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The Ouachita Circle Fall 2015

Ouachita Baptist University

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Q&A WITH DR. CHARLES WRIGHT

| ELROD CENTER'S COMMUNITY CONNECTION

| OUACHITONIANS IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

THE OUACHITA CIRCLE

Fall 2015





Celebrating OBU's campus community

Among all the words used to describe Ouachita, “community” is one of the most comprehensive terms available. Students, faculty, staff and alumni frequently refer to Ouachita’s unique “campus community.”

Whether in the classroom, on the athletic field, in Dr. Jack’s or just walking across campus, a genuine sense of community permeates the Ouachita experience.

In this issue’s theme interpretation article, Dean of Students Scott Haynes reflects on Ouachita’s inviting community spirit, noting that “the many types of communities on campus provide opportunities to experience others from various backgrounds and families, skills and talents, experiences and goals.”

Of course, a consistent commitment to building community isn’t limited to campus life. Haynes also encourages Ouachita alumni to “consider how God may be calling you to share His love with the others you encounter across the communities where He has placed you now.” Turn to pages 10 and 11 to discover more of his insights and challenges.

This issue’s cover collage by René Zimny, assistant director of graphic services, creatively captures the concept of campus community. Several slices of Ouachita life featured on the cover are easily identified while others are more abstract. Together, they represent the diverse, unified world that is Ouachita.

Among the many examples of Ouachita community in this edition of *The Ouachita Circle* is the dedication of a new home for the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community. An unwavering focus on promoting community both on campus and beyond is a vital part of the center’s mission. After all, “community” officially is the Elrod Center’s last name!

According to Elrod Center Director Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement, the center seeks to equip Ouachitonians “to be generous men and women in all the ways that generosity can be measured,” including time commitment, compassion, creativity and sharing material resources. See pages 14 and 15 for more details on how the Elrod Center provides a fitting example of community involvement and engagement.

Whether seeking to nurture community on campus, at home, in the workplace or around the globe, each of us is called to “love your neighbor as yourself” – a key ingredient for effectively building community, especially in today’s challenging and complex world. May God guide our daily efforts to do so.

Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

“We are in community each time we find a place where we belong.

Peter F. Block

“We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race.

Cicero

“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

George Bernard Shaw

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.

Anthony J. D’Angelo

“The community of believers was one in heart and mind.

Acts 4:32

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INTERIM PRESIDENT CHARLES W. WRIGHT

VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS / EDITOR
TRENNIS HENDERSON

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING / ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BROOKE ZIMNY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF GRAPHIC SERVICES / CREATIVE DIRECTOR
RENÉ ZIMNY

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
KELDON HENLEY

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI JON MERRYMAN

ALUMNI PROGRAM COORDINATOR HANNAH PILCHER

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SUBMIT ADDRESS CHANGES AND CLASS NOTES

www.ouachitaalumni.org • alumni@obu.edu • (870) 245-5506
410 Ouachita St., OBU Box 3762 • Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001

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CAMPUS NEWS



OUACHITA WELCOMES THIRD LARGEST INCOMING CLASS IN PAST 15 YEARS

Marking Ouachita's third largest group of new students in the past 15 years, including 31 Governor's Distinguished Scholars, Ouachita welcomed a total of 1,531 students to classes this fall.

The 2015 fall semester total marks the sixth consecutive year the university's total fall enrollment has exceeded 1,500 students. Over the past three years, total new student enrollment has increased 12.5 percent, from 422 in 2012 to 475 this fall.

In addition to a residential enrollment of 1,438 students on Ouachita's Arkadelphia campus, the total included 29 students in the off-campus Ouachita at New Life Church Associate of Arts program in Conway, 46 students in other off-campus classes and 18 students in the university's new Ouachita Online program that was launched in January.

Additionally, a concurrent enrollment pilot project with Baptist Preparatory School in Little Rock and Shiloh Christian School in Springdale included 35 high school students enrolled in college-level courses in partnership with Ouachita. Combined with the university's other programs, the total student headcount for the fall semester was 1,566.

"We are pleased to see an overall increase in total enrollment for the fall semester," said Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs. "We believe our commitment to outstanding academic programs offered in a Christ-centered learning community continues to attract some of the finest students in the region."

UPDATE

OBU'S PATTERSON SCHOOL AWARDED \$336,000 GRANT

Ouachita is among 10 universities in Arkansas that will share a \$13 million grant from the National Science Foundation over the next five years, according to Gov. Asa Hutchinson. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission's Division of Science and Technology will work with the 10 institutions to expand research and workforce development training opportunities throughout Arkansas.

The funding is part of the NSF's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), which promotes scientific progress nationwide by establishing partnerships with government, higher education and industry.

"This award will go a long way in strengthening STEM-based research and workforce in Arkansas," Gov. Hutchinson said. "All eyes are now on Arkansas because of the strides we are making in science and technology."

Ouachita, which will receive \$336,000 in grant funds, will partner with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas State University on a seven-member neurobiology team, according to Dr. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology. He said one of the unique aspects of Ouachita's involvement is that "we're the only ones using undergraduate students to do the research" which involves gene expression analysis designed to help correct nerve damage.

"You come to Ouachita as freshmen and you're learning these techniques in class," he explained. "As upperclassmen, students are in the lab doing real cutting-edge research."

"Even though I have only a small part in this project, I'm excited about the opportunity to work with other researchers in the state," said Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences. "Additionally, several Ouachita students will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience in this project." He also noted that "the equipment we acquire through this grant will be valuable to us long after the grant is over."



photo by Gloria Berry

McBETH GALA SHOWCASES RENOVATED HALL

Ouachita's School of Fine Arts presented the W. Francis McBeth Recital Hall Gala on Sept. 10 in honor of the newly renovated McBeth Recital Hall.

"It has been 40 years since McBeth Recital Hall has seen this type of renovation," said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of OBU's School of Fine Arts. "The new carpet, premier seating and upgraded lighting will give a fresh look to the hall for our performers and patrons."

The gala featured members of OBU's music faculty performing a variety of vocal, instrumental and keyboard selections as well as reflections by Dr. Charles Wright, Ouachita's interim president and former dean of the School of Music, and Dr. Scott Holsclaw, former dean of the School of Fine Arts.

McBeth Recital Hall is named in honor of Dr. W. Francis McBeth, an internationally acclaimed composer and conductor and longtime professor of music at Ouachita. He served as Ouachita's composer-in-residence, Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music and chair of the theory/composition department. He also served as Arkansas' composer laureate and was a past president of the American Bandmasters Association.

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COLUMNISTS EARN NATIONAL WRITING AWARDS

Ouachita seniors Zach Parker and Dixon Land recently earned national recognition for their sports columns in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's 32nd annual Gold Circle Awards.

Parker, a senior political science and mass communications major from Shreveport, La., placed second in the nation with his sports column, "Why the Giants Are the Most Underrated Dynasty in Sports." Land, a senior mass communications major from Little Rock, Ark., received a certificate of merit for his sports column, "Cubbies Will Fall Curse to the Billy Goat Again."

The awards came from work they did as juniors, while Parker was sports editor for the *Ouachitonian* yearbook and a columnist for *The Signal* student newspaper and Land was sports editor for *The Signal*.

"Zach and Dixon have been willing to invest the time to see the sports industry from a professional standpoint," said Dr. Jeff Root, dean of Ouachita's School of Humanities. "They do the research and look at every angle, not just the viewpoint of a fan."



OUACHITA RANKS NO. 5 IN THE NATION IN #MYTOPCOLLEGE SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

For the second year in a row, Ouachita has earned a national Top 10 finish in *Forbes'* #MyTopCollege social media campaign.

With students, alumni, faculty and staff posting comments and photos about why Ouachita is #MyTopCollege, Ouachita finished this year's competition ranked No. 1 in the seven-state Southeast region and No. 5 nationally, moving up three spots from last year's No. 8 finish.

A series of outdoor scenes by Sarah Waymire, a 2012 Ouachita graduate, was featured on *forbes.com* among *Forbes'* favorite #MyTopCollege photos. Waymire's tweet noted that "@Ouachita is #MyTopCollege because it's surrounded by Arkansas' beautiful outdoors."

A tweet by Dr. Keldon Henley, vice president for institutional advancement, also was featured on the *Forbes* website. It highlighted Ouachita's new Loan Affordability Pledge which "provides incoming students a safety net for student debt."

Citing an outpouring of "enthusiasm, school spirit and passion," *Forbes* noted that "community was an undeniable component of the #MyTopCollege campaign this year."

OBU'S AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY CHAPTER EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

Ouachita's American Chemical Society student chapter was recognized as an "Outstanding Student Chapter" for the 2014-15 academic year. This is the highest level of recognition available to ACS chapters and only 30 out of nearly 1,000 chapters earn the honor each year. This is the first time the Ouachita student chapter has received the award in more than a decade. The award will be presented officially at the ACS national meeting in San Diego, Calif., in March 2016.

According to Dr. Sara Hubbard, assistant professor of chemistry and faculty advisor for Ouachita's ACS student chapter, earning the prestigious award requires significant effort from students. Along with the chapter's overall performance throughout the year, the award is based on an end-of-the-year report written by the chapter president. Hubbard noted that last year's president and 2015 Ouachita graduate, Dustin Walter, "did an incredible job crafting a well-written report that truly conveyed all the amazing things" ACS students achieved last year.

"This past year, the students have participated in additional events, such as the Girls in STEM event hosted by the School of Natural Sciences," Hubbard explained. "They also received a grant from ACS to perform science skits for children at Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Additionally, they have worked to participate in and host more professional scientific events and to provide social events for the members to help foster a sense of community."

Trevor Meece, a senior chemistry and biology double major from Mountain Home, Ark., and current president of the Ouachita ACS student chapter, noted, "Seeing that what we did last year was highly successful, we can now do more to reach out to the campus and community, knowing that what we are doing is representing ACS in a way that they find outstanding."

OUACHITA EARNS A+ RANKINGS AMONG NATION'S TOP UNIVERSITIES

Earning grades of A+ from multiple college rankings, Ouachita continues to be recognized among the top universities in the nation. This year's ranking marks the fifth consecutive year that Ouachita has been named among *U.S. News & World Report's* top tier of "Best National Liberal Arts Colleges." It's the seventh year in a row that Ouachita has been named among "America's Top Colleges" by *Forbes*.

"We're always pleased to see external recognition of Ouachita's strength as an outstanding liberal arts university," said Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs. "Though such rankings can't begin to tell the full story of what makes Ouachita truly unique, they do point toward the academic excellence and exceptional value of the Ouachita educational experience."

For students and families looking for an outstanding education combined with great value, *USA Today* and CollegeFactual.com ranked Ouachita among the "Best Nationwide Colleges for Your Money," including an A+ ranking among universities both nationally and in the Southeast. Ouachita is ranked among the top 3 percent of universities in both categories.

U.S. News also ranked Ouachita among "A+ Schools for B Students" for the fifth consecutive year – the only national liberal arts college in the state to make the list. According to *U.S. News*, the A+ ranking features universities where B-level incoming students "have a decent shot at being accepted and thriving – where spirit and hard work could make all the difference."

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP HONORS NADINE BJORKMAN

Nadine Baker Bjorkman, who passed away in February 2015, has been honored with an endowed scholarship for Ouachita students who would not be able to attend the university without financial assistance.

The scholarship will be available to qualified students who are enrolled full-time and who meet the university's academic standards. It will be awarded beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year.

"On behalf of all of us at Ouachita, I wish to express appreciation to Dr. Tom Bjorkman and his wife, Roxanne, for their generosity in establishing this scholarship in honor of Tom's mother, Mrs. Nadine Baker Bjorkman," said Dr. Charles Wright, interim president. "This scholarship will, in perpetuity, serve to assist worthy and deserving students in having the opportunity to attend Ouachita Baptist University."

Mrs. Bjorkman, whose personal and professional life centered around Baptist church life in Arkansas, was born in Charleston in 1921 and attended public schools in Branch and Fort Smith. She wanted to attend Ouachita following her graduation from high school in 1938, but her family was not able to afford the tuition at that time.

Mrs. Bjorkman served as secretary to the pastor at First Baptist Church of Fort Smith in the 1950s. After her husband, Bernie, was transferred to his company's headquarters in Little Rock, she served for many years as secretary to the executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Before retiring in 1983, she was appointed as the Arkansas state representative for the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board (now Guidestone Financial Resources), the first woman to serve as a state representative on the Annuity Board.

Mrs. Bjorkman is survived by her son, Tom Bjorkman, and his wife, Roxanne, who live in Blue Hill, Maine, and her granddaughter, Anne, and husband, Hannes, who live in Oberwinter, Germany.



photo by Andy Henderson

LORD OF THE FLIES EXPLORES FEAR & CONFLICT

Ouachita's Department of Theatre presented Nigel Williams' *Lord of the Flies* based on William Golding's original novel of the same name in Verser Theater during the fall semester.

Lord of the Flies begins shortly after a plane crash on a deserted island in which a group of school children are the only survivors. While trying to survive, the children are confronted and divided by ideas of democracy, power, civilization and fear of what else may be on the island. The children soon experience change and begin to fall victim to themselves.

"*Lord of the Flies* is a wonderfully written novel, and it shows us what we are capable of doing to one another when our survival instincts kick in," said Drew Hampton, director of the production and OBU assistant professor of theatre arts. "There's no getting around it; this is a dark, heavy story. I think its value comes from showing us an illustration of what we can become if we're not careful."

Lead roles included Kathleen Suit, a senior theatre arts major from Hot Springs, Ark., as Jacklyn; Tyler Lewis, a senior theatre arts major from Magnolia, Ark., as Ralph; and Cody Walls, a sophomore musical theatre major from Fort Smith, Ark., as Piggy.

.....

OBU STUDENTS HAVE RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL, *JoVE*

Ouachita students Jace Bradshaw and AlleaBelle Gongola were recently accepted for publication in *JoVE*, the *Journal of Visualized Experiments*, for their scientific research paper, "Rapid Verification of Terminators Using the pGR-Blue Plasmid and Golden Gate Assembly."

Citing their achievement, Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences, noted, "Very few undergraduates actually have a paper published, much less published while they are still in undergraduate school."

The two-part project began after Gongola, a senior psychology major from Dardanelle, Ark., began her research in bioinformatics, a field that uses computer software to analyze DNA. Gongola first became interested in the project after taking an Intro to Bioinformatics course in the spring. Upon completing the course, she was invited by Dr. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology, to extend the class and conduct extra research.

Bradshaw, a junior biology, chemistry and physics major from Arkadelphia, Ark., became involved in the project after taking classes in bioinformatics and genetics and working in synthetic biology. He took Gongola's data from bioinformatics and used it to synthesize the information into real sequences of DNA to test in cells.



iLUMINATE DANCE TEAM LIGHTS UP JPAC STAGE

iLuminate, a dance company that combines technology with popular dance in glow-in-the-dark performances, lit up the Jones Performing Arts Center stage Sept. 15.

iLuminate made its national debut on *America's Got Talent* in 2011 and went on to an off-Broadway run at New World Stages in New York City. The internationally acclaimed company features dancers in electrified glow-in-the-dark suits performing choreography and illusions on a darkened stage. The group came to Ouachita from an international tour, including such destinations as Hong Kong and Malaysia.

The show was part of Ouachita's 2015-16 Art Series. Describing iLuminate as "an exciting and dynamic group," Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of Ouachita's School of Fine Arts, said, "We are excited that our Art Series is bringing in well-known guest artists that have performed for large audiences around the world on national television."

OUACHITA NAMES NEW REGISTRAR & DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICES

Susan Atkinson and Rachel Jones have been named to new positions at Ouachita. Atkinson, a Ouachita alumna and longtime staff member, was named Ouachita's registrar and director of admissions effective Aug. 1, 2015. She succeeded Judy Jones, who retired after 20 years in that role. Rachel Jones was named director of career services at Ouachita effective Dec. 1. She succeeded Rachel Roberts who had served in that role since 2014.

Affirming that Judy Jones "is highly respected both on campus and throughout the state for her work over the last 20 years as Ouachita's registrar and director of admissions," Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs, added that "we are fortunate to have Susan Atkinson stepping into this important role."

Atkinson served for the past 11 years as administrative assistant to the dean of the School of Humanities. She was named Ouachita's 2012 Support Staff Member of the Year. Atkinson holds two degrees from Ouachita, a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a Master of Music Education degree.

Rachel Jones previously served as marketing director for Sodexo on the Ouachita campus and as a hall director and assistant director of recreational life at Ouachita. She also has held staff positions at Midwestern State University and University of the Ozarks.

"Rachel will be a fantastic ally for our students and recent graduates," said Dr. Keldon Henley, vice president for institutional advancement. "She will represent Ouachita well as she seeks to expand our network of potential employers."

Rachel Jones holds a Bachelor of Science degree in international business with minors in Spanish, management and marketing from Oklahoma State University. She currently is pursuing a master's degree in human resource development from Midwestern State University. Her husband, Wilson Jones, is head coach of the Ouachita men's soccer team.



photo by Grace Finley

FESTIVAL KICKS OFF CHRISTMAS SEASON

Highlighting the theme, "We Need a Little Christmas," Ouachita's School of Fine Arts presented its 24th annual production of *A Festival of Christmas* on Dec. 4 and 5 in Jones Performing Arts Center.

Noting that the production featured "snow, fun, Santa, kids, sleighs, bright Christmas sweaters and baby Jesus," Dr. Jon Secrest, musical director of the show, described *A Festival of Christmas* as "our Christmas card to the community."

Other production personnel included Dr. Scott Holsclaw, professor of theatre arts, stage manager; Stacy Hawking, a senior musical theatre major, choreographer; and Lauren Hutcheson, a junior musical theatre major, assistant choreographer. Eric Phillips, professor of theatre arts, directed the technical aspects of the show with assistance from Stephen Vaughn, interim technical director for JPAC, and Marshall Pope, theatre shop technical director.

In addition to students from OBU's Division of Music and Department of Theatre Arts, dancers from Arkadelphia's Dance Praise and local children in the Ouachita Honor Choir performed. Ensembles included Concert Choir, Ouachita Singers, Women's Chorus and Ouachita Sounds.



photo by Kelsey Bond

SUZIE GRESHAM CROWNED MISS OBU 2016

Suzie Gresham, a senior business administration/management and marketing major from Hope, Ark., was crowned Miss Ouachita Baptist University on Oct. 23. She will represent Ouachita in the 2016 Miss Arkansas Pageant this summer.

“This honor is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Gresham, who represented the OBU softball team in the pageant. “I’m so grateful for the opportunity to represent and serve as Miss Ouachita Baptist University.”

Along with being crowned Miss OBU, Gresham received a \$1,000 scholarship from the university as well as wardrobe, photography, consultations and other gift packages from supporting businesses. Gresham was also the recipient of the Dr. Wesley Kluck Photogenic Award, People’s Choice Award, the Bethany Whitfield Alpha Swimsuit Award, the MaryLacey Thomson Alpha Evening Wear Award and the Bethany Briscoe Toney Presence and Poise in Evening Wear Award.

Gresham is the daughter of Ben and Jamie Gresham of Hope, Ark. She is captain of the OBU softball team. Her platform is First Aid First: Taking Initiative Guarantees Emergency Response Sooner (TIGERS).

First runner-up was Kathryn Barfield, a senior biology major from New Boston, Texas. Second runner-up and winner of the Academic Award, the Children’s Miracle Network Miracle Maker Award, the Kiley Jane Wright Alpha Award and the Kristen Glover Belew Private Interview Award was Stoni Butler, a senior psychology major from Camden, Ark. Third runner-up and winner of the Mac Sisson Alpha Talent Award and the Miss Congeniality Award was Alexis Morgan, a junior choral music education major from Frisco, Texas. The pageant was directed by OBU alumnus Justin Harper and hosted by Ouachita’s Student Senate.



photo by Andy Henderson

OBU STAGES *JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH*

Ouachita’s Department of Theatre Arts presented its annual fall children’s musical, *James and The Giant Peach*, Sept. 23-28 in Verser Theatre.

Based on the book by Roald Dahl, this newly adapted play follows protagonist James Henry Trotter, who, after his parents are killed by an escaped rhinoceros, is forced to live with his two cruel aunts. One summer afternoon, James stumbles across a strange old man who gives him the recipe for happiness and great adventures. Hailey Weiner, a junior musical theatre major from Maumelle, Ark., played the role of James.

“This show is a culmination of musical wit and humor,” said Kyle Osmon, a senior musical theatre major from Rogers, Ark., who served as stage manager and assistant director for the show. He described the production as “an incredible show that balances pure imagination and spectacle right before your eyes.”

SEABAUGH AMONG ORGAN DONORS TO BE HONORED AT ROSE PARADE

Shelby Seabaugh, a former Ouachita student who died in 2014, will be honored as part of a float in the 2016 Donate Life Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif. The Rose Parade is held each year on New Year’s Day and is seen by millions of people from across the United States and around the world.

Seabaugh’s image will be featured as one of 60 memorial floragraphs – portraits made of flowers – during the parade. Each memorial portrait will honor an individual who donated organs and tissue. The float’s theme is Treasure Life’s Journey.

Seabaugh’s portrait will be completed by her family and friends in Arkansas before being shipped to Pasadena for the Rose Parade.

Seabaugh, a junior Christian studies/philosophy major at Ouachita, was visiting at home during spring break when she died unexpectedly on March 27, 2014. She is the daughter of Mike and Laurie Seabaugh. Mike Seabaugh, a 1985 Ouachita graduate, is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Magnolia.



photo by Wesley Kluck



photo by Wesley Kluck



photo by Andy Henderson



photo by Andy Henderson

Homecoming 2015 celebrates Ouachita campus community

From crowning a new Homecoming Queen to a Tiger football victory to an outstanding Tiger Tunes production, Homecoming 2015 highlighted “Traditions, Touchdowns & Tunes” as students and alumni gathered on campus for the annual celebration.

Homecoming “is such a huge part of everyone’s fall experience at Ouachita,” noted Ouachita Alumni Director Jon Merryman. “The addition of OcTiger Fest, OcTiger Feast, the Homecoming Street Festival, Purple Plaza Party, Tiger Alley itself – all of these things in the past 10 years have really strengthened an already great tradition.”

This year marked the first time in history that the Homecoming football game was televised. Ouachita’s 26-21 victory over Harding University aired locally on KATV-2 as well as nationally on the American Sports Network and Sinclair Broadcast Group affiliates. OcTiger Fest, a time for current and former members of social clubs, athletic groups and academic departments to reunite, was held at Cliff Harris Stadium prior to kickoff.

Bonnie Magee, a senior accounting major from Conway, Ark., was crowned Ouachita’s 2015 Homecoming Queen during the pre-Homecoming game ceremony. Magee, who represented Tri Chi women’s social club, serves as president of Tri Chi and also is a little sister for Kappa Chi men’s social club, a member of the Ouachita

Student Foundation and a tutor for the America Counts program.

“I was so incredibly surprised to be crowned Homecoming Queen,” Magee said. “I love Ouachita so much, and it is such a blessing to know that students voted for me!”

Members of the Homecoming Court included first runner-up Abby Root, a junior speech communication and theatre education double major from Arkadelphia, Ark., who represented Eta Alpha Omega men’s social club; second runner-up Gail Lange-Smith, a sophomore dietetics and nutrition major from Zimbabwe, who represented the International Club; third runner-up Kayla Walker, a junior musical theatre major from North Little Rock, Ark., who represented Alpha Psi Omega national theatre honor society’s 2017 class; and fourth runner-up Emily Weeden, a junior worship arts major from Rogers, Ark., who represented Eta Alpha Omega men’s social club, where she serves as a sweetheart.

Ouachita’s 37th annual Tiger Tunes on Oct. 1-3 was presented by the Ouachita Student Foundation. 2015 Tiger Tunes winners included the Tri Chi Matches, 1st place and People’s Choice Award; Eta Alpha Omega Dads, 2nd place; and Kappa Chi Safari, 3rd place. Abby Root, who helped direct the Campus Activities Cats show, received the Shelby Seabaugh Spirit of Tunes Award.

Ouachita honors Alumni Milestone Award recipients

Ouachita's 2015 Alumni Milestone Awards, presented at halftime during the Ouachita Tigers' Homecoming victory at Cliff Harris Stadium, honored outstanding graduates from the classes of 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005. Recipients included Larry Kircher, Larry Grayson, Mary Pat (Cook) Anthony, Andrew Clark and Jessica (Gartman) Bubbus.

"I'm constantly amazed at the impact our alumni make in their communities and their fields of work and service," said Jon Merryman, director of alumni. "This year it was great to honor those in so many different fields: banking, state convention service, education, music and small business."

The Alumni Milestone Award recipients were selected by a committee of Ouachita faculty and staff to represent their respective classes during this year's Homecoming festivities. The 2015 honorees' educational and professional achievements include:

Larry Kircher ('65): Dedicated to serving his community of Bald Knob, Ark., Kircher founded the White County Community Foundation, co-founded the Bald Knob Public Education Foundation and the White County Single Parent Scholarship Fund and has served nearly 50 years as a deacon and treasurer at Central Baptist Church. He also has served on numerous boards including the Ouachita Baptist University Board of Trustees and Arkansas' Independent Colleges and Universities as well as the Arkansas Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association. He has served two terms on the Arkansas Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts Foundation Board.

Kircher retired in 2014 from Citizens State Bank in Bald Knob after 45 years of service. He and his wife, Molly (Goforth) Kircher ('64), have two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



photo by Grace Finley

Larry Grayson ('75): After earning his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Ouachita, Grayson studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned Master of Music Education and Master of Church Music degree from Samford University. He has served churches in Arkansas, Alabama and North Carolina and most recently served 13 years as associate pastor of music and worship at First Baptist Church of Lewisville, Texas.

Grayson, a native of Camden, Ark., now lives in Bryant, Ark. He currently serves as music and worship consultant for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Mary Pat (Cook) Anthony ('85): After graduating from Ouachita, Anthony completed her master's degree in education in 1986 and began her teaching career at Southside Elementary School in El Dorado, a magnet school for gifted and talented students, where she taught for 16 years. Anthony then served nine years as director of education for SouthArk Community College before returning to the elementary school classroom at Hugh Goodwin Academy in 2011. She has earned numerous awards for excellence in teaching, including the El Dorado Public Schools Teacher of the Year Award, NISOD Teacher Excellence Award, Outstanding Arkansas Head Start Award and SouthArk Teacher of the Year.

Anthony retired in 2012, completing 26 years in education. She and her husband, Aubra Anthony, Jr., live in El Dorado.

Andrew Clark ('95): After earning his bachelor's degree from Ouachita, Clark earned his Master of Arts degree in music from the University of North Texas and completed post-graduate work in choral conducting at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., and in organ and hymnology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

After serving as a minister of music/organist for churches in Arkansas, Texas and Georgia for 15 years, Clark was named executive director of the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra in 2008 and recently served on the board of directors for the League of American Orchestras. He also serves as the parish musician at St. James Church in Texarkana and is an adjunct faculty member of Texas A&M Texarkana.

Clark and his wife, Angela, live in Texarkana, Ark. They have two children, Drew and Preston.

Jessica (Gartman) Bubbus ('05): After graduating from Ouachita, Bubbus worked in public accounting before moving into not-for-profit accounting with the Arkansas Baptist Foundation. In 2010, she and her husband, Alan, started a restaurant called David's Burgers in Conway, Ark., which now includes six locations throughout Central Arkansas with plans to open three more by the end of 2016.

Bubbus is a passionate advocate for adoption and foster care, adopting two boys in 2013. She and her husband live in Little Rock with their four sons, David, Evan, Ethan and Moses.

'COMMUNITY' CAPTURES ESSENCE

"Ouachita is a wonderful place to learn about community in all of its beauty, difficulty and richness."

OF THE OUACHITA EXPERIENCE

By Scott Haynes

For incoming freshmen, community at Ouachita begins the moment Mom and Dad drive up 8th Street. WOW (Welcome to Ouachita's World) orientation leaders cheerfully grab furniture, clothes racks, comforters and all the necessities for dorm life and carry them up to their new home. RAs and resident directors – also known as dorm moms and dads to many alumni – greet freshmen as they receive their first ID card and key. Roommates, suitemates and hall mates introduce and reintroduce themselves, not yet fully realizing how close they will become over the next four years on Ouachita's wonderful campus.

While I experienced a similar welcoming as a student many years ago, I was wholly unprepared for the warm reception we received upon our return to life on campus as staff. On the day our moving truck arrived at Flippen-Perrin Hall, my new staff and their friends walked up ready to grab furniture, clothes racks, comforters and the many other household goods we brought across the country from Colorado. My wife, Katie, was seven months pregnant with our first child at the time and was unable to lift a single box, and these relative strangers were all too happy to let her direct traffic within the apartment. I provided some direction on the truck, and in less than an hour all our belongings were inside our new home.

Ouachita is a wonderful place to learn about community in all of its beauty, difficulty and richness. The many types of communities on campus provide opportunities to experience others from various backgrounds and families, skills and talents, experiences and goals. In class, students will sit by cross country runners and Enactus members, and they'll work on projects with Ouachita Singers and Dr. Jack's baristas. In residence halls across campus, students will study together, work out cleaning schedules (or not) and generally stay up way too late watching Netflix. Together they'll worship at Refuge and cheer on the Tigers all season long. And although many aspects of student life take place within the "bubble," Ouachita's community expands beyond its campus as well.

The Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community takes our students outside of campus in ways that directly share the love of Jesus with others. Every semester, hundreds of students give their time and energy to help citizens of Arkadelphia in need of young bodies to move, reach, lift and repair. Other students spend time each week with members of the community who just need a listening ear or a role model. And through the Daniel and Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education, Ouachita's community expands beyond even the borders of our nation, both by sending students out into the world as well as bringing the nations into Arkadelphia.

In your first days at Ouachita, the entire campus body was set before you. You were a stranger in a strange land, welcomed and embraced by faculty, staff and fellow students. When Katie and I returned to Ouachita, while we were fresh and unsure, we were still loved and accepted and welcomed home.

There is no doubt that you made many friends throughout your time at Ouachita, many of whom you still see and speak with today. Some may have stood by you at your wedding, showered you with gifts at the birth of your child, grieved with you during times of tragedy and celebrated with you in your accomplishments. And just as when I was a student, now my wife and I and our daughters have a whole new set of lifelong friends with whom we worship, grieve and celebrate. This is the community of Ouachita, but it is also the community of the church.

In Romans 12, Paul writes, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another." I have no doubt that my four years as a student living on campus at Ouachita taught me what true, Christian community is like. Back then I felt the difficulty when I just wanted to be alone but had three others sharing the same space, and I enjoyed the excitement when those same three friends were the only people who saw the engagement ring before I gave it to Katie. Too recently I've grieved alongside students and faculty in the death of students, knowing that our mourning was for ourselves and not for the deceased.

Today, most of you are more removed from Ouachita's very special community. And I suspect that when you first arrived at your latest station in life, you weren't swarmed by a team of strangers who took all your possessions into your home. But no matter where you reside, you still exist within communities. You might have neighbors next door and across the street, or there might be three other units on the same landing of your apartment building. Perhaps you work in a large building with many offices, or maybe you walk past any number of storefronts on your way to work each day.

As you reflect on your time within the community at Ouachita, I urge you to consider how God may be calling you to share His love with the others you encounter across the communities where He has placed you now. Those first days of college were exciting and difficult, but they were worthwhile because they were fueled by the expectation that those roommates, suitemates and hall mates were destined to become lifelong friends.

When you welcome others and accept them into your life, you invite the opportunity to rejoice with them and to mourn with them. When we reach out to establish community wherever we find ourselves today, not only do we carry out Ouachita's legacy, we carry the love of Christ Jesus into the world.



Scott Haynes, a 2006 magna cum laude graduate of Ouachita, has served since 2012 as dean of students. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in counseling from Denver Seminary. He and his wife, Katie, also a 2006 Ouachita graduate, are the parents of two daughters, Suzanne and Julie.

Dr. Charles Wright, professor emeritus of music and retired dean of Ouachita's School of Fine Arts, was named interim president of Ouachita by the university's Board of Trustees effective August 1, 2015. In a question-and-answer session with *The Ouachita Circle*, Dr. Wright reflected on his role as interim president of his alma mater:

Q: As a Ouachita alumnus and longtime faculty member, what were your initial thoughts and feelings when you were invited to serve as interim president?

A: "When Board Chairman Jay Heflin came to my office and told me that the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to ask me to serve as interim president, I was speechless, which is rare for me. I had a variety of emotions at that moment. First, I was amazed at this invitation; then, I was both humbled and honored at being asked to serve as interim president at this place I love and have loved since I stepped on the campus as a freshman in 1955. Then, I felt blessed that God had given me this opportunity of service at this stage of my life at this special place."

Q: What are the most significant changes you have seen at Ouachita since your days as a student?

A: "Although our enrollment has gone from approximately 400 students to 1,500, I am amazed that the changes primarily have been in the areas of number of students; size of the campus; the addition of many wonderful facilities; the increase in number of faculty; expansion of areas of instruction and degrees; many, many more cars on campus; and schools have replaced departments. Much is said about how the students have changed, but I do not agree with this. Oh, the dress has changed significantly, but their hearts are the same. Most of them love God and are interested in preparing to leave Ouachita with a degree in hand and going out in this needy world to make a difference. And they are."

Q: What has been one of your favorite or most meaningful experiences so far in your current role?

A: "I think my greatest joy was having the opportunity to deliver the convocation address at the beginning of the fall semester.

Other meaningful experiences were the times I was able to entertain large groups of students in the president's home, enjoying the privilege of interacting with them on a personal basis. I love students and love being around them. They make you feel young."

Q: What are a few of your primary priorities and goals for your tenure as interim president?

A: "My first priority as interim president is to 'do no harm.' Ouachita is a beautiful and wonderful place as it is, and I certainly do not want to be a source of any problems that the next president would inherit. My goal since taking this position has been to follow the words of Jesus when He said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. And, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' This actually was the theme of my convocation address. Ouachita always has embraced and demonstrated great love for our students and for each other. One feels the presence of God on this campus and witnesses the demonstration of such love as we work together to make Ouachita the greatest place it can be."

Q: How do you view Ouachita's long-term future as university leaders prepare to call a new president?

A: "I believe, without a doubt, that God already has chosen our new president, and that He will lead our presidential search committee to that person. Believing this, I have great confidence that God has many great goals for us to accomplish in our future. God has protected Ouachita for 129 years. Why would I have any doubts that He intends to protect us in the future? Ouachita has been blessed and, I believe, will continue to be blessed by God."



with
**Interim President
Charles Wright**



Ouachita Interim President Charles Wright, retired dean of the School of Fine Arts, speaks at the McBeth Recital Hall Gala held on campus in September.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

New Elrod Center facility is hub for volunteerism, servant leadership

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Declaring that “this dedication has been long anticipated by me,” Dr. Ben M. Elrod expressed appreciation to family, friends and colleagues who gathered for the June 11 dedication of the new home of Ouachita Baptist University’s Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community.

“This beautiful building is like a dream come true,” Dr. Elrod said. “It will be a worthy house for the home of the center.”

Dr. Elrod, who served from 1988 to 1998 as Ouachita’s 13th president, led in creating and endowing the center in 1997 to coordinate and facilitate public service, volunteerism, servant leadership and community engagement by Ouachita students, faculty and staff. Trustees named the Elrod Center in his honor following his retirement.

The new two-story office complex is located on the corner of 6th and Cherry streets on the Ouachita campus. It features the Heflin Community Room named in honor of the Heflin family, including special appreciation to Sharon Heflin, who chaired the fundraising committee for the new facility. Other named rooms include the Whipple Conference Room named in honor of Ross and Mary Whipple, who have supported the work of the Elrod Center since its inception both personally and through the Ross Foundation and the Palmer Conference Room named in honor of Gordon and Melbare Palmer, personal friends of Dr. and Mrs. Elrod who wished to honor their service to Ouachita.

The new center also includes several staff offices as well as a reception area and kitchen facilities. The facility is being funded by gifts from the Heflin Family Foundation, J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, Keith Smith Company, Morris Foundation, Olds Foundation, Ray White Lumber Company and the Ross Foundation as well as generous gifts by Dr. and Mrs. Elrod and several other individual donors.

Welcoming guests to the dedication service, Jay Heflin, chairman of the Ouachita Board of Trustees, affirmed that “today is indeed a special day to be at Ouachita. We have the privilege of celebrating and honoring two Ouachita legends as we dedicate the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community. Dr. and Mrs. Elrod are truly difference makers.”

Citing the Elrod Center’s mission to involve students and faculty in “dedicated service to humankind through the educational experience,” Heflin said, “In 2014 alone, the signature Elrod Center programs like ElderServe, America Reads, America Counts, Tiger Serve Day and others had over 2,100 volunteers who have almost

20,000 volunteer hours. By the Elrod Center’s encouragement and example to the rest of the Ouachita community, right at 3,800 volunteers gave over 55,500 hours of volunteer time to the Arkadelphia community” during the past year.

“Dr. and Mrs. Elrod shine a beacon for all of us to follow. Their example has been lighting the way for others on Ouachita’s campus for decades,” Heflin emphasized. “Dr. and Mrs. Elrod have exemplified service above self.”

Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement, has served as director of the Elrod Center since its inception. Noting that the work of the Elrod Center “is a story that’s tied to the transformed lives of students impacted over the past 18 years,” he said a primary goal of the center is to equip Ouachita graduates “to be generous men and women in all the ways that generosity can be measured,” including time commitment, compassion, creativity and sharing material resources.

“Thank you for being here today for the opening of this beautiful building that will facilitate the flow of compassionate students, faculty and staff who wish to honor God with their hearts and their minds and to love others as Christ has taught us to do,” Cosh concluded. “I hope we are going to wear this building out through the energy and creativity that our students always bring to their endeavors and in particular their commitment to serve.”

Outgoing Ouachita President Rex Horne said the dedication service provided a reminder of a family, a man and a mission as well as a great resource and a great impact. Citing the influence of Dr. Elrod and his family, Dr. Horne described Dr. Elrod as “a man who showed great courage, great wisdom and continues to do so on behalf of Ouachita.”

The Elrod Center’s mission of service “is a huge part of what Ouachita is and should always be,” Dr. Horne said, adding that the center is a vital resource that equips and encourages students to be involved in activities that impact people’s lives.

“I want to thank all of you for sharing this dedication with us today,” Dr. Elrod responded. “It’s always a pleasure for us to come back to Ouachita where so much of our lives have been invested.”

Since his retirement as president in 1998, Dr. Elrod said, “I am still under God’s mandate to ministry. The center was the answer to my continued ministry, helping young people to realize there’s life outside themselves and that being a servant, serving other people is to be like Christ.” He said that goal is being accomplished as the Elrod Center helps “teach young people how to serve and not be served.”

“I hope we are going to wear this building out through the energy and creativity that our students always bring to their endeavors.”

- IAN COSH



A photograph of Barrett Baber performing on stage. He is wearing a dark leather jacket and dark pants, holding a microphone and singing with an expressive face. The background is dark with a vertical strip of bright, out-of-focus lights on the left side.

Ouachita's musical talent shines in national spotlight

Ouachita's outstanding musical talent has hit the national spotlight repeatedly this past year – from *America's Got Talent* to *The Voice* and the Dove Awards to a Tony Award-winning musical.

The biggest breakout star was former Ouachita student Barrett Baber ('02*) who finished as second runner-up in *The Voice* finale on NBC. Baber, who grew up singing in his high school choir and at church, said it wasn't until he came to Ouachita on a vocal scholarship in 1998 that he began to fully develop his passion for music.

"Really when I got to Ouachita is when my journey began as a songwriter and as a performer," he noted. "That's where I really learned how to sing and how to control my voice."

As a freshman, Baber earned a spot in the Ouachita Singers. He said he enjoyed learning and growing with fellow students under the guidance of Dr. Charles Fuller, but that he didn't know how much he would need them until a tragic close call.

In 1999, on a flight home from a Ouachita Singers tour, Baber's plane skidded off the runway and burst into flames. Twenty-three of the 25 in Ouachita's group survived, and he attributes much of his emotional healing to music and his friendship with the other survivors.



photo courtesy of NBCUniversal

“There have been a lot of occasions in my life in which music really saved me,” Baber said. “I wasn’t going to let that one day define the rest of my life, and I think a lot of that has to do with music and certainly the music that I was making with Dr. Fuller and the Ouachita Singers. More importantly, the relationships that were forged in that moment with those other people still exist today.”

Baber is no stranger to music competition success. In 2014, he won the nationwide Grammy Gig of a Lifetime competition based on public online voting and also won the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism’s Song of Arkansas contest with co-writer Kenny Lamb. He even auditioned for season 2 of *American Idol* and made it to the top 48.

Baber said his audition on *The Voice* came at an opportune time in his life. He felt prepared for it because of all the years he’d spent performing and songwriting. And the praise from the judges affirmed the effort he had invested in his skill.

Following Baber’s performance on *The Voice* finale, judge Blake Shelton responded, “Everything that you perform, you put your own spin on it so there’s nobody else out there like you, man, and that’s probably the thing that’s going to be the reason that you go on and you make it in country music after this. There’s nobody else on the radio that sounds anything like you.”

“Not only is it a humbling experience, more than anything it’s a validation of a lot of years of grinding away and honing a craft,” Baber said. “My goal is to get better and to be better at what I do at the end of this process.”

Reflecting on the influence that Ouachita has had on his journey, Baber added, “I wouldn’t be who I am as an adult and as a father and as a husband and just as a person if it wasn’t for the time that I spent at Ouachita.”

In addition to Baber’s success, Triple Threat made it through several rounds of NBC’s *America’s Got Talent*. Triple Threat, a trio from Benton, Ark., includes two 2015 Ouachita graduates, Tyler Davis and Will Richey, as well as Caleb Conrad, a student at the University of Arkansas.

Following the group’s performance of MKTO’s song “Classic,” Howie Mandel called the trio a “real boy band” and Howard Stern labeled them “beautifully nerdy.” The results? Triple Threat earned a standing ovation and four “yes” votes from the celebrity judges for their audition performance.

After their initial appearance on *America’s Got Talent*, a video of their performance posted by KARK-4 News went viral with several million views. The trio, which made it to the show’s live performance

round at Radio City Music Hall, also has released a seven-song EP titled “Got It Covered.”

During their time on the show, Ouachita was “a really good support system,” Davis said. “Every professor was congratulating us, telling us how good of a job we’re doing, and just the friends that we’ve made at Ouachita have been so supportive.”

In other recent recognitions, Sharon (Floyd) Phillips (’78*) and her sister-in-law, Dixie Phillips, received a 2015 Dove Award for Gospel Song of the Year during the 46th annual Dove Awards pre-telecast. They wrote the song “Hidden Heroes” which was recorded by the Christian music group The Talleys.

Sharon and her husband, Don, met as students at Ouachita. Married for 37 years, they have served at Calvary Baptist Church in East Camden for 30 years. Sharon, a stay-at-home mom who taught voice and piano, began co-writing songs with her sister-in-law in 2011. They were third runners-up in the 2011 Singing News Songwriters Search with their song, “Hope Was Carved in a Rolling Stone” and won the grand prize the following year with “Hidden Heroes.” As a result, The Talleys recorded their winning song, leading to this year’s Dove Award recognition.

Inspired by experiences Sharon and Dixie have had with caregivers in their churches and families, “Hidden Heroes” paints a picture of the struggles that caregivers endure to provide for those in need. The song affirms that while their efforts may not be glorified in this life, the caretakers will be rewarded in heaven.

“Never discount what God can do with your life,” Sharon said. “Even though I knew God had given me the gift of music, I felt like it was limited to this, this and this. But God wanted to expand that, and who knows what He has for me in the future.”

Jody Alan Lee, a 2011 Ouachita alumnus, made his national tour debut this past fall with his role in the Tony Award-winning musical *Million Dollar Quartet*. The production opened Oct. 1 at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers, Fla., and will travel across the Midwest through June 16, stopping in Arkansas on Feb. 26 and 27.

The musical is inspired by the historic 1965 recording session that brought together music icons Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley for the first and only time. The musical features legendary rock hits such as “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Great Balls of Fire” and “Walk the Line.”

Lee, who holds a bachelor’s degree in music and theatre, was involved in Concert Choir, Jazz Band and the Ouachita Singers. “I am very proud of Jody’s accomplishments,” said Dr. Margaret Garrett, associate professor of music and Lee’s voice teacher during his time at Ouachita. “His commitment and dedication to his craft are to be commended.”

“Ouachita gave me a lot of the tools to succeed and the confidence to actually go out and achieve,” Lee said. “More than anything, it was my professors’ genuine interest in my career goals. There is something to be said about having people believe in you.”

Compiled by Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications, with reporting by Barrett Gay and Evan Wheatley, staff writers for The Signal, and Cimber Winfrey, a news writer for the OBU News Bureau



GLOBAL

MISSIONS

COMES HOME

Ouachita students spend summer serving and learning in Japan

By Paige Turner



Emily Long pulled out a selfie stick and Japanese friends instantly crammed in around her and threw up their fingers in a V-sign, or peace sign, the signature photo pose among young Asians.

The party's end apparently signaled a selfie outbreak as Southern Baptist International Mission Board Face2Face interns and Japanese students flashed broad smiles for their phone cameras. This was the last international friendship party of the summer for Long and the six other collegiate interns, which meant capturing memories and lots of goodbyes.

These Face2Face interns made a number of Japanese friends during their summer with IMB missionaries Jeff and Lori Loomis in Nagoya, Japan. Face2Face is a summer opportunity for students to serve with IMB missionaries in South or East Asia and learn from missionary mentors.

Long, a senior business administration major at Ouachita from Hot Springs, Ark., had already met a lot of people at the party. Those she hadn't met during the summer, she wasted no time greeting at the door and welcoming in for a night of games, singing and sharing salvation testimonies.

For someone far from her southern roots in Arkansas and who doesn't feel called by God to live and serve overseas, Long wasn't



bashful about jumping into a summer of cross-cultural ministry. She willingly talked with strangers and risked being ignored for the sake of possible opportunities to talk about Jesus.

“Wherever you are, whoever you’re talking to, that’s your mission field at that moment,” she said, no hesitation in her voice.

Although Long came into Face2Face knowing she probably wouldn’t live overseas as a full-time vocational missionary, she’s confident that she, just like every believer, is called and responsible to help spread the gospel among people who don’t know and have never heard about Jesus.

Her Face2Face summer cemented that in her heart and taught her more about sharing the gospel back home, starting with the people she loves most.

“The sense of urgency I felt with friends I made in six weeks,” Long explained, “how much more should I feel that urgency for friends I’ve known for years?”

In Nagoya, that urgency became real when she came face-to-face, perhaps for the first time, with the reality that people aren’t just far from God; they aren’t even seeking Him.

The standout reasons that caught Long’s attention? Materialism and wealth.

“They are striving so hard for something that’s going to go away so quickly,” she said.

Of course, chasing after temporary and earthly things isn’t unique to Japan, and there will be plenty of opportunity for Long to share eternal hope in Jesus in the business world. She said she knows relationships aren’t always top priority among some business professionals who focus just on getting things done. But that’s something this compassionate student prays she can change.

Intentionality is a life-changing takeaway for Long after her summer in Nagoya. Four days a week the interns ate lunch on local university campuses in order to meet students and share the gospel.

“We sought them out,” Long said. “You have to seek out people. You have encounters with people, and it’s up to you” to turn conversations toward the gospel.

Face2Face also taught the interns that even believers not in vocational Christian

ministry must be willing to get outside what’s comfortable and familiar.

For intern and fellow Ouachita student Spencer Bryson that meant becoming a karaoke regular so he could hang out with Japanese friends who enjoyed singing, especially popular American songs.

“Be open to every opportunity you get,” urged Bryson, a senior Christian studies major. “Be faithful with all the little opportunities.”

Bryson, who like Long is a member of First Baptist Church of Hot Springs, wants to be a pastor or help start a church in the U.S. A summer abroad helped prepare him

“Wherever you are, whoever you’re talking to, that’s your mission field at that moment.”

to lead his future congregation to partner with missionaries overseas and get believers to become involved overseas and on mission.

“I want to help send,” Bryson explained, and to do that he needs to understand what “missions looks like overseas. What am I sending people into?”

Bryson learned he would be sending believers into a world where people want to know that missionaries care enough to take time to learn their culture. For example, last year Bryson and Long took two semesters of Japanese at Ouachita. For Long, the payoff came during the summer when introducing herself or saying simple phrases instantly got someone’s attention. She even learned a praise song in Japanese.

For Bryson, Long and their Face2Face colleagues, such experiences as language and culture learning, intentionality, no comfort zone and sharing the gospel with urgency all became life-changing lessons for students ready to impact the nations with the gospel right where they live, with the skills God has given them.

“I’m getting a business degree, but I want to use that to reach people,” Long said. “I want to make the most of the time I have with someone. I want to be intentional in showing Christ’s love.”



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BENSON-WILLIAMS FIELD HONORS MEMORY OF COACH BUDDY BENSON

Legendary Ouachita football coach Buddy Benson was honored Sept. 12 as the Ouachita Tigers' longtime A.U. Williams Field was renamed and dedicated as Benson-Williams Field.

The recognition included dedicating a bust and plaque in honor of Coach Benson in the concourse of Cliff Harris Stadium. The field originally was named in honor of Dr. A.U. Williams, a Hot Springs physician who donated land for Ouachita's first football field more than a century ago in 1912.

Benson, who served as the head football coach at Ouachita from 1965 to 1995, passed away in 2011 at age 77. Among numerous honors throughout his coaching career, he was inducted into the Ouachita Athletic Hall of Fame, Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame and NAIA Hall of Fame.

Ouachita alumnus Rex Nelson, Tiger football's longtime play-by-play announcer, emceed the dedication ceremony prior to Ouachita's home opener of the season.

Describing Coach Benson as "an Arkansas and sports legend," Nelson introduced Benson's widow, Janet; son, Gary Benson; daughter, Laurie Jordan, and their families; and dozens of former Tiger football players who played under Coach Benson.

"For 31 years, Coach Benson was the head coach of the Ouachita Tigers," Nelson said. "This stadium was his sanctuary and this sideline was his pulpit." He emphasized that Benson "was a winner and he taught his players to be winners."

Benson recorded the most coaching wins in college football history in Arkansas. He compiled a 162-140-8 record during his 31 seasons at Ouachita, including four conference championships and two trips to the NAIA national playoffs. He coached 16 All-American players and 208 All-Conference selections and was named Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year four times.

The Ouachita position was Benson's first and only collegiate head coaching job after four years as an assistant coach under Rab Rodgers. During his tenure as head coach, the Tigers earned the program's 300th and 400th milestone victories. After retiring from coaching, Benson served as OBU's athletic director until 1999.

"I have been blessed with having the opportunity to coach at a wonderful institution and to have the honor to work with so many fine young men over the course of the years," Benson said in 1995

as he made the transition from head coach to athletic director. "I tried, along with my fellow coaches, to teach them not only about football but also about the true values of life."

Cliff Harris, who played for Coach Benson at Ouachita before going on to an All-Pro NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys, reflected on Benson's coaching career and personal impact.

Coach Benson "really cared for his players and for our well-being," Harris said. "His influence really was about challenging us to dig deeper and reach within ourselves to achieve levels we would not have thought possible otherwise."

On the collegiate level, Benson played for the University of Arkansas and is best remembered as a leader on the 1954 team that won a Southwest Conference championship.

"When you think of Coach Benson's legacy, he basically molded young boys into young men through hard work and discipline, while building character at the same time," said Ouachita Athletic Director David Sharp, who played and coached for Benson and succeeded him as AD.

"His loyalty to Ouachita was immeasurable," Sharp added. "He is Ouachita football. When you think of Ouachita football, you think of Coach Benson."

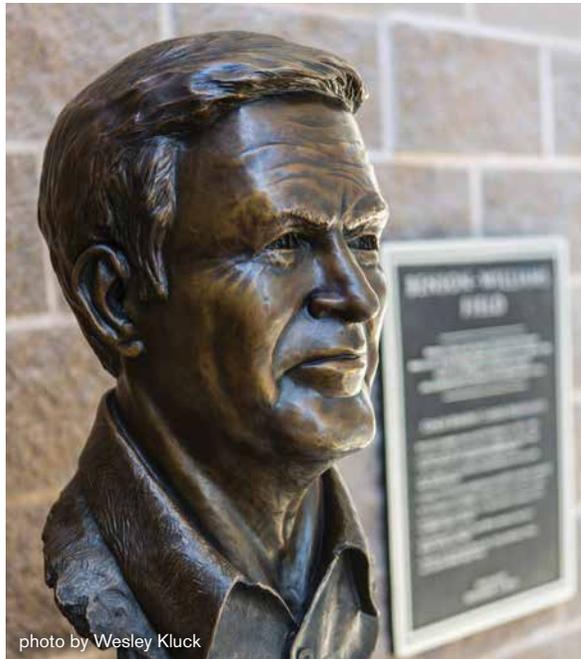
In addition to Benson's recognition, Rex Nelson was honored during halftime activities at Homecoming for his 30-plus

years of service as the Tigers' football play-by-play announcer. Nelson, a 1982 Ouachita graduate, currently is director of corporate communications for Simmons First National Corp.

Introducing Nelson to the Homecoming crowd, Dr. Casey Motl, the Tigers' public address announcer, noted that Nelson "has given back so much to his alma mater for over 30 years."

"From this day forward in the George Dunklin Family Press Box at Cliff Harris Stadium, the home radio booth will be known as the Rex Nelson Radio Booth" in honor of Nelson's dedication and contributions to Ouachita football, Motl announced.

"We are pleased to honor Rex Nelson in this way," Sharp affirmed. "His commitment and enthusiasm reflect his strong loyalty to his alma mater and Ouachita football. The Rex Nelson Radio Booth will stand as a lasting tribute to Rex's outstanding talent and service."



OUACHITA INDUCTS FIVE MEMBERS INTO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Four former student-athletes and one former coach were inducted this fall into the 2015 class of the Ouachita Athletic Hall of Fame.

JACK MILLS, FOOTBALL, CLASS OF 1966

Mills enrolled at OBU in 1962 and enjoyed a stellar football career, catching 106 passes for 1,325 yards and 13 touchdowns. He earned All-Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference Honorable Mention in 1963 and was First Team All-AIC in 1964 and 1965. After graduating, he played for both the Orlando Panthers and the Texarkana Titans in the Continental Football League. Mills, who was honored posthumously, is survived by his wife, Meredith; daughters, Lexi and Peyton; and son, Cliff.

VICTOR ALMARAL PALAFOX, TENNIS, CLASS OF 1979

Palafox, who grew up in Guadalajara, Mexico, joined Ouachita's men's tennis program as a freshman in 1975. Over the next four years, he led the Tigers to three AIC championships. Palafox was the AIC singles champion for four consecutive years, posting an undefeated record in AIC competition. He was named to the All-AIC Tennis Team four consecutive years. After college, he competed on the European Tennis Tour. He then served as the tennis pro at Hot Springs Country Club until 2008. He and his wife, Lori, have two adult children and three grandchildren.

TOMMY PATTERSON, BASKETBALL, CLASS OF 1972

Patterson entered Ouachita in 1966, playing basketball his freshman year before joining the U.S. Army where he served three years, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Returning to OBU in 1970, he helped lead the Tigers to a second place AIC finish in 1971 and an AIC championship in 1972. He was named to the NAIA District 17 Team and was an NAIA Second Team All-American. He was drafted by the NBA's Baltimore Bullets in 1972. Patterson, who was honored posthumously, was represented at the ceremony by his daughter, Kelana Patterson Meadows.

FRANK TAYLOR, MEN'S GOLF COACH, CLASS OF 1959

Taylor, who also served as Ouachita's registrar, began coaching golf in 1975. Over the next eight years, he transformed Ouachita's golf team into a championship caliber program. He led the Tigers to several AIC championships and four NAIA national golf championships. He and his wife, Eddie Lou, are retired and live in northwest Arkansas. They have three children, Lisa Schmitz, Tricia Newman and Rob Taylor.

OLGA PALAFOX TOMMEY, TENNIS, CLASS OF 1979

Tommey was born in Cuba and lived in Mexico City early in her life. She enrolled at Ouachita in 1975 and became OBU's first female international tennis player. Tommey was so talented that she competed on the men's tennis team. Playing singles and partnering with her cousin, Victor Almaral Palafox, in doubles competition, she helped lead the team to three AIC tennis championships. She and her husband, Dale, live in El Dorado. The Tommeys have one daughter, Maria.

HATCHER NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA D-II WOMEN'S SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Haley Hatcher, a senior forward on the Ouachita Tigers women's soccer team, has been named the Academic All-America Player of the Year for NCAA Division II women's soccer by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Hatcher, a mass communications major with a 4.0 GPA, is a three-time GAC Offensive Player of the Year. She led the Tigers to an 11-7 record as a senior, finishing with 19 goals and two assists while starting all 18 matches.

"I cannot speak highly enough about Haley," said Head Coach Kevin Wright. "Haley is the most prepared player I have ever coached. She deserves every recognition that is awarded to her."

"Haley is the embodiment of the term 'student-athlete,'" agreed Ouachita Athletic Director David Sharp. "Her success on the field and in the classroom is special and I'm so pleased to see her efforts being recognized on a national level."

"It honestly is just such an honor to receive this award!" Hatcher said. "I wish my whole team could receive it with me because they all work so hard and deserve it right along with me."

"These skills are not my own; they are all from God," she added. "I'm just so lucky to have been a part of this amazing program Coach Wright and David Sharp have established."

Hatcher is a three-time All-GAC First Team selection and was named the GAC Offensive Player of the Week seven times in her career. Her 55 goals in 56 games are a GAC record and she ranks third among active D-II players in goals per game. She was named to the D-II Conference Commissioners Association All-Central Region First Team in 2014 and 2015 and was a National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Central Region Second Team pick in 2013 and 2015.



photo by Grace Finley

GAC SOCCER CHAMPS Ouachita defeated Oklahoma Baptist University 2-0 to win the inaugural Great American Conference men's soccer championship. The Tigers also won the regular season title and Head Coach Wilson Jones was named GAC Coach of the Year.

CLASS NOTES

connecting the circle

1940s

Walter Mizell

(’43) celebrated his 100th birthday this past year. Mizell, a founding member of Beta Beta men’s social club, is pictured with his great-grandson



Andrew Steely, a sophomore kinesiology major and current Beta Beta member at Ouachita.

1960s

Doyle Combs (’66) established the American Patriots Jazz Orchestra featuring former and active members of the U.S. armed forces. The Colorado Springs-based band produced the Salute to Swing show highlighting music of the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s and is booked throughout the nation as a Wounded Warriors Project Benefit Show.

Walter “Jiggs” Ramsey (’67) was inducted into the Arkansas Insurance Hall of Fame.

Willye (Newburn ’67) Talley was inducted into the 2015 Peake Hall of Fame, announced by The Buffaloes Foundation during the **John L. Ware** (’73) Scholarship Breakfast in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Becky (Smith ’69) Henry recently retired as an assistant state attorney for the 20th Judicial Circuit in Fort Myers, Fla. She previously served as an assistant attorney general for the state of Florida.

1970s

Ronald Williams (’70) was appointed special associate justice of the Supreme Court of

Arkansas by Gov. Asa Hutchinson for a case that went before the Arkansas Supreme Court this past summer.

Dr. Timothy Matthews (’76) is the medical director of pathology and clinical laboratory at Baptist Health Louisville, the second largest hospital in Kentucky. He also is president of ELP Pathology Medical Group. He and his wife, **Paula (Cooper ’76)** have one son, Jon, who is an attorney.

Terry Barber (’77) published a new book, *Kulture Klash: An Allegory*. It is written as an allegory about corporate culture that unfolds at the foot of Mt. Sinai during the Mesopotamian Era. He helps organizational leaders create cultures that form environments for quantum leap innovation and growth.

Bonnie Dinkel

(’77) reached the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro on Sept. 9, 2014. She was able to raise \$1 for each foot climbed which is a total of \$19,341 for Friends of Kids with Cancer. She set out to climb Kilimanjaro in honor of those who have cancer and those who beat it and in memory of those who lost their battle with cancer. She was inspired by a friend who recently had lost his battle with brain cancer.



Dr. Jim Spann (’79) was appointed to the senior technical position of chief scientist for the Science and Technology Office of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. In this position, he will provide leadership to all Marshall Space Flight Center programs, projects and activities. He is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in astrophysics, heliophysics and lunar and Earth system science. He has received numerous awards and achievements including a group Silver Achievement Medal for his leadership

on the MSFC Portfolio Tactical Team. He resides in Huntsville, Ala.

1980s



Dr. Dale Bascue (’82), who previously served as director of area missions and church planting catalyst in Wyoming, is now serving as the evangelism strategist for the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention. During the state convention annual meeting held in November at Bar Nunn Baptist Church, he was joined by three other alumni: **Cliff Case** (’84), **Zach Edwards** (’03) and **Rebecca Seago** (’09).

Paulette (Burriss ’82) Hill was hired by Arkansas State University Mountain Home as the college/career coach to serve Cotter and Flippin school districts.

Rex Nelson (’82) has been named director of corporate communications for Simmons First National Corporation. He previously was president of Arkansas’ Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Paul Williams (’83) has been appointed chief of medical staff-elect at Baptist Health Medical Center and will serve next year as chief of medical staff.

Dr. Rob Koonce (’84) is the lead editor and an author of a book titled *Followership in Action: Cases and Commentaries* that will be published in early 2016 by Emerald Group Publishing in the United Kingdom.

Mike Moore (’84) recently completed his 30th season as head baseball coach at Sheridan

High School. This past season, he reached his 500th career win and the team won its first state championship under his leadership. He also was named the All-Arkansas Preps High School Baseball Coach of the Year. He and his wife, **Marla (Whitworth '84)**, live in Sheridan.

Mike Wallace ('85) has been appointed to the board of directors for Sigma Holdings, Inc., which is the parent company of The Bank of Rison, where he will also hold a position on the bank's board. He has extensive background in the financial and medical sales industry and personally organized Bull Run Capital, LLC in 2002.

Steve Bowman ('86) was chosen as a 2015 Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame inductee. He is an accomplished outdoor writer and editor. The inductees were chosen based on their sacrifice, contributions and talents.

Deana (Doss '86) Day was named by KTIV News 4 in Sioux City, Iowa, as news director for the NBC affiliate. She previously worked at WTOK-TV in Meridian, Miss., where she was a co-anchor for the evening newscasts.

Robin (Harwell '87) Fleming was named vice president of site operations, development operations and quality assurance at Angie's List.

He previously operated his own law firm in Memphis, Tenn.

Lannie Byrd ('97) is chief operating officer of Team SI, a digital marketing firm in Little Rock. Team SI, which employs 17 Ouachita alumni, recently was named to the 2015 Inc. 500, an annual list of the 500 fastest-growing private companies in the nation. This is the first year the Arkansas-based firm has been named to the list and the first time an Arkansas company has been recognized since 2010.

Rebekah (Spencer '99) Bryant received a DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award which is a national initiative that honors the work of extraordinary nurses and specifically focuses on the special compassion nurses give their patients. Bryant was nominated for the honor by Baptist Health's DAISY Award committee.

three children, Emma, Abby and Nathan. They recently moved to Charleston, S.C., where he is serving as an assistant professor of Christian studies at Charleston Southern University.

Deondra (Morris '01) Merritt has earned her master's degree in school counseling and a specialist degree in psychology and counseling from Arkansas State University. She and her husband, Ben, both have accepted positions as licensed mental health therapists at Families, Inc., in Jonesboro, Ark.

Krista Smith ('01) graduated in May with highest honors from the Master of Arts in Professional and Technical Writing program at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. She was also inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.



Cristen (Curtis '01) Wathen and her husband, Chris, live in Bozeman, Mont., where she is an assistant professor in the counseling program at Montana State University. He works as a fire marshal for the Idaho National Laboratory. They are expecting a daughter in April.

Gary ('03) and Marie (Bryant '04) Keene moved to Hot Springs, Ark., where he is the lead worship pastor at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and she is a personal lines customer service representative for Alliance Insurance Group. They previously were serving in ministry in the New Orleans area. They have two children, Jamie (8) and Noah (7).

Brandon Gattis ('04) married **Amy Garrett ('04)** on March 14 in Hope, Ark. They live in Arkadelphia where she is the assistant director of the Grant Center for International Education at Ouachita. He works for the Little Rock Fire Department.

Laura Cox ('09) has been accepted into Harvard Law School. She began law school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and transferred to Harvard this past fall to complete her final two years of study.

.....2000s

Corey Colbert ('00) was chosen as the National Occupational Therapist of the Year for LHC Group and Elite Home Health. He was selected from more than 30 states and 350 agencies nationwide. The award was presented at the American Occupational Therapy Association national conference in Nashville, Tenn. He has worked for Elite Home Health for eight years and is responsible for six counties in northwest Ark.

Matt Reddin ('00) has been named chief lending officer for Simmons Bank. He will work to develop community bank lending teams and also will have a leadership role in the bank's loan approval structure.

Jeffrey Verlander ('00) has been promoted to southwest district manager after managing LifeWay Christian stores for 13 years. In his new position, he oversees the largest sales volume district in the nation, which includes 34 stores. He and his wife, Rebecca, live southwest of Fort Worth, Texas. They have three sons, Jacob, Spencer and Carson.

Dr. Jonathan Watson ('00) has earned his PhD in systematic theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, **Karen (Moore '00)** have

.....1990s

Dr. Lane Harrison ('93) graduated in May from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree with a focus on Christ-centered expositional preaching. He currently is the lead pastor of LifePoint Church in Ozark, Mo., which he began as a church plant 11 years ago. He and his wife, **Christin (Smith '94)**, have been married for 22 years and have two children, Joshua (16) and Bethany (14).



Kyle Wiggins ('94) has been named senior director and operations counsel for Kindred Rehabilitation Services, a division of Kindred Healthcare, Inc. in Louisville, Ky.

FACULTY & STAFF UPDATE

PROFESSORS ATTEND NEH SEMINARS

Dr. Barbara Pemberton and Dr. Amy Sonheim joined with scholars and educators from around the world to participate in National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminars. Pemberton, professor of Christian missions and director of the Carl Goodson Honors Program, was invited to NEH's *American Muslims: History, Culture and Politics* seminar at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Sonheim, professor of English, participated in NEH's *America and China: 150 Years of Aspirations and Encounters* seminar at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. NEH works to strengthen teaching and learning for the humanities in institutions across the nation.

WOLFE JOINS ACRL TEACHER TRACK

Lacy Wolfe, circulation/reference librarian in Riley-Hickingbotham Library, attended the Association of College and Research Libraries Teacher Immersion Program in early August. The five-day conference held at Seattle University featured more than 300 programs for instruction librarians. The Teacher Track Program focused on individual development for those interested in enhancing, refreshing or extending their individual instruction skills.

ONLINE STAFF EXPLORE TRENDS

Ashlee Giles, director of online and concurrent enrollment programs; Dr. Rob Hewell, coordinator of online course development; and Marla Rigsby, instructional design and technology specialist for Ouachita Online, attended the Distance Teaching & Learning Conference in Madison, Wis. The conference brings together distance education professionals to learn about the latest trends, techniques and research in the field. Ouachita Online offers online undergraduate degrees in business administration and Christian studies.

HENSLEY & REYNA'S WORK HONORED

Dr. Lori Hensley and Dr. Nathan Reyna were recognized for their research and presentations at the Southeast Regional

Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Conference held in Biloxi, Miss. Hensley, the J.D. Patterson Professor of Biology, gave one of five oral presentations in the cancer session. Her presentation, "The Cancer CURE," detailed how her research in pediatric cancer was used to create a class lab for Ouachita's Cell Biology course. Reyna, associate professor of biology, presented a bioinformatics poster about work in his lab by undergraduates Jace Bradshaw and AlleaBelle Gongola, who recently were published in the scientific journal, *JoVE*.

DEWITT PRESENTS FITNESS RESEARCH

Dr. Terry DeWitt, chair of Ouachita's Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies, presented research at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C. DeWitt presented his poster, "Four Week Lumbo-Pelvic Hip Complex Intervention Program and Its Effects on Tuck Jump Assessment in Active Youth." He shared study results on lower extremity rehabilitation and injury prevention, specifically the jump landing techniques of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

MONROE NAMED OUTSTANDING PIANIST

Susan Monroe, Ouachita staff accompanist, received the James Ronald Brothers Award for Outstanding Collaborative Pianist at the 40th annual Southern Region National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) conference held recently at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Conference participants included students from universities and private studios in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

EATON SPEAKS TO CREATIVE WRITERS

Dr. Thomas Eaton, a composition instructor in OBU's Department of Language and Literature, was a guest speaker at the 2015 Ozark Creative Writers Conference in Eureka Springs, Ark. He presented "Supernatural Affection & American Gothic: Landscape as Spirit of the Western Motif." During the conference, Eaton also released his debut collection of Americana short stories, *Stories from Mission County*.

2010s

Alex Ray ('11) married **Lindsey Wright ('09)** on Aug. 1 at Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock. They now live in Alexander, Ark.



Paul Huenefeld III ('12) married **Ashley Briggs ('14)** on March 20 at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock. They now live in Little Rock and both work at Fellowship Bible Church where he is the audio engineer and she is a worship leader and girl's discipleship pastor.

Katie Steele ('12) married Christopher Ricci on Sept. 13 at the Frisco Heritage Center in Frisco, Texas.

John Gomez ('12), a graduate student at Rice University, was selected for the 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. He is one of 21 current Rice students and among only 2,000 students across the nation offered this fellowship. He will receive support for three years of graduate study in the area of chemical theory, models and computational methods.

Jacob Lively ('12) married **Gracie Lundstrum ('15)** on Aug. 8 in Rogers, Ark. They now live in Little Rock, Ark. Jacob is in his final year at the University of Arkansas School of Law and Gracie is pursuing her master's degree in strategic communication through Regent University.



Ryan James ('13) married **Taylor Stanford ('13)** on May 30 at First Baptist Church in Benton, Ark. They now live in Little Rock where he is in his second year of medical school at the UAMS College of Medicine and she is in her third year of pharmacy school at the UAMS College of Pharmacy.



Craig Daniell ('15) married **Kelsi Bodine ('14)** on Aug. 22 in Webb City, Mo. They now live in Little Rock where he is the associate recreation minister at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church and she is the communications director and senior policy advisor for Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin.



Signe (Vang '00) Carlson and her husband, Michael, adopted daughter Esther on Dec. 9, 2014.



MyLisa Speer ('13) has accepted a position as a speech language pathologist at Christus St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital in Texarkana, Texas.

Evan and Katie (Meador) Greenwood ('15) moved to Irving, Texas, where he is a pneumatics operations manager at Triumph Accessories in Grand Prairie and she is a graphic designer and creative lead at Balfour Corporate.

Doug ('01) and Jessica (Coleman '00) Connell

welcomed son Luke on Feb. 11. He joins older siblings Ethan (12), Baxter (10), Maranatha (8), Silas (6), Moses (4) and Theo (2). They live in Woodland, Wash., where he is the associate pastor over discipleship and counseling at Woodland Christian Church; and she just published her first book, *One Thing*, and writes Bible studies for Lifeway Christian Resources, as well as offers encouragement for women on her website, JessConnell.com.



Jake Fauber ('14) married **Nicole Mattson ('14)** on Jan. 10. They now live in Bentonville, Ark., where he is pursuing a career as a musician and she is a merchandising assistant at SAM's Club home office.



FUTURE TIGERS

..... 1990s

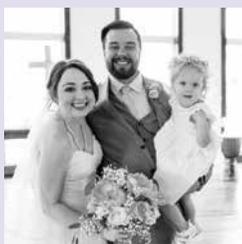
Aaron ('98) and Karen (Wood '98) Black welcomed son Zachariah on Feb. 14. He joins big sisters Ella Ruth (6) and Emmie (4).



Christa (Black '00) Gifford and her husband, Lucas, welcomed daughter Birdie James on June 21. She joins big brother Moses.



Zach Smith ('14) married **Amanda Nitcher ('14)** on July 10 at Rustic Grace Estate in Van Alstyne, Texas. They now live in Batesville, Ark., where he is the pastor of student ministries at Compass Church and she teaches K-6 at Cedar Ridge Elementary School.



..... 2000s

Ashley (Stacy '00) Bell and her husband, Joshua, welcomed daughter Daphne Karen on Feb. 20. She joins big brother Evan (9) and big sister Audrey (7). The Bell family will be moving to London, England, in 2017 to do mission work.



Jodie (Babb '00) Wilson and her husband, Jason, welcomed daughter Kamdyn McKlain Babb on Aug. 7.



Jamie Barker ('15) married **Allie Smith ('15)** on Dec. 27. They now live in Little Rock where he is working on former Gov. Mike Huckabee's 2016 presidential campaign before starting law school at the University of Arkansas Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law and she is attending nursing school at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences.



Allison (Ray '00) Brake and her husband, Peter, welcomed son Asher James on March 21. He joins big brother Owen and big sisters Ava and Lily.

Emily (Maifeld '01) Miller and her husband, Adam, welcomed daughter Ellen Rachel. She joins big brother Graham and big sister Adele.

Laura (Norris '02) Haywood and her husband, Brent, welcomed son John Luke on July 16. He joins big brother Jackson (4). They live in Cabot, Ark., where she is the employee programs coordinator at Southwest Power Pool and recently celebrated her eighth year at the company.





Caroline



Catherine

Jill (Davis '03) Wait and her husband, Brett, adopted twin daughters, Catherine Latrice and Caroline Latrice. They were born on April 25. They join big brother Benjamin.

Ryan ('04) and Laura (Fletcher '03) Spears welcomed daughter Ashby Grace on March 25, 2014. She joins big brother Owen.



Christine (Syptak '05) Hinrichs and her husband, Justin, welcomed daughter Brianna Elise on March 26.



Suzanne (Spillyards '05) Juneau and her husband, Tony, welcomed twin daughters Mari and Grace on May 22.



Nathan ('05) and Christina (Overton '03) Parker welcomed son Noah James on Feb. 24. He joins big brother Levi.



Ben Hawthorne ('06) and his wife, Lori, welcomed daughter Hazel Mae on July 16.



Trey ('06*) and Annabeth (Ebsen '04) Nickell welcomed daughter Elizabeth Scarlett on April 10.



Samuel ('07) and Angela (Grossman '06) Coston welcomed son Moses on May 6. They also adopted son Trent on Jan. 10, 2014.



Amanda (Bowien '07) Frazier and her husband, Jeffery, welcomed daughter Addison Lenora on March 2. She joins big brothers Peyton and Noah.



Kara (Rainey '07) Street and her husband, Wesley, welcomed son Liam Roy on Oct. 30, 2014.



Edith (Hernandez '08) Gates and her husband, Joseph, welcomed daughter Sofia Marie on Nov. 7.



Jonathan and Brooke (Schaefer) Hayes ('08) welcomed daughter Schaefer Olivia on Sept. 26, 2014. She joins big sister Paisley. Brooke recently accepted a position as the manager of group benefits at AXPM management firm in Little Rock.



Nick ('08) and Katie (Crow '10) McGlone welcomed son Grayson James on Sept. 26, 2014.



René and Brooke (Showalter) Zimny ('08) welcomed son Walker Heinz on May 14. Brooke is director of communications and marketing at Ouachita and René is assistant director of graphic services and lecturer in visual arts. René recently completed his Master of Arts degree in graphic design from Savannah College of Art and Design.



Katie (Widdig '09) Owens and her husband, Chris, welcomed twin sons Camden Jay and Christian Graham on May 15.

.....2010s

Garland Butram ('10) and his wife, Emma, welcomed daughter Evelyn Lorraine on March 19.

Hayley (Harper '10) Wreyford and her husband, TJ, welcomed son Jack Winston on May 22.



Jessica (Schleiff '11) Qualls and her husband, Chris, welcomed son Graham Elliot on March 2. They currently are living in East Asia.



Mason ('12) and Hayley (Nolan '10) Hayes welcomed son Charles "Cash" Nolan on May 27. He joins big sister Ellie Kate (2).



Brandon and Karis (Crosby) Briscoe ('13) welcomed daughter Riley Joy on Aug. 21.



Andrew ('13) and Carla (Eubanks '11) McCraw welcomed Hayden Russell on March 9. They now live in Plano, Texas, where he is a band director in the Dallas independent school system and she is a speech pathologist in the Plano independent school system.



Faculty & Staff

Todd Allen and his wife, Kristi, welcomed son Elliston Grant on Nov. 23. He joins big brother Leeson and big sister Emmerson. Todd is OBU's head wrestling coach.

Adam Haas and his wife, Danielle, welcomed daughter Beatrix Luella on June 9. Haas is a visiting assistant professor of music.

Dr. Joe ('66) and Charlotte (Williams '78) Jeffers welcomed grandson McCoy Tatum on June 2. Dr. Jeffers is the Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Professor of Chemistry and Pre-Medical Studies.

Dr. Allyson Phillips and her husband, Cameron, welcomed son Cameron James on April 24. Dr. Phillips is an assistant professor of psychology.

OUACHITA FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED FOR COMBINED 775 YEARS OF SERVICE

Gathering for Ouachita's annual Faculty/Staff Banquet, the university recently honored 41 faculty and staff members with a combined total of 775 years of service to Ouachita.

Among the longtime faculty and staff members honored, Dr. Ben M. Elrod and Janice Ford were recognized for 40 years of service each. Dr. Elrod, a 1952 Ouachita graduate, served as Ouachita's 13th president in 1988-1998 and has served as chancellor since his retirement as president.

"I am pleased to offer my congratulations to a man I have known and loved for more than 50 years," said Interim President Charles Wright. "I wish to thank our God for bringing Dr. Ben Elrod to Ouachita more than 40 years ago as vice president for development and then blessing us again with his presidency."

Janice Ford, who holds degrees from Ouachita and Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, serves as professor and government resources librarian. She has held several positions at Riley-Hickingbotham Library, including working with interlibrary loans, circulation, reference, periodicals, cataloging and the Sen. John L. McClellan Collection.

"I am fortunate to have the opportunity to congratulate Janice Ford for her 40 years of dedicated service to Ouachita," Dr. Wright noted. "To be more specific, I wish to commend her for her unique ability to secure on loan from other libraries virtually any document or book that our students or faculty members might want or need. This is a rare talent. Janice truly is an asset for Ouachita."

In addition to Dr. Elrod and Ford, 39 other faculty and staff members were recognized for major service milestones.

"To those faculty and staff members who received 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 year awards, we wholeheartedly congratulate you and thank you for committing your life to service at Ouachita," Dr. Wright said. "You help make Ouachita a place where love and respect for each other abound. I believe this is why so many of our people choose to make Ouachita a lifetime venture."

Faculty and staff recognized include:

35 Years of Service – Kevin Sullivan, facilities management.

30 Years of Service – Charolette Allison, executive secretary to the president; Dr. Steve Hennagin, professor of mathematics; Dr. Scott Holsclaw, professor of theatre arts; Sherri Phelps, director of human resources; Dr. Doug Reed, associate vice president for academic affairs and the Herbert and LaDelle Moody Professor of Pre-Law Studies; Ruby Williams, facilities management.

25 Years of Service – Dr. Nancy Hardman, the Edna and Freda Linn Professor of Communication Sciences and Pre-Medical Studies; Deborah Lee, facilities management; Loretta Shepherd, post office clerk; Craig Ward, men's tennis head coach.

20 Years of Service – Garry Crowder, women's basketball head coach and instructor of kinesiology and leisure studies; Robin Green, facilities management; Laurie Huneycutt, School of Fine Arts administrative assistant; Dr. Glenda Secrest, professor of music; Molly Wallace, health services director; Kim Ward, Ward Tennis Center manager.

15 Years of Service – Dennis Brashier, facilities management; Dr. Detri Brech, professor of dietetics; Dr. Kevin Cornelius, professor of physics; Larry Dyess, facilities management; Dr. Kent Faught, the Jay and Lynn Heflin Professor of Business; Tracey Knight, Pruet School of Christian Studies administrative assistant; Martha Womack, Campus Ministries administrative assistant; Jennifer Yates, Riley-Hickingbotham Library building services.

10 Years of Service – Anita Black, Hickingbotham School of Business administrative assistant; Danny Chote, facilities management; Amy Eubanks, adjunct biology faculty; Dr. Jim Files, associate professor of accounting; Melinda Fowler, IT Services programmer; Patricia Fowler, registrar's office; Tim Harrell, director of campus activities; Kevin Herrington, web services coordinator; Jonathan Hughes, facilities management; Benny Johnson, facilities management; Dr. Wesley Kluck, vice president for student services; Susan Monroe, School of Fine Arts Division of Music accompanist; Tara Pritchard, Sutton School of Social Sciences administrative assistant; Diane Runyan, Elrod Center for Family and Community administrative assistant.

IN MEMORIAM

..... 1930s

Bruce Lowe ('36) of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Oct. 29, 2014. He is survived by his sons, Woody and Wayne Lowe.

Estelle (Story '37) Parham of Magnolia, Ark., passed away on May 30. She is survived by her sister, **Katherine "Kitty" (Story '43*) Bledsoe**; two children, Jerry Parham and **Jo Ann (Parham '75*) Johnson**; and two grandchildren, Chris and Katrina Johnson.

..... 1940s

Gladys Marguerite (Bowers '40) Palmer of Little Rock passed away on June 23. She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Cox; stepchildren, Craig Palmer and Sherrill Taylor; two grandchildren, Augusta Palmer and Misti Johnson; and six great-grandchildren.

Thelma (Elkins '43*) Crotts of Jonesboro, Ark., passed away on Oct. 1. She is survived by her son, **Mike Crotts ('66)**; two grandchildren, Mekelle Stanley and Robb Crotts; five step-grandchildren, Blake Briscoe, Leighann Warzecha, Susan Greenwood, Dan Briscoe and Wendy Tingle; and four great-grandchildren, Hannah, Jennings, Roxy and R.T.

Rev. H. Frank Dearing ('43) of Belton, Texas, passed away on Sept. 26. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Dearing; sister, Dee Kelly; three children, Sharon Baxley, Stewart Dearing and Paul Dearing; five grandchildren, Bonnie Singleton, Kyle Dearing, Jared Dearing, Kirk Baxley and Kayla Clayton; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Betty Sue (Hightower '47*) Fikes of Benton, Ark., passed away on July 25. She is survived by her sister, Joann Knight; five children, **Mike Fikes ('70)**, **Connie (Fikes '72) Mitchell**, **Mark Fikes ('76)**, **Corinne (Fikes '80) Thomas** and Jennifer Crowson; 13 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

David Hall ('47*) of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 9. He is survived by his wife, Polly Fletcher-Hall; brother, Gary Hall; three children, Jay Hall, Jon Hall and **Jana (Hall '88) Wells**; three stepchildren, Linda Fincher, Jim Fletcher and David Fletcher; eight grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

Carisma (Ryan '47) Roth Sims of Little Rock passed away on Oct. 13. She is survived by her husband, Marion Sims; daughter, Camille Bell; two granddaughters, Tonya Munnerlyn and Jennifer Collins; two great-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Dr. S. Otho Hesterly ('49*) of Little Rock passed away on Sept. 1. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie Hesterly; four children, Dr. Patricia Tolbert, Leigh Ann Hicks, Ernest Hesterly and Janie Wilkerson; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Dorothy "Dot" (Wright '49*) Watkins of Ruston, La., passed away on Aug. 30. She is survived by her sister, Joan Mead; four children, Gayle Barnard, Jim Watkins, Alan Watkins and Mark Watkins; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

..... 1950s

Marjorie (Hickman '50*) Hargis of Hamburg, Ark., passed away on Nov. 23. She is survived by her son, Jimmy Hargis; two grandchildren, Matthew Hargis and Elizabeth Moseley; and two great-grandchildren.

Patty Jo (White '50*) Jenkins of Little Rock passed away on Nov. 18. She is survived by her husband, Jim Jenkins; brother, James White ('54); daughter, Deborah Clevenger; two grandchildren, Logan Rockwell and Lauren Cude; and two great-grandchildren.

Harold Taylor ('52) of Blacksburg, Va., passed away on July 19. He is survived by his wife, Carol Taylor; siblings, Peggy Beason, Mary Spalinger and Don Taylor; three children, Laura Taylor, Joel Taylor and Todd Taylor; and four grandchildren, Seth, Hayley, Joshua and Matthew.

Rev. Walter Magouyrk ('56) of Douglassville, Texas, passed away on March 4, 2013.

Thomas Privett ('56*) of Lonoke, Ark., passed away on July 11. He is survived by his wife, Linda Privett; and daughter, **Lisa Privett ('81)**.

Beatrice "Bea" (Rodgers '56*) Walker of Mountain Home, Ark., passed away on Nov. 22. She is survived by her husband, **Dr. Richard Walker ('56)**; son, **Boyd Walker ('88)**; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Rev. Collum Birdwell ('59) of Troy, Ill., passed away on Aug. 16. He is survived by his wife **Roberta (Andrews '59*) Birdwell**; and two children, **John Birdwell ('80*)** and **Robin (Birdwell '84) Ishmael**.

Marr (McDonald '59*) Hathaway of North Little Rock passed away on June 19. She is survived by her sons, Randy and Brad Hathaway; sisters, Sherry Smith and Linda Jones; and five grandchildren, Kristin, Caleb, Rahela, Gabriela and Mihaela Hathaway.

..... 1960s

Wilma "Jean" (Bradsher '60*) Griffin of Benton, Ark., passed away on Oct. 9. She is survived by her husband, **Gerald Griffin ('61)**; sister, Faye Hodnett; two children, Jeffery Griffin and Debbie Griffin; and three grandchildren, Andrew, Austin and Aden Griffin.

Jack Nowlin, Jr. ('60*) of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 22. He is survived by his brother, **Larry Nowlin ('74*)**; daughter, Andria Beckham; stepdaughter, Anne David; two grandchildren, Sarah and Jack Beckham; and two step-grandchildren, Jack and Caroline David.

Ted Harrison, Jr. ('61) of Hughes, Ark., passed away on July 10. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth (Davis '61) Harrison**; sister, **Ann (Harrison '59) Fitzgerald**; two sons, **John ('87) and Paul ('90) Harrison**; and five grandchildren, Davis, Ashley, Andrew, **Kelsey ('18)** and Chloe Harrison.

Donald “Don” Holbert (’61) of Little Rock passed away on Sept. 27. He is survived by his wife, Linda Holbert; brother, Richard Holbert; son, Steve Holbert; and granddaughter, Hayden.

LTC Glenn Hollis (’61) of Miramar Beach, Fla., passed away on Aug. 4. He is survived by his wife, Karen Hollis; children, Glenn Hollis, Kevin Hollis and Mariko Jenkins; and seven grandchildren, Jonah, Aiden, Duncan, Chase, Jade, Addyson and Taylor.

James Ronald “Ron” Kimbell (’61) of Camden, Ark., passed away on May 27. He is survived by his wife, Sue Kimbell; and brother, Raymond Kimbell.

Lois (Woodcock ’61) Loyd of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on July 11. She is survived by her husband, **W. Richard Loyd, Jr. (’61)**; brother, James “Sonny” Ingram; three children, Lori Eliason, Ginger Teegarden and Richard “Buddy” Loyd III; and two grandchildren, Nicholas Loyd and Jagur Eliason.

Stephen “Steve” Palsa (’63) of Carlisle, Ark., passed away on Nov. 4. He is survived by his siblings, Elsie Raborn, George Palsa and Jerry Palsa; daughter, Eve Reed; and three grandchildren, Parker, Kilee and Landon.

Rev. John Finn (’64*) of Melbourne, Ark., passed away on Oct. 7. He is survived by his sister, Emogene McKinnie; son, Rod Finn; two grandchildren, Kimberly Sharpe and Lori Phillips; and six great-grandchildren, Lorn Galliano, Ashlyn Sharpe, Meagan-Grace, Emma-Rae, Matthew and Eliza Phillips.

Ruby (Hawthorne ’64) Swanigan of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away June 9. She is survived by her husband, Richard Swanigan; three sisters, Nina Langley, Bernice Bewley and Grace Koller; six brothers, Doyle, Richard, Dan, JD, Grady and Gilbert Hawthorne; four children, **GyElla (Swanigan ’96) Hinton**, LaVona Traywick, **Nancy (Swanigan ’03) Stephens** and Nolan Swanigan; and seven grandchildren, Austin, Carter, Caleb, Luke, Ella, Julie and Julia.

Billy “Bill” Blasingame (’65*) of Alma, Ark., passed away on Nov. 3. He is survived by



photo by Andy Henderson

STEPPING UP FOR OUACHITA LUNCHEON HONORS OUACHITA ALUMNA BETTY OLIVER

By Brooke Zimny, OBU Director of Communications and Marketing

At its sixth annual Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon, Ouachita honored 1958 OBU alumna Betty Oliver while emphasizing the importance of higher education for women. Stella Williams of Sherwood served as chairwoman for the event.

“It’s really not about me,” Oliver noted. “It’s about students getting a higher education.”

“This event raises thousands of dollars for women’s scholarships. That’s really, really significant,” said Dr. Charles Wright, Ouachita’s interim president. “We can only imagine what these scholarships have meant to the women of Ouachita, many times allowing them to complete their studies and go on and make a difference in our world.”

Wright added that Oliver “has many times over distinguished herself as one who has made a difference.”

“When I think of Betty Oliver, certain words come to mind,” Wright said. “A few of them are caring, loving, selfless, generous and gracious, character and, certainly, class. She is indeed a lady with a servant’s heart, always committed to making life better for others.”

A native of Bluffton, Ark., and graduate of Fourche Valley High School, Oliver said she found her love for home economics, which became her lifelong passion, at Ouachita. She went on to earn a master’s degree through the University of Arkansas. She and her husband, Bob, reside in North Little Rock.

“Education has always been paramount with Bob and me,” Oliver said. “We’ve always considered that a higher education was a

very important thing for young people to strive to attain. We have been just a tool to enable many young people to reach their goals to have a faith-based college education.”

Oliver served as staff chair for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension’s Pulaski County program from 1969-2001 and has served as part-time volunteer coordinator for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council since then. Her more than 57 years of service makes her the most senior staff person in the entire University of Arkansas system.

Oliver has served as president of the Arkansas Association of Home Demonstration Agents and vice president of the national association. She earned national recognition for her housing work in Lonoke County and has been honored with the Arkansas Home Economics Outstanding Education Award and the Sister Pierre Vorster Award for Outstanding Volunteer and was inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2004.

Terry Peebles, OBU vice president for development, closed the event with a special thank you to donors, saying, “I hope you see that Ouachita is making a difference, and you can help us make a difference. We appreciate your gifts.”

Stepping Up for Ouachita has raised more than \$350,000 in scholarships for women students since its inception.

“We thank all of you who have had a part in this program and ask you to continue your support,” Wright said. “You have and are making a difference for our students. And I believe we have just begun.”

his wife, Rosemary Blasingame; two sisters, **Pat (Blasingame '59*) Green** and **Linda (Blasingame '64) Newton**; three children, Francie Frank, Angie Spencer and Larry Blasingame; and two grandchildren, Samuel and Adell Spencer.

Thelma Lou (Chapman '65) Libhart of Rolla, Mo., passed away on April 11. She is survived by her brother, Ben Chapman; son, Stephen Libhart; two grandchildren, Mark and Andrea Libhart; and six great-grandchildren, Devon, Cameron, Tyler, Carli, Carter and Cadan.

Eugene "Gene" "Sonny" Spearman ('65) of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Sept. 8. He is survived by his children, Terry Spearman, David Spearman and Kristin Nelson; and five grandsons, Addison, Milo, Keaton, Cameron and Vaughn.

John Carter, Jr. ('66) of Crossett, Ark., passed away on Oct. 11. He is survived by his siblings, Buddy Carter and Gaius Blackburn; son, Kip Carter; stepdaughter, Johnna Sharp; and one grandson, Bryson Carter.

Reba (Kirksey '66) Cooper of Arkadelphia passed away on Aug. 29. She is survived by her children, **Robert Cooper Jr. ('75)**, Rose Ann McCauley; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Dr. Thomas Cunningham III ('66) of Dermott, Ark., passed away on Nov. 6. He is survived by his wife, Carol Cunningham; brother, Jimmy Cunningham; two children, **CPT Tom Cunningham IV ('92)** and Rebecca Camp; three stepdaughters, Carrie Stephens, Emily Landrum and Angie Wilson; five grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

Jeannine (Thomas '67*) Elliff of Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away on July 20. She is survived by her husband, **Tom Elliff ('66)**; sister, Jane Jacobsen; four children, Emily Cox, Amy Jarboe, Sarah Mann and Jonathan Elliff; 25 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Marilyn (Patterson '67) May of Arkadelphia passed away on Sept. 8. She is survived by her husband, Bill May; children, **Joe May ('95*)**, Erin May and Molly Price; three grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

"Mary Kay" Priddy ('67*) of North Little Rock passed away on Aug. 7. She is survived by her sister, Ann Priddy; stepmother, Sybil Priddy; and stepsister, Sunni Throgmorton.

Cheryl (Bechtelheimer '67) Taylor of Salado, Texas, passed away on Sept. 27. She is survived by her sister, **Sheila (Bechtelheimer '76*) Atkinson**; son, Dr. Beck Taylor; and three grandchildren, Zachary, Lauren and Chloe Taylor.

Margie (Dowdy '68) Mattox of North Little Rock passed away on July 2. She is survived by her husband, **Bill Mattox ('66)**; brother, Roy Dowdy; son, Michael Mattox; and two grandchildren, Taylor and Ali Mattox.

BUDDY SUTTON, LONGTIME OUACHITA TRUSTEE CHAIRMAN, REMEMBERED FOR LIFE OF SERVICE

William H. "Buddy" Sutton, who served 10 years as chairman of Ouachita Baptist University's Board of Trustees, died July 2 at age 84.

Sutton, a prominent Little Rock attorney, was a longtime friend and benefactor of Ouachita.

University trustees named the W.H. Sutton School of Social Sciences in his honor in 2008. Ouachita President Rex Horne described Sutton at the time as "a rare individual who brings a blessing to whatever he touches."

Dr. Randall Wight, dean of the Sutton School of Social Sciences, affirmed that Sutton's "wisdom, kindness and inspiration will be missed. May God continue to bless all the work of his heart and hands."

Expressing appreciation for Sutton's lifelong example of professionalism, integrity and service, Wight said the Sutton School is a lasting tribute to Sutton's legacy for the benefit of current and future students.

Sutton, who was born in Hope, Ark., in 1931, holds three degrees from the University of Arkansas: both a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts conferred in 1953 and a Juris Doctor degree conferred in 1959. He also was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Ouachita in 1993.

Sutton's distinguished law career with the Arkansas firm of Friday, Eldredge & Clark stretched more than 45 years, including

11 years as managing partner. During that time, he was honored with the Arkansas Bar Association's Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award and served as president of the Pulaski County Bar Association.

Also known as a dedicated churchman, Sutton served for decades as a deacon

and Sunday School teacher at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. His extensive leadership roles included chairing the 1989 Little Rock Billy Graham Crusade as well as being elected president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in 1991 and 1992, the first layman to hold that position in more than 50 years.

Active in community service, he chaired the Arkansas Sports

Hall of Fame Foundation and the Baptist Health Board of Directors and was named Arkansan of the Year by Easter Seals.

Sutton and his first wife, Peggy Pentecost Sutton, were married for 52 years until her death in 2004. He married Susan Overton Sutton in 2010 who survives. He also is survived by three children, Rebecca Sutton Kirkpatrick, Richard Sutton and Wesley Sutton; one stepson, William Ford Overton; four grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and six step grandchildren.

Sutton's memorial service was held July 6 at Immanuel Baptist Church. Memorial gifts may be made to Ouachita Baptist University, Immanuel Baptist Church or Baptist Health Medical Center.



..... 1970s

Billie (Anders '71) Haynie of Camden, Ark., passed away on July 3. She is survived by her sons, Bill and John Haynie; three grandchildren, Natalie, Andrew and Annie; four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Navy LCDR Elizabeth “Bettye” (Passen ’72) Burns of Escondido, Calif., passed away on March 22. She was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., with full military honors.

Judge L.T. Simes II (’72) of West Helena, Ark., passed away on Oct. 10. He is survived by his wife, Edelma Simes; mother, Nevader Simes; siblings, Raymond Simes, Alvin Simes, Zernon Evans and Jewel Hamilton; three children, L.T. Simes III, Martin Simes and Aurora Provost; and seven grandchildren.

James “Jim” Tabor (’76) of Houston, Texas, passed away on Sept. 21. He is survived by his parents, **James** (’50) and **O’Nolda (Dyer ’52) Tabor**; and two sisters, **Jan (Tabor ’83*) Peeples** and **Joni (Tabor ’77*) Louis**.

Joyce (Hickman ’76) Vation of Little Rock passed away on Sept. 4. She is survived by her mother, Lois Hickman; siblings, William Jr., Lynn, Jimmy Sr., Gary, Tony and Shirley; and grandson, Sultan Williams.

Michael Norwood (’77) of Van Buren, Ark., passed away on June 28. He is survived by his wife, Robbie Norwood; siblings, Pam Toney, Ann Jones and Catherine Thomas; three children, Michael Norwood, Jr., Adrian Norwood and Tiffany Jarrett; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Claudia (Zimmerman ’77) Riley Watson of Arkadelphia passed away on Sept. 15. She is survived by her husband, Bill Watson; and daughter, **Megan Riley** (’79*).

Pastor Robert McGhee, Sr. (’79) of Fordyce, Ark., passed away on July 2.

..... 1980s

Dr. Lynn Lisk (’83) of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on May 3. He is survived by his wife, Ann Lisk; mother, Joanne Lisk-Golden; brother, **Ricky Lisk** (’80*); and two sons, Samuel and Solomon Lisk.

Robbie Simmons (’88) of Collierville, Tenn., passed away on Oct. 10. He is survived by his wife, Dorann Simmons; parents, Bonnie and Sandra Simmons; siblings, Riche and Rebecca Simmons; and two sons, Joshua and Noah Simmons.

..... 1990s

Kyler “Kyle” Moore (’92*) of Little Rock passed away on July 10. He is survived by his parents, **Kenneth** (’65*) and **Ethelene (Hook ’65) Moore**; and brother, Keith Moore.

Charles White, Jr. (’92*) of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 29. He is survived by his mother, Lucille White; and four siblings, Kathy Roe, Vickie White, Teresa Gipson and Daniel White.

..... 2000s

Jarrell “Matt” Lyles (’00) of Camden, Ark., passed away on Aug. 16. He is survived by his mother, Tenna Lyles; and siblings, Gerald Lyles, Paul Lyles, Dennis Lyles, Linda Graves and Lindy Landrum.

..... 2010s

Erin (Faulkner ’11*) Bradham of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on June 1. She is survived by her husband, Seth Bradham; parents, David and Debra Faulkner; brother, **Bryce Faulkner** (’08); and two sons, Paxton and River Bradham.

Faculty & Staff

Norma Taylor of Bethalto, Ill., passed away on Aug. 6. She was a former dorm director at Ouachita. She is survived by her daughters, Laura Rhodes and Judi Corwin; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

* denotes former student

FANNING EXPLORES ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PRIVACY IN BIRKETT WILLIAMS LECTURE

By Cimber Winfrey, OBU News Bureau

Exploring “Ethics and Implications: Remembering the Private Citizens We Once Were,” Dr. Leigh Fanning presented Ouachita’s Birkett Williams Lecture for the fall semester. Dr. Fanning is president of Versiera, LLC, a software engineering enterprise.

The endowed lecture series is held each semester and rotates among Ouachita’s seven academic schools. The J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences invited Fanning, the great-great granddaughter of Dr. John W. “Jack” Conger, Ouachita’s founding president, as the guest lecturer. She addressed the ethical dilemmas that today’s society faces regarding the notion of privacy and the way technology is impacting younger generations who are not yet aware of its implications.

Posing the question, “Should people be tracked like packages?” Fanning illustrated how the ethical issues of privacy often do not have clear answers. In many situations, outcomes can be both beneficial and detrimental depending on perspective and context, she explained.

“On one hand, an individual might suffer from loss of privacy, and on the other hand, a group will prosper with access to that information,” Fanning said. “The converse is also possible. A group may suffer from loss of privacy, and an individual may profit from knowing something about that group.

“Private data is gathered and sold every time we use our phones, get on the Internet or check our e-mails,” she cautioned. “Everything that we do on the Internet, everything we type into Google is being saved.”

For those born after 1980, she said, the growth of technology and the Internet often is seen as innovative and exciting. Those born before 1980 typically are more hesitant to embrace these new technological advances and tend to value privacy more. Fanning suggested that these “disruptions” and varying viewpoints help move society forward and “continue on this path of progress.”



Myra Houser

Assistant Professor of History

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni

Growing up in Southern Africa as a child of missionaries, Dr. Myra Houser never imagined she would one day focus her academic research on the region and present that research around the world.

“Growing up on the mission field, Ouachita felt like home,” Houser said. “With students from all over the world, including Southern Africa, and the director of international studies from the region, Ouachita was the perfect place for me to study.”

With more Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries coming from Ouachita than nearly any other university, it’s no surprise that Houser grew up hearing about Ouachita from other families serving in Botswana and Namibia. Moving back to the United States three years before high school graduation, Houser visited Ouachita her junior year and was warmly greeted by friendly students, faculty and staff.

“I can still remember meeting Dr. Jeff Root on my first visit to campus,” she recalled. “I expressed interest in working on the campus newspaper and Dr. Root took time out of his busy day to give me a tour of the *Signal* offices. It spoke volumes to me and I only applied to one university – Ouachita.”

After graduating from Ouachita in 2007, she earned her master’s degree from the College of William & Mary and her doctorate from Howard University. Houser said she was excited to return home to her alma mater in 2014 as an assistant professor of history.

“I remember being in the car with two other Ouachitonians when I received the call about the position at Ouachita,” she noted. “Being able to serve with colleagues who have known me since I was 16 years old, in a place where I grew so much as a student, is a great blessing. It’s also unique serving here knowing what life is like for students at Ouachita. I understand traditions like Tiger Tunes – I’ve been there! I believe serving on faculty as an alumna I have a strong connection with and understanding of students studying here today.”

“Dr. Houser’s deep understanding, broad learning, articulate insights and gentle leadership attract and impact both students and colleagues,” affirmed Dr. Randall Wight, dean of the Sutton School of Social Sciences. “She has the glow of greatness about her.”

“At Ouachita, teaching the same students in multiple courses allows me to build deeper relationships with them.”

While Houser’s passion is Southern African studies, she also enjoys teaching CORE classes in the liberal arts environment at Ouachita. “I love getting to grow by teaching things outside of my academic emphasis as well as working with students who are stepping outside their field of study,” she explained. “Investing in those majoring in history is also rewarding. In grad school, teaching at a large university, not only did I have limited interaction with students because of the class sizes, but I would have students for only one class. At Ouachita, teaching the same students in multiple courses allows me to build deeper relationships with them.”

“I really value the Ouachita community,” Houser concluded. “We take care of each other and genuinely care for one another! My mentors as a student are just as encouraging and caring now as colleagues. I’m thankful to be serving at Ouachita.”



James Taylor

Director of Campus Ministries

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni

Growing up as a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, James Taylor was surrounded by people who loved Ouachita, and he spent a lot of time on Ouachita's campus. After numerous concerts, camps, retreats and campus visits, when Taylor sensed a call into the ministry his senior year of high school, he also felt called to Ouachita.

"When I felt called into the ministry I thought that would be as a youth minister or pastor," Taylor said. "College ministry was not on my radar, but it turned out that serving as campus minister is a perfect fit for me."

While Taylor loves the academic world, he also loves hands-on, practical ministry. "My work at Ouachita allows me to teach while ministering to college students daily. College students are making big decisions during these crucial years. They're open to what God wants them to do, and I love helping them navigate big decisions – helping them channel their passions in healthy directions."

"James brings to his work a wonderful balance between being serious and playful. He is able to lead students in a serious theological discussion or engage in light-hearted banter about life in general with equal ease," noted Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement.

"Perhaps the highest compliment I can offer about James as his supervisor is that he always can be counted on to deal with challenging situations with wisdom, strength and patience," Cosh added. "James challenges students with sound theological thinking and lives a balanced life before them as a dedicated husband and father."

Taylor has been living life connected to a college campus since 1995. After earning his degree at Ouachita in 1999, he headed to seminary and then returned to Ouachita in 2002, serving in various capacities. After taking a break for doctoral work, he returned to Ouachita again in 2008.

"I've had the opportunity to see campus life from so many different perspectives – serving as a residence hall director in Student Services, administration, teaching classes and now Campus Ministries. Through it all, I've discovered I enjoy one-on-one conversations with students working through tough decisions the most."

The Ouachita campus community and the greater Arkadelphia community are strengthened through the work of Campus Ministries. "One of my favorite events is our leadership retreat at the start of a new school year," Taylor reflected. "No one is distracted with other campus activities yet and we can spend focused time praying, connecting with each other and planning great ministry together. It's at that retreat that Backyard Bible Clubs, mission trips and more begin to take shape, and it's those activities that transform lives of the students involved as well as those served in our community and around the world."

While the work of Campus Ministries helps build community among students on campus, Taylor said community is nurtured at Ouachita in many ways. "Community here doesn't rest in offices or programs but the individuals that make up this community. If people are hurting, we care for each other – students, faculty, staff – we deeply care for one another and offer support in good times and in difficult times."

"College students are making big decisions during these crucial years. They're open to what God wants them to do and I love helping them navigate big decisions..."



Ouachita: a community of faith & learning

From the first day I set foot on this campus, I have loved Ouachita. At that time, 1955, we had about 450 students. Now, we have about 1,500 students. One would think that surely Ouachita has changed

a lot during those years with the increase in students. As I have had the opportunity over many years to interact with students, faculty, staff and administrators, I have witnessed little change in the spirit and soul of our Ouachita.

Many words invade my mind as I reflect on why I have loved and continue to love this special place so much.

The first word that comes to mind is friends. I think of those lifelong friends I made while in college, many with whom I continue to stay in touch. When we speak or email each other, it's like we travel back in time and space about 50 years.

We don't talk about what's going on today. Rather, we return to the memories of our days at Ouachita. It is always a riveting conversation with a lot of laughter.

Some of the most pleasant memories come from contacts with my former students. We immediately engage in conversations that revolve around their experiences in one of the choirs I conducted. Of course, how they remember an event and how I remember the same event are not always the same. But, it is always a joyous occasion as we relive those days. We always go away from these experiences with a feeling of mutual love and respect as well as an even greater appreciation for the opportunities we have had to develop deep and lasting friendships.

To me, Ouachita always has had the feel of a family, a community if you please. I think this is exhibited in the ongoing relationships that exist among faculty, staff, administrators and

our wonderful students. I continue to have a deep appreciation and, yes, even love, for those with whom I worked for many years. It always has been amazing to me that we who serve at Ouachita could vigorously debate our views in various committee meetings and leave laughing and patting each other on the back, knowing that we all were interested only in what was best for our area or for Ouachita. Unique? Maybe! Desirable? Absolutely! A special place? Definitely!

Many other characteristics of Ouachita that I have observed over the years could be mentioned such as the integrity of our faculty and our

academic programs; the competence of our faculty and administrators; the work ethic of all who serve this university; the great and wonderful traditions that we hold sacred such as chapel, the Tiger and the Battle of the Ravine; the spirit of love and friendliness that exists on our campus; certainly the freedom of expression

we enjoy; the amazing talent and creativity of our students and faculty; and last, but certainly not least, our spiritual dimension. As long as I have been part of this dear place known as Ouachita, there always has been the undergirding foundation that we are in God's hands, and that He is always present on our campus and in our hearts.

We are a community of believers: believers in Ouachita and what she stands for; believers in the Spirit that continually speaks to our hearts and guides our lives; and believers in each other, knowing that if I have a need, you are there for me. Above all, we are believers in God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What a special place God has given us. He has loved and protected Ouachita for 129 years. Would anyone doubt that He is going to continue loving and protecting this special place we lovingly call Ouachita?

To me, Ouachita always has had the feel of a family, a community if you please.

Charles W. Wright



*“How shall they hear
without a preacher?”*

(ROMANS 10:14)

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