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Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita Alumni

Spring 2017

The Ouachita Circle Spring/Summer 2017

Ouachita Baptist University

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TIGER SERVE DAY: 20 YEARS OF SERVICE | NEW MAJORS MAKE IMPACT | REFLECTIONS ON DR. SELLS' "FRESHMAN YEAR"

THE QUACHITAN CIRCLE

Spring // Summer 2017

D I R E C T I O N





'Direction' addresses 'why' of OBU journey

The theme of this issue of *The Ouachita Circle* is "Direction" (without an "s") and that subtle distinction is deliberate. So what's the difference?

"Directions" typically address the "how" of doing something or getting somewhere – go here, turn there, travel this far, etc. You can look up directions for baking a cake, tackling a do-it-yourself project or planning a cross-country trip. It's all about the "how."

By contrast, "direction" speaks more to the "why" of a vision, goal or task. Dictionary.com defines it as "a line of thought or action." Direction addresses such questions as: Why are we choosing to travel this way or pursue that priority?

As a result, direction seems to be a timely theme to explore. The past year has been a significant season of transition as Dr. Ben Sells began his tenure as Ouachita's 16th president. One of his first priorities was to invite students, alumni, faculty, staff and trustees to provide input on what they believe should not change about Ouachita and what should change. That information is among the foundational content being used to craft the university's new five-year strategic plan to be considered by trustees later this year.

In a recent interim report prepared by the University Planning Committee, key strategies include such details as sustaining Ouachita's Christ-centered identity, ensuring transformative learning experiences for students and strengthening partnerships with alumni and friends. To read more, check out articles highlighting the interim report on page 7 and an overview of Ouachita's newest majors on pages 12-13. Additional perspectives about Ouachita's future direction are included in a Q&A discussion with Dr. Sells about his "freshman year" at Ouachita on pages 14-15.

According to Dr. Deborah Root, chair of the Rogers Department of Communications and OBU assessment coordinator, "We must strive to maintain our mission, vision and values, while seeking direction in the changing world of higher education." Read her insights in this issue's theme interpretation article on pages 8-9.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding," encourages the familiar words of Proverbs 3:5-6. "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." As Ouachita charts our path for the future, that's clearly a direction worth pursuing.

Treannis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

DIRECTION

“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.”

John F. Kennedy

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.”

Dr. Seuss

“The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life.”

Plato

“If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“I will instruct you and teach you about the direction you should go. I'll advise you and keep my eye on you.”

Psalms 32:8

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SUBMIT ADDRESS CHANGES AND CLASS NOTES

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CAMPUS NEWS



HICKINGBOTHAM SCHOOL AMONG ELITE LIST OF AACSB UNDERGRAD SCHOOLS

Ouachita's Hickingbotham School of Business is one of only nine business schools in the world (among more than 15,000) that is undergraduate-only and accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

AACSB International recently announced that 51 business schools, including the Hickingbotham School of Business, have extended their accreditation in business, accounting or both. Founded in 1916, AACSB is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer degrees in business and accounting. AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education and has been earned by less than 5 percent of the world's business schools.

"We are tremendously proud of this accomplishment," said Bryan McKinney, dean of the Hickingbotham School. "While it is impressive to note that we are among the top 5 percent of schools in the world to have earned this prestigious accreditation, it's phenomenal to think that we are among just nine undergraduate-only business schools around the world to earn AACSB accreditation."

Ouachita President Ben R. Sells affirmed the Hickingbotham School's significant achievement among elite business schools throughout the nation and world. "This recognition reflects the outstanding work of Dean McKinney and our Hickingbotham School faculty as well as the quality of our students and the success of our alumni," Dr. Sells said. "We are grateful for the support of our Executive Advisory Board and other friends of Ouachita and the Hickingbotham School."

UPDATE

2016 *OUACHITONIAN* YEARBOOK EARNS MAJOR STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS

Ouachita's 2016 *Ouachitonian* yearbook has earned several state and national awards, including an All-American ranking from Associated Collegiate Press for the second consecutive year. The Columbia Scholastic Press Association also recognized the 2016 *Ouachitonian* as a Gold Medalist in its College Yearbook Critique. Both honors are the highest awards given for yearbooks by the two national organizations.

The *Ouachitonian* also earned 32 awards from the Arkansas College Media Association, including first place for Yearbook of the Year. The yearbook also is featured in the 2017 Jostens *Look Book*, which celebrates excellence among the top yearbook design and coverage in the nation.

According to Amber Easterly, co-editor-in-chief of the *Ouachitonian* and a senior mass communications and business administration major from Alexander, Ark., all the time put into producing the yearbook "was all so worth it. I have never been more proud of something in my life." Robert DeSoto, a senior mass communications and Spanish major from Sheridan, Ark., also served as co-editor-in-chief.

"To receive these awards is quite an honor because they are very reaffirming for the work and time the staff spends producing this book," said Dr. Deborah Root, the *Ouachitonian's* faculty sponsor and chair of the Rogers Department of Communications.

The Signal student newspaper earned 20 ACMA awards, including third place for Newspaper of the Year and third place for The Online Signal as Website of the Year. Andy Henderson, a junior mass communications major from Royse City, Texas, who serves as editor of Ouachita's student photography staff, was named Photographer of the Year.



ART EXHIBIT HONORS DORIS DAY

Ouachita's Department of Theatre Arts recently hosted "Dear Miss Day" and "Hollywood's Golden Age" exhibits featuring curated memorabilia from mid-20th century Hollywood. The two-part exhibit was displayed in Moses-Provine Hall's Rosemary Gossett Adams Gallery.

Cherry Davis, a Louisiana native and movie enthusiast, donated the collection of Doris Day and Hollywood memorabilia to the Department of Theatre Arts in honor of her mother, Ruth Shafer Means, a 1933 Ouachita graduate.

Callie Anna Dunlap, a sophomore history major from Little Rock, Ark., organized and cataloged the items for the exhibits with the assistance of Adam Wheat, Ouachita fine arts administrator. Coverage of the exhibit was featured on "THV11 This Morning."

"The diversity of the collection shows the passion for Doris Day and that time period," said Eric Phillips, chair of the Department of Theatre Arts. "It's impressive."

OUACHITA HONORED AS ARKADELPHIA'S LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Expressing appreciation to Ouachita "for your service to our community," the Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance and Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Ouachita as Arkadelphia's 2017 Large Business of the Year.

The award was presented to Ouachita President Ben Sells by David Goodman, Chamber of Commerce president, and Shelley Loe, Alliance and Chamber executive vice president, during the organization's banquet held March 2 in Ouachita's Walker Conference Center.

Goodman, a 1994 Ouachita alumnus, noted that the annual awards presented by the Alliance and Chamber honor "exceptional work" by Ouachita and other organizations that were recognized.

"This recognition is an affirmation of our outstanding faculty, staff and students," Dr. Sells said. "It also reflects our partnership with the community. It's a privilege for Ouachita to serve alongside our colleagues and neighbors in Arkadelphia and Clark County."

Dr. Fitz Hill, a 1987 Ouachita alumnus, was the keynote speaker for the event. Dr. Hill, former president of Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, currently is executive director of the Arkansas Baptist College Foundation and the Scott Ford Center for Entrepreneurship & Community Development.

Emphasizing the importance of addressing morality, access to education and economic sustainability, Hill noted that "investing in the underserved population pays great dividends to the community."



photo by Stephanie Bell

STUDENTS HONORED AT ACADEMIC AWARDS BANQUET

Ouachita's 2017 Academic Awards Banquet honored the academic and leadership achievements of more than 100 Ouachita students throughout the past academic year. The annual banquet is sponsored by Ouachita's Student Senate.

Jace Bradshaw, a senior biology, chemistry and applied physics triple major from Arkadelphia, Ark., was awarded Ouachita's highest academic honor as the university's Overall Academic Achiever and also was named Senior Outstanding Man, an honor selected by faculty and staff. He also was named top academic achiever in the Patterson School of Natural Sciences and earned the Outstanding Graduate in Chemistry and Outstanding Senior in Biology awards.

Ouachita's Senior Outstanding Woman was Abby Root, an education and speech/theatre arts double major from Arkadelphia, Ark. Root also was honored with the Mrs. J.R. Grant Endowed Award for a senior female student.

David Stanley, instructor of music, was named by students as the Lavell Cole Most Inspirational Professor. Dr. Johnny Wink, Betty Burton Peck Professor of English, was named the Carl Goodson Honors Program's Most Valuable Professor.

The Rotary Club Service-Above-Self Award was presented to Alex Holder, a junior accounting major from Sour Lake, Texas. Numerous other awards were presented by the honors program and Ouachita's seven academic schools.

FINE ARTS STUDENTS EARN STATE MUSIC RECOGNITIONS

Seven Ouachita students were selected for the 2017 Arkansas Intercollegiate Band (AIB) and five students earned first place awards at the 2017 Arkansas National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) auditions.

Ouachita students selected for AIB this year are: Rachel Clifton, a junior music education major from Alma, Ark., on euphonium; Seth Daniell, a senior music composition major from Arkadelphia, Ark., on horn; Ashley Lovely, a junior music education major from Van Alstyne, Texas, on clarinet; Jason Potts, a senior instrumental performance major from Springdale, Ark., on trombone; Wes Savage, a senior worship arts major from Van Buren, Ark., on bassoon; Morgan Taylor, a sophomore music business major from Hot Springs, Ark., on alto saxophone; and Blake Turner, a junior instrumental performance major from Fort Worth, Texas, on trumpet.

Ouachita's first place winners at NATS were among 13 OBU students named finalists and included: Jessie Brunson of Rockwall, Texas, a sophomore vocal performance student; Beth Crisler of Bella Vista, Ark., a senior vocal performance student; Clay Mobley of Wylie, Texas, a freshman music business student; Michael Peré of Little Rock, Ark., a senior musical theatre student; and Lauren Terry of Evansville, Ind., a junior musical theatre student.

THREE STUDENTS NAMED FINALISTS AT ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP BUSINESS COMPETITION

Three Ouachita students were recognized as finalists in the 2017 Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup business plan competition. They competed against other students from universities throughout the state for cash prizes and an opportunity to compete in the Tri-State Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup competition in Las Vegas.

Jake Edmondson, a junior biomedical sciences major from Benton, Ark.; Cole Jester, a senior Christian studies and political science major from Benton, Ark.; and Evan McKinnon, a senior accounting major from El Dorado, Ark.; competed together with their business plan for BestBooks. Their plan was recognized among the top six finalists in the Governor's Cup undergraduate competition.

"BestBooks is an idea driven by a common problem of college students," Jester explained. "Every year, we sell our books for a fraction of what we buy them for. There is not a good way to get a fair price for your book currently."

Edmondson, Jester and McKinnon wanted to form a plan that would address that problem. Through their business plan, they devised a business that would allow college students to sell their textbooks for more money by cutting out the middleman.

Before competing in the Governor's Cup, the team won Ouachita's own business plan competition and also competed in Ouachita's and Henderson State University's joint business plan competition. BestBooks was the only team from the OBU/HSU joint competition to be recognized among the final six at the Governor's Cup competition.



photo by Andy Henderson

BROADWAY VETERAN JACOB KEITH WATSON RETURNS TO PERFORM AT ALMA MATER

Broadway performer Jacob Keith Watson, a 2011 Ouachita graduate, returned to his alma mater this year to perform a recital and lead a masterclass. Watson was accompanied by collaborative pianist Jason Weisinger, who has performed with the Boston POPS.

“Having the opportunity to return to Ouachita and share some of the wonderful experiences with the people and the place that helped make me who I am is an incredible gift,” Watson said. “It’s truly an honor that Dr. (Jon) Secrest asked me to return and have a chance to give a little back to my alma mater.

“Ouachita gave me a variety of tools and helped to develop a work ethic that I’ve needed and continue to need as I make my way through this crazy career,” Watson added. “At OBU, I was pushed to try anything and everything. Professors had me working on Shakespeare to Puccini to Sondheim to Mamet. They truly believed in experiencing every possible facet of acting and being a theatre artist. The things I learned at Ouachita have proven to be invaluable.”

Dr. Jon Secrest, Watson’s voice coach at Ouachita and the Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music, noted that “Jacob’s drive to succeed led him from Wynne, Ark., onto the stages of Ouachita and then beyond, to regional and national performing opportunities, including multiple Broadway venues now.

“Jacob continues to build momentum as a regular on the Broadway stage,” Secrest said. “His recent run in the Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera* segued directly into L.A. performances of *Amélie* by Daniel Messé, starring Phillipa Soo of the New York City *Hamilton* cast.” The L.A. production of *Amélie* moved to Broadway earlier this spring.

SCHOLARS DAY HONORS WORK OF 200 STUDENTS

Celebrating student scholarship across all academic disciplines on campus, Ouachita hosted its 17th annual Scholars Day on April 26. The annual event is sponsored by the Carl Goodson Honors Program and Alpha Tau honors society.

This year’s event featured more than 125 presentations involving more than 200 students. Presentations ranged from honors theses, science research posters and case studies to recitals, theatre showcases and art exhibits.

Among the diverse topics were “Averting a Nuclear Arms Race” presented by Michael Calhoun, a senior Christian studies and philosophy major from Cabot, Ark., and “What’s the Right Diet for You?” presented by Drake Puryear, a senior biology major from Jonesboro, Ark. Other presentations ranged from “Finding Christ in Cinema: Examining Secular Film Theologically” presented by Evan Wheatley, a senior music and mass communications major from Camden, Ark., to “New Insights into the Rawandan Genocide” presented by Tristan Benzon, a senior history and psychology major from Harare, Zimbabwe.

Scholars Day is designed to raise awareness of the strong academic work that takes place at Ouachita on a daily basis. While seniors in the Carl Goodson Honors Program present their honors theses as part of Scholars Day, any student may apply to participate in the event.

“It’s our day to celebrate academics in all disciplines at OBU,” said Dr. Barbara Pemberton, professor of Christian missions and director of the Carl Goodson Honors Program. “This day allows dietetics students to hear work from Christian studies majors or science majors to watch a theatre performance, allowing them all to appreciate scholarship in every field.”

.....



photo by Andy Henderson

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF CELEBRATES TRADITION

Ouachita’s School of Fine Arts presented the classic Broadway musical *Fiddler on the Roof* April 20-23 in Jones Performing Arts Center. *Fiddler* follows the life of Tevye, a Jewish dairyman, and his wife, Golde, and their attempts to maintain their Jewish and cultural traditions as outside influences encroach on their family’s lives.

Scotty Scott, a junior musical theatre major from Russellville, Ark., performed the lead role of Tevye. Dr. Scott Holsclaw, professor of theatre arts, served as stage director. He previously directed *Fiddler* at Ouachita in 1995.

2017 MUSE PROJECT FEATURES *NOT A CLUE*

Ouachita's Department of Theatre Arts presented *Not a Clue* as part of the department's annual Muse Project. This year's performance was a student-led, interactive, improvised mystery.

The Muse Project allows students majoring in theatre, musical theatre or theatre education to dig deeper in their ideas and passions and have them realized in an original performance. The project involves students submitting theatrical experiences or shows they would like to produce. One proposal is accepted each year and fully produced on a Ouachita stage.

Not a Clue is a murder mystery loosely based on the mystery board game "Clue" and is set in the Victorian era. Because the show is improvised, no two performances are the same. As part of the Muse Project, the show was conceptualized, written and directed by Hannah Fender, a senior musical theatre major from Maumelle, Ark.

"Every single night there is a different murderer, and different people will be killed," Fender explained. "The audience and the actors alike have 'not a clue' what is going to happen since only the murderer in each show knows they're the murderer."



photo by Caden Flint

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL: 'UNDER ONE BANNER'

Highlighting the theme "Under One Banner," Ouachita's International Club and Daniel and Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education hosted the 2017 International Food Festival on Feb. 28 in Walker Conference Center.

"The International Food Festival is a way for us to celebrate and highlight the privilege we have to host international students and third-culture students on campus," said Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement. "It is also a time when our American students can participate and have an international experience through the medium of food."

The event features dishes from across the globe, cooked by members of the Ouachita community with international ties. This year's theme references Song of Solomon 2:4b: "His banner over me is love."

The Grant Center and International Club also incorporated an immersive refugee awareness experience in which guests could write a note to a refugee and pack a welcome kit for them or shop at a world market, which benefits refugee families. The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union hosted the fair-trade market, and OBU Campus Ministries partnered with World Relief to provide the refugee welcome kits.

The annual event also provides an opportunity for international students to give back and invest in their community here. "The food festival is a fun way to mix it up and express a bit of everywhere we come from," said International Club President Tristan Benzon, a senior history and psychology major from Harare, Zimbabwe. "Our passion and cultures are reflected in the food and festivities."

OUACHITA CHRISTIAN COUNSELING CONFERENCE ADDRESSES ADOLESCENT ISSUES

Ouachita's Pruet School of Christian Studies hosted the seventh annual Conference on Issues in Christian Counseling on Feb. 24. The conference, sponsored by Ouachita, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, brought together 174 mental health professionals, social workers, nurses and ministers to explore the topic of "Adolescent Issues."

Among several breakout sessions that professionals could attend were such topics as "Teens and Trauma: Helping Adolescents Find Their Way Through Crisis" led by Dr. Aaron New, "Moral Development in Adolescence" led by Dr. Larry Henderson, "Restoring Trust Between Adolescents and Parents: Moving Past the Lies" led by Dr. Jeff Nave and "Adolescent Sociology" led by Dr. Elizabeth Kelly.

Dr. William Viser, professor of Christian ministries at Ouachita and the creator of the conference, led the lunch session, titled "Wounded Adolescents: Confronting Cutting." In the session, he discussed the psychology behind self-mutilation in adolescents and the signs that a teenager may be self-injuring.

One breakout session titled "The Adolescent Brain: Why They Do What They Do" was led by Dr. Kathryn Steele, professor of counseling and director of clinical training at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I think it is very important for us to understand the wonderful complexity of how God created us and yet how it impacts us emotionally and relationally," Dr. Steele said. "It's very important for us to learn about that and to discover the best ways and most effective manners to deal with all the issues we are helping adolescents with."

INTERIM REPORT SETS THE STAGE FOR OUACHITA'S NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS INITIATIVE

As Ouachita prepares to launch a new five-year strategic plan under the leadership of President Ben Sells, the university's 11-member Planning Committee recently released an interim report highlighting preliminary directions for the plan.

The group's strategic planning charge is to design, organize and facilitate a deeply collaborative process that yields specific, concrete and timely difference-making strategic directions to advance the university's mission.

In addition to Dr. Sells, who is chairing the Planning Committee, the group includes representatives from the student body, faculty, staff, deans and administrators.

"Since Ouachita Baptist University was founded in 1886, each generation of leaders has sought the Lord's direction for the university's future," the report notes. "We believe the advancement of Ouachita is ultimately God's work, accomplished through His enabling of people who care deeply about our university.

"Just as in the past, leaders have stepped forward with faithfulness and imagination to address the needs and opportunities of their day, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment when Ouachita must dream a larger dream," the report adds. "By envisioning and formulating a set of strategic directions as outlined in this interim report, we seek to clarify and advance that larger dream."

According to President Sells, for Ouachita to do more good – both Kingdom good and common good – the university must be better. To be better, university leaders must not only dream a larger dream but also think transformatively, not incrementally. In response to those realities, the Planning Committee has proposed six strategic directions:

- Sustain Christ-centered identity.
- Support committed faculty and staff.
- Grow undergraduate enrollment to capacity.
- Ensure transformative learning experiences.
- Develop graduate and innovative programs.
- Strengthen partnerships with alumni/friends.

Seeking to gain widespread input from Ouachita's constituents, the committee invited students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees and Arkansas Baptists to participate in a written survey. Among the 1,300 individuals who responded, they submitted more than 5,000 comments and suggestions.

In addition to the initial survey, the Planning Committee is continuing to seek additional input from the extended Ouachita family that will be used to help refine and adjust the strategic directions and develop specific goals that will give further definition to each. A final report and five-year plan, which will include trustee involvement throughout the process, is scheduled to be approved and released later this year.

"The Ouachita mission, when considered in the light of the needs and hopes of this nation and world, is more relevant than ever before," the Planning Committee report explains. "We can imagine, Lord willing, graduating greater numbers of Ouachitonians who have been anchored in the context of our Christ-centered identity; attracted by undergraduate, graduate and other innovative programs; supported by committed faculty and staff; strengthened by partnerships with alumni and friends; and, transformed by their learning experiences to serve the purposes of God in their generation through their families, churches, communities and careers across the country and around the world.

"All of us are stewards for a season of God's gift and grace known as Ouachita Baptist University," the report states. "The Planning Committee is optimistic about the future and looks forward to your responses to the interim report. Let's make Ouachita better, not for our sake, but for the sake of those whom we are called to serve."

Reaching
**T H E R I G H T
D E S T I N A T I O N**

begins with

**E F F E C T I V E
D I R E C T I O N**

By Deborah Root

Going on family vacations always meant having a Rand-McNally map tucked in the passenger side door or folded in the glove box. To find our way to the next state or across the country took planning, calculating mileage by adding up those little red numbers along the road map and taking off without knowing about construction along the highway or where we would eat our next meal. It took effort to map the direction and arrive at our destination.

Today, we simply enter our destination in our GPS or phone app, and we take off. The voice at the other end tells us when to turn, when there's a traffic issue and where our favorite restaurants are. All we need to do is tell our device where we want to go.

Even with new technology, endless online resources and data at our fingertips, the road to effective higher education reminds me more of the Rand-McNally map than the instant answers in today's world. That journey takes thoughtful direction, and direction takes intensive assessment, evaluation and planning.

Ouachita is in the midst of preparing for its reaffirmation of accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Institutions are evaluated based on five criteria that focus on mission, integrity, teaching & learning, assessment and resources & planning.

Mission. It's where the journey begins. All other criteria must relate back to the mission of the university. It should be the foundation for everything we do. We must strive to maintain our mission, vision and values, while seeking direction in the changing word of higher education.

Our mission statement reads, "Embracing the liberal arts tradition, the university prepares individuals for ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth, lives of meaningful work, and reasoned engagement with the world." The higher education environment requires that we continually assess our programs and services to ensure that we are fulfilling our mission and planning for the future.

Each academic program completes an annual assessment report that includes a review of student learning outcomes, the collection of data that reflects successful learning, and strategic planning in an effort to improve our teaching and learning. Program Review is a more intensive look at academic schools that takes place on a seven-year rotation. Administrative units also participate in annual reports and Program Review, ensuring they are providing quality services and programming.

Assessment is a cycle; it never ends. If we are stagnant, we aren't improving. If we aren't improving, we cannot expect to continue to fulfill our mission given to us by God.

Our December campus visit by an HLC evaluation team will help us determine if we are headed in the right direction. The criteria and multiple sub-components by which we are evaluated address critical issues in higher education including student success, high impact learning, effective use of resources and academic rigor.

While our HLC-Assurance Review Committee has spent the past 18 months preparing documents and writing our assurance argument, and our faculty and administrative staff have worked to prepare for this visit, we know that a quality Ouachita education goes beyond what is required by an accrediting agency. We know that assessment and planning exist not just to follow the guidelines of an agency but are tools to improve our academic programs, co-curricular learning activities and services we provide.

I will admit the world of education assessment can be challenging. We often can be overwhelmed with writing deadlines,

word counts and hundreds of evidence files. We are consumed by measurable student learning outcomes, data, rubrics, surveys and calculations. The road is not always easy.

It's at those times that I reflect on how blessed I am to be involved in this process. I get to work with colleagues who serve with a willing heart, and we share a passion for Ouachita and its future. I've learned that some committee members are more focused if you bring their favorite chocolates to meetings, and I find pure joy in sharing dinner in Chicago with colleagues following hours of seminars on accreditation and assessment. There is excitement, and there are blessings, in the challenge.

As we embark on re-accreditation and a new university strategic plan, may we keep in mind that finding direction isn't as easy as inputting a destination and waiting for someone to show us the way. We must assess, evaluate, plan, study, listen, learn, seek new challenges and pray. Proverbs 3:6 states, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Please pray with

We believe in our mission, we seek direction and we move forward with faithfulness.

us as we continually seek God's direction on this journey to provide our students with a Christ-centered education. That is our mission.

Yes, we are accountable to HLC, but we also are accountable to ourselves, our students and, most of all, our God, who has called us to carry out His mission at Ouachita. It's why we are here. It's why we believe in what we do. It's why we are on this journey together.

Dr. Sells has challenged us to dream a larger dream. Through assessment and strategic planning, we are headed in the right direction. The Rand-McNally map may have been more difficult to read – and fold – but somehow we embraced the challenge of figuring out the details and celebrated moving forward. We don't always know what lies ahead on the road before us, but we believe in our mission, we seek direction and we move forward with faithfulness.

Whether you are a Ouachita alumnus who graduated five years ago or 50 years ago, we all share a common goal of supporting Ouachita's vision, mission and values. That includes our commitment to help foster a sincere love of God and love of learning in current and future generations of Ouachitonians. Thank you for going with us on our journey to educate young men and women.



Dr. Deborah Root is chair of the Rogers Department of Communications and assessment coordinator. She holds BA, BSE and MSE degrees from Ouachita and a Doctor of Higher Education and Mass Communications degree from Oklahoma State University.



TIGER SERVE DAY MARKS 20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE & IMPACT

By Katie Smith

A total of 678 Ouachita students, faculty and staff joined together April 1 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Tiger Serve Day, Ouachita's signature community service emphasis. The semi-annual student-led event has been sponsored every semester since the spring of 1997 by the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community.

This semester's volunteers completed 113 service projects in Arkadelphia. Known as one of the largest community service efforts in Arkansas, Tiger Serve Day volunteers have logged a combined total of more than 82,000 service hours over the past two decades.

The 20th anniversary Tiger Serve Day embraced its roots with the theme "Into the Streets," which was the theme for the first Tiger Serve Day in 1997. Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement, planned the first Tiger Serve Day in 1996 after seeing other universities host similar events on their campuses. However, the inaugural Tiger Serve Day took an unexpected turn when a category F-4 tornado rampaged through Arkadelphia on March 1, 1997.

"The concept and planning for the first Tiger Serve Day preceded the tornado in 1997, so it was always our intention to make it a permanent event," Cosh said. "The tornado happened coincidentally and we were able to use our planning and our equipment to serve at a time when volunteers were particularly needed."

The tornado caused major destruction in downtown Arkadelphia and several surrounding neighborhoods. Wrecking local businesses, damaging area churches and destroying homes, the storm left six people dead and more than 100 injured in the Arkadelphia area.

Because the tornado left such widespread damage, it presented a huge service opportunity for those serving the community in its aftermath. Tiger Serve Day volunteers helped clean up the community and helped care for local residents since the first Tiger Serve Day was scheduled shortly after the devastating storm.

"We switched gears after the tornado hit," recalled Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center. "Because of the overwhelming need to help our neighbors with clean-up work, volunteers focused all of their attention on helping residents and businesses with practical clean-up."

Cara Conly, a 1998 alumna, was among those who helped plan Ouachita's inaugural Tiger Serve Day. She said her involvement was "another way Ouachita prepared me for life beyond graduation."

"Tiger Serve Day encompasses what our Christian walk is all about – loving and serving others!" she emphasized. "Ouachita and

all of us are called to be a beacon of light and hope to those around us. What better way to do that than by being the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need!"

"That first Tiger Serve Day, I volunteered with the American Red Cross, and a few of us worked on a Red Cross food truck," said Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations, who was a freshman at Ouachita when the tornado hit. "We went through the affected areas serving chili-mac and handing out flashlights to families whose homes were damaged."

Tiger Serve Day was established to provide members of the Ouachita community the opportunity to serve their neighbors. Along with completing service projects, volunteers often are able to provide emotional and spiritual encouragement to their neighbors.

"Tiger Serve Day is more than just doing some yard work, washing a car or doing a painting project," noted Damaris Garcia, a senior Christian studies major from Richland Hills, Texas, and a member of the projects team on the Tiger Serve Day leadership team. "You get to physically and spiritually meet a need for those around Arkadelphia. Most of the projects that we receive are for those who are senior adults, disabled or single parents who do not have the time or physically cannot do the work. So that means that Tiger Serve Day gives me the chance to glorify God through serving people with my hands and feet."

"Because I work closely with the volunteers, the leadership team and the people served, I am fortunate to see the impact from all angles," Duvall said. "I get to see the volunteers discover how wonderful it is to serve and help others and experience the joy that comes from giving their lives away. I hear from the people served. They are so genuinely thankful and grateful for the investment of time that is given them and the amount of work that is done."

"It has been rewarding to see that the idea of serving our community has grown stronger each year, and students have continued to experience the joy of service and the positive outcome that results," Cosh reflected. "Not every good idea takes on a life of its own, but it is now hard to imagine Ouachita without Tiger Serve Day."

**TIGER SERVE DAY
ENCOMPASSES WHAT
OUR CHRISTIAN WALK
IS ALL ABOUT –
LOVING AND
SERVING OTHERS!**



Katie Smith, a senior mass communications and accounting major from Shreveport, La., is a student news writer in the Office of Communications news bureau.

Ouachita's new programs of study equip students for diverse careers

As a Christ-centered learning community, Ouachita is committed to providing high-quality degree programs that meet the needs of today's students and graduates. Joining Ouachita's diverse list of more than 50 degree programs are several innovative new majors, minors and emphases. To learn more, visit www.obu.edu/academics/newprograms.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

For high-achieving students pursuing professional school, Ouachita's innovative Biomedical Scholars Program may be an ideal fit. The Biomedical Scholars Program is an accelerated, three-year degree program designed for students to earn a Bachelor of Science in biomedical sciences with a minor in chemistry or physics through an intensive academic cohort experience.



BIOPHYSICS

For students who are curious about biological processes and enjoy puzzle solving, designing experiments or working with numbers and computers, there are many opportunities available in biophysics. Using methods from mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology, biophysicists' interests can range from studying how living organisms work to the creation of medical technologies.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Responding to a changing communications environment, Ouachita's mass communications and speech communication majors have been retooled to better equip students. The major now offers career-focused emphases in strategic communications, visual media & film, multimedia journalism, sports media, communications studies and integrated communications.



COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES

Ouachita's community and family services major in the Pruet School of Christian Studies is designed to prepare graduates for a wide range of vocations in areas of community, family and social services, children's and family ministry, non-profit organizations and more. They also are equipped for graduate education in social work, counseling, marriage and family therapy and other fields.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Creative and innovative leaders and risk-takers are an excellent fit for the Hickingbotham School of Business' entrepreneurship emphasis in the business administration major. Studying such disciplines as marketing principles, business plan development and social entrepreneurship, students gain real-world experience through mentor relationships, business plan competitions and internships.





ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Ouachita's environmental studies major with an emphasis in biology is designed to appeal to students with an interest in careers focused on a more sustainable future for our world, such as conservation science, environment protection and public health. The integrated nature of this degree should appeal to students in science, business, political science and sociology.

FINANCE

Ouachita now offers a full finance major that prepares students for a variety of financial careers. The major includes an introduction to the fields of banking, insurance, investments and real estate and allows students to pursue additional depth in areas of interest. A financial planning track offers additional preparation for students with an interest in becoming financial advisors.



LEGAL STUDIES

Ouachita's legal studies minor in the Sutton School of Social Sciences is designed to provide students with a greater understanding of law and legal institutions as well as develop analytical and writing skills. It may be taken with any major. Potential career options include non-profit organizations and professional writing as well as preparation for law school.

PUBLIC HISTORY

The ever-expanding field of public history involves making historical scholarship accessible to people who may be unaware that they enjoy history. It combines a love for history with hands-on skills. Career opportunities range from work in museums, archives, tourism and community history to historic preservation, cultural resource management, interpretation and media.



SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDIES

Ouachita's social justice studies program uses the tools of social science to foster the dignity and well-being of all people and the world in which we live. We hone practical analysis tools, survey political landscapes and seek insights into historical change, all within the frame of our Christian tradition. Graduates can serve in such settings as governmental agencies or non-profit organizations.

SPORT MANAGEMENT

Ouachita's sport management emphasis is within the business administration major, and the program is a collaborative effort between the Hickingbotham School of Business and the Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies. Career opportunities include sports marketing, athletic administration and recreation facility management.



Dr. Ben Sells marked his first anniversary as president of Ouachita on June 1. The following Q&A feature highlights his personal reflections as he completes his “freshman year” at Ouachita.

Q: As you complete your first year as Ouachita president, what were a few of your most memorable moments?

A: As someone new to Ouachita, I've spent considerable time listening to and learning from Ouachitonians. For example, I've attended 14 alumni gatherings, held more than 200 individual alumni meetings, Lisa and I hosted 1,000 people – primarily students – in the President's home, convened a variety of meetings involving every faculty and staff member, read 1,300 survey results, and was engaged with people in many other activities that happen annually at Ouachita. This has been enormously helpful, yet I have much more to learn. Because it's all new, it's almost always memorable.

While I could name any number of moments, what is memorable is the consistency in the stories I've heard. It's alumni, speaking with deep appreciation, including tears, retelling how faculty and staff invested in their lives and how it transformed them. It's students sharing about the personal accessibility of faculty and staff as well as the learning that occurs, inside and outside the classroom – and what that means to them. It's watching faculty and staff serve students – putting students before themselves – and reflecting on the fulfillment it brings them.

Q: What was one of your biggest surprises this past year?

A: There are some defining characteristics of Ouachita that should never change – and there's widespread agreement about those. This is my third Christian college to serve and universities are often (and fairly) criticized for being slow to change. I've been pleasantly surprised by the unity among our constituencies to change where change would make Ouachita better. The willingness to change is giving momentum to the strategic planning that's underway to “dream a larger dream for Ouachita.” For example, our campus is designed to house 1,750 students; however, we've consistently been 1,500 for 25 years. By being a little bigger, we can be better stewards of our campus and make Ouachita better. There seems to be unity around the focus to “grow undergraduate enrollment to capacity,” which is an emerging Strategic Direction for our five-year plan. *(See page 7 for more details.)*

Q: After a year in your new role, what do you consider Ouachita's greatest strengths?

A: In the survey, ranked equally highest in response to the question of “What should not change?” was academics and institutional identity. By academics, people mean the focus on quality faculty, strong programs and small classes. Those who cited institutional identity focused

on the Christian foundations of the institution and the spiritual emphasis throughout the university. These are twin strengths of Ouachita.

Animating both of these strengths is another one – what might be described as Ouachita's relational character. This isn't accidental. Rather, it's theological, educational and intentional in nature. The relational character is expressed through a community of people living and learning together, of faculty and staff investing in and loving students. Over a four-year period, this character helps explain why the Ouachita experience is so formative, even transformative.

There's a long list of strengths, but it's also important to mention the importance of what happens outside the classroom – high impact educational experiences such as undergraduate research and internships, campus activities and all the opportunities for serving others and leadership development, and traditions like Tiger Tunes that link alumni and students.

Q: What do you regard as one of the major challenges that Ouachita faces?

A: Throughout the year, one of my consistent messages has been: The Ouachita mission has never been more vibrant; however, we must be on a journey to make the mission more viable financially. There have been two challenging trends facing Ouachita. One, we significantly increased our long-term debt the past 20 years. Yet, enrollment remained the same or declined, which made it difficult to invest in people and programs. This journey to make the mission more viable financially is underway. We've refinanced the debt; it's still burdensome but we have more flexibility. We re-worked our financial aid for recruiting new students by substantially increasing our merit scholarships, making Ouachita more affordable for many families. And, we've strengthened our efforts for retaining current students and enhanced our marketing. As a result, we're on track for increased enrollment in fall 2017. We also must invite greater philanthropy from alumni and friends, and I'm encouraged by the initial response.

Q: As you meet and visit with alumni, what message do you have for them about the future of Ouachita?

A: I'm full of hope, because I can't imagine a better time or a better opportunity for Ouachita to lead the way in creating a more viable, more substantive and more enduring model of Christian higher education. To alumni, we invite you to lend your time, invest your talent, open your networks and give of your resources so we can make your Ouachita better for the students we are called to serve.



President Sells reflects on 'freshman year' at Ouachita

photos by Tyler Rosenthal



photo by Andey Henderson



OUACHITA HONORS 293 GRADUATES AT 130TH SPRING COMMENCEMENT

By Brooke Zimny, Director of Communications & Marketing

Ouachita celebrated 293 graduates during its 130th spring commencement on Saturday, May 13, on the lawn of Cone-Bottoms Hall. Ouachita President Ben Sells presided over the annual commencement exercises.

“Students, today you make the transition to Ouachita alumni,” Dr. Sells told the graduates as he prepared to welcome them to the alumni family. “You join more than 13,000 living graduates and several thousand more who attended Ouachita. You join this global community who stands ready to help you.

“The key to sustaining and strengthening Ouachita are our alumni,” he emphasized. “Students, as much as you and your family have done to make the most of your Ouachita experience, you did not do it alone. There are thousands of alumni, many of whom you will never know, who have given to and prayed for Ouachita, enriching your experience.”

Senior Class President Jodie Webb, an elementary education major from Arlington, Tenn., led the commencement invocation. Scripture reading was led by three students from the Pruet School of Christian Studies: Mikala Butler, a Christian studies/Christian missions and sociology double major from Paragould, Ark.; Libby Hilliard, a biblical languages major from Van Buren, Ark.; and Emma Riley, a Christian studies/Christian ministries and biblical studies double major from Fort Smith, Ark.

Dr. Ray Granade, director of library services and professor of history, and Dr. Mike Reynolds, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, served as commencement marshals. Honorary marshals were Dr. Joe Jeffers, professor emeritus of chemistry, and Julia Jones, assistant professor emerita of Spanish, who also were honored during the commencement ceremony along with Executive Secretary to the President Emerita Charolette Allison.

Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs, also recognized Ryan Alexander of Haysville, Kan., as the first graduate of Ouachita’s new fully online degree programs that were launched in 2015. Alexander began his college career at Ouachita in the 1990s and completed his Christian studies degree this year while serving as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in North Platte, Neb., and associational missions leader for the Oregon Trail Baptist Association. *(Read more from Ryan in the sidebar article on pg. 17.)*

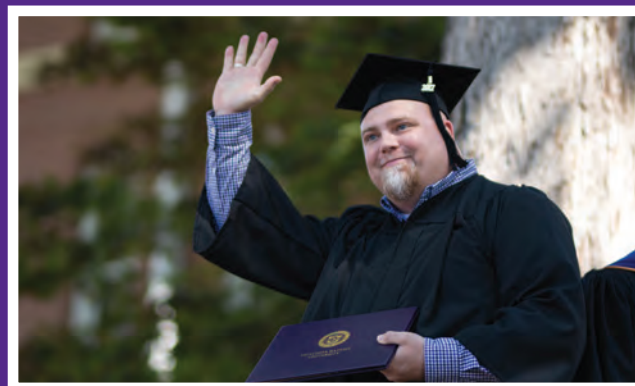
“His diploma represents a historic milestone for Ouachita,” Poole said. “We take great pride in awarding Ryan’s diploma, which represents the completion of the work he started here 20 years ago.”

Speaking to the graduates in his commencement address, Dr. Sells said, “You will take Ouachita with you wherever you go. Live out our Christ-centered vision and mission and live in the light of why Christians should be truly happy. As you do, you will find personal contentment, you will serve the common good and you will help advance the Kingdom.

“When we look at you – and remember all that you have done and consider all that you will do – it has been our privilege to live and learn with you,” Dr. Sells added. “Today our hearts are full. Our cups runneth over. We love you.”

(For more from Dr. Sells’ address to graduates – and all alumni – see “Closing Thoughts” on pg. 36.)





COMPLETING A 20-YEAR JOURNEY THANKS TO OUACHITA ONLINE

By Ryan Alexander ('17)

Receiving my diploma from Ouachita represents the completion of a 20-year journey. As a high school student, I never dreamed that I would be able to attend a university. School had always been a struggle for me and higher education was not going to be the exception to the norm. My four-year degree took me 20 years to complete. During those years, life didn't stand still. I got married, we had four biological children and adopted one, all while God moved us to four different states.

God had called me to the pastoral ministry and I faithfully served Him to the best of my ability. But all the while there was this nagging feeling that something was missing. Completing my degree was a huge desire but God never opened the door for me to minister anywhere close enough that I could be on campus.

It was just over a year ago a friend told me that Ouachita was now offering an online degree. God had provided me a way to fulfill my dream of finishing my degree without leaving the mission field that He had planted us in. Through the online program, Ouachita brought to me the theological education that I needed on a weekly basis. I was able to do my homework on my schedule while connecting with other students all over the United States.

To call myself a Ouachita alumnus is one of the most gratifying feelings I have ever experienced. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to continue my education while following God's leadership in ministry.

Ouachita has not only made an investment in me as a person, but they have helped shine a light into the darkness in central Nebraska. They are partners in ministry and we are collectively proclaiming the good news of the gospel in a lost and dying world.



photos by Andy Henderson



OUACHITA VOICES

TELLING THE STORIES OF OUACHITA

So often, when Ouachitonians talk about what makes Ouachita special, the answer is “the people.” The “Ouachita Voices” blog was launched this past year as a place for the people of Ouachita to tell the stories of Ouachita. Ouachita Voices borrows its name from the university’s 125th anniversary commemorative coffee table book that features essays from a number of notable Ouachitonians. Check out alumnus Chris Turner’s blog post about discovering his Ebenezer as well as excerpts from a few other posts.

Not all rocks are Ebenezers

There is an 80-pound rock in my flowerbed that looks like a meteorite. I pried it loose from a mountaintop in North Carolina about 13 years ago. I then grunted, pushed, rolled, chucked, yelled at and tripped over it trying to get it – and myself – to the bottom of a challenging descent. It was supposed to be my “Ebenezer,” but it felt a lot more like a millstone.

You know, Ebenezer, like the one found in 1 Samuel 7:13-14. It’s mentioned at the end of a passage where God intercedes on Israel’s behalf to defeat the Philistines in a decisive battle. To commemorate the divine victory, “Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us” (verse 12). That rock served as a visual reminder of the Lord’s power and protection.

Ebenezer actually means “stone of help,” only I didn’t fully understand what an Ebenezer was when I wrestled that chunk of God’s creation to the trunk of my car. I’d gotten the idea of an Ebenezer from Avery Willis, a long-time missionary and former vice president at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Avery had his own Ebenezer that he had harvested. His commemorated a critical moment in his life when God interceded and helped him. Mine turned out to be more of a flowerbed ornament, like a yard gnome. Looking back, I realize it is more of a monument to a place where I tried to generate an experience with God rather than a testimony to a place where God encountered me.

Come to find out, my Ebenezer is not a rock after all, but a small college campus in a small Arkansas town named Arkadelphia, and God met me there a few weeks ago to remind me that He met me there 28 years ago.

I was utterly clueless when I left home for college in the fall of 1984. I wasn’t a very good student, had really no direction other than I wanted to play some basketball in school, eventually live in a high-rise condo along the Mississippi River in Memphis and drive a Porsche. I was going to own the city. I was going to be a high roller. I was going to be rich.

But I arrived on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University destined for failure, and I succeeded. First I flunked accounting and economics and then out of school. All contributing factors were of my

own doing. A few weeks ago, I was posting pictures to Facebook while watching the OBU baseball team practice when a friend with whom I’d gone to college reminded me in a comment what a Providential failure my time on campus had been.

And it was. The moment I read what he wrote, it was kind of like one of those scenes in a movie where the camera races really fast toward a person and abruptly stops inches from their face. Okay, maybe my moment wasn’t that dramatic, but it kind of felt like it as I sensed God zero in on my soul and say, “Look around you. This place is your Ebenezer. This is where I met with you and became your ‘Stone of Help.’”

Immediately I began replaying my life after returning to Ouachita to pursue a degree in communications. I’d been a disaster before, but God claimed me as His personal Do-It-Yourself restoration project. I originally arrived at Ouachita with nothing and lost even that, but by God’s grace I left with:

- A great wife
- An understanding of how to study/learn
- An education that vocationally equipped me for a lifelong career
- A renewed relationship with Jesus
- A missionary calling that still guides my life

And by God’s grace I still have all five. The Lord used my years at Ouachita to grow me up and send me off well prepared for life’s journey. All glory to God because my arrival was shallow and aimless; He provided foundation and direction.

Maybe that flowerbed “Ebenezer” of mine is an Ebenezer of sorts after all, reminding me of the burden of trying to create a fleeting experience with God born of my own effort. However, Ouachita is truly my Ebenezer, a place reminding me that the “Stone of Help” came on His own terms and created a permanent encounter born of grace.

And that Stone taught me that not all rocks are Ebenezers.

Chris Turner ('89) majored in communications. He currently is communications director for the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board. This post was first published on his blog, Travels With Me.



Visit the blog at www.obu.edu/blog.
If you have an idea for a post, email us
at socialmedia@obu.edu. We invite you
to lend your voice to the conversation.

“What’s up there?”: A study abroad reflection

One of my favorite aspects of being in Jerusalem was becoming friends with a Palestinian kid, who we’ll call Michael. It was an unlikely friendship. Michael is 18 and has lived in East Jerusalem his whole life. He’s Muslim and had never had any close female or non-Arab friends. I’m 22, Christian – Protestant at that – and have lived in Arkansas my whole life. But here we were, both sitting in an ulpan classroom at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

So, proximity and curiosity made us friends. He told me about Islam. I told him about Christianity. He taught me Arabic phrases. I explained English ones. He took me to Ramallah. I took him to the Garden Tomb. And it was there, at the Garden Tomb, where our friendship made the most sense. He was looking out over the main Arab bus station in Jerusalem and I was looking out toward Skull Hill when he said, “You know, I walk by this every day, and I’ve always wondered what’s up here.” Suddenly, we had switched roles.

You see, wherever we go, whether we’re playing the part of Michael or me, we have something to both learn and teach. It’s the beautiful give-and-take nature of friendship that finds its most obvious expression when there are major differences, when it’s the differences that in fact make us friends at all.

*Libby Hilliard is a senior biblical
languages major from Van Buren, Ark.*

Making lifelong memories in Italy with the Ouachita Singers

When I joined Ouachita Singers my sophomore year, I never imagined that in just a year and a half we would be hopping on a plane and flying halfway around the globe to sing in some of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world. Fortunately, sometimes opportunities arise that you could never dream of, and that is exactly how some of the Ouachita Singers spent our spring break.

I got to see amazing sights such as the Trevi Fountain and the Colosseum, as well as sing in places that I never dreamed I would even see, much less perform in. I’m talking about St. Peter’s Basilica and, yes, the Sistine Chapel. ... We got to praise God in this amazing place that I thought I would only ever read about.

*Hannah Hines is a junior musical
theatre and mass communications
double major from Russellville, Ark.*

Alum’s “God and My Girlfriends” lyrics seek to empower women

It was Oct. 22, 2008, and I was running late to a writing appointment down on Music Row in Nashville, Tenn. I was a staff writer for a major publishing company at the time, so writing songs was my main “job” back then. My co-writers that day were two ladies who had become friends of mine as well, Lisa Hentrich and Patricia Conroy, both incredible singers and artists of their own.

I ran into the little writing room we had reserved that day. “Girls, I am so sorry I am late! But I came from a wonderful women’s Bible study and got detained a bit. But you know, it’s important to make time for God and your girlfriends!”

Patricia just stared at me and said, “Wow. I can’t believe you said that! Look at one of the titles I brought in for us to consider writing today.” And she handed me a paper with the words “God and My Girlfriends” on it. WHOA! I guess we knew what we were going to write that day!

We quickly made a demo of the song and pitched it to Reba McEntire. Within a few days we had word that Reba LOVED the song and had put it “on hold.” ... We were sad to find out a few weeks later that our song didn’t make the cut.

Fast forward to 2016. We found out that Reba tracked down our little song and recorded it for her new CD. We knew at this point that God had entered the situation. ... Reba’s new CD, *Sing It Now – Songs of Faith and Hope* was released on Feb. 3. I have loved seeing God use our little song to empower women’s friendships.

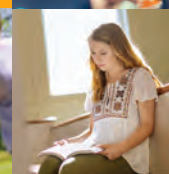
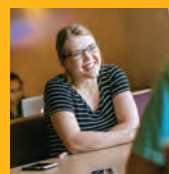
*Marcia Ramirez (*82) majored in music. She
and her husband, Mike Waldron, live in Nashville.*

400 miles and 28.95 hours of living in the moment

During the last weekend of spring break 2017, I competed in the Race Across America (RAAM) qualifying bicycle race in Marble Falls, Texas. The race consisted of 400 miles in a big loop around the Texas Hill Country. Only 10 individual cyclists started the 400, most opting for the “short” 214-mile route. Six of us finished.

By the numbers, it took me 28 hours and 57 minutes to cover the course, including stops for food and a 20-minute nap. ... People ask me what I think about when I’m on a bike so long and I think I can best describe it as a very long prayer. The enormity of the task makes me ask God for strength and safety. ... I take advantage of the time and meditative state to pray for my friends and family, whispering their names and mentally offering up their images. And I sing. ... The ability to celebrate and relish the moment are great life lessons for when I’m off the bike. They are ultimately precious gifts.

*Dr. Mark McGraw is an assistant professor
of Spanish at Ouachita*



MISS OBU PAGEANT CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY



photos by Andy Henderson

MISS OBU 2017 Tiffany Lee, a sophomore mass communications major from Benton, Ark, was crowned Miss Ouachita Baptist University 2017. She represented EEE women's social club with the platform, "Stay Hydrated, Stay Healthy." Miss OBU finalists included McKenzie Gosser, first runner-up; Lauren Ford, second runner-up; Maggie Donnell, third runner-up; and Baylee McBride, fourth runner-up.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Miss Ouachita Baptist University Pageant. Over the years, five Miss OBU winners won the Miss Arkansas title while competing as Miss OBU and went on to compete in the Miss America Pageant. The Miss OBU Pageant has provided hundreds of young women the opportunity to win scholarships, promote diverse issues and gain valuable leadership skills. The following reflections offer a few highlights of the pageant's history and impact:



SHARON EVANS BALE, Miss OBU & Miss Arkansas 1967

"OBU and the Miss OBU Pageant changed my life in so many ways. ... It was at Ouachita that I began to discover the world from so many people's perspective! Through Miss Ouachita, Miss Arkansas and Miss America, I met young women from throughout the state and nation. ... It's not about winning a crown; it was and is about finding and following your calling to help make this world a better place!"



HELEN GENNINGS MUSGRAVE, Miss OBU & Miss Arkansas 1968

"It's a wonderful program, and I was honored to be the second Miss OBU and to be crowned by Sharon Evans Bale both as Miss OBU and as Miss Arkansas. That gave me the opportunity to continue my education through scholarships and to represent Arkansas in the Miss America Pageant and then to be part of the Miss America USO tour to Vietnam. The Miss OBU Pageant afforded me opportunities I wouldn't have had any other way."



LISA STEVENS LOCKE, Miss OBU & Miss Arkansas 1984

"For me personally, as far as being a representative of Ouachita as Miss OBU, that was probably one of the biggest honors I've ever had. The Miss OBU Pageant is respected in the state and for good reason. As Miss OBU, I felt that I was expected to have a certain measure of education and poise and talent. That was good for me. I stepped up my game because I was representing this school."



LACY FLEMING GLOVER, Miss OBU & Miss Arkansas 2004

"There is a tradition of excellence and success at the Miss Arkansas Pageant for Miss OBU and that can be both pressure- and pride-filled. I embraced this tradition and knew after competing three years previously that if I returned one final time to compete for the Miss Arkansas title, I only wanted to compete as Miss OBU. I loved representing a college that I was proud to call home and a student body that was like family."



KRISTEN GLOVER BELEW, Miss OBU & Miss Arkansas 2011

"I was more nervous competing for Miss OBU than I was competing for Miss America. It was my senior year and my last opportunity to represent the place and people that made me who I am today. I truly believe that Ouachita instilled in me an undeniable desire to be a difference maker. To young women who may compete in Miss OBU during the next 50 years, don't hold back. This will be one of the greatest challenges and opportunities for personal growth. Ouachita is preparing you to be women of faith, servanthood and charisma. I am so glad that I put on the high heels and chased my dream of becoming Miss OBU and Miss Arkansas!"

ALL-OUACHITA ATHLETIC & ACADEMIC AWARDS HONOR 25 STUDENT-ATHLETES

Celebrating the second annual All-Ouachita Athletic and All-Ouachita Academic teams, Ouachita Athletics honored a total of 25 student-athletes for outstanding performances over the past year.

"It is always a special celebration when we honor our outstanding student-athletes," said Athletic Director David Sharp. "I am always impressed by both the athletic and academic performances of those who are recognized. They reflect the best of Ouachita's commitment to success both on the field or court and in the classroom."

Among this year's top awards, Ashley Wake was named Female Athlete of the Year and Tyler Mouton was named Male Athlete of the Year. Kori Bullard was named Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Aitor Lopez Breton was named Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Ashley Wake, a senior communication sciences and disorders major from Benton,

Ark., was a 2016 All-Great American Conference First Team selection for Ouachita volleyball. She also was named to the D2CCA All-Central Region Second Team, the first Ouachita volleyball player to be named to an all-region team since joining the GAC. Her leadership on the floor helped lead the Tigers to a 23-7 record and their first-ever conference title since joining NCAA Division II.

Tyler Mouton is a junior accounting and business administration/sport management major from Flower Mound, Texas. He was a 2016 All-GAC First Team selection and the GAC Defender of the Year for men's soccer. A two-time All-Central Region selection, Mouton became the program's first-ever All-America selection. He logged 1,451 minutes on a defense that produced seven shutouts and allowed the fewest goals scored in the conference.

Kori Bullard, a junior biology major

from Hot Springs, Ark., was named the GAC's 2017 Crafton Tull Elite Scholar-Athlete in both volleyball and women's basketball. She was the only student-athlete to earn this top honor in two sports. Bullard was a 2017 All-GAC First Team performer in volleyball and earned All-GAC Honorable Mention honors in basketball. She also was the only student-athlete to earn three spots in the All-Ouachita recognitions, being named to the All-Ouachita Team in women's basketball and the All-Ouachita Academic Team in both volleyball and women's basketball.

Aitor Lopez Breton, a junior computer science major from Bilbao, Spain, was selected by the GAC as a 2017 Crafton Tull Distinguished Scholar-Athlete in men's basketball. A two-time All-GAC Academic Team member, he was a primary weapon for the Tigers off the bench and was the team's second leading rebounder.



photos by Wesley Kluck

2016-17 ALL-OUACHITA ATHLETIC TEAM

Kori Bullard, women's basketball, 2017 Crafton Tull Elite Scholar-Athlete; Blake Clevenger, wrestling, nationally ranked throughout the 2016-17 season; Katie Cunningham, women's cross country, 2016 All-GAC Second Team; Lennart Lonnemann, men's tennis, 2017 All-GAC First Team; Emily Mahan, women's swimming & diving, NSISC Scholar-Athlete; Tyler Mouton, men's soccer, 2016 All-America selection; Macy Nantz, softball, 2017 All-GAC Second Team; Alexander Podguzov, men's swimming & diving, NCAA national qualifier; Ke'Vontae Pope, football, two-time All-GAC selection; Mallory Tabler, women's tennis, 2017 All-GAC Second Team; Ashley Wake, volleyball, 2017 D2CCA All-Central Region Team; Lakee Westbrook, men's basketball, 2017 All-GAC First Team; Justin Weigle, baseball, 2017 All-GAC Second Team; Tessa Woodcock, women's soccer, 2016 GAC Defender of the Year



2016-17 ALL-OUACHITA ACADEMIC TEAM

Kristina Beall, women's swimming & diving, NSISC Scholar-Athlete; Daniella Brantley, softball, three-time All-GAC Academic Team; Aitor Lopez Breton, men's basketball, 2017 Crafton Tull Distinguished Scholar-Athlete; Kori Bullard, volleyball, 2016 Crafton Tull Elite Scholar-Athlete, and women's basketball, 2017 Crafton Tull Elite Scholar-Athlete; Weston Cronan, wrestling, named to President's List and Dean's List; Rachel Dilatush, women's cross country, 2016 Crafton Tull Scholar-Athlete; Logan Hampton, men's soccer, 2017 Crafton Tull Elite Scholar-Athlete; Lennart Lonnemann, men's tennis, 2017 Crafton Tull Distinguished Scholar-Athlete; Artemii Orekhov, men's swimming & diving, NSISC Scholar-Athlete; Bryson Rial, women's soccer; three-time All-GAC Academic Team; Jordan Sharp, football, two-time All-GAC Academic Team; Polina Tsymbalova, women's tennis, three-time All-GAC Academic Team; Austin White, baseball, two-time All-GAC Academic Team

CLASS NOTES

connecting the circle

1960s

Jay Miller ('69), retired chief of interpretation for Arkansas State Parks, was elected president of the National Association for Interpretation which is the professional organization of park and museum interpretation. He will continue to lead training and interpretive planning workshops nationwide.

1970s

Sandra McGuire ('73) retired and moved to Arkadelphia after living in Dallas, Texas, for 36 years. After 16 years of teaching, she changed careers to college publishing and retired from Macmillan Publishers where she was executive marketing manager for history literature. She recently was installed as president of the Clark County Democratic Women.

1980s

Beth (Stuckey '80) Utley has been appointed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg, Pa.

Jamie Fowler ('84) was named national managing partner of tax services at the professional services firm of Grant Thornton LLP where she has served in various leadership roles since 2003. She oversees the growth and operations of the firm's tax services offerings and serves on the senior leadership team.

Sharon (Harris '88) Warrick has published her first novel, titled *The House that Jack Built (A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups)*.

1990s

Jon ('94) and Suzanne (Norris '95) Rushing recently relocated to Sparta, Tenn., where he is serving as the pastor of worship and

discipleship at First Baptist Church of Sparta and she homeschools their youngest son and teaches private piano and voice. They have two sons, Eli and Josiah.

Varnum Shults ('98) has been called as pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Delhi, N.Y. He has served for the past 10 years at churches in California.

Dr. Brent Baskin ('99) has been promoted to associate professor of youth ministry and Christian studies at Shorter University in Rome, Ga. His wife, **Melissa (Ross '99)**, serves as an instructor of communication arts at Shorter University.

2000s

David Bowen ('00); his wife, Kelli, and their daughter, Natalie, moved to Prescott, Ark., where he is serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Prescott.

Danielle (Patricio '01) Waterman and her family recently relocated to Oklahoma for her husband's job.



Kara (Dexter '02) Bradford graduated from Texas Woman's University with a master's degree in speech language pathology in 2015. She completed her clinical fellowship year with the American Speech Language and Hearing Association, receiving her certificate of clinical competency in 2016 to be a licensed speech language pathologist.

Charles "Chuck" Everson ('02) was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church on Jan. 7. He will serve as a bivocational minister and will continue to work as senior vice president

and chief compliance officer of Peoples Bank in Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. Levi Simpson ('02) and his wife, April, relocated to London, England, where he is director of global pharmaceutical sourcing for Walmart. Their children, Judah (12), Asher (10) and Audrey (7) are attending the International School of London.

Kolby Harper ('05) was sworn in as deputy prosecutor for Clark County on April 5.

Amanda Ozment ('07) has accepted a position as the first full-time preschool and children's minister at First Southern Baptist Church of Buckeye, Ariz., as of Nov. 14, 2016.

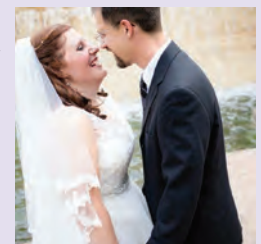
Tiffany (Murphree '09) Tucker was honored as the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce 2016 Rising Star for her service and contribution to Hot Springs at the Chamber of Commerce's community service awards banquet.



2010s

Kurt Bannert ('12) recently launched a new ministry aimed at providing low-cost counseling services to third culture/missionary kids and their families.

Bekah Anthony ('13) married Andrew Welser on Aug. 12, 2016, in Fort Worth, Texas.



Devan Malone ('13) married Ernie Elbert on April 1 at Family Farm in Malvern, Ark. They live in Little Rock where she is the marketing manager at Arkansas Business Publishing Group and he is an industrial engineer at Dillard's.



Carl Thomas ('13) married **Emily Grigsby ('16)** on June 17, 2016, in Cabot, Ark. They live in Houston and run an aquatic business called One Stop Aquatic Services.



Kegan Houston ('14) married **Tara Clem ('16)** on July 2 at Garrison Gardens in Texarkana, Ark. They live in Orlando, Fla., where he works for BWI, an agricultural sales company, and she works in entertainment at Walt Disney World.



Jillian Kaniss ('14) completed graduate school at University of Texas-Tyler in December 2016 with a degree in clinical neuropsychology. She has accepted a position as a psychometrist with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Stephen Williams ('14) married **Allie Hegi ('16)** on June 18, 2016, at First Baptist Church of El Dorado, Ark. They live in Little Rock where he is working as an assurance associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers and she is in her first year of pharmacy school at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



ROGERS NAMED DEAN OF STUDENTS

Rickey Rogers, a 2002 Ouachita graduate, has been named Ouachita's dean of students and director of residence life effective June 1.

Rogers' diverse professional experience includes serving in residence life, student development, local church ministry and athletics. He holds a B.A. degree from Ouachita with a major in physical education and minors in psychology and secondary education and an M.S. degree in clinical mental health counseling from Henderson State University.

"I am extremely humbled by the opportunity to serve as dean of students and director of residence life at Ouachita," Rogers said. "My family and I love Ouachita Baptist University and we are excited about Ouachita's future.

"I am equally excited about the opportunity to work within the student development office," he added. "I believe it plays an important role in responding to the needs of the student population and the situations that influence the campus community."

Rogers was named dean of students following an extensive national search process that included 40 applicants. "During our search process, Rickey emerged as the leading candidate for this key leadership position," said President Ben Sells. "His education and experience, his commitment to the Lord and Ouachita and a love for our students make him an ideal fit for this important leadership role."

"We are very pleased to have Rickey join our student development team," said Dr. Wesley Kluck, vice president for student development. "He brings a variety of talents and skills with him that will serve our students and our university well."

Noting that the pool of applicants was

narrowed to three finalists, Dr. Kluck said student development staff, student leaders, head coaches, faculty, administrators and President Sells "were all involved in the campus visits and gave valuable input and insight into the final selection."

Rogers, who served as a resident director in O.C. Bailey Hall from 2013 to 2016, also has served as an assistant football coach for the Ouachita Tigers since 2013. He previously was an education specialist in HSU's Educational Opportunity Center from 2007 to 2013 and was associate pastor/youth pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Arkadelphia from 2008 to 2013. Prior to that, he served as outreach coordinator at Ouachita's Educational Opportunity Center from 2002 to 2007.

Rogers also has served as OBU's campus sponsor for Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is a deacon at First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia and a former board member for *Arkansas Baptist News*. His wife, Lydia, also a 2002 Ouachita graduate, is a resident director in O.C. Bailey Hall and financial coordinator for First Baptist, Arkadelphia. They have three children, Rickey Jr., Reyna and Ryan.

Rogers succeeds Scott Haynes, a 2006 Ouachita graduate, who had served as dean of students since 2012 and director of residence life since 2011. Haynes and his wife, Katie, have accepted English teaching positions in Africa.

Dr. Kluck noted that Haynes' departure "concludes a great partnership with Scott and the student development staff. Scott has moved the bar higher during his time at Ouachita by developing new strategies in residence life and making significant advances with our students in conduct issues becoming part of the educational process."

FACULTY & STAFF UPDATE

FACULTY EARN TENURE, PROMOTIONS

Faculty members recently granted tenure by the Ouachita Board of Trustees are: Dr. David Caddell, professor of sociology; Dr. Bethany Hicks, assistant professor of history; Dr. Justin Isehour, assistant professor of music; and Ferris Williams, assistant professor of visual arts. Faculty members granted promotions are: Dr. David Caddell, professor of sociology; Dr. Scott Jackson, professor of Christian ministries; Dr. Douglas Nykolaishen, professor of Biblical studies; Dr. Kathy Collins, associate professor of education; Dr. Elizabeth Kelly, associate professor of sociology; and Julia Jones, assistant professor of Spanish.

JEFFERS WRITES SANGER BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Joe Jeffers, the Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Professor of Chemistry and Pre-Medical Studies, recently published the book *Frederick Sanger: Two-Time Nobel Laureate in Chemistry* with Springer Publishing Company as part of the "Springer Briefs in Molecular Science: History of Chemistry" series. During a sabbatical, Jeffers contacted Sanger about writing a biography on him and interviewed him 12 times over the next eight years. Sanger was a Nobel Prize recipient in both 1958 and 1980.

HARDIN: SUPPORT STAFFER OF YEAR

Shirley Hardin has been honored as Ouachita's 2017 Support Staff Member of the Year. Hardin, who has served as assistant registrar since 2012, has worked at Ouachita for 25 years. A Ouachita alumna, she began working in Ouachita's Office of Development in 1992. The annual award honors a staff member who demonstrates outstanding job performance; supports the university's mission; and relates positively to students, colleagues and the general public.

EVENT HONORS JOHNNY, SUSAN WINK

Honoring the influence and impact of longtime English professors Johnny and Susan Wink, Ouachita's Department of Language and Literature hosted a celebration recognizing the couple. "An Evening with Johnny Wink:

Stories and Poems" was held April 1 in Little Rock. Dr. Johnny Wink, the Betty Burton Peck Professor of English, is in his 44th year as an English professor at Ouachita. Dr. Susan Wink, professor emerita of English, took early retirement in 2003. Proceeds from the event went toward the Johnny and Susan Wink Scholarship to benefit English majors.

HOULIHAN'S COMPOSITIONS HONORED

Two compositions by Dr. Patrick Houlihan, professor and chair of music theory and composition at Ouachita, recently were presented at national and regional conferences. "Snoqualmie Passages" for alto saxophone and piano was presented at the joint national conference of the College Music Society and the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors held in Santa Fe, N.M. It also will be included on the 2017 Society of Composers CD. "Illuminations" for flute and piano was presented at the College of Music Society South-Central Regional Conference held at Henderson State University.

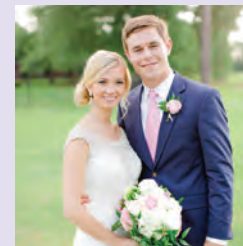
VISER PRESENTS PAPER IN ISRAEL

Dr. Bill Viser, professor of Christian ministries, recently served as a delegate to Israel with the International Association of Marriage and Family Counseling. He met Israeli mental health colleagues, toured mental health facilities and presented a paper on "The Role of the Expert Witness in Child Custody Cases." He also presented a one-day workshop for the Arkansas Association of Homes for Children and Youth. He spoke on "Assessment of Children and Adolescents: Diagnosis and Misdiagnosis" and "Walking on the Dark Side: Therapeutic Involvement with Difficult Issues."

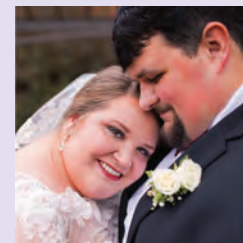
GRANADE ARTICLE EARNS HONOR

The Arkansas Historical Association has honored Dr. Ray Granade, director of Riley-Hickingbotham Library and professor of history, as the winner of the Walter L. Brown Award for Best Church History in a county or local journal. Granade's winning article, "Gurdon, Baptists, and Railroads," was recognized April 21 at the association's annual banquet.

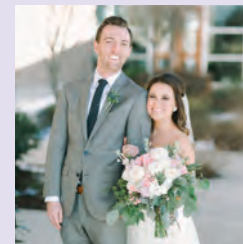
Will Hegi ('15) married **Morgan Cummins ('16)** on July 16, 2016, at First Baptist Church of Conway, Ark. They live in Cabot, Ark., where he is pursuing a juris doctor degree at William H. Bowen School of Law in Little Rock and she is pursuing a doctor of physical therapy degree at Harding University.



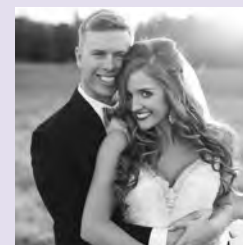
Will Richey ('15) married **Mollie Taylor ('16)** on Dec. 17, 2016, at First Baptist Church of Benton, Ark. They live in Benton where he is music minister at Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church in Haskell, Ark., and she teaches preschool at Garland County Schools' Pre-K in Hot Springs, Ark.



Tyler Rosenthal ('15) married **Anna Sikes ('15)** on Jan. 7 at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock. They live in Arkadelphia and are both working at Ouachita where he is the digital content coordinator and she has been named assistant director of campus ministries.



Ty Towers ('15) married **Kaitlyn Jackson ('17)** on Dec. 31, 2016, at Heritage Acres in Clarksville, Ark. In August, he will attend pharmacy school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and she will begin physical therapy school at the University of Central Arkansas.



FUTURE TIGERS

..... 2000s

Ellen Butler ('16)

married Nathan Schaub on Dec. 18, 2016. They live in Highland Park, Texas, where she is an audit associate at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers and he works in managerial consulting at Credera.



Collin Battaglia ('17) married Jillian Stewart ('17)

on Aug. 6, 2016, at First Southern Church in Bryant, Ark. They live in Arkadelphia where he will serve as a resident director at Ouachita and she is completing her degree.



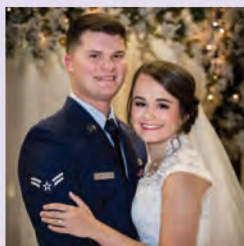
Logan Bond ('17)

married Kaylee Harper ('17) on May 29, 2016, in Springdale, Ark. They live in Northwest Arkansas where he is working as a technical analyst for Tyson Foods and she will begin teaching math in the fall.



Rebecca Robinson ('17)

married Levi Mattes on Aug. 8, 2016, in Tulsa, Okla. They live in Sumter, S.C., where he is serving in the U.S. Air Force.



Amy (Henderson '00) Arnold and her husband, Neil, adopted son Joseph Zhang (6) and daughter Lucy Ling (4) on June 24, 2016. They join siblings

Hillary Ashton (12), Sophie Le (10), Alyssa (10), Julianne (8), Jonah (7) and Harper (4).



Todd and Jenny (Tidball) Bunch ('02)

welcomed daughter Lillian Mary in November 2015.

They currently are living in Fort Worth, Texas, where he is completing his master's degree in healthcare administration. He is the administrator and director of patient care for Visiting Angels of Denton, Texas, and she continues her work as a stay-at-home mother. Lillian joins big brothers Ben (9) and Luke (6).



Julie (Burrow '03)

Garrett and her husband, Chad, welcomed son Lucas James on July 22, 2016. He joins big brother Clay (2).



Chason and Cassie (Androes) Laing ('04)

welcomed daughter Cohelet Eleanor on Oct. 1, 2016. She joins siblings Kohen (8), Judah (6), Shiloh (3) and Emmet (1).



Allison (Lavender '04) Scherer

and her husband, Nic, welcomed son Zachary Allan on Aug. 25, 2016. He joins big brother Thomas (6).



Sarah (Syptak '05) Hinrichs and her husband, Justin, welcomed daughter Ryleigh Grace on Feb. 6.

Bryce and Stacia (Gage) Petty ('05)

welcomed daughter Emilia Evelyn on Sept. 29, 2016. She joins big sister Emiline (5). They live in Nashville, Ark., where he is the technology coordinator for the school district and she is in her 11th year of teaching K-3rd grade music at Nashville Primary School.



Amy (Witherow '06) and Wayne Landers ('96*)

welcomed daughter Madalyn Belle on Jan. 12.



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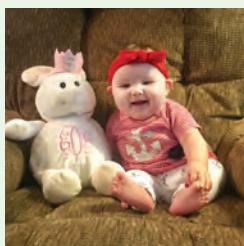
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SINGERS REUNION The Ouachita Singers held a campus reunion Feb. 3-4, including a celebration service featuring a performance by the 180-voice Ouachita Singers Reunion Choir in the recently renovated W. Francis McBeth Recital Hall. More than 230 Ouachita Singers alumni and friends attended the two-day reunion celebration. *Photo by Wesley Kluck*

Michael Dyar ('07) and his wife, Lara, welcomed daughter Elizabeth Jane on Nov. 22, 2016. They live in Bixby, Okla., where he serves as elementary pastor at The Church at South Tulsa.

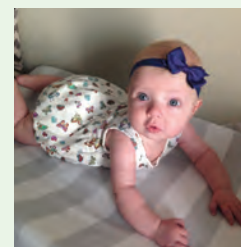


Sarah (Shepherd '08) Olson and her husband, Erik, welcomed daughter Aspen Ann on Dec. 7, 2016.



..... 2010s

Katie (Luff '11) Dustman and her husband, Nathan, welcomed daughter Audrey Claire on Dec. 26, 2016.



Nikki (Cosh '07) Newby and her husband, Rick, welcomed son Ryan James on Feb. 24. He joins big brother Elliott Newby. He is the 12th grandchild of **Ian ('87) and Sharon (Fitt '96) Cosh**, who both serve at Ouachita.

Emilee (Wade '09) Harborth and her husband, Shea, welcomed son Barrett Allen on July 22, 2016.



Ryan and Emilie (Gill) Gorman ('11) welcomed son Callaway Ryan on May 2.

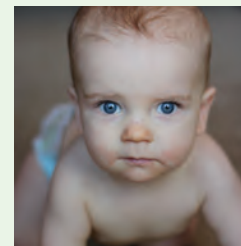
Megan (Brown '07) Robinson and her husband, KayCee, welcomed daughter Hannah Rose on Dec. 17, 2016. She joins siblings Hadlee (4) and Haddon (2).



Blake ('09) and Lindsay (Hollingsworth '10) Lockwood welcomed son Matthew Ford on Sept. 7, 2016.



DJ and Leslyn (Ichter) Jacks ('11) welcomed son Miles Louis on April 14, 2016. He joins big brother Emmett (2). He is the grandson of **Carlos ('83) and Shannon (Bowen '86*) Ichter**.



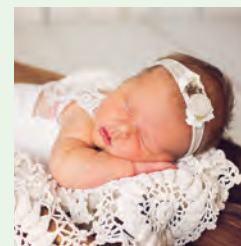
Hannah (King '08) Jones and her husband, Daniel, welcomed daughter Georgia Ruth on July 24, 2016. She joins big sisters Peyton and Molly Kate.



Braeden ('09) and Megan (Fida '10) Rogers welcomed son Grayson James on Jan. 2. They live in Frisco, Texas, where she works at Prestonwood Christian Academy in the development office. He works for JW Logistics and in his own business, Ambient11 Photography.



Morgan (Thornton '12) Morrison and her husband, Luke, welcomed daughter Piper Lane on Oct. 19, 2016.



Caitlyn (Wamble '12) Robnett and her husband, Tim, welcomed son Scott "Scotty" Wamble on Nov. 9, 2016. They recently moved to Little Rock.



Charles and Rachel (Rogers) Tillery ('14) welcomed son Charles "Chuck" on Sept. 22, 2016.



Landon ('13) and Sarah (Bell '11) Flax welcomed daughter Collins Bell on Sept. 22, 2016.



Emily (Treadway '13) McLarty and her husband, Kyle, welcomed son Elliott James on April 6.



Brandon ('13*) and Kate (Dodge '13) Perry welcomed son Jaden Nile on Dec. 7, 2016.



..... Faculty & Staff

Shane Seaton and his wife, Hannah, welcomed son Wilder Francis on March 6. Shane is the director of recreational life at Ouachita. Wilder is the grandson of **Dr. Byron ('80) and Dr. Amy (Coleman '82) Eubanks**; he is a professor of philosophy in the Pruet School of Christian Studies and she is an adjunct professor in the Patterson School of Natural Sciences.

IN MEMORIAM

..... 1930s

Augusta (Koen '39) Boatright of Alma, Ark., passed away on April 17 at age 99.

..... 1940s

Margaret (Hardgrave '41*) Laster of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 8. She is survived by her daughter, **Patty (Laster '66*) Lowe**; one grandson; and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Raymond Peeples, Sr. ('43*) of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 8. He is survived by two sons, **Dr. Alan Peeples ('74*)** and Dr. Raymond "Earl" Peeples; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Carolyn (Simmons '44) Flynt of Fayetteville, Ark., passed away on April 8. She is survived by two brothers, **Dr. James Simmons ('46)** and **Dr. Bill Simmons ('53)**; children, Kay, Rick and Dale Flynt; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Martha (Corn '44) Owens of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 11. She is survived by her sister, Katherine Rodgers; son, John

Owens; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Billie (Blaylock '44) Tanner of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 5. She is survived by siblings, Dr. Betty Hollingsworth and Dr. Joe Blaylock; children, Dr. Jim Tanner and Dr. Vicki Tanner; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Edna (Pugsley '45) Franks Brantley of Tucson, Ariz., passed away on Dec. 2, 2016.

Ruth (Holt '48) Lowery of North Little Rock passed away on Dec. 14, 2016. She is survived by her children, **Amy (Lowery '71) Heslip, David Lowery ('73), Mary (Lowery '75) Levenson**, Mark Lowery and Jeffrey Lowery; eight grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

John Anderson ('49) of Russellville, Ark., passed away on March 10.

Ruth (Steely '49) Blevins of Violet Hill, Ark., passed away on Feb. 2.

..... 1950s

Robert Mayes ('50) of Sun City, Ariz., passed away on Nov. 28, 2016.

Don Elliott, Sr. ('51) of Rogers, Ark., passed away on Jan. 16. He is survived by his wife, **Ella (Park '51) Elliott**; sister, **Laura (Elliott '55*) Threet**; four sons, **Don Jr. ('75), Steve ('75*), Wyley ('80) and Mark Elliott ('81*)**; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dr. Carl Ramsey, Sr. ('51) of Manning, S.C., passed away on Jan. 29. He is survived by his wife, **Virginia (Cothran '51) Ramsey**; sister, Rebecca White; three children, **Dr. Kyle Ramsey ('82)**, Gail Barwick and Amy Black; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. **Martha (Deaton '52) Crosby** of Sherwood, Ark., passed away on May 4. She is survived by her brother, Tommy Deaton; and two children, Susan and Rick.

Nancy (McNeil '52*) McCuin of Rogers, Ark., passed away on Feb. 27. Memorial gifts may be made to the Nancy and Earl McCuin Scholarship at Ouachita.



GOLD TIGERS Ouachita's graduating class of 1967 was inducted as the university's newest class of Gold Tigers as they celebrated their 50-year reunion April 20-21 on the Ouachita campus. Photo by Stephanie Bell

TWO GREAT EVENTS ONE GREAT CAUSE



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luncheon • Oct. 19 • Benton
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Dr. Ralph Smith ('52) of Austin, Texas, passed away on March 11. He was a former president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference. He is survived by his sister, Mary Jo Goldman; three children, Diane Love, Wallace Smith and Peyton Smith; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Raymond "Cubby" Clinton ('53*) of Brinkley, Ark., passed away on April 21. He is survived by his children, Mark Clinton and Michelle Daniel; and four grandchildren.

Betty (Newman '53) Conard of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 27, 2016. She is survived by her brother, Tedford Newman; three children, Mark Conard, **Cheryl (Conard '79) Harris** and Lori Hamilton; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be made to Ouachita.

LTC Bill Edwards ('53) of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on March 4. After retiring from the U.S. Army, he was named Arkansas Realtor of the Year in 1977. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy (Sagely '53*) Edwards**; three sons, Bill Jr., Mark and Ken Edwards; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. James Harrell, Sr. ('53) of Houston, Texas, passed away on Feb. 1. He served as Major General of the U.S. Army Medical Corps of Reserves and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. He is survived by his wife, Joan Harrell; son, Dr. James Harrell, Jr.; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Juanita Woods ('53) of Van Buren, Ark., passed away on Dec. 10, 2016. She is survived by her sister, Dr. Bobby Woods.

Dr. David Davila ('54) of Lexington, Ky., passed away on Nov. 3, 2016. He is survived by his sons, David and Danny Davila; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Patsy (Bartholomew '55) Belknop of Monticello, Ark., passed away on Dec. 30, 2016. She is survived by her husband, **Charlie Belknop ('55)**; children, **James Belknop ('75*)**, Susan Feeser and David Belknop; and four grandchildren.

Dr. Sam Cathey ('56) of Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away on April 4. A noted Southern Baptist evangelist, he was a past president of the National Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. He is survived by his wife, Lucille Cathey; and three daughters.

Bill Barnett ('57) of Texarkana, Texas, passed away on Feb. 27. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Barnett; five siblings, Rosa Wells, Lillie Drake, Eddie Pruitt, John Callaway and Rollin Callaway; three sons, Brad, Ric and Greg Barnett; step-son, Curtis Frost; six grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Rosemary (McRoberts '57*) Compton of Little Rock passed away on April 12. She is survived by two daughters, Stephanie Johnson and Kathleen Reynolds; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Betty (Holloway '59) Perry of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on Nov. 2, 2016. She is survived by her husband, **Gerald ('59)**; son, Scott Perry; daughter, **Beth Crutsinger-Perry ('86)**; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

..... 1960s

Margaret Gillaspie ('60) of Arkadelphia passed away on April 13. She served 28 years as executive director of Woman's Missionary Union for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

William Richard Loyd, Jr. ('61) of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on March 24. He is survived by his siblings, Diane Guillory, Stan Loyd and Paula Navin; three children, Lori Eliason, Ginger Teegarden and William Richard Loyd III; and two grandchildren.

June (Hines '62) Moore of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 18, 2016. She is survived by her husband, **Homer Moore ('58)**; brother, Billy Hines; two sons, Jeffrey and Gregory Moore; and four grandchildren.

Nancy (Aycock '62) Tyson of Redmond, Wash., passed away on Dec. 20, 2016.

Sharon (Lenderman '65) Spann of Searcy, Ark., passed away on March 26. She is survived by her husband, **Dee Spann ('65)**; five siblings, Carrol Lenderman, Ben Spurlock, James Spurlock, Darlene Spry and Anna Spurlock; and son, Joshua Spann.

Mary (Partridge '67*) Jester of Caddo Valley passed away on March 3. She is survived by

her mother, Ruth Partridge; siblings, Danny Partridge and Annette Wehunt; two children, Candy Davis and Brett Jester; and three grandchildren.

Nancy (Gifford '68*) Rose of Benton, Ark., passed away on Feb. 15. She is survived by her husband, **Richard Rose ('67)**.

..... 1970s

Connie Quick ('71) of Arkadelphia passed away on Feb. 14. She is survived by her mother, **Jane Quick ('67)**; and sister, Carol Lane.

FIVE RETIREES HONORED FOR TOTAL OF 133 YEARS OF SERVICE

Five retiring faculty and staff members with a combined total of more than 130 years of service to Ouachita were honored during a campus retirement reception held May 3 in Walker Conference Center.

The honorees included Dr. Joe Jeffers, professor emeritus of chemistry, who taught 46 years at his alma mater; Charolette Allison, executive secretary to the president emerita, who served with six Ouachita presidents over 31 years; Julia Jones, assistant professor emerita of Spanish, who taught at Ouachita for 16 years; Jacque Cash who served 21 years in the campus post office; and Vicki Crossno who served 19 years in building services for facilities management.

Affirming the retiring faculty and staff members' contributions to Ouachita, President Ben Sells noted that "we are honoring faithfulness to the Lord, to Ouachita, to one another and to students. You've been motivated by a calling, satisfaction of work well done, the opportunity to shape students and the fellowship of a college community.

"It's very important that we take a few moments to cast a spotlight on you and express our gratitude to you," he added. "Ouachita won't be the same without you. We thank the Lord for you coming to Ouachita, for staying and for finishing well."

In addition to the retirement recognitions, the three faculty and staff members honored with emeritus status by the Ouachita Board of Trustees are Dr. Jeffers, Allison and Jones.

Dr. Jeffers has served since 2013 as the Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Professor of Chemistry and Pre-Medical Studies in the Patterson School of Natural Sciences. He previously served 10 years as the founding dean of the Patterson School and held the W.D. and Alice Burch Chair of Chemistry



RETIREES RECOGNITION Five retiring faculty and staff were honored at a recent reception on campus: (from left) Charolette Allison, Julia Jones, Dr. Joe Jeffers, Jacque Cash and Vicki Crossno. Photo by Andy Henderson

from 1995 to 2003. A 1966 Ouachita graduate, he holds his Ph.D. from Purdue University.

The Ouachita Student Senate presented Dr. Jeffers the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1991 and the Central Arkansas chapter of the American Chemical Society named him Professor of the Year in 2004. He co-founded Ouachita's Faculty Colloquium in 1974 and was presented Ouachita's Purple and Gold Heart Award in 2004 on the 30th anniversary of the colloquium's founding. He recently published the book, *Frederick Sanger: Two-Time Nobel Laureate in Chemistry*.

Reflecting on his decades of service at Ouachita, Dr. Jeffers said, "I would like to think that my greatest impact with students has been challenging them to develop the study and thinking skills that will serve them for a lifetime. Albert Einstein said, 'Genius is 1 percent talent and 99 percent hard work.' I paraphrase him to say, 'Success is 10 percent smarts and 90 percent sweat.' We can't all be geniuses, but we can all make the most of our capabilities if we are willing to work."

Charolette Allison, a former Ouachita student, has served in the president's office since 1986, working in the administrations of Dr. Daniel Grant, Dr. Ben Elrod, Dr. Andy

Westmoreland, Dr. Rex Horne, Dr. Charles Wright and Dr. Ben Sells.

"I treasure most the lifetime friendships made with students, staff, faculty and trustees," Allison said. "Ouachita people are the best to be found anywhere. They make Ouachita the right choice for people, young and old, to learn and prepare for future careers and service to God and their communities.

"Having the privilege of serving alongside six Ouachita presidents as receptionist, secretary and later executive secretary was beyond my wildest dreams," she noted. "All six men are unique individuals who loved the Lord and Ouachita, serving tirelessly for the good of Ouachita. I thank God for them and the impact they've had on my life and on my family's lives."

Julia Jones, a graduate of Henderson State University, has taught Spanish at Ouachita since 2001. She previously taught English and Spanish at several high schools throughout southwest Arkansas as well as at Rich Mountain Community College and Cossatot Community College.

"I could never imagine being in a place where my students are a constant Christian witness to me," Jones reflected. "They never fail to amaze me every year."

PROFESSORS EMERITI VIRGINIA QUEEN AND EVERETT SLAVENS LEAVE LEGACY OF SERVICE

Miss Virginia Queen and Dr. G. Everett Slavens, emeriti faculty members at Ouachita who taught a combined total of 76 years, passed away in recent months. Both were remembered for their faithful years of service at Ouachita and impact on thousands of students.

Miss Queen, professor emerita of music, died March 29 at age 96. Dr. Slavens, professor emeritus of history, died May 15 at age 85.

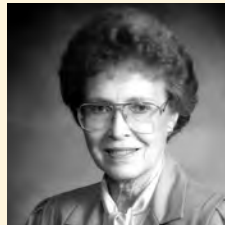
Miss Queen, who graduated from Ouachita in 1944 with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees, also earned a Master of Music degree from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. She taught at Prescott High School and the Tennessee College for Women before joining the Ouachita music faculty in 1946. She retired in 1986 after 40 years of service at Ouachita. In recent years, she resided at Parkway Village in Little Rock.

The Virginia Queen Piano Competition, which is named in her honor, held its 40th annual competition this spring on the Ouachita campus. Miss Queen established the competition to encourage piano students to excel in their area of study.

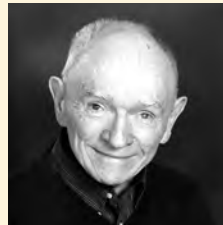
"Virginia Queen had a long and successful career teaching piano at Ouachita," said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of Ouachita's School of Fine Arts. "Her love and devotion to her students, the faculty and the school made her a hallmark of Ouachita. The naming of the annual Virginia Queen Piano Competition is representative of the admiration Ouachita had for her and her teaching."

A memorial service was held April 6 at Parkway Village Chapel with Dr. Rex Horne, former Ouachita president, officiating. Memorial gifts may be given to Ouachita's Queen Piano Award Endowment Fund at www.obu.edu/give.

Dr. Slavens, who lived in Las Cruces, N.M., since 2010, was known as a dedicated teacher and mentor for many students and young colleagues throughout his career. He earned his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and PhD degrees in history at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He taught at the School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo., and began



Virginia Queen



Everett Slavens

a 36-year teaching career at Ouachita in 1961, where he was chairman of the history department and retired in 1997.

"Dr. Slavens served many years as head of Ouachita's then Division of Social Sciences, which he left much stronger than he found it," said Dr. Randall Wight, dean of Ouachita's Sutton School of Social Sciences. "As history department chair, he assembled and presided over a sterling group of colleagues. He gave campus voice to a scholar's aspirations of teaching and research.

"Everett was a profile in courage, a figure of lore," Dr. Wight added. "For generations of students and colleagues, his name conjures a Ouachita not lost to the mists of time."

During his teaching career, Dr. Slavens participated in National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars at Boston College, Vanderbilt University, Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley, as well as a seminar in South Africa, where he met President Nelson Mandela.

Following his retirement, he moved to The Woodlands, Texas, where he participated in volunteer programs with The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church in Mexico and Zambia. He also volunteered in programs in prisons and nursing homes. He was an active member of the Care Team, devoting much of his time to AIDS and Alzheimer's groups.

He is survived by his children, Margaret Evans, Rebecca Bowen and Douglas Slavens; six grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters. Memorial services were scheduled for June 3 at First Presbyterian Church in Arkadelphia, Ark., and June 10 in Las Cruces, N.M. Memorial gifts may be made to Ouachita's Cornerstone Fund at www.obu.edu/give.

Jan (Rogers '75) Bishop of Paris, Ark., passed away on Jan. 22. She is survived by her husband, Terry Bishop; mother, Kate Rogers; sister, Leona Cleveland; son, Caleb Bishop; and two grandchildren.

Janet (Robertson '79*) Berry of Cape Girardeau, Mo., passed away on April 7. She is survived by her husband, **Dan Berry ('79)**; sister, Rebecca Rochelle; and children, Daniel Berry, David Berry and Rachel Berry.

..... 1980s

Edward Cooper ('81) of Hope, Ark., passed away on March 30. He is survived by his children, Lesha Cooper, **Sharyla (Cooper '88) Thompson** and Jonathan Cooper; and two grandchildren.

Karen (Owens '81) Holloway of Murfreesboro, Tenn., passed away on March 25. She is survived by her husband, David Holloway, Jr.; siblings, Doug Owens and **Becky (Owens '72*) Tolson**; and twin sons, Spencer and Stuart Holloway.

Dorothy Branch ('86) of North Little Rock passed away on March 13.

..... 1990s

Pamala Coleman ('91) of Arkadelphia passed away on Dec. 2, 2016. She is survived by her daughter, Bethany Ford; parents, Frank and Patricia Coleman; and siblings, Angela Anderson and Gabriel Coleman.

Martha (Barber '92*) White of Arkadelphia passed away on Feb. 23. She is survived by her husband, Don White; sister, Sarah Lonquist; two children, Diane Brown and **Donald White ('85)**; and seven grandchildren.

* denotes former student

PATTERSON REMEMBERED FOR LIFE OF MINISTRY AND SERVICE

Dr. J.D. Patterson, a noted alumnus, benefactor and former trustee of Ouachita Baptist University, died March 26 at age 90.

University trustees affirmed Dr. Patterson's lifelong commitment to Ouachita by naming the J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences in his honor in 2002. A 1947 Ouachita alumnus, he received Ouachita's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1984 and an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1999. He served two terms on the Ouachita Board of Trustees from 2005 through 2011.

"During a recent visit with Dr. Patterson, he talked about his love for Ouachita and his love for missions," said Ouachita President Ben Sells. Noting that "Ouachita is known for its strong science program," Dr. Sells added, "Dr. Patterson's support and partnership is one of the reasons this is true."

Dr. Patterson, who earned his D.D.S. degree from Washington University School of Dentistry in St. Louis, practiced dentistry in Searcy, Ark., for more than 60 years until his retirement in 2015. He was a member of the Arkansas State Dental Association and the American Dental Association. He also served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant Dental Officer at Sukiran Hospital in Okinawa, Japan, during the Korean War.

Known for his strong commitment to missions, Dr. Patterson helped finance and lead numerous stateside and international mission trips, providing dental and medical care to thousands of children and adults. His mission endeavors took him around the globe, including more than 20 projects in Brazil, Chile, China, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Panama and Tanzania. He was honored by the American

Dental Association for meritorious service to the people of Brazil.

Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences, noted that "Dr. Patterson had a direct influence on my life but he also impacted many students he never met. Over the years, his contributions to Ouachita include our Patterson Summer Research Program, funds to remodel facilities and funding for both international students and missionary kids, as well as hosting students on medical mission trips.

"Dr. Patterson's influence has impacted students for decades and will continue to impact students for generations to come," Dr. Knight added. "I traveled to Brazil with him twice, and it was never a dull moment with Dr. Patterson!"

A generous Ouachita benefactor, Dr. Patterson funded a number of academic initiatives. In addition to establishing a scholarship in honor of his parents, Dr. Jesse and Elizabeth Patterson, he funded the E.A. Provine Chair of Chemistry in memory of his former professor, the J.D. Patterson Chair of Biology, two laboratories in Harvey Jones Science Center and the annual Patterson Summer Research Program.

"Dr. J.D. Patterson has been a great friend to the natural sciences at Ouachita," reflected Dr. Joe Jeffers, the Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Professor of Chemistry and Pre-Medical Studies and former dean of the Patterson School. "J.D. had a whimsical sense of humor. He liked to have fun, and he liked folks around him to have fun. One had to be on one's toes around J.D."



J.D. Patterson

"J.D. was very dedicated to Ouachita," Dr. Jeffers said. "During a renovation of Hamilton Moses Science Building to become Moses-Provine Science Center, J.D. borrowed the money to fund the renovation so it could be done during the summer. When we were trying to get our fledgling summer undergraduate research program off the ground, J.D. was there to support us. He funded the first few years out of pocket while he was setting up an endowment to fund it indefinitely."

Noting that Dr. Patterson "often took Ouachita students on mission trips to Brazil," Dr. Jeffers added, "In the Amazon jungles, several of those students got to pull teeth – under supervision, of course."

In an essay published in *Ouachita Voices: Celebrating 125 Years of Academic & Christian Excellence*, Dr. Patterson cited the influence and impact of such mentors as Dr. Provine and Mrs. Denty, the cafeteria dietician, who provided him opportunities to gain leadership responsibilities during his undergraduate years.

"Why did everything work well for me? Was it because I was willing to work?" Dr. Patterson wrote. "My basis – education – helped me climb the ladder of success."

Dr. Patterson and his wife, Nancy, who passed away in 2004, were the parents of three daughters, Dr. Beth Patterson of Searcy; Amy Patterson of Sherwood; and Jo DeGroat of Jackson, Miss., all of whom are Ouachita graduates.

"As we celebrate Dr. Patterson's life and legacy, our university family also expresses sympathy for and appreciation to his daughters and other family members," Dr. Sells said. "We also honor the memory of Mrs. Nancy Patterson, who partnered with him in ministry and service."

★ CALLED TO MINISTRY ★



HOSTED BY OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Do you know a high school student who has sensed a call to ministry?

Tell them about this unique 2-day retreat on Ouachita's campus!

JULY 28-29, 2017 • OBU.EDU/C2M



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Scott Jackson

O.L. and Frances Bayless Chair of Christian Communication

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni Relations

While Dr. Scott Jackson is known for his pastor's heart, passion for God's Word and excellent teaching in the classroom, many students and colleagues may not know that it was a football scholarship that led him to Ouachita in the fall of 1981.

While at Ouachita, Jackson played football, participated in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, was a member of the Beta Beta men's social club and majored in business administration while taking a few religion classes. By the time he graduated from Ouachita in 1985, he sensed a call to ministry and enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1988. After seminary, he worked at Pine Cove camp and then pursued a call to youth ministry, serving a church in Little Rock. Returning to Arkadelphia in 1994, Jackson served as pastor of Richwoods Baptist Church.

"I didn't plan to become a pastor," Jackson noted. "I love youth ministry, Scripture study, children's ministry and missions. But my desire to serve the church and my gift of shepherding ultimately led me into pastoring in a local church."

While serving at Richwoods, Jackson was offered an opportunity to teach adjunct classes in Christian studies at Ouachita, which he did until 1998. He returned to Ouachita to teach full time in 2002, which he has done for the past 15 years while also serving as pastor of Fellowship Church in Arkadelphia.

"I really enjoy working with young people – especially the high quality students here at Ouachita," Jackson shared. "I am often inspired by the students and their lives. It is fun to see them grow during their time here."

"Scott Jackson is a real asset to the Christian ministries department of the Pruet School of Christian Studies," said Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruet School. "Scott combines a top PhD in New Testament studies with many, many years of pastoral experience. Thus he is able to take complex issues regarding Christian ministry and explain them in practical and understandable terms. He is very innovative and creative at giving his students as much real-life ministry experience as possible."

In recent years, Jackson has taken his love for recreation and the outdoors and partnered with colleagues in the Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies to create a hybrid Christian studies/kinesiology major. The course he created, Ministry Recreation, is unlike most classes he teaches since it's extremely experiential with groups learning traditional church recreation ministry, Christian camping and outdoor recreation. The hands-on course has been well-received as students love learning to lead games, hikes, canoe trips and more.

"I am excited and optimistic for Ouachita's future," Jackson said. "I have great confidence in Dr. Sells' leadership, vision, the progress he is making on a new strategic plan, and I am most pleased to see the focus on continuing to pursue academic and Christian excellence, which is why I'm here. Mona and I have always been loyal to Ouachita and love the Ouachita family. Even when we were away, we came home for Homecoming and to visit any time we could."

Jackson and his wife, Mona ('85), live in Arkadelphia and have three children, all Ouachita graduates, Josh ('11), Lauren (Jackson '13) Raines and Kaitlyn (Jackson '17) Towers.

"I really enjoy working with young people – especially the high quality students here at Ouachita."



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Stan Poole

Vice President for Academic Affairs

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni Relations

In his role as vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Stan Poole has conferred degrees during 14 spring commencement exercises at Ouachita, but this year was different. It was the first time that one of the graduates walking across the stage was his own daughter – Caroline (Poole) Winkler ('17).

"It was so special," he reflected. "I didn't want to make a big deal out of one certain graduate, but I couldn't see her just walk across the stage either! It was such a joy to present her with her Ouachita diploma after four years of outstanding work as a student."

While Dr. Poole has spent the past 14 years investing in students and faculty at Ouachita, he graduated from Louisiana College in 1981 and returned to teach there after completing his master's degree at Tulane University in 1984. While teaching at Louisiana College, he earned his doctorate from the University of Virginia in 1991.

"I heard a lot about Ouachita from Louisiana College faculty and staff and my local pastor and his wife, Larry and Linda (Strother) Taylor," Dr. Poole noted. "I enjoyed serving at my alma mater and was not looking to leave when the search committee called, but I have loved teaching and serving at Ouachita. What struck me when I visited Ouachita was the strong sense of community. While other schools may have a similar 'community,' it just feels different here. This is a special place."

"I work closely with Dr. Poole and quickly came to appreciate what others have experienced over the past 14 years," said President Ben Sells. "Stan is respected as a teacher and scholar, admired for his Christian commitment, appreciated for his integrity in representing Ouachita to accrediting groups and well-regarded for his administrative skill that is thorough, fair and moves us forward."

While Dr. Poole loves teaching in the classroom and was able to do so for many years as a professor of English in addition to his work in academic affairs, the addition of Ouachita Online, Ouachita at New Life Church, increased regulations on higher education and the amount of work related to two visits in 10 years from Ouachita's accrediting organization, the Higher Learning Commission, Dr. Poole has had to set aside teaching for now. While he misses interacting with students in the classroom, he said he finds his work in helping shape Ouachita's future direction through preparing for reaccreditation both energizing and exciting.

"I love interacting with faculty across the university. I enjoy seeing how they think, how those from different disciplines approach things differently and I enjoy helping bring those in humanities, sciences, fine arts and other areas to work together to advance our academic program here at Ouachita," he emphasized.

"I'm excited about the new energy and ideas that have come from our new president," Dr. Poole added. "I look forward to the challenging but rewarding work ahead as we explore new undergraduate programs, graduate programs and expanding our online program. I do look forward to a time where I can return to the classroom, though. Getting to know students in a classroom setting and their friends gives me a connection to campus that I enjoy."

Dr. Poole and his wife, Sue, who teaches in an adjunct role in psychology and sociology, live in Arkadelphia and are active members of First Baptist Church. They have two daughters, Anna Grace, who married alumnus Reece Franklin ('13) in 2014, and Caroline ('17) who recently married alumnus David Winkler ('16).

"I have loved teaching and serving at Ouachita. . . . This is a special place."



LIVE OUT OUACHITA'S VISION & MISSION

Note: *This column, an abridged version of my 2017 commencement address, is relevant to all alumni as we explore "direction." To read the full version, go to: www.obu.edu/sellsgrad17.*

Class of 2017, congratulations!

You completed a rigorous Christian liberal arts program. You studied and worked with committed faculty and staff. You served your classmates, campus and community. You studied and ministered around the globe. You experienced community in the residence halls and the caf.

You completed serious research and scholarship. You performed and created works of music and art. You competed well athletically. You worshipped in Chapel, Refuge and Noonday. You performed in Tiger Tunes and played in Tiger Traks.

You worked hard and had fun. You made lifelong friends. You're ready for service and success. You finished. We're proud of you!

This ceremony is the capstone of your Ouachita experience. More than anything else, I want you to know that we're interested in keeping a lifelong relationship with you. You'll forever be marked by Ouachita.

When you leave campus today, please know one thing for certain: You'll always be welcomed back. The lamp of your alma mater's love will always be on the Cone-Bottoms window sill, awaiting your return and beckoning you back.

From now on, Ouachita is not only defined by what happens on this campus but by where you go and what you do. Wherever Ouachita alumni live, Ouachita lives.

Allow me to suggest the most important contribution you can make as an alumnus: Live out the vision and mission of Ouachita by cultivating four qualities in your lives:

- **increasing in your love of God and love of learning,**
- **exemplifying intellectual and spiritual growth,**
- **undertaking meaningful work and**
- **demonstrating reasoned engagement with the world.**

As you do, you'll serve the purposes of God in your generation through your family, career, community and church.

We'll need your wisdom, faith, knowledge and involvement in sustaining and amplifying the Ouachita mission; to keep Ouachita, Ouachita; and to make it stronger and better for the many students who will follow you.

Allow me to share a few words that I've found especially meaningful. The words aren't mine, but reflect my deepest hopes for you.

They were written and spoken in 1721 by a young Christian college graduate, Jonathan Edwards, who became one of our country's most notable theologians and philosophers.

Edwards posed the question, "Why should Christians be happy?" and responded with three answers that I commend to you:

- **The bad things will turn out for good.**
- **The good things can never be taken away.**
- **The best things are yet to come.**

Because we live in a fallen world, bad things happen, but we know that for those who love the Lord, they ultimately will turn out for good. We know that the truly good things – such as fellowship with God – can't be taken away from you. And, we know that the best things – such as life in heaven – are yet to come.

It has been our privilege to live and learn with you. Our hearts are full. Our cups runneth over. We love you!

May God bless each of you today and throughout all your endeavors that honor the Lord; may God bless this country; and may God continue to bless Ouachita Baptist University.

*Wherever Ouachita
alumni live,
Ouachita lives.*

Ben R. Sells, PhD
@OuachitaPrez

The Queen of the College World
REQUESTS THE HONOUR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT

OUACHITA
Homecoming
OCTOBER 3-7 • 2017

Tuesday, October 3

HOMECOMING CHAPEL • 10 a.m.
featuring “Chewbacca Mom” Candace (Sharp ’02) Payne

CLARK COUNTY ALUMNI DINNER • 5:30 p.m.
reservations required

Wednesday, October 4

EXPLORE OUACHITA!
overnight admissions experience • www.obu.edu/explore

TIGER TUNES PREVIEW PERFORMANCE • 6:30 p.m.
details available at www.obutigertunes.com

Thursday, October 5

EXPLORE OUACHITA!
overnight admissions experience • www.obu.edu/explore

TIGER TUNES • 7:30 p.m.
purchase tickets at www.obutigertunes.com

Friday, October 6

SENIOR WALK RIBBON CUTTING • 5:30 p.m.
Class of 2016 • Senior Walk

OUACHITA FAMILY REUNION DINNER • 6 p.m.
Classes of 1977, 1987, 1997 & 2007 • reservations required

TIGER TUNES • 7:30 p.m.
purchase tickets at www.obutigertunes.com

Saturday, October 7

HOMECOMING REUNION TAILGATE & BRUNCH
9 – 11 a.m.
all classes welcome

ALUMNI SWIM MEET • 9 – 10 a.m.
contact bosticks@obu.edu to register

PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES • 11:30 a.m.
presentation of Homecoming Queen & Court

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME • 12 noon
vs. Harding University

HOMECOMING AFTER PARTY • after the game
live music, fellowship, snacks & campus tours

CLASS OF 1977 REUNION • after the game
Evans Student Center Bridge

HOMECOMING STREET FESTIVAL • 4 – 8:30 p.m.
fajitas & fellowship

TIGER TUNES • 5 & 8:30 p.m.
purchase tickets at www.obutigertunes.com

Learn more and purchase tickets for all
Homecoming events at www.obu.edu/alumni.
For Tiger Tunes ticket information,
visit www.obutigertunes.com.



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WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

For hundreds of Ouachitonians, their legacy includes parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren who also have experienced the life-changing impact of a Ouachita education.

Marissa Pilcher, a 2017 graduate, is part of the Ouachita legacy shared by her grandma, father, sister and brother.

REX PILCHER, Class of 1984

MARISSA PILCHER, Class of 2017

JEAN JUSTICE PILCHER, Class of 1948

Being a third generation legacy, I knew about the rich heritage of Ouachita and everything that it had to offer.

It was the legacy and my personal campus visit and experience that really solidified my decision to attend.

I LOVE THAT OUACHITA IS A FAMILY SCHOOL AND HOW IT HAS SHAPED MY OWN FAMILY. I am thankful for the influence that Ouachita has had on me, my family and the generations to come.

MARISSA PILCHER

mass communications & Spanish major from Maumelle, Ark.