reception crowd. “This semester, for the first time in 42 years, I am teaching the granddaughter of a former student. This tells me that this is the time and the season for me to retire.

“I leave Ouachita with a chest of riches and an abundance of memories far more precious than all the silver and gold in Fort Knox,” he added. “I have been most fortunate and truly blessed.”

John Cloud emphasized that “I love this place more than anything in my life other than my family and God. It has nourished us and taken care of us. I’ve been able to work with some of the best people in the entire world. I’ve had opportunities galore that I could never have dreamed of.”

Noting that “I’m going to miss this place,” Cloud said he and his wife “are both together going to find something to do that is worthwhile and beneficial and fulfilling” as they conclude more than 60 years of combined service at Ouachita.

According to Shirley McMillan, when she became director of the Foster Grandparent Program, “God dropped a job in my lap. It was purely a God thing. Thanks to all of you who have helped me, supported the program through the years and been so kind and loving to the foster grandparents.”

In an interview with *The Signal* campus newspaper, Margaret Frazier said, “Being able to work with the students and help get them settled in their housing has been fun. It may have taken a while to get it all figured out but it was a good feeling when we were able to make it come about.”

by his wife, Pat Selman; siblings, Roy Selman, Emmett Selman and Janet Ross; one son, Jack Selman; and two grandchildren.

Patsy (Norman ’61) Pryor of Searcy, Ark., passed away on Feb. 16. She is survived by her husband, **Bill Pryor (’58)**; three children, **Amy (Pryor ’81) Roussel**, Bruce Pryor and **Dr. Matt Pryor (’96)**; and four grandchildren.

Jo Ann (Fielding ’63) Williamson of Jacksonville, Ark., passed away on March 31. She is survived by her sisters, **Marguerite (Fielding ’62) Zimmerman** and Paula Armstrong; two children, Greg Williamson and Kelli Griffin; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Alice (Keith ’64) Collier of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Dec. 7, 2014. She is survived by her husband, **Martin Collier, Sr. (’62*)**; two children, **James Collier (’87)** and **Alison (Collier ’98) Fendley**; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Leann (Viala ’64) Hanshaw of Cabot, Ark., passed away on April 13. She is survived by her husband, Lance Hanshaw; three brothers, **Ted (’69)**, **Terry (’77)** and **Tim Viala**; three children, Holly Huckabee, Heath Hanshaw and Hastings Hanshaw; and eight grandchildren.

Thomas Page (’67) of Houston, Texas, passed away on Jan. 30. He is survived by

his friend, Elaine Woodard, and numerous cousins and friends.

Jack Mills (’68) of Texarkana, Ark., passed away on Jan. 8. He is survived by his wife, Meredith Mills; children, Peyton Lumpkin, Cliff Mills and Lexie Mills; and one grandson.

Barnard Williams (’69*) of Arkadelphia passed away on March 3. He is survived by his wife, Glennie Williams; father, Elder Williams; five siblings, Brenda Evans, Pamela Cotledge, Karen Davis, Gwendolyn McKesson and Erica Rider; and seven children, Anthony Williams, Timothy Sanders, Camila Williams, Trevon Newborn, Kevin Newborn, Jonathan Tate and Terrence Wright.

1970s

Martin Tull ('72) of Oak Ridge, Ark., passed away on Dec. 21, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Connie Davis Tull; son, James Tull; step-daughter, Amy McQuade; and one granddaughter.

Karon (Hill '73) Carter of Conway, Ark., passed away on Dec. 12, 2014. She is survived by her brothers, Dean, Philip, Walter and Ricky Hill; one sister, Charlun Brett; and two children, John Carter and Michael Mitchell.

Robert "Randy" York ('73*) of Little Rock passed away on March 30. He is survived by his mother, Mary Nelle; two siblings, Brenda Kimbell and David York; two daughters, Brandy Nesselrodt and Courtney Thompson; and three grandchildren.

Steve Bean ('75) of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Nov. 20, 2014. He is survived by his fiancée, Diana Gray; mother and step-father, Nell and James Bardwell; two sisters, Lisa Bean and Pamela Turnage; and son, Ashlin Bean.

Donny Gatlin ('76) of Little Rock passed away on Nov. 27, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Patsy Gatlin; four siblings, Jerry Jackson, Theory Gatlin, Marilyn Johnson and Elnora Gatlin; two sons, Jason Gatlin and Justin Gatlin; and two granddaughters.

Jacquelynn (Browning '78) Spann of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 6, 2014. She is survived by her siblings, Peggy Delling, Azillea St. John and Raymond Browning; three children, Carroll Spann, Paul Spann and Birdetta Price; and five grandchildren.

1980s

Una Lee Shelton ('86) of Rogers, Ark., passed away on Dec. 27, 2014. She is survived by her children, John Shelton and Margaret Kelly; and two grandchildren.

Dr. Bob Johnson, Sr. ('85) of Arkadelphia passed away on Jan. 23. He is survived by his wife, Vernice Johnson; two siblings, James Johnson and Nell Nichols; seven children, Bob Johnson, Jr., David Johnson, Bill Cavnar-Johnson, John Johnson, Jim Johnson, Lynda Daily and Elizabeth Messmer; 27 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Scott Bradley ('87) of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 25. He is survived by his parents, Ronald and Jo Alice Bradley; and one sister, Ronda Goff.

SCHLEIFF LEAVES LIFELONG MISSIONS IMPACT

Gerald "Jerry" Schleiff, remembered for his lifelong missions commitment both in Arkadelphia and around the world, passed away Feb. 14 at age 79.

Schleiff, a 1957 graduate of Ouachita, also was a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Barbara, a former Ouachita student, served 34 years with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Central/Southern Asia. They retired in Arkadelphia and for the past 15 years have opened their home to missionary kids and other students attending both Ouachita and Henderson State University.

Their children, Mark Schleiff ('88) and Kiki Cherry ('90), as well as grandchildren Jessica (Schleiff) Qualls ('11) and Ben Schleiff ('15), are Ouachita graduates. Emily Schleiff also is a current Ouachita student.

"Before all else, Dad faithfully loved his Lord," reflected Mark Schleiff during his dad's memorial service at Park Hill Baptist Church in Arkadelphia. "He was a steady soldier and servant for the cause of Jesus Christ. Dad always took seriously the Word of God and the calling of God."

Recalling that his parents "always had one unified vision: to serve the Lord wherever He sent them, to the fullest of their abilities," Mark added, "Dad knew whose glory he was to seek: that of God alone. His life was dedicated to doing that which God desired."

Ouachita President Rex Horne, also speaking at the Feb. 16 memorial service, emphasized that Schleiff lived his life "very close to the intersection of here and hereafter."

Citing Schleiff's diverse ministry roles as a missionary, pastor, evangelist, counselor, mentor and "encourager for so many students," Horne said, "He lived his faith. He has finished his work, but his influence

isn't finished. That will go on until time is over."

"When Jerry and Barbara retired to Arkadelphia with the specific purpose of ministering to MKs at Ouachita, I knew that they were going to have a powerful and positive impact," said Ian Cosh, OBU's vice president for community and international engagement and a longtime friend of Schleiff and his family.

"Time has shown just how many MKs and their parents were strengthened and encouraged in the knowledge that Jerry and Barbara were a phone call away at any time they were needed," Cosh said. "As the parents of MKs themselves, Jerry and Barbara understood at a profound level what the emotional and spiritual needs of an MK were likely to be and how they could meet those needs."

"The Schleiffs opened their home and their hearts in the most practical way possible," Cosh concluded. "From providing a listening and sympathetic ear to storing belongings during the summer, Jerry and Barbara were ready, willing and able to be present for MKs in the way that only those with hearts filled with compassion could do."

In honor of the Schleiffs' ministry to MKs, memorial gifts may be made to the Schleiff Missionary Kids Fund at Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita St., Arkadelphia, AR 71998.



Georgianna “Dorris” (Chapman ’87) Burt of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Dec. 18, 2014. She is survived by her husband, Columbus Burt; three brothers, Andrew Chapman, Charles Harris and Sonny Chapman; three sons, LaMel Burt, Dr. Rodney Burt and Kevin Burt; step-son, Gerone McDonald; and six grandchildren.

Timothy McDaniel (’87*) of North Little Rock passed away on Jan. 17. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer McDaniel; mother, Rachel McDaniel; two brothers, Jim and Phillip McDaniel; and four children, Benjamin McDaniel, Andrew McDaniel, Sophie Meyers and Maxwell Meyers.

Richard “Richie” Humphreys (’88) of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on April 6. He is survived by his parents, Richard and **Suzanne Humphreys (’61*)**; and two sisters,

Mary (Humphreys ’84) Gill and **Kathy Humphreys (’86)**.

..... 1990s

Scott Snider (’90) of Little Rock passed away on April 16. He is survived by his wife, Mary Snider; parents, **Ed (’60)** and **Betty Snider**; brother, **Steve Snider (’86)**; and three children, Keathley, Mary McKenzie and Pearson Snider.

..... 2010s

Chanmi Park (’14*) of South Korea passed away on Feb. 2. She studied at Ouachita for five semesters as an international student. She is survived by her parents, Taeho Park and Kyunghee Kim.

Faculty & Staff

Margaret McLaughlin of Arkadelphia passed away on March 12. She was a former secretary in Ouachita’s Office of Development. She is survived by her brother, James Thomas; three children, Lynda Dolgner, **Steve McLaughlin (’78)** and Kim Williams; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Dr. Manuel Ramirez of Nashville, Tenn., passed away on March 16. Dr. Ramirez was a former faculty member at Ouachita and Henderson State University and served as president of the Arkansas Endowment for the Humanities. He is survived by his daughter, **Marcia (Ramirez ’82*) Waldron**; and three grandchildren.

* denotes former student

PRAYER ADVOCATE T.W. HUNT DIES AT AGE 85

Thomas W. “T.W.” Hunt, widely recognized in Christian circles as an authority on prayer, died Dec. 11, 2014, at the age of 85.

Hunt, a 1950 Ouachita graduate, was the author of such books as *The Mind of Christ* and *Disciple’s Prayer Life* and was a former professor of music and missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hunt earned master’s and doctoral degrees in musicology and piano and taught music classes at the University of North Texas and Oklahoma College for Women.

The trajectory of Hunt’s life changed, however, when he received a special gift in 1959 – a copy of the Martin Luther translation of the Bible – from a student who knew that he spoke German, which Hunt learned while serving overseas in the Army and as a missionary.

The day he received the Bible was one of the most memorable of his life. “It just seemed to be kind of ... me,” he recalled in a *Baptist Press* article many years later. “Luther had linguistic skill and spiritual insight. [I made] the decision to commit all my life to Christ in 1959, reading that German Bible.”

Four years later, Hunt followed God’s call to teach in Southwestern’s School of Church Music. Within a few years, he had transformed the way music was used for missions. Specifically, he developed the Music in Missions class that offered students techniques for using music to communicate the message of the gospel by focusing on the indigenous music of the particular mission field. This concept played an integral role in revolutionizing music evangelism.

In 1987, the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), which published Hunt’s *Disciple’s Prayer Life* and *The*

Doctrine of Prayer, invited him to serve as the board’s first prayer consultant. From that position, Hunt became recognized as an earnest prayer warrior and often was asked to speak on prayer at conferences and state conventions, sparking several thousand churches to begin or undergird their prayer ministries. He retired from LifeWay in 1994.

After leaving LifeWay, Hunt remained an active author and speaker over the next two decades. In 1994, LifeWay published what would be Hunt’s most popular work, *The Mind of Christ*, a Bible study co-authored with Claude V. King.

Mark Estep, pastor of Spring Baptist Church in Spring, Texas, where Hunt was a longtime member, said Hunt was the most godly person he ever met.

“He truly walked with the Lord and demonstrated that walk each and every day,” Estep said. “He was my friend, mentor and encourager. There is no one on this earth for whom I or my church has more respect than T.W. Hunt.”

Hunt was preceded in death by his wife, Laverne, in 2009. He is survived by his daughter, Melana Monroe; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. ■ *Baptist Press*





Doug Sonheim

Chair, Department of Language & Literature

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni

It may be hard to believe, but one of Ouachita's beloved longtime professors, Dr. Doug Sonheim, began his journey to teaching by dropping out of college – twice!

Born in Colorado, Sonheim has always loved the outdoors, and he's always loved reading. But he wasn't sure how these interests would lead to a career, so he started pursuing an engineering degree at Colorado School of Mines. Frustrated and unsure about his calling, he dropped out and spent a year working – building garage doors. He entered school again, this time at Wheaton College, but dropped out and worked painting yellow lines on city streets. But things changed on Dec. 5, 1979, when he opened a letter from his mentor, Ken Kalisch, urging him to choose a path. "Ken confronted me," Sonheim recalled, "and he made it very clear that personal identity builds on choices and commitments and on the ability to stick to them."

Sonheim eventually graduated from Wheaton College, where he met the love of his life, Amy, during a Wheaton-in-England summer study program. Falling in love with each other, they hiked to the highest point in England and studied *The Lord of the Rings* in Oxford. Every day was a page from a romantic love story. After Wheaton, Doug and Amy headed to Baylor University for their master's studies, then spent two years teaching in Japan. Then they enrolled in doctoral programs at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., where sons Joseph and Will were born. While in grad school pursuing degrees in English, the Sonheims said they were often told that they would never get jobs, especially in the same place.

"Our parents were very supportive, although I think they secretly worried," Sonheim said. "They encouraged us to have faith, keep going to school, and here we both are, at Ouachita, 22 years later. Because of our parents' and, for me, because of Ken's counsel, I've felt that dwelling – staying put – is important. Staying at Ouachita throughout our career, we've been able to see things we might have missed had we moved on; we see more clearly what we could have done better. I am grateful every day that I get to make a living doing what I do. It feels like a gift! We are thankful to work at Ouachita."

One of the most fun and significant fields of study Sonheim has brought to Ouachita has been the study of faith and film. What started more than a decade ago as a film club grew into a class, and now, with the help of grant work by Dr. Rebecca Jones, has led to the creation of the Ouachita at Sundance class where students travel to the Sundance Film Festival each January.

"The goal of our Sundance experience is for students to start to think about film in a theological way," Sonheim explained. "For example, as our students watched *Last Days in the Desert*, an account of Jesus' 40 days of temptation,

many students would say, 'That's not right!' But through discussion among ourselves and through dialogue with the director, students began to realize there is value here. We don't have to feel threatened when faced with views in film that differ from our own, and our faith may actually be strengthened in the process."

"Staying at Ouachita throughout our career, we've been able to see things we might have missed had we moved on."

"There are many ways in which I see Doug acting on his devotion to students, but perhaps most obvious is his gift of time," says Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the School of Humanities. "So much of the work in the Film Studies and Sundance classes takes place outside of normal classroom hours, but Doug knows the value of this time with students and he gladly gives it. This kind of positive professor-student relationship is a hallmark at Ouachita, and the leadership of veteran professors like Doug ensures that it will always be one of our strengths."



Ian Cosh

Vice President for Community & International Engagement

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni

As with many Ouachitians, Ian Cosh's journey to Ouachita began with alumni sharing their Ouachita story and encouraging him to apply. Bud and June Fray, missionaries to Zimbabwe, wrote to then Ouachita President Dr. Daniel Grant recommending Cosh for admission and the rest is Ouachita history.

Born in Northern Ireland, Cosh immigrated to Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, when he was 7 years old and spent the next 21 years there. He graduated from the Post Office Engineering College and worked in the telecommunications industry for a decade. Moving to South Africa, he spent five years there and worked in the telecommunications engineering field as a chief data systems engineer before coming to Ouachita to study business and pastoral ministry.

After graduating from Ouachita, Cosh planned to head to seminary but received a fellowship to pursue his Master of Business Administration degree at Louisiana Tech University instead. While completing his MBA, Cosh received a call from Dr. Ben Elrod, Ouachita's newly inaugurated president, with an invitation to return to Ouachita to become director of religious activities, which included overseeing Baptist Student Union activities, chapel and the missionary-in-residence program. Cosh was Dr. Elrod's first hire and has been here ever since.

"It has been my experience that my calling was fulfilled differently than how I had visualized," Cosh reflected. "I thought I would move to a foreign country on the mission field, but God called me to return to Ouachita."

A pivotal point in Cosh's Ouachita journey was the call to head a task force in 1996 to look into how the university could better harness service activities for the campus and community. As a result of the task force's work, the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community was established in 1997, literally changing Ouachita culture by bringing service to the forefront of many student endeavors.

"I think Ouachita students now realize that service should be high on the list of what an educated person does," Cosh said. "What we began 18 years ago created a steady drum beat about service and now, nearly every student is involved in service to campus and community in some way. We now have a beautiful, permanent new home, symbolically at the corner of campus and the community, which will be critical to the future health and strength of the Elrod Center." The Elrod Center's new home on the corner of Sixth and Cherry streets is scheduled to be dedicated June 11.

In addition to Cosh's work with the Elrod Center, continuing to oversee Campus Ministries, the Foster Grandparent Program, chapel and missionary-in-residence programs, he became director of the Daniel and Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education in 1999.

"My calling has been very much fulfilled working with international students and sending out our students to study overseas," Cosh said. "Having lived in various countries, it is exciting to see students engage in other cultures in this critical time of their development. There's no other age group I'd rather work with. Ouachita students are mature, teachable, enthusiastic and eager to learn. It is a joy serving here with my fellow faculty and staff who make such a difference in students' lives."

"There's no other age group I'd rather work with. Ouachita students are mature, teachable, enthusiastic and eager to learn."

"When I first started working at the Elrod Center, I remember Ian telling me, 'I have learned that when you are with people, you need to be all there,'" noted Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center. "I have watched him live this truth out countless times in his work through the center. He is a busy guy with many students, faculty and staff needing his attention throughout the day. Regardless of what he is doing, he is always quick to stop, listen and respond in an engaging way to people. He has a unique way of making people feel valued and important."



God's calling impacts our lives & careers

When I first wrote this column, my opening sentence was about beginning my 10th year at Ouachita; now it is about closing my tenure as president. While I am not surprised with how quickly the years have

accumulated, I am thankful for the privilege of serving Ouachita during this important era.

I suppose it would be natural to touch upon some highlights of these years. (Few articles are written on the “lowlights!”) I am thinking more these days on the theme of this issue of *The Circle*, our calling. Our calling is foundational in our faith and in this university.

I have no memory of life that the church is not a prominent part. Recently I preached in the church my parents attended when I was born. I remember going to a funeral as a young boy being carried in my dad's arms. The use of call or calling in our services seemed to occur every week. The old songs we sang in my boyhood are fresh in my mind. “Jesus Is Tenderly Calling” was often sung in the churches, particularly during the invitation. Words penned by Fanny Crosby are imprinted on my mind: “While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.” Our pastors preached on Jesus calling His disciples and calling people today to salvation and varied tasks.

I experienced a call to ministry while still a boy. My understanding then and now is consistent with most definitions. A call is a summons, a strong impulse to a vocation or profession. In 1990 our son, Truett, was five years of age. We

were excited to be talking and praying with the search committee of Immanuel Baptist Church. At one point in the process, someone called us at our home in Midland, Texas. Truett spoke up and said we had gotten “the call.” He was not speaking of a run-of-the-mill phone call, but *the* call. I guess you learn that idiom in a pastor's home.

It should be affirmed that God's calling

includes all of our lives and vocations. I am convinced that my dad's calling was to spend his adult years working among people in paper mills. His faith made a difference among the people he worked alongside. Every day I see women and men who serve Ouachita and her students out of a sense of calling. This makes Ouachita distinctive. Even now many of our students understand

I am blessed that Ouachita was and remains a significant part of my calling from God.

that these years of preparation are a part of God's calling for them.

When I came to Ouachita nine years ago this summer, I remarked that my coming was not a choice I was making, but a calling I was following. I still hold to this conviction. The times and places of our service are determined by God. The choice to answer and follow His call is on each believer. Whatever the future holds, I am grateful to God for calling me to salvation, service and these years at Ouachita. I now follow the call to serve Arkansas' private, faith-based colleges and universities.

Thank you for your devotion to Ouachita. Now, more than ever, I ask for your prayers and support of Ouachita Baptist University. I am blessed that Ouachita was and remains a significant part of my calling from God.

Rex Horne

OUACHITA HOMECOMING

REUNIONS

TUESDAY, SEPT. 29

CLARK COUNTY ALUMNI DINNER

FRIDAY, OCT. 2

CLASS OF 2005 10-YEAR REUNION
CLASS OF 1985 30-YEAR REUNION
CLASS OF 1975 40-YEAR REUNION

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

CLASS OF 1995 20-YEAR REUNION
1980s MIXER: TOTALLY GNARLY AFTER-PARTY

GAME DAY

GRAB SOME BREAKFAST AT
DR. JACK'S COFFEEHOUSE (8-11 A.M.)

OCTIGER FEST (9-11 A.M.)

OCTIGER FEAST REUNION LUNCH (11 A.M.)

PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES (12:30 P.M.)

FOOTBALL GAME VS. HARDING (1 P.M.)

STREET FESTIVAL (5:30 -8:30 P.M.)

TIGER TUNES

THURSDAY, OCT. 1 (7:30 P.M.)

FRIDAY, OCT. 2 (7:30 P.M.)

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