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Ouachita Baptist University


Ouachita Alumni

Winter 2018

The Ouachita Circle Winter 2018

Ouachita Baptist University
Ouachita Baptist University

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STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS: 2018-2022 | VERSER, JPAC CELEBRATE MILESTONES | TIGERS WIN GAC FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

THE QUACHITA CIRCLE

Winter 2018



Invested



Seek to be invested in what matters most

When you hear the word “invested,” what images come to mind? For many people, their initial thoughts likely turn to financial investments. While that’s a primary use of the word, there are many other ways for individuals to be invested – whether investing in personal relationships, acts of service or time commitments.

Scripture is clear about the difference between investing in temporal and eternal treasures. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, He counseled, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

From a university perspective, one key aspect of being invested involves Ouachita’s commitment to invest in the lives of our students. As faculty and staff members serve as mentors and role models both in the classroom and beyond, students have the opportunity to grow and learn academically, spiritually and personally as they prepare to impact the world in the years ahead. Dr. Chris Brune, chair of the Hickingbotham School’s Department of Accounting and Finance, explores that issue on pages 8-9.

I had the privilege of serving alongside more than 20 of our students on Ouachita’s Hurricane Harvey disaster relief team in Houston this past fall. (See pages 10-11.) Besides investing in students and watching them invest in the lives of strangers in need, the experience also was a stark reminder about the insignificance of “stuff.”

As we served in neighborhoods devastated by Harvey, we saw literally tons of debris stacked in front of flood-damaged homes. “We saw home after home where families’ lives were forever changed,” reflected James Taylor, director of Campus Ministries. “All their belongings were piled in the front yard, waiting for someone to take the priceless rubble away.”

Several residents talked about being thankful that their loved ones’ lives were spared – and not worrying too much about the material possessions they had lost. Such moments help put life into perspective.

Where our treasure is, our hearts will be also. May we all be careful to invest in what truly matters.

Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

Invested

“An investment in
knowledge always pays
the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

“Those who have
invested the most are
the last to surrender.

Vince Lombardi

“Time properly invested
is worth a fortune.

Jim Rohn

“If you invest nothing,
the reward is worth little.

Richelle Goodrich

“Be generous: Invest in
acts of charity. Charity
yields high returns.

Ecclesiastes 11:1

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SUBMIT ADDRESS CHANGES AND CLASS NOTES

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CAMPUS NEWS



OUACHITA EARNS RECOGNITION AS TOP PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN ARKANSAS

Ouachita marked a number of milestones in recent months, including being ranked as the top private university in Arkansas, achieving the top graduation rate in the state and recording a 17.9 percent gain in first-time freshmen over the previous year – one of its largest year-to-year freshman class increases in recent history.

Ouachita was ranked as the No. 1 private university in Arkansas by Niche.com. It also was cited as the top university in the state by Niche in several other categories, including best liberal arts college, best Christian college, best small college, best value and safest college campus.

Other recognitions included being ranked in the top 5 percent nationally as “Best for the Money” by USA Today/CollegeFactual.com as well as being named among “America’s Top Colleges” by *Forbes* for the ninth consecutive year and listed among “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” by *U.S. News & World Report* for the seventh year in a row.

Ouachita attained the top university graduation rate in Arkansas, according to the latest data compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics. Ouachita’s graduation rate of 70 percent is the highest among all 22 of Arkansas’ institutions of higher education, both private and public, that grant baccalaureate degrees. Ouachita is one of only five universities in the state with a graduation rate above 50 percent.

“Ouachita’s consistent rankings among the nation’s top schools reflect the dedication of our faculty, staff and students,” said Ouachita President Ben Sells. “We continue to seek to enhance the value of a Ouachita education through a variety of initiatives designed to benefit students and families.”

UPDATE

OUACHITA'S INAUGURAL CALLED 2 MINISTRY RETREAT ATTRACTS 150 STUDENTS & LEADERS

Helping equip the next generation of Christian ministers, Ouachita hosted its inaugural Called 2 Ministry Retreat this past summer.

A total of 90 high school students interested in exploring a call to Christian ministry gathered for the July 28-29 retreat on Ouachita's Arkadelphia campus. Participants included 52 high school students from across Arkansas as well as students from Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Combined with Ouachita student hosts, presenters, faculty and staff, the retreat attracted approximately 150 participants. Among the speakers and facilitators were more than 30 Ouachita alumni, giving them the opportunity to invest in future ministry leaders.

"Called to Ministry reflects our commitment to help students pursue their call to ministry – beyond preparing them as Ouachita students – that will serve Arkansas churches and beyond," noted Ouachita President Ben Sells.

The two-day retreat was co-sponsored by Ouachita, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the Prestonwood Network and Cross Church School of Ministry. Keynote addresses highlighted such topics as "Here Am I, Send Me," "How to Respond When Critics Ask" and "Your Place in God's Story."

Dr. J.D. "Sonny" Tucker, ABSC executive director, served as one of the retreat's 14 breakout session leaders. "God is calling some of Arkansas' top students into vocational ministry," he said. "As leaders, we have a holy responsibility to assist and facilitate these young people in every way possible." Plans are under way to host the second annual C2M Retreat this summer on July 26-28.



OUACHITA HOSTS SMITHSONIAN "HOMETOWN TEAMS" EXHIBIT

Ouachita hosted the national traveling exhibition "Hometown Teams," presented by the Smithsonian Institution, Oct. 28-Dec. 9 in Hammons Gallery. Ouachita was one of six sites in Arkansas selected to host the exhibit and the only one in southwest Arkansas.

"It is an honor to be chosen to host an exhibit from the Smithsonian, one of our nation's best known and most respected museums," said Dr. Wendy Richter, Ouachita professor and archivist. She said the exhibit was designed to "increase interest in and understanding of the significance of local sports."

"Hometown Teams" explores how sports impacts American society by shaping lives and uniting communities. According to the Smithsonian, the exhibit captures the stories that unfold on the neighborhood fields and courts, the underdog heroics, fierce rivalries and gut-wrenching defeats.

OUACHITA'S HUCKABEE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Ouachita's Huckabee School of Education earned accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) this past fall. To gain this accreditation, university education programs must meet nationally recognized standards that ensure excellence in educator preparation programs.

"These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate," said Dr. Christopher Koch, president of CAEP. "Seeking CAEP accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider."

"I am immensely proud of the outstanding work done by each member of the education faculty and of the quality of our students," said Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the Huckabee School of Education. "It was truly a team effort to respond to the CAEP standards in the ever-changing field of education with clear evidence of the success of teacher education at Ouachita."

CAEP is the sole nationally recognized accrediting body for educator preparation. Accreditation is a nongovernmental process based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. The Huckabee School also has been ranked in the top 25 percent in the National Council on Teacher Quality's latest ratings for undergraduate programs that prepare high school teachers.



ART HISTORY CLASSROOM HONORS RAOUF HALABY

Ouachita officials dedicated the newly named Dr. Raouf J. Halaby Art History Lecture Classroom and honored Dr. Halaby, Professor Emeritus of Visual Arts and English, during a reception held Dec. 5. The classroom in Moses-Provine Hall honors Dr. Halaby for his 42 years of service at Ouachita.

In his remarks at the reception, Dr. Halaby told Ouachita students, “Take advantage of every educational opportunity; you are fortunate to be attending a university whose faculty are dedicated and committed to preparing you for the next phase of your life. Make art joyously so as to delight the world with creative impulses and remember that all the arts make the world a better global community.”

Dr. Halaby was born in Jerusalem and came to Ouachita as a student in 1965. He graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and earned his Master of Science in Education degree in 1970. He holds a Doctor of Education in English from East Texas State University. He began teaching at Ouachita in 1973 and was named chair of the Department of Visual Arts in 1994. He retired in 2015.

“The department named the classroom where Dr. Halaby had taught CORE and art history courses for 15 years,” said Donnie Copeland, current chair of Ouachita’s Rosemary Gossett Adams Department of Visual Arts. “Naming the classroom after him honors his work in service to the students and the university.”



RILEY-HICKINGBOTHAM LIBRARY’S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS EARNS NATIONAL AWARD

The Arkansas Baptist History Collection of Ouachita’s Riley-Hickingbotham Library Archives and Special Collections was honored with the Baptist History and Heritage Society’s 2017 Davis C. Woolley Award for Outstanding Achievement in Assessing and Preserving Baptist History.

The national award honors the work of Dr. Wendy Richter, Ouachita professor and archivist, and her staff who coordinated the Special Collections project. The award was announced at the annual conference of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, hosted by First Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga.

According to Dr. Taffey Hall, director and archivist of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, “Of special note were Ouachita’s projects to digitize and make available the pre-1920 association annuals and the Arkansas Baptist State Convention annuals, 1848-1900.” Dr. Hall said the awards committee affirmed that “these projects are rich resources for students of Arkansas Baptist history.”

“It is indeed an honor to be recognized at the national level for our work to preserve and make available this part of our Arkansas Baptist heritage,” Dr. Richter noted.

Citing the ongoing partnership of Ouachita and Riley-Hickingbotham Library with Arkansas Baptists, Dr. Ray Granade, director of library services and professor of history at Ouachita, said the recognition confirms “our longstanding efforts to support the convention, its churches and its membership in maintaining awareness of and information to explain their history.”

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF EARN THREE ARKANSAS PRSA PRISM AWARDS

Ouachita’s Office of Communications was honored with three Prism Awards at the 2017 ARcom Awards ceremony held Sept. 14 at the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub in North Little Rock. The team also was recognized as one of three finalists for Best in Show.

The Prism Awards were presented by the Arkansas chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. PRSA Arkansas joined with the Arkansas chapter of International Association of Business Communicators and Ad Club Little Rock to host the inaugural ARcom Awards event, bringing together leading marketing and communications professionals from across the state.

Sarah Kinser, president of PRSA Arkansas, introduced the awards ceremony, saying, “These finalists represent the very best of PR and communications work throughout our community.”

Ouachita’s work earned the winning Prism awards in three categories, including:

- Prism winner in “Marketing Communications: Nonprofit” for “Perfect Fit Recruiting Campaign.”
- Prism winner in “Periodicals – Printed” for *The Ouachita Circle* alumni magazine.
- Prism winner in “Social Media” for “Experience Ouachita in 360°.”

SENIOR SHELBY BURCHFIELD HONORED AT UNDERGRAD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Ouachita senior Shelby Burchfield, a biology major from Benton, Ark., was among students from central Arkansas who were recognized for their summer research projects at the Central Arkansas Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

Burchfield, who was honored for her poster presentation about antibiotics, worked under the supervision of Dr. Ruth Plymale, associate professor of biology. Burchfield's work was part of Ouachita's Patterson Summer Research Program, which provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to work one-on-one with faculty members on research projects at a level typically available only in graduate school.



"Presenting my research at UAMS was an awesome experience," Burchfield said. "It was cool to see the people I presented to get excited about my research. ... It was an honor to be recognized for my poster presentation."

Over the past 17 years, more than 230 students have participated in the Patterson Summer Research Program. The program provides a stipend for students and the university provides campus housing at a reduced cost. After graduating from Ouachita, the majority of summer research participants go on to medical, dental or other health-related professional programs.

Noting that the scope and impact of Ouachita's summer program "is unique in the region," Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences, said Ouachita "usually has more undergrads than any other school in the state" who attend the UAMS symposium, including more than 20 Ouachita students who participated this year.



OUACHITA BOASTS HIGHEST NUMBER OF FINALISTS AT REGIONAL NATS AUDITIONS

Ouachita music students earned 12 finalist honors, including three first place finishes, at the 42nd annual Southern Region National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) auditions held Nov. 8-11 at the University of Southern Mississippi. Additionally, Kara Claybrook, adjunct instructor of voice at Ouachita, earned second place in the NATS Artist Awards competition for the Southern region.

The event included approximately 430 students from colleges and universities in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Ouachita had the highest number of finalists from any competing school.

"The OBU voice teachers involved in this year's auditions are all so pleased about the accomplishments of those who participated," said Dr. Jon Secret, coordinator of Ouachita's vocal studies program and Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music. "Just being prepared, participating and learning the valuable lessons that go along with the experience is enough. To know that OBU had the largest number of finalists in the competition from all the schools that participated is icing on the cake!"

First place honorees from Ouachita included Emily Johnson, a junior musical theatre major from Benton, Ark.; Clay Mobley, a sophomore music industry major from Wylie, Texas; and Zach Myers, a junior musical theatre major from Greenwood, Ark.

.....

"SMALL WORKS" EXHIBIT FEATURES ARKANSANS

Ouachita's Adams Department of Visual Arts hosted "Small Works on Paper," an exhibit sponsored by the Arkansas Arts Council, Oct. 5-27 in the Rosemary Gossett Adams Galleries in Moses-Provine Hall.

"The work in the exhibit is made by some of Arkansas' best and most interesting artists to follow," said Donnie Copeland, chair of the Adams Department of Visual Arts.

"Small Works on Paper" is a juried visual arts exhibition featuring works by Arkansas artists who are members of the Arkansas Artists Registry. An out-of-state juror selects up to 40 pieces of artwork for the exhibition, which travels to 10 venues throughout the state over the course of its yearlong tour. All of the pieces in "Small Works on Paper" are no larger than 18 x 24 inches and feature a wide variety of media, content and subject matter.



photo by Andy Henderson



photo by Wesley Kluck



photo by Andy Henderson

HOMECOMING 2017 FESTIVITIES MARK RECORD TIGER TUNES SALES

Ouachita's 2017 Homecoming festivities featured record ticket sales for Tiger Tunes, Student Senate President Hannah Bunch being crowned Homecoming Queen and a Homecoming chapel address by Chewbacca Mom Candace Payne.

The 39th annual Tiger Tunes competition, performed Oct. 5-7 in Jones Performing Arts Center, achieved both a record total of 6,750 tickets sold and a record number of 630 students participating in the show. In addition to staging four performances in front of sold-out audiences, the event raises more than \$100,000 each year for student scholarships.

Tiger Tunes is coordinated by the Ouachita Student Foundation, which has raised a combined total of more than \$1.4 million in student scholarships over the past four decades. The scholarship initiative embodies OSF's motto of "Students Helping Students."

In addition to ticket sales, "we also received a record amount of donations in our People's Choice voting boxes – almost \$5,000 – and raised \$2,000 in our silent auction," said Jon Merryman, director of OSF and alumni relations.

This year's Tiger Tunes winners included Tri Chi women's social club, first place and People's Choice Award; Kappa Chi men's social club, second place; EEE women's social club, third place; Campus Ministries, fourth place; Rho Sigma men's social club, OSF Award; and Tiger Blast instrumental performance band, Shelby Seabaugh Spirit of Tunes Award.

Hannah Bunch, a senior history and political science double major from Paragould, Ark., was crowned the 2017 Homecoming Queen before the Tigers' Homecoming football game. Bunch, who represented Student Senate, also is involved in ElderServe and College Republicans and is a Kappa Chi men's social club little sister.

"Ouachita has overwhelmed me today with their friendship," Bunch said. "Each of the ladies on that field today are more than deserving, and they are truly queens to me. This is something I just can't fathom, but I'm so grateful."

Members of the Homecoming Court included first runner-up JoBeth Guerra, a senior nutrition and dietetics major from Sanger, Texas, who represented the Gridiron Girls; second runner-up Haley Jo Wesson, a senior communication sciences and disorders major from Hot Springs, Ark., who represented the Ouachita Student Foundation; third runner-up Madison Polk, a senior elementary education major from Dallas, Texas, who represented Beta Beta men's social club; and fourth runner-up Jessica McCauley, a senior biology and business administration/management double major from North Little Rock, Ark., who represented Kappa Chi men's social club.

Candace Payne, Ouachita's 1999 Homecoming Queen, was the featured speaker for Homecoming chapel. She gained Internet fame in 2016 when her Chewbacca Mom video on Facebook Live went viral with more than 165 million views. (See article on page 15.)

UNIVERSITY LEADERS ADOPT FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Positioning Ouachita for future growth and impact, the Ouachita Board of Trustees unanimously approved the university's five-year strategic plan during their quarterly board meeting on Dec. 14.

Ouachita President Ben Sells said the trustees' action "fulfills the charge given at their June 2016 meeting to utilize a deeply collaborative approach to formulate a five-year plan with difference-making strategic directions."

The new strategic plan was developed by the University Planning Committee, which President Sells chairs, in cooperation with trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni and parents. It drew upon 1,300 survey responses and 50 listening sessions involving every area of Ouachita, including advisory councils and workgroups.

Approval of the 2018-2022 strategic plan culminated the 18-month planning process. The plan includes six Strategic Directions and 24 specific goals to achieve those directions:

SUSTAIN CHRIST-CENTERED IDENTITY

- Continue to employ highly qualified Christians who care deeply about students and the University's mission.
- Foster in students an ability and inclination to integrate love of God and love of learning.
- Strengthen existing efforts to develop students' servant leadership capabilities.
- Serve the church by preparing more people called to vocational ministry.

ADVANCE FACULTY/STAFF SUPPORT

- Improve employee compensation and benefits to competitive levels in the region.
- Expand campus diversity while improving support for minority students, faculty, and staff.
- Increase personnel where needed to accommodate strategic enrollment growth.
- Strengthen resources for professional development to promote excellence and job satisfaction.

ENSURE TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

- Enhance teaching, learning, creative expression, and scholarship across the University.
- Elevate high-impact educational practices as a distinctive feature of the Ouachita experience.
- Extend the impact of University Learning Goals through co-curricular and athletic programs.
- Build upon rising retention and graduation rates to achieve exemplary levels.

GROW RESIDENTIAL ENROLLMENT

- Increase awareness of and better promote Ouachita among more prospective students and families.
- Optimize existing degree programs and initiate new ones that demonstrate potential for sustainable growth.
- Address affordability through innovative financial aid strategies and practices.
- Develop and implement a campus master plan to guide strategic investments in physical facilities.

DIVERSIFY EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

- Accomplish substantial and viable growth through Ouachita Online.
- Research and develop financially sustainable graduate programs that enhance Ouachita's academic profile and extend its reach.
- Pilot professional development courses and certificate programs for adult learners.
- Expand academic opportunities for high school students.

STRENGTHEN KEY PARTNERSHIPS

- Enhance communication and engagement with alumni, supporting their efforts to serve faithfully in all areas.
- Enlist alumni and friends to help students gain competitive internships, job opportunities, and graduate school success.
- Cultivate and realize a significant increase in mission-advancing philanthropic gifts.
- Encourage mutually beneficial relationships to enhance the quality of life on campus and in local and regional communities.

"When considered in the light of the needs and hopes of this nation and world, the Ouachita mission is more relevant than ever before," Dr. Sells said. "Through this strategic plan, we can imagine graduating greater numbers of Ouachitonians who have been anchored in our Christ-centered identity 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," he added. "Let's make Ouachita better, not for our sake, but for the sake of those we are called to serve."

Investing in others

REQUIRES COMMITMENT & DILIGENCE

By Chris Brune

What's the best investment you've ever made? Was it a house? Your child's education? Maybe a new business that you started?

I worked as a financial planner for several years, so when I hear the term "invested," my mind naturally gravitates toward some type of financial product. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds – it's important to make wise investment decisions in order to achieve financial goals.

However, the term "invested" also can take on a variety of other meanings. We might invest in a career or a cause or a person. It makes sense if you stop and think about it: The commitment and diligence required for managing your finances are surely just as important for achieving success with other types of investments, as well.

At Ouachita, we often talk about investing in students. The personal investment by faculty and staff into the lives of students is one of the things that makes Ouachita unique. It's a practice I regularly see modeled by colleagues, some of whom have been at it for over 30 years – talk about being invested! Others in the Ouachita community invest significantly in a variety of ways: Donors generously give of their financial resources; advisory board members invest their time and expertise; alumni offer their prayers and personal support.

One of the opportunities I have to invest in students is as advisor to the Eddie and Phyllis Ary Student Investment Fund. The Ary Fund is a stock portfolio of Ouachita investment funds that currently is valued at just over \$1.1 million. Every year we select a group of senior finance students to form a team of analysts who meet weekly to manage the portfolio. Each analyst is responsible for monitoring a sector of the economy and making recommendations to the team. They take it seriously, and they do a terrific job!

Being part of the Ary Fund team is a natural way for students to apply investing strategies to real money. But that's just one of the benefits. In March, they travel to New York to hear from top money managers at a professional conference. Additionally, some of our graduates use the experience as a launching pad for careers with financial advisory firms. Perhaps most importantly, they learn to communicate and defend their recommendations while working together as a team.

Maybe it's because of my work with the Ary Fund, but occasionally I think about the similarities between investing a stock portfolio and investing in the lives of others. In some ways, there are clear parallels. For example, both require time, patience and dedication. Both also offer the potential for significant rewards. However, in other ways, there are distinct differences.

Take the concept of risk. From a financial perspective, risk is sometimes defined as “uncertainty with the potential for loss.” We live in a world of risk, so we intuitively understand the need to evaluate potential returns in light of uncertainty. With an investment portfolio, managing risk is a critical component of achieving sustained performance. But is there risk in investing in the lives of others?

Surely you've experienced a time when you spoke a word of encouragement or performed an act of kindness that was misinterpreted. Or maybe you made an investment in someone that wasn't recognized or appreciated – maybe even a close friend or family member. When others don't respond in the way we expect, it's natural to become discouraged and disheartened. So in terms of experiencing pain or heartache, there absolutely is risk involved when we invest in others.

The personal investment by faculty and staff into the lives of students is one of the things that makes Ouachita unique.

On the other hand, consider an alternate perspective. How should your assessment of risk change when return isn't measured by personal gain or loss? Where is the uncertainty in being obedient to Jesus' command to love one another? How can you lose when you invest in others for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God?

Members of the Ary Fund team are very cognizant of the fact that the money they manage is not their own. Because they are investing university funds, they screen out stocks that are inconsistent with Ouachita's mission. In short, their purpose shapes their investment decisions.

Shouldn't the same be true of our investments in others?

Part of the challenge is that investing from an eternal perspective requires the adoption of an eternal time horizon. The financial website howmuch.net recently calculated 10-year returns on stocks of a select group of well-known companies. The results show that an investment

of \$1,000 in Netflix on Oct. 31, 2007, would have grown to \$51,966 if held until Oct. 31, 2017. That's impressive, especially considering the holding period includes the 2008 financial crisis.

What the site didn't report was the one-year return. After one year, that same \$1,000 invested on Oct. 31, 2007, would have been worth \$937. Imagine being an investor who sold after one year based on a failure to generate an immediate return. What looked like a potential loss after the first year turned out to be a phenomenal gain over time. Surely there's a lesson for us in there somewhere.

God may choose to bless us with immediate rewards when we invest in others. I've certainly

experienced that during my time at Ouachita, and I'm thankful to Him for that. At other times, we may not see an impact until years later, if at all. Either way, the good news is that the results aren't up to us, and He is able to do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

As we invest in others, consider the clear counsel of Scripture: “Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven” (Matthew 6:20); “store them for the time to come” (1 Timothy 6:19); and “do not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9).



Dr. Chris Brune, a certified financial planner, is chair and associate professor of finance in the Hickingbotham School of Business' Department of Accounting and Finance and holder of the George Young Chair of Business. A 1994 graduate of Ouachita, he holds an MBA and PhD from the University of Arkansas.

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

Ouachita volunteers share helping hands and Christ's love with Houston residents

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

Ouachita's semi-annual Tiger Serve Day reached far beyond Arkadelphia this fall. While more than 750 Ouachita volunteers served the Arkadelphia community, a team of 27 students, faculty and staff traveled to Houston to assist in hurricane relief efforts.

The Houston team spent the weekend working alongside Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and Texas Baptist Men volunteers in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The Ouachita volunteers partnered with Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston and Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas, to provide hands-on assistance for those impacted by extensive flooding throughout the Houston area.

"It was a truly eye-opening experience to be allowed to serve the people of Houston and to be invited into their homes during such a hard time," said Haley Davis, a freshman biomedical sciences major from Austin, Ark. "It was so inspiring to see how much hope everyone affected had."

"I'm not sure we realized the significance of our mission trip until we turned the van into the first neighborhood and saw the massive destruction left by Hurricane Harvey," noted Dr. Terry DeWitt, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies and one of the team leaders for the Houston trip. "We were blessed to be a part of this huge undertaking of love for the Houston community. I think we could send a team every weekend for the next year and still have work needing to be done."

Projects ranged from helping mud-out homes flooded by Harvey to distributing bottled water, fans, packing boxes and New Testaments to people salvaging items from their homes. Other team members worked behind-the-scenes, washing and assembling hundreds of Red Cross coolers used to deliver meals to families in need throughout the area.

Those working in hard-hit neighborhoods saw piles of debris that stretched for blocks in the front yards of flood-damaged homes. Refrigerators, couches, stuffed animals and family heirlooms formed mounds of heart-wrenching rubble as residents tossed out tons of ruined possessions.

"We saw home after home where families' lives were forever changed. All their belongings were piled in the front yard, waiting for someone to take the priceless rubble away," said James Taylor, director of Campus Ministries who served as one of the team leaders. "I was so proud of our students' attitudes during the trip. They did whatever they were asked to do and were always quick to look for a way to help."

Expressing appreciation for the disaster relief volunteers, Houston resident Jerry Marks said, "The volunteers who have come in here work hard, never ask for anything – just give. They are amazing."

Standing in front of his flood-ravaged home that had been stripped down to the studs, he added, "We have nothing in here except for very little. We're literally rebuilding."

"I'm glad that Ouachita was able to get this trip pulled together on such short notice," said Hannah Walker, a sophomore sociology and Spanish major from Denison, Texas. "Especially for the students from Texas, this was a wonderful opportunity to serve our extended community. It was good to be reminded that the people who need our help and Jesus' love aren't only in impoverished neighborhoods or foreign countries, but come from all walks of life."

"We enjoy having the students here for their energy and stamina," noted Randel Trull, a volunteer with Texas Baptist Men. "We see their camaraderie, especially from a school like Ouachita."

"An experience like this can clarify a calling in a student's life," he added. "It's really important to live out Jesus' command to love others. It's important to do that in both words and deeds. You can't help everybody but it sure makes a difference for the person you do help."

"It gives you hope for the future generation when you see students willing to come down and sacrifice," Trull reflected. "It shows the future is in good hands."

Eddy Hallock, minister of missions and evangelism at Tallowood Baptist Church, helped coordinate accommodations and meals for the Ouachita team. He said his congregation "decided to help those who are helping the people in need" by hosting relief teams.

"If you send a group out, they will come back with a new commitment," he emphasized. "When everything you ever owned is out the door, there are two reactions to that – trauma and 'we're safe; things can be replaced.'"

Hallock said the experience can help give volunteers "a much broader vision of the world. In a practical way, they are helping a whole city to begin to recuperate from an incredible calamity."

"It has been amazing to watch Christians from all over the United States come to Houston to help those in need," agreed Carlos Ichter, a 1983 Ouachita graduate and minister of music and worship at Tallowood. He helped coordinate the partnership with Ouachita's Elrod Center for Family and Community.

"I was especially moved by Ouachita's initiative to reach out in the wake of the storm and quickly mobilize students to help in the cleaning and gutting-out efforts," Ichter said. "Ouachita students, faculty and staff have left a mark in our city and I am very proud of my alma mater for its willingness to be the hands and feet of Christ in these challenging days."



photos by Andy Henderson



VERSER THEATRE MARKS HALF-CENTURY OF SERVING OBU THEATRE COMMUNITY

By Rebecca Jones

It would be easy to overlook the significance of Verser Theatre. The unassuming Ouachita landmark composed of a 200-seat auditorium, classrooms, gallery space and faculty offices is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Hundreds of productions featuring thousands of students have created an artistic sanctuary for countless patrons over the course of a half-century.

Since its completion in 1967, Verser has served as a teaching center, workshop and showcase for students. It has invited theatre-goers to enter new worlds as they have enjoyed the artistry of Ouachita's collegiate thespians.

According to Dr. Scott Holsclaw, professor of theatre arts, Verser's productions have "run the theatrical gamut," including dramas, comedies and satirical plays by playwrights such as Sophocles, Shakespeare, Moliere, Ibsen, Williams, Miller and Albee.

Throughout the 2017-18 academic year, in celebration of its golden anniversary, Verser's stage has been filled with commemorative productions including "The Secret Garden," which was first presented in 2002, and "Blood Wedding," one of Verser's earliest productions. Added to these is a student-developed project celebrating the many students who have been players on the Verser stage.

"All of our commemorative productions aim at inviting production alums to return to campus and celebrate this anniversary," Dr. Holsclaw explained. "We're in a golden age in our program. We're growing by leaps and bounds and want to welcome our alumni to campus to be a part of this milestone occasion."

Fifty years ago, Verser's addition to Ouachita's campus enabled a blossoming drama program greater tools to assist in developing stagecraft. When the facility opened, it replaced the Little Theater, a campus relic made of two World War I barracks that had been connected and hollowed out after the war. Originally serving as a home for basketball games, the barracks were in disrepair in the late 1930s when the college's drama teacher asked to use the space for productions. The instructor and her students cobbled together essential elements for the space.



An article in a 1968 *Ouachita Signal* newspaper detailed the group's activities. From scavenging and repairing seats that survived a local high school fire to creating a lighting system using "tin pans and cans" and rummaging through discarded furniture to acquire stage props, the tenacity of this Great Depression-era troupe was clear. The group's work resulted in enhanced productions and later the addition of an academic major in theatre. Finally, nearly 30 years after the retrofitted Little Theater opened, Verser Theatre offered a modern replacement signaling greater emphases on theatrical arts and speech communication at Ouachita.

The Verser Speech and Drama Center was designed to provide space for instruction and practice in drama and public speaking. Professor Dennis Holt, who served as the chair of the drama department at the time of the Verser opening, noted in a *Signal* article that the facility was the "most up-to-date college theatre in the area." It featured amphitheater-style seating and lighting and sound equipment appropriate to the era. The stage, classrooms and offices were shared by students studying speech communication and allowed Ouachita to train and equip public speakers for many years. The speech communication program left the space in 2009 when the program joined the university's mass communications program.

The Verser facility was made possible through the generous donations of a number of alumni and friends of the university. Key among them was Earl Verser ('47), lead donor for the facility with a gift of \$50,000 toward the \$125,000 project budget. Other contributors included members of the Former Students Association and residents of the Arkadelphia community. These investors made possible the creation of a campus space that has nurtured the dramatic arts in the lives of student performers, playwrights and production crews as well as those who have enjoyed performances shared on the Verser stage.

According to Dr. Holsclaw, these contributions made a meaningful impact by creating space for artistic development and appreciation. "Verser has served us well; it is a very good building," he said. Looking to the future, he added, "We need to make some repairs so the building can accommodate program growth and the opportunity to bring audiences together through shared experiences in the theatre" for years to come.

This spring, the theatre program will host an anniversary celebration on April 20, which will feature the commemorative production of "Seussical" and a banquet for program alumni. Dr. Holsclaw said he hopes theatre alumni who have benefitted from Verser will visit campus, enjoy a wonderful production and reminisce in the facility where many spent untold hours honing their craft while bringing stage productions to life.



Dr. Rebecca Jones, associate professor of communications, is a 1996 Ouachita graduate. She also holds degrees from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Regent University.

JPAC IS CENTRAL TO CAMPUS LIFE

Twenty-five years after the doors of Verser Theatre opened, Jones Performing Arts Center (JPAC) welcomed guests for the first time. Crowds came for theatre and opera productions, concerts, lectures, Tiger Tunes and other large-scale events – including an important Ouachita tradition since its founding, chapel. Having graced Ouachita's campus for a quarter century, JPAC has served as the gathering place for more than 700 weekly chapel services.

Made possible by a \$5.5 million gift from the Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust, JPAC helped inaugurate the university's Decade of Progress fundraising campaign. The campaign sought long-term university enrichment through endowment and capital improvements.

Among the earliest Decade of Progress achievements, the 1,500-seat performing arts center augmented the university's sense of community by uniting the campus for chapel. Prior to the addition of JPAC, a smaller facility, Mitchell Hall, hosted two sessions of the weekly chapel services. Students attended one of the sessions.

According to Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement, "One of the great benefits of JPAC is that it allowed us to have a unified chapel, and that has continued to be our tradition and privilege."

Emphasizing the impact of the space on the community's experience, Cosh added, "The beauty of the new building brought a newfound dignity and decorum to chapel that was just not possible in Mitchell. Twenty-five years later, we still enjoy and celebrate the generous gift that allows the entire Ouachita community to worship together each Tuesday."

JPAC's 25th anniversary also marked the 25th anniversary of Ouachita's annual A Festival of Christmas. The 2017 production highlighted "Celebrating 25 Years of Christmas Joy."

"Festival of Christmas is Ouachita's gift of Christmas to students, faculty, staff, patrons and friends of the Ouachita community," noted Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of the School of Fine Arts. "We are fortunate to have a venue of such size and quality as Jones Performing Arts Center which gives Ouachita the ability to perform such large-scale programs so effectively."

25TH
ANNIVERSARY
JONES
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

OUACHITA HONORS 2017 ALUMNI MILESTONE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ouachita honored seven outstanding alumni who compose the eighth class of Ouachita Alumni Milestone Award recipients. The honorees represent the graduating classes of 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997 and 2007. Honored for their professional achievements, community service and dedication to their alma mater, they were selected by a committee of Ouachita faculty, staff and President Ben Sells to represent their respective classes during 2017 Homecoming festivities.

“It is always great to welcome alumni home during Homecoming and we’ve especially loved honoring Alumni Milestone Award recipients these past eight years,” said Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations. “Introducing our students to outstanding alumni making a difference around the country encourages and inspires them with hopes and dreams for their own futures. Representing the fields of education, media, technology, business, ministry and the military, this year’s class was impressive once again.”

2017 ALUMNI MILESTONE AWARD HONOREES INCLUDE:



GLORIA (ROBERTS) FALLIN ('67)

Dedicated to sharing positive aspects of learning that she gained while at Ouachita, Gloria began teaching in Merced, Calif., after graduation. She relocated to Los Angeles, where she was married and where her two daughters were born. She worked with Master Teachers in the Los Angeles Unified

School District for more than 39 years. She has since moved back to Arkadelphia and remains active in service. She sings in her church’s choir, plays the piano, mentors youth and is a volunteer at the Community Family Enrichment Center Food Pantry in Arkadelphia. She said Ouachita helped her persevere, find her true self, gain a strong biblical foundation and adjust to diversity.



WILLYE (NEWBURN) TALLEY ('67)

Compelled to share a love of God and a love of learning, Willye came to Ouachita to earn her undergraduate degree. Jane Ross, an employee of Willye’s father, helped her achieve her goal of attending Ouachita. Willye earned both her Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Science in Education degrees

from Ouachita and went on to become a teacher. Her passion was to encourage students to pursue their dreams and work hard, but have fun doing it. One of her favorite memories of Ouachita was spending time in prayer in the campus chapel. She encourages current students to do so as well. She lives in central Arkansas after retiring from longtime service in the Little Rock School District.



KELVIN STORY ('77)

Hailing from Philadelphia, Pa., Kelvin joined his sister, Keitha, at Ouachita. After graduating, Kelvin accepted an entry-level position at KATV in Little Rock. Three years later he moved to WTNH-TV in New Haven, Conn., and later took his skills to WABC-TV in New York City. Photography is a passion

he has been able to pursue along the way as a news photographer. He has spoken several times to classes in the Rogers Department of Communications at Ouachita and thanks Ouachita for the launching pad it provided for his career.



SHAWN SHANNON ('77)

Falling in love with Ouachita at a young age, attending campus events to support her aunt and praying about her future, Shawn discerned Ouachita was where God meant for her to study. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Ouachita with majors in psychology and sociology and a minor in speech and drama.

While at Ouachita, she was voted Outstanding Senior Woman. She also graduated with a Master of Arts in Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1980, attended the Spiritual Direction Institute in 2001 and received her Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Leadership from Beeson Divinity School in 2009. She has served in various ministry roles through Baptist Campus Ministry since the late 1970s, serving as the Campus Ministry director at Houston Baptist University and since 2000 as the Baptist Student Ministry director at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor where she resides in Belton, Texas.

CHEWBACCA MOM CANDACE PAYNE RELEASES NEW BOOK



ROBIN FLEMING ('87)

A native of the area, Robin was drawn to the quality of education and community Ouachita offers. Graduating with a major in communications, she began delving into technology while at Ouachita. Building off of that experience, she worked at a global enterprise marketing cloud solution delivery company as vice president of cloud services for Teradata Applications from 2012 to 2015. In 2015 she began working at Angie's List where she serves as senior vice president of technology. Robin, who lives in Indianapolis, has served for the past two years as a member of the board of directors for Clear Software in Zionsville, Ind.



ILYA GORDEEV ('97)

Traveling halfway around the world from Uzbekistan to attend Ouachita in 1994, Ilya has built upon and flourished from his Ouachita experience. While at Ouachita, Ilya was a member of the International Club and received the *Wall Street Journal* Student Achievement Award. Graduating from Ouachita with majors in finance and accounting, he found that Ouachita equipped him with marketable skills for his desired career field. Ilya credits Ouachita for introducing him to Christian values. He has worked with a family-owned company, Coulson Oil, for 20 years as a financial analyst. Making Arkansas his home, he resides in North Little Rock with his wife and three children.



GARRETT HAM ('07)

Coming to Ouachita with the intent of going into full-time ministry, Garrett has since served God and his fellow man, but through a different vocation. After graduating from Ouachita as the top student in his class, Garrett graduated from law school at the University of Arkansas in 2010. From working at the Walmart home office and having a private law practice to joining the National Guard and working briefly as a county prosecutor, he has served his community, state and nation. Further adding to his list of service, in 2015 Garrett joined the U.S. Air Force as a JAG officer and has served as Chief of Adverse Actions and Chief of Military Justice at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. He now holds the rank of captain and is an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas.

Candace Payne took an unusual path to Internet fame. Her joyful, spontaneous Chewbacca Mom video posted in May 2016 became the most viewed Facebook Live video of all time, racking up more than 165 million views.

Payne's instant fame led to appearances on *Good Morning America*, *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Late Late Show with James Corden*. Closer to home, the former Ouachita Homecoming queen was honored with a Worthy Ouachitonian Award at Ouachita's 2016 Homecoming festivities.

But her moment in the spotlight didn't end there. Payne released her first book this past fall, *Laugh It Up! Embrace Freedom and Experience Defiant Joy*. Payne's book, published by Zondervan, features such chapters as "Finding the Happy in Homeless," "Don't Quit Your Daydream" and "From What If to Why Not."

Described as Payne's "story of extreme poverty, past trauma and struggles with self-worth – and how

she fought to choose joy in spite of it all," the book overview adds, "Like most of us, Candace has often felt overlooked, undervalued and insignificant. But she has also discovered the secrets to unshakable contentment that no circumstances can take away."

This past fall, Payne was invited to speak at Ouachita's Homecoming chapel service where she shared about her struggles with depression and how she eventually regained joy.

Citing Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him," Payne told the chapel crowd, "You are worth more than you ever know in the Kingdom of God. ... The God of hope will fill you with more hope so you can abound in joy and peace."

Reflecting on her whirlwind journey as Chewbacca Mom and beyond, she added, "God writes your story so much better than you can do on your own."



OUACHITA LAUNCHES INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS

By Katie Smith

Seeking to strengthen Ouachita's multicultural growth and support, President Ben Sells has hosted conversations during his first year among students, faculty, staff and alumni.

In recent years, the percentage of minority students at Ouachita has increased from approximately 10 percent to 16 percent, including 7.8 percent who are African American and 4.7 percent who are Hispanic.

Representing current minority students enrolled at Ouachita, several individuals recommended reinstating Ouachita's Multicultural Student Programs and the student-led Multicultural Organization Reaching Equality (MORE). Ouachita has had similar initiatives in the past, including the Black American Student Society (BASS) and Reaching Out to Multicultural Students (ROMS).

"As I spent my first year listening and learning about Ouachita, it was clear that our student body was becoming more diverse," Dr. Sells said. "With the current enrollment – and the enrollment gains we're beginning to make – it was also clear that we needed to do more in supporting minority students. This led me to reestablishing the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and asking Nicole Porchia to give leadership to it."

During their discussions with President Sells, the students affirmed many strengths of Ouachita, but also shared candid reflections about some of the struggles they faced as students at a predominantly white university.

The students, representing African American, Hispanic and other minority students on Ouachita's campus, cited concerns about instances of prejudice and racism, whether intended or not. In response, the Multicultural Student Programs is dedicated to helping minority students become an integral part of Ouachita's campus community and building awareness of diversity through personal relationships and hosting cultural programs on campus.

"My priorities are to provide an environment where students feel comfortable to speak openly as well as to serve as a liaison to our vast alumni association," explained Nicole Porchia, director of Academic Success and Multicultural Student Programs.

As a result, Multicultural Student Programs and MORE welcomed several alumni from Ouachita's past student-led multicultural initiatives, BASS and ROMS, for a meeting in November. During the gathering, both current and former students connected and shared their stories of being a student of color on Ouachita's campus. Forming these connections between alumni and current students is an integral part of Multicultural Student Programs.

"I would love to see some type of network opportunity where our current students are networking with our alumni base, our BASS and ROMS alumni, where there are internships available or job



shadowing programs where those students are able to go and interact with the alumni," Porchia noted.

"These organizations have served well in assisting students of color to interact with the entire university, maintaining their own heritage and cultural values," said Dr. Lewis Shepherd, a 1980 Ouachita alumnus, former BASS president and former staff sponsor of both BASS and ROMS. "Their alumni are individuals who are not just influential in their respective communities but they are also agents of change, who truly make a difference."

Providing scholarship opportunities for students is another major goal of Multicultural Student Programs. Reflecting on her time as a student at Ouachita, Porchia affirmed how important a "Pennies from Heaven" scholarship she received as a student of color was in helping support her educational goals. The Arkadelphia Multicultural Entertainment Group recently donated funds for a scholarship for a minority student from Clark County. Others also have expressed interest in providing scholarships for minority students as

Multicultural Student Programs continue efforts to build connections and raise additional scholarship funds.

Porchia currently meets one-on-one with several students as part of Multicultural Student Programs, but she said she would like to establish a formal mentorship program to help students build relationships on campus.

“I had a great experience at Ouachita, but it was because of those services, that multicultural student program,” she explained. “It was because of Mrs. Francis Nelson and Mrs. Vergina Smith-Joachim who poured into my life. All of these administrators who were people of color were able to establish a relationship with me and help me through my way here. I was able to establish those relationships, and they were able to provide a sense of fellowship for students of color on Ouachita’s campus.”

Porchia also will be involved in leading Multicultural Student Programs to recruit more minority students to further increase the diversity on Ouachita’s campus. During the summer, she mailed letters to students in the incoming freshmen class to welcome them and inform them of opportunities through the new Multicultural Student Programs. She also plans to reach out to future incoming students during early registration and establish relationships with the students and their parents.

The kickoff event for MORE, hosted by Ben and Lisa Sells at the President’s Home, attracted more than 100 students who contributed to the ongoing conversation about the goals and vision for the program and student organization.

Citing Ouachita’s commitment to building a more inclusive and diverse campus,

Dr. Sells said, “As a result of our strategic planning process, it was evident there needed to be a goal reflecting this language.” As a result, one of the goals adopted in Ouachita’s 2018-2022 Strategic Directions is to “expand campus diversity while improving support for minority students, faculty and staff.”

Involvement in Multicultural Student Programs and MORE is open to all Ouachita students, regardless of race or ethnicity. Porchia also encourages involvement in the programs from faculty, staff, alumni and others in Ouachita’s community to pour into and establish relationships with Ouachita’s students of color. For more information about both initiatives, contact Nicole Porchia at porchian@obu.edu or 870-245-5234.



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

STUDENT-LED **MORE** GROUP HELPS BUILD COMMUNITY FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

Ouachita’s student-led Multicultural Organization Reaching Equality (MORE) was established “to build a community for minority students, foster an environment for bringing about awareness, as well as have a voice for those who are minorities on the campus,” explained MORE President Nonsi Nxumalo.

The organization follows in the tradition of the ROMS and BASS organizations that were active on campus in years past.

“I believe I am the only black African female on this campus and that certainly has its challenges,” noted Nxumalo, a senior finance and business administration major from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. “Although I have wonderful friends that were part of the majority on this campus, I sometimes felt like they did not understand me. I really wanted to get to know other minority students and hear what sort of situations they had found themselves in on this campus and how they dealt with the differences they had noticed too.”

To help accomplish its goals, MORE includes three teams: public relations, events and solutions. The solutions team examines issues of concern on campus and ways to address them, such as encouraging more diversity represented in chapel programs.

Students involved in MORE have established an informal mentorship program among their members. They also have been invited to speak to other students and alumni about the organization and share their testimonies through class panel discussions and an alumni meet-and-greet held in November.

“Each of them have very different stories,” explained Nicole Porchia, a MORE staff co-sponsor and director of Multicultural Student Programs. “They were able to share those with these classes, which I think is very eye-opening for some.”

“I think this is particularly important for students who are often underrepresented in terms of course content and cultural sensitivity,” said Dr. Myra Houser, faculty co-sponsor and coordinator of OBU’s social justice studies program. “I’m glad that there is a space to fellowship and build community, grow in consciousness and educate members of our wider community as well.”

“I am excited to work with an organization that provides support for minority students,” agreed co-sponsor Erica Brown, assistant director of TRIO’s Educational Talent Search. She said her goal is to help Ouachita’s minority students “have the best possible experience while attending school here.”

point OF grace

AFFIRMS OUACHITA ROOTS AS GROUP CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications



For countless Ouachita alumni and other contemporary Christian music fans, the sounds of “The Great Divide,” “Keep the Candle Burning” and “Circle of Friends” immediately bring to mind Point of Grace.

As one of the most successful and enduring groups in Christian music, Point of Grace recently marked 25 years of ministry. The group, which released its self-titled debut album in 1993, has come a long way since its early days at Ouachita as “Say So.”

The original four-member group included Shelley (Phillips) Breen, Denise (Masters) Jones, Terry (Lang) Jones and Heather (Floyd) Payne. Leigh Cappillino joined the group in 2004 when Terry Jones retired from Point of Grace. When Payne retired from the group a few years later, Breen, Cappillino and Denise Jones chose to continue performing and recording as a trio.

Reflecting on the group’s early years at Ouachita, Breen noted, “There are a couple of things that stand out in the very early days of ‘Say So.’ I remember when we got asked to sing in chapel, we were so nervous yet so excited. It was literally our first performance ever on campus.

“Looking back, I laugh because we were so set on getting brand new, really ‘cool’ outfits to sing in,” she added. “I remember we took Denise’s car and all drove to Little Rock one night to Dillard’s to buy our awesome attire. (Note sarcasm!) I’m not sure how good we sounded, but we thought we looked really good!”

Breen also recalled “singing at a banquet for area physicians that Dr. Wesley Kluck set up for us. It was held on campus in a banquet room. If my memory serves me correctly, it was our very first paycheck ever – \$200 I think. Terry was our designated treasurer and I’m pretty sure that \$200 check was the first thing ever logged in her little accounting book she kept.”

The group was “discovered” when they won a major Christian music competition and signed with Word Records in 1993. Their debut album, which produced six No. 1 singles, was followed by “The Whole Truth,” “Life, Love & Other Mysteries” and “Steady On,” firmly establishing Point of Grace as one of the leading Christian music groups in the 1990s. They went on to record 24 consecutive No. 1 singles, earning 13 Dove Awards and three Grammy nominations.

In an essay published in *Ouachita Voices: Celebrating 125 Years of Academic & Christian Excellence*, Terry Jones wrote, “As I sit back and remember my time at OBU, such fond memories come to mind. It was a time of discovering myself, my potential and my life’s direction.

“From the beginning of our Point of Grace days when we could barely afford to eat at McDonald’s to later recording platinum albums, Ouachita blood has run through me, always grounding me and reminding me where I came from and where I’m going,” she noted.



Performances at Ouachita over the years have included a 1997 benefit concert to aid victims of the tornado that hit Arkadelphia and a guest performance at A Festival of Christmas during Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration in 2011.

Citing memorable opportunities over the past 25 years, Denise Jones reflected, "There have been so many; the most significant being that we are still able to go out and share the good news of Christ through music. Never in a million years would I have dreamed this would be a reality. We have had a chance to sing at Carnegie Hall, The Grand Old Opry, the National Prayer Breakfast, tour with Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant, help raise money for ministries like Compassion International and Mercy Multiplied and start a ministry called 'Girls of Grace.'"

Jones emphasized that "meeting amazing people with incredible stories of God's work in their lives is the thing that keeps us wanting to continue to do this. Raising our families and letting them experience some of these exciting things along the way is the cherry on top."

"There is really no way to even list all the ways Ouachita prepared us for what became our full-time career," Breen said. "The most obvious would be the many opportunities to sing on campus and really hone our stage presence and vocal stamina. But beyond that, and probably most importantly, it was learning from our professors and other Ouachita staff the importance of people.

"How you treat one another, how you respect one another, and really just recognizing the importance of serving people well – these are things you learn by example," she said. "I would say with the exception of our parents, no one taught us these qualities more than our teachers, mentors and staff of OBU. No matter what you end up doing for a living, these character traits will move you forward."

Looking toward the future, Denise Jones said, "This season of our lives has had an unexpected surprise. Lifestory Worship has been an incredible partnership that we did not see coming around the bend. Last year, they joined hands with us by doing two exclusive CDs. We released "Sing Noel" this Christmas and it has been received extremely well. This spring we will be releasing a hymns/worship project which, believe it or not, Point of Grace has never done.

"We love the rich theology of the hymns we grew up singing in church. They are full of the truth of the gospel message," she explained. "With our world being more and more diluted of truth, we feel like God has called us to be even more intentional to remind people of the story of who God is and why He came. Our prayer is the same as it has been the last 25 years. May we bring hope and light through our music to a world that is hurting and that they put their faith in Jesus Christ and be reminded that they will never have to walk the journey alone."

DREW HARRIS

OUACHITA STUDENT-ATHLETES CONTINUE WINNING TRADITION

From a football conference championship and men's soccer conference tournament title to All-America and Academic All-America recognitions, Ouachita Tiger student-athletes continue to achieve milestones in several sports. Recent highlights include:

TIGERS EARN GAC FOOTBALL TITLE

The Ouachita Tigers football team clinched its third Great American Conference championship with a 49-42 victory over Henderson State University in the 91st Battle of the Ravine. The Tigers' 9-2 regular season record also marked Ouachita's 10th straight winning season, the longest streak among any university in Arkansas.

"When you put it all together and do it all at the same time, it's just amazing," said Ouachita Head Coach Todd Knight. "First of all, the Battle of the Ravine – it's just fun to win that game. For these guys to come back after the two early losses and go 9-2 and win the conference, it's just a great feeling for the guys. They're so deserving."

The Tigers' Drew Harris turned in a career performance, scoring all seven of Ouachita's touchdowns against the Reddies, including four rushing touchdowns and three receiving. He finished the game with 153 receiving yards and 58 rushing yards.

Harris "led our devotion last night," Knight said after the game. "He's a motivator. He's more than just a great football player; he's a great young man."

Coach Knight was named the 2017 GAC Coach of the Year, his third GAC top coaching honor. He also earned his 100th win as Ouachita's head coach with the Battle of the Ravine victory.

Four Tigers earned All-GAC First Team honors, including sophomore offensive lineman Justin Gooseberry, who was one of only two players in the conference to be a unanimous selection. His brother, Cori Gooseberry, also a sophomore offensive lineman, was selected to the first team along with junior wide receiver Drew Harris and sophomore wide receiver Allie Freeman. Harris and Freeman are two-time All-GAC honorees. Harris also earned an All-America Honorable Mention from D2Football.com.

MEN'S SOCCER WINS GAC TOURNAMENT

The Ouachita men's soccer team defeated regular season conference champions Harding University 3-1 to win the 2017 GAC Men's Soccer Tournament.

The Tigers came from behind for the second time in the tournament. The Bisons jumped in front 1-0 before Ouachita answered with a goal by Michiru Forbess less than two minutes later. Blake Beshirs added a goal before the end of the first half and Forbess scored again in the second half. Ouachita keeper Edward Pacheco saved seven of Harding's eight shots on goal, including six saves in the second half, to help the Tigers win the championship match.

The GAC Tournament championship is the second for the Tigers since the conference's inaugural men's soccer season in 2015. Ouachita defeated Oklahoma Baptist University in 2015 for the team's first GAC Tournament title.

Three Ouachita men's soccer players were named to the 2017 Division II Conference Commissioner's Association All-Central Region Team. Tinashe Chigede, a senior forward, was named to the D2CCA All-Central First Team. Blaine Hickman, a senior midfielder, and Tyler Mouton, a senior defender, were named to the All-Central Second Team.

BULLARD NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Ouachita senior volleyball player Kori Bullard, who surpassed 1,000 career kills this season, was named to the 2017 Academic All-America Volleyball First Team for NCAA Division II. She also was honored as the Great American Conference's 2017 Female Scholar Athlete of the Year. Bullard, a biology major from Percy, Ark., has a 4.0 grade point average.

Bullard was selected this past summer to play on the Team USA D-II Volleyball Team, traveling to Brazil to compete for Team USA. “The best part was definitely meeting all of the other girls that were on the team and the level of play that was on the court,” she reflected. “It’s not every day that you get this opportunity, so I was definitely going to make the most of it.”

Bullard also was one of three Ouachita volleyball players who earned All-Great American Conference honors this season. Bullard and Adrianna Nolly, both middle hitters, and setter Stormi Leonard were named to the All-GAC Second Team. Bullard also was named to the GAC Elite Scholar Athlete Team and Leonard was named to the GAC Distinguished Scholar Athlete Team.

CRUTCHMER NAMED WRESTLING COACH

Kevin Crutchmer was named head coach of the Ouachita wrestling program this past fall. He had served as the head wrestling coach at Union High School in Tulsa, Okla., since 2008. He also has served as a committee member for USA Wrestling since 2014 and as the state chairman of USA Wrestling in Oklahoma since 2013.

During his tenure at Class 6A Union, Crutchmer compiled a dual record of 107-24. His teams produced 13 state champions, 35 state placers, 15 nationally ranked wrestlers and three Tulsa World Wrestlers of the Year. Under Crutchmer's guidance, Union High School won the Oklahoma 6A Traditional Tournament State Championship in 2008 and finished as runners-up from



KORI BULLARD

photo by Wesley Kluck



COACH CRUTCHMER



COACH FRIZZELL-KIZER



TINASHE CHIGEDE

photo by Wesley Kluck

2009-2011. His team also won the Oklahoma Dual State Championship in 2011.

Crutchmer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice/administration from Northeastern State University. He served for eight years as a patrolman in Grove, Okla.

FRIZZELL-KIZER NAMED VOLLEYBALL COACH

Allison Frizzell-Kizer, a 2013 Ouachita graduate, was named Ouachita's head volleyball coach effective Jan. 15. She succeeds her former coach, Danny Prescott, who served 14 years as head volleyball coach at Ouachita. She had served since 2014 as head women's volleyball coach for Lakeside School District in Hot Springs, earning 5A South Coach of the Year honors all four seasons.

Frizzell-Kizer, who graduated *cum laude* from Ouachita, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in secondary education and mathematics and a minor in coaching. She also holds a Master of Science in Education degree in educational leadership from Henderson State University.

As a Ouachita Tiger volleyball player, Frizzell-Kizer served all four years as a team captain. She was named the Gulf South Conference West Freshman of the Year and was named to the GSC West All-Academic Team as a sophomore. She was named to the Great American Conference First Team and was honored as the GAC's Female Athlete of the Year her junior year. As a senior, she was named Ouachita's Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year. While in graduate school, she served as Coach Prescott's graduate assistant.

CLASS NOTES

connecting the circle

1960s

Gene Weatherly ('60) released his novel titled *Joanna: A Story of Love and Betrayal* on Oct. 1. It is based on historical events during the final year of Jesus' earthly ministry. *Joanna* was published by Elk Lake Publishing.

Tony Berry ('65) retired Aug. 30 from a 30-year pastorate in California. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years and served as a hospice chaplain for 16 years. He and his wife, Ann, now live in Arkansas and they have two sons and seven grandchildren.

Bill and Mary Etta (Arnold) Wells ('68) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 28. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Betty (Lee '69) Sharp retired as an elementary teacher after 40 years of teaching. She and her husband, Gary, helped start Faith Christian School in Grapevine, Texas. They have two adopted adult children and two grandchildren.

1970s

Judith Crouch ('72) was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a pinnacle professional member in the field of government. She currently is the human resources manager for the office of the Arkansas Secretary of State. Her office coordinates the areas of staffing, recruitment, training, compensation, payroll, benefits and personnel management for the Secretary of State's office.

Kathy (Pitt '74) Jones recently moved to Cumming, Ga., after 19 years in Lawrenceville, Ga. She is a retired elementary music teacher and has four grandchildren. She and her husband, Ron, have been married for 39 years.

Brenda (Echols '76) Keisler retired on June 30 after 38 years in education. She served

the past 32 years at College of the Ouachitas as an adult education instructor and the past three years as an administrator. She and her husband, **Ruben ('76*)**, plan to enjoy traveling in the near future.

1980s

Arthur "Chip" Broadbent ('80) retired from service as a choral educator with Norfolk Public Schools this past summer following 35 years in public schools in Arkansas and Virginia. He will begin a new role in November 2018 as the national chair of the Urban Music Leadership Conference.

Gretchen (Hargis '80) Peacock celebrated 25 years of service with A New Start Counseling Center, Inc., based in Fayetteville, Ga.

Mollie (Smith '82) Morgan was honored as the 2017 Arkansas Association of Alternative Educators Teacher of the Year. She works at Guy Berry College and Career Academy in Mountain Home, Ark., as an essentials of computer programming teacher.

Dr. Rob Koonce ('84) served as lead editor and co-author of *Developing Leaders for Positive Organizing: A 21st Century Repertoire for Leading in Extraordinary Times* published by Emerald Publishing Limited.

Dr. David Wilson ('84) recently released a book titled *Learning Every Day* that includes newspaper columns he has written over the years in conjunction with his work as a school administrator. The book, published by Christian Faith Publishing, is about family, education, sports, history and insights for life. Wilson served in education in Missouri for 27 years and now lives in Springdale, Ark.

Sandy (Mills '86) Cazzell teaches general music at Sunrise Elementary in Richmond, Mo., and helps with two after school groups

called the Sunrise Singers, an audition choir made up of 37 4th and 5th grade students; and the Sunrise Strikers, an audition ensemble of 27 students. These groups were invited to perform at the Missouri Music Educators State Music Conference in January.

Scott Street ('87) was appointed chief executive officer of Medical Center South Arkansas effective Oct. 30. He has more than 20 years of hospital management experience, having previously held administrative roles at hospitals in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Most recently, he served as chief executive officer of Nacogdoches Memorial Health in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Dr. Paul Smith ('88) celebrated his 14th anniversary as senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Chandler, Ariz. He recently served as vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors Conference. Smith also is a professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at the Gateway Seminary campus in Scottsdale, Ariz. He and his wife, **Jerri (Johnson '88)** live in Chandler, where she is an administrative assistant.

Dr. Joe Cathey ('89) joined the faculty of B.H. Carroll Theological Institute as a fellow in scripture and witness, an associate professor in Biblical languages and literature and assistant registrar. He will be teaching classical Hebrew and Aramaic as well as Old Testament courses.

1990s

Greg Stroud ('90) graduated on May 13 with a Master of Science degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas. He and his wife, **Allison (Finley '92)**, and their two children live in Hoover, Ala., where he works for Mercedes Benz USI.

Pamela (Jayroe '93) Fisher and her husband, Kevin, currently farm corn, milo, rice, soybeans

and wheat in Northeast Arkansas. She recently began teaching part-time for Arkansas State University Mid-South in the adult education department. They are members of Wynne Baptist Church where they teach youth Sunday school and she serves as the co-coordinator for the deacon and staff wives' prayer time.

Jonathan Gary ('93) graduated from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas, with a doctorate in educational administration with a concentration in higher education leadership. His dissertation was titled "Mentoring as a Succession Tool for Cultivating Faculty for Positions of Higher Education Administration."

..... 2000s

Kristi (Foster '00) Ballard started serving in August as a school social worker at High Point Academy, a new charter school in the Fort Worth, Texas, area. She aids students who are seeking assistance with behavioral, emotional and social issues and also is responsible for coordinating enhancement seminars and the bullying prevention program.

Rick Dildine ('01) has been named the artistic director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He previously served as the artistic and executive director of Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. In his new role, he will oversee an operation of 10 productions in two venues set in a 250-acre park with an annual budget of \$8.1 million and more than 230 employees.

Stephen Carlisle ('02) was named chief executive officer in September of Business World, an office equipment and digital solutions consultancy based in Little Rock, Ark.

Jojo (Gattis '02) Smithpeters was named the 2017 Teacher of the Year for the Gurdon Public School District.

..... 2010

Frank Espy ('10) will serve as the football offensive coordinator for Cabrillo College in Aptos, Calif. He previously served as head coach for three seasons at Mendocino College in Ukiah, Calif., and as a defensive assistant at Ouachita for three seasons.

Jake Sligh ('10) joined Rock Dental Brands as the chief marketing officer in August. He worked the past five years at Arkansas Business Publishing Group as the director of marketing and digital sales. He will lead Rock Dental Brands' efforts in cultivating patient experience, market analysis and overall marketing strategy.

Lauren Lefler ('11) married Brady Hanssen on June 16 at Central Baptist Church in Conway, Ark. They live in Kansas City, Mo., where they both are pursuing Master of Divinity degrees at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



\$1.4 MILLION GIFT FROM McCUIN ESTATE TO BENEFIT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

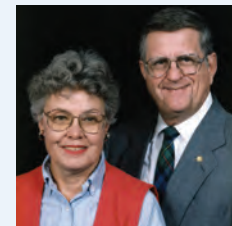
For Earl and Nancy McCuin, generosity and service to others was a way of life. Their giving culminated with a recent estate gift of almost \$1.4 million to Ouachita for student scholarships.

Marsha Allbritton, the McCuins' niece, is serving as the trustee of their estate. Reflecting on the motivation for their generosity, she said, "Their faith was most important to them. They loved volunteering, teaching and ministering to people."

Earl McCuin was a 1952 Ouachita graduate who majored in speech. He was active in Baptist Student Union, band, drama club, wrote for *The Signal* newspaper, was a member of Alpha Psi Omega and was a commissioned ROTC officer. He earned his Master of Religious Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and his Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington. He served as a pastor and as director of social work at Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home in El Paso, Texas. Prior to his death in 1999, the McCuins retired to Rogers, Ark.

Nancy McCuin was a former Ouachita student who was involved in choir, BSU, Gamma Phi social club and *The Signal* staff. While she loved her Ouachita experience, she left school during her junior year in order to help support her family after her father's death. While on a Ouachita choir trip to El Dorado, a couple offered to pay her tuition if she could stay at Ouachita and graduate. Although she wasn't able to take advantage of the offer, it inspired her to help support other students, including leaving her estate to Ouachita following her death last year at age 86.

"Small gifts over the years often lead to larger legacy gifts," noted Ouachita President Ben Sells. "The McCuins are excellent examples of dedicated supporters whose generosity grew into a major gift that will make a lasting impact for Ouachita."



Nancy & Earl McCuin

Mrs. McCuin, who completed her degree at the University of Texas, El Paso, served as the librarian at Moor Children's Home where she inspired many young readers. Following her husband's death, she volunteered in the library of the retirement center where she lived, helping refurbish and expand the library to benefit the center's residents.

In keeping with the McCuins' desire to assist students with financial needs, the Earl and Nancy McCuin Endowed Scholarship Fund is designed to give priority to students "from middle-income families who don't qualify for other financial aid."

Noting that her aunt and uncle "were very positive and happy people, very young at heart," Allbritton said, "They wanted their estate to go to students who don't have the money for tuition. It will make a difference in so many people's lives, not only the students, but their families and future families."

Memorials gifts be made to the McCuin Scholarship Fund at Ouachita Baptist University, Office of Development, Box 3754, Arkadelphia, AR 71998. To make contributions to Ouachita, visit www.obu.edu/give or contact the Office of Development at 870-245-5169.

- FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATE -

BRECH NAMED TO ENDOWED CHAIR

Dr. Detri Brech, professor of dietetics in the Patterson School of Natural Sciences, has been named to the Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Chair of Dietetics and Pre-Medical Studies. The endowed chair was established in 1987 through a bequest from the estate of Dr. Charles S. Holt, a 1930 Ouachita graduate. Dr. Brech, who has taught at Ouachita since 2000, is a 1984 Ouachita graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics. She also holds degrees from Louisiana Tech University and Oklahoma State University.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS APPROVED

The Ouachita Board of Trustees approved new faculty positions prior to the Fall 2017 semester, including: **Dr. Mary Chung**, assistant professor of music, holds degrees from the National Conservatory of Music in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and North Greenville University in South Carolina as well as two degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Dr. Blake Johnson, assistant professor of biology, is a 2003 Ouachita graduate with a Bachelor of Science in biology. He also holds degrees from the University of Aberdeen, U.K., and the University of Texas School of Biomedical Sciences at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He previously was assistant professor of biology at East Texas Baptist University. **Dr. Arnold Rawls**, associate professor of music and artist in residence, holds degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Oklahoma. He is a former professor and artist in residence at Moody Bible Institute and has been a professional opera singer for more than 20 years, including roles at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Opera Australia. **Tyler Tarver**, director of OBU at NLC in Conway, holds degrees from Arkansas Tech University and the University of Central Arkansas and is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of Arkansas. He previously was director of

curriculum, instruction, federal programs, communications, technology and personnel at Bauxite School District.

TRUSTEES APPROVE NEW STAFF

New staff members approved by the Ouachita Board of Trustees include: **Collin Battaglia**, resident director of Tollett Hall, is a 2017 Ouachita graduate with majors in Christian studies and biblical languages. **Kyle Bowles**, head athletic trainer, is a 2017 graduate of the University of Memphis with a Master of Science degree with a major in health studies. He previously was a graduate assistant with the University of Memphis athletics department. **Ashleigh Harris**, assistant athletic trainer, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training from Emporia State University. She previously was a graduate assistant at Missouri Western State University. **Jarah Jacks**, resident director of Gosser Hall, is a 2015 graduate of Henderson State University and previously taught art at Centerpoint High School. **Brant Matros**, development officer, is a 1993 Ouachita graduate who previously served five years at Ouachita with the TRIO program and most recently served at Arkadelphia Public Schools. **Anna Rosenthal**, assistant director of Campus Ministries, is a 2015 graduate of Ouachita with a major in Christian studies. She also holds a master's degree in Christian education from Dallas Theological Seminary. **Victoria Williams**, admissions counselor, is a 2017 Ouachita graduate with a major in mass communications.

HUBBARD ELECTED ACS VICE CHAIR

Dr. Sara Hubbard, associate professor of chemistry, has been elected to a three-year term as vice chair of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Southwest Regional Meeting Executive Committee. As part of her responsibilities, Hubbard will serve on the southwest region's Steering Committee and the Executive Committee. She has been active in the Central Arkansas Local Section of ACS during the past four years, serving as the secretary, chair-elect and chair. She

currently works to organize events and promote chemistry education as the chair of the Education and Outreach Committee.

COPELAND PRESENTS SOLO EXHIBIT

Donnie Copeland, associate professor of visual arts and chair of Ouachita's Adams Department of Visual Arts, recently showcased a solo exhibit at the Texarkana Regional Arts Center. Each of the works featured striped patterns created from cutting patterns from stacked sheets of paper and adhering them to sheets of paper. The exhibit continued the "Interrupted Paths" concept Copeland has explored in other exhibits in recent months, as each striped canvas evokes the idea of a path.

REYNA NAMED NATIONAL MENTOR

Dr. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology, has been selected to participate in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) mentor program, CURE Net. Reyna will mentor other science professors across the nation and teach them how to run course-embedded undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) in their own institutions. Ouachita currently has five CURE programs in its curriculum, coordinated primarily by Dr. Reyna and **Dr. Ruth Plymale**, associate professor of biology. They recently received funding through the NSF-funded EPSCoR program to create the Arkansas CURE project to help faculty at other institutions develop similar programs. Over the summer, 18 undergraduate faculty members from 10 states participated in a three-day CURE workshop hosted by Ouachita.

UTTER PUBLISHES CHILDREN'S BOOK

Dr. Benjamin Utter, visiting assistant professor of English, has published a children's book titled *Gladys the Grayish-Green Dragon* with Bowen Press. The book follows Gladys during her bedtime routine and her patient parents. Utter is a 2002 Ouachita graduate in English and political science. He earned his master's degree in English from Wake Forest University and completed his Ph.D. in English from the University of Minnesota.

Ashley Turner

(**'11**) married Chris Thompson on Oct. 30. They live in their hometown of White Hall, Ark., where she is an art educator at Sheridan Public Schools and he owns a business, Thompson Heating & AC.



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

Audrey Craven

(**'12**) married Kyle Markel on Aug. 5 at Rocky Mountain Presbyterian Church in Broomfield, Colo. They live in Norton Shores, Mich., where she is a 10th grade geometry teacher at Muskegon High School and he is in his second year of emergency room residency.



Ashley Tanner (**'13**)

married Christopher McNeal on Sept. 16 at First United Methodist Church in Arkadelphia. They live in Arkadelphia where she is the director of Christian education at First United Methodist and he works for TMC Transportation as a flatbed truck driver.



Emory Clayborn

(**'14**) married Nick Long on Aug. 5 in Camden, Ark. They live in Ruston, La., where she is a speech-language pathologist and he works as director of basketball operations for the Louisiana Tech University Lady Techsters.



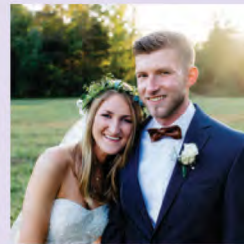
KNOW A STUDENT WHO WOULD BE A GREAT FIT FOR OUACHITA?

Refer a future Tiger!
obu.edu/refer



Matthew Cook

(**'14**) married Haylee Herndon on Oct. 12 at the Willoughby Farm in Jackson, Tenn. They live in Arkadelphia where he is a senior admissions counselor for Ouachita and she will graduate from Henderson State University in May.



Stephen Curry (**'15**) married **Abby Root** (**'17**)

on May 26 at The Barn at Richwoods in Arkadelphia. He is associate vocal director at Little Rock Christian Academy. She teaches theatre and oral communications at Benton High School.



Colby Harper (**'14**)

married **Jessica Ashcraft** (**'16**) on Aug. 5 in Little Rock. They live in Little Rock where he recently graduated from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in pastoral ministries and she holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Bradley Hunter Heird (**'15**) married **Lauren Dunklin** (**'15**)

on Sept. 30 at St. James Methodist Church in Little Rock. They live in Little Rock where he is a nurse at Arkansas Otolaryngology Center and she is a nurse at Arkansas Children's Hospital.



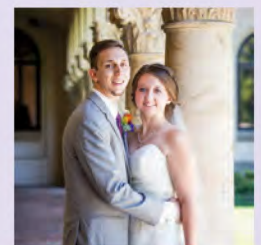
Benson Jordan (**'14**)

married **Reagan Rucker** (**'16**) on April 22. They live in Magnolia, Ark., where he coaches football at Southern Arkansas University and she teaches 1st grade.



Derek Miller (**'15**) married **Gracen Kelley** (**'16**)

on Aug. 13, 2016, at First Baptist Church of Lee's Summit, Mo. They live in Jacksonville, Ark., where he works as a children's pastor and she is pursuing a master's degree in speech pathology at Harding University.



FUTURE TIGERS

..... 2000s

Shannon Talley ('15) married Josh Stewart on Aug. 5 at Chapel Creek Ranch in Denton, Texas. They live in Rockwall, Texas, where she is teaching second grade at Billie Stevenson Elementary School and he is an aerospace engineer working at L3 in Greenville, Texas.



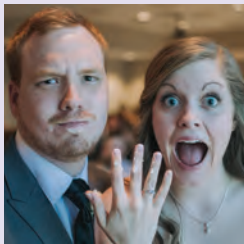
Joseph Breckenridge ('16) married **Emily Tual ('16)** on July 22 at The Barn at Richwoods. They live in Arkadelphia where he serves as the children's minister at Park Hill Baptist Church and she is a dietetic intern at the University of Arkansas for Medical Services.



Zach Fricke ('16) married **Abby Huggins ('16)** on April 29 in Lonoke, Ark. They live and work in Bryant, Ark.



Jacob Hensarling ('17) married **Lauren Hutcheson ('17)** on May 14. They live in Dallas, Texas, where he is a 6th grade math teacher in the Dallas Independent School District and she is attending Dallas Theological Seminary to earn a master's degree in media arts and worship and is working as the children's ministry intern at The Village Church Dallas.



Nathan Street ('17) married **Kasey McLeane ('15)** on June 3 in Little Rock.



Signe (Vang '00) Carlson and her husband, Michael, welcomed son Daniel on Sept. 5, 2016. He joins big sister Esther (2).



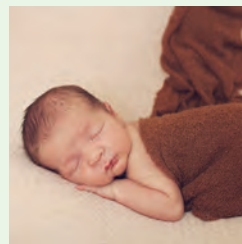
Doug ('01) and Jessica (Coleman '00) Connell welcomed son Fisher Barnabas in November 2016. He joins siblings Ethan (15), Baxter (13), MeiMei (11), Silas (9), Moses (7), Theo (4) and Luke (2). They live in Woodland, Wash., where Doug serves as pastor of counseling and discipleship at Woodland Christian Church.



Brandon and Amy (Garrett) Gattis ('04) welcomed daughter Lottie Grace on June 29. Amy serves as associate director of the Grant Center for International Education at Ouachita.



Rebecca (Jagger '04) Hall and her husband, Aaron, adopted son Brody Jagger on March 6. He was born on Aug. 17, 2016. They live in Oklahoma City, Okla., where Rebecca graduated in May with a master's degree in speech language pathology from the University of Central Oklahoma and is working at a skilled nursing facility.



Michael Nutt ('04) and his wife, Kelsey, adopted daughter Lily Abigail. She was born on May 8 and joins big brother Ezra (2).



Ryan ('04) and Laura (Fletcher '03) Spears welcomed son Noah Fletcher on Feb. 27. He joins siblings Owen (5) and Ashby (3).



Brittany (Williams '05) Rhoades and her husband, Timothy, welcomed daughter Ireland Faye on Sept. 15.

Hailey (Ford '06) Coburn and her husband, Bo, welcomed daughter Brielle Kay on Jan. 23. She joins big brother Truett.



Sara (Smith '07) Cooper and her husband, Corey, welcomed daughter Adelyne Grace on April 14. She joins big sister Ava. They live in Searcy, Ark., where Sara is in her 11th year of teaching at Searcy Public Schools.



Jake ('07) and Rebecca (Womack '04) Plyler welcomed daughter Abbey Kate on May 30. She joins big sisters Hayden, Kennedy and Avery.

Rachel (Waggener '07) Pool and her husband, Jim, welcomed son Caleb James on July 6. Dr. Pool is an assistant professor of education at Ouachita.



Kara (Rainey '07) Street and her husband, Wesley, welcomed son Rhys Eugene on March 29. He joins big brother Liam. They live in Owasso, Okla., where Kara teaches private voice and Wesley is a geographic information systems analyst.



Schuyler ('07) and Jodi (Hankins '10*) Van Doren welcomed daughter Madelyn Grace on Aug. 22. She joins big brother Jackson.

Alan ('08) and Laura (Sikes '12) Greenwood welcomed daughter Brighton Belle on Sept. 16.



Jonathan and Brooke (Schaefer) Hayes ('08) adopted son Wyatt James Chen on June 11. He was born on Jan. 31, 2013, and joins sisters Paisley and Schaefer.



Vicki (Utterback '08) Wilson and her husband, Zachary, welcomed daughter Eliana Christine on Nov. 10.

Shay (Garner '09) Morgan and her husband, Mark, welcomed son Luke Thomas on Aug. 2. He joins big sister Kate.



Matt ('09) and Holly (Crouch '07) Morrison welcomed son Noah Clay on July 7. He joins big brother Caleb (5).



STEPPING UP LUNCHEON HONORS MARY PAT ANTHONY, PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS

Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon, held Oct. 19 at Benton Event Center in Benton, Ark., honored Mary Pat (Cook) Anthony of El Dorado, Ark. A 1981 Ouachita graduate, Anthony has served on Ouachita's Board of Trustees since 2013.

Stepping Up for Ouachita and FORE Ouachita Golf Tournament, Ouachita's primary fundraising events, have together raised more than a million dollars for scholarships in their eight-year lifetime. Each Stepping Up luncheon has honored a notable Ouachita woman; in addition to Anthony, former honorees include: Marianne Gosser, Betty Oliver, Susie Everett, Mary Shambarger, Molly Kircher, Margaret Wright and Sharon Heflin.

"When you invest in Ouachita and in Stepping Up for Ouachita, you're investing in people like these eight ladies who have been honored over the last eight years," said Terry Peeples, OBU vice president for development. "I see that investment in the Kingdom, for sure."

Anthony earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from Ouachita. She and her husband, Aubra Anthony, Jr., live in El Dorado, where she is a member of First Baptist Church and the South Arkansas Arts Center and South Arkansas Regional Health Center boards of directors. She has served as a fourth grade teacher at Hugh Goodwin Academy for the Arts, director of education at South Arkansas Community College (SACC) and first grade teacher and fine arts coordinator at Southside Elementary School. She earned numerous awards throughout her career, including Teacher of the Year for El Dorado Public Schools and Outstanding Faculty Member for SACC. She retired from teaching in 2012.

"I first met Mary Pat the day I was introduced to trustees," said Dr. Ben Sells, OBU president. "I was immediately struck by someone positive and passionate – and I think I'm understating it by using those two words. I can imagine being in her classroom and the impact that might make, being in her church, her community."

Susie Everett served as chair for this year's event. "All of you in this audience today



are making a Kingdom difference because you're helping a young woman get a Christian education," she noted. "She is allowed to go to a school not only where she's getting an education but it's where Christian values are lived and they are taught. Our honoree today, Mary Pat Anthony, she is a fantastic example of what it means to go to Ouachita and living that Christian example. We are sending women out into this world that exemplify those values. I can't think of anything better."

"Ouachita is an opportunity for women," Anthony said. "It helped me to grow spiritually, educationally, socially – grow in self-confidence, my own ability of what I could do, but also create a network of friends. ... Your presence and your support just ensures that that can continue and that other women can have the same experience that I had."

"We do not want ladies to have to choose their second choice college," Peeples emphasized. "So many times, people look at Ouachita, and, over a few thousand dollars, they choose their second best college. It's events like Stepping Up for Ouachita that help fund those extra dollars needed."

"Thank you for stepping up for Ouachita," President Sells told donors. "Mary Pat, thank you for stepping up for Ouachita, for exemplifying faithful excellence in your life. We're delighted that you are here and what your involvement means for Ouachita today in the lives of students for years to come."

2010s

Alden (Ashley '10) Dobbins and her husband, Michael, welcomed daughter Avery Lynn on April 28.



Jeff Green ('10) and his wife, Bailey, welcomed daughter Caroline Sue on Sept. 6. She joins big brothers Elliott (4) and Cooper (2).



Melissa (Edwards '10) Steindl and her husband, Joshua, welcomed son Milo Henry on Oct. 8. He joins big brother Preston.

Rachel (Swayne '10) Trent and her husband, Benjamin, welcomed son Daniel Isaac in November 2016. He joins big sister Charis.



Kelly (Magee '11) Cates and her husband, Zach, welcomed daughter Sutton Kathryn on Oct. 4.



Jessica (Schleiff '11) Qualls and her husband, Chris, welcomed daughter Reese Victoria on Aug. 23. She joins big brother Graham.

Kurt ('12) and Macy (Buchanan '13) Bannert welcomed daughter Josie Alice on Aug. 3.

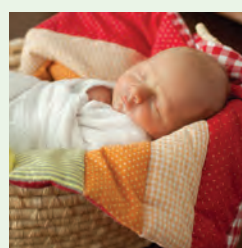
Clinton ('12) and Anja (Talbert '13) DeWitt welcomed son Roman Pierce on July 4. He joins siblings Ella, Karsyn and Knixon.

Hannah (Hilburn '12) Crawford and her husband, Matt, welcomed son Easton Davis on April 13.



Lauren (DeWitt '12) Glover and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed son Levi Mark on Aug. 16.

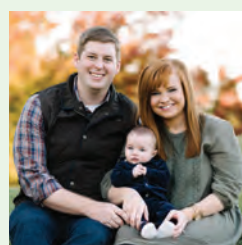
Mason ('12) and Hayley (Nolan '10) Hayes welcomed son Rowan Major on June 29. He joins siblings Ellie (4) and Cash (2).



Austin ('12) and Jillian (Vire '11) King welcomed son Taylor Woods on July 28.



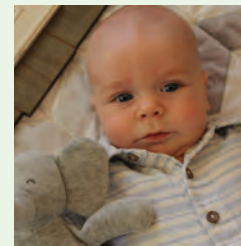
Jacob ('12) and Gracie (Lundstrum '15) Lively welcomed son John Maxwell "Max" on June 24.



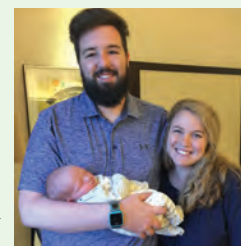
Brandon and Karis (Crosby) Briscoe ('13) welcomed daughter Grace Elizabeth on Sept. 19. She joins big sister Riley.



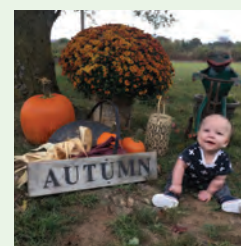
Jordan and Audrey (Melson) Neal ('13) welcomed son Carson James on May 5.



Austin and Kate (Cody) Roden ('14) welcomed son Knox Deaton on April 30 in Beijing, China. They live in Beijing where they both teach English with ELIC.



Phebe (Pruett '13) Tilley and her husband, Kole, welcomed son Everett James on March 10.



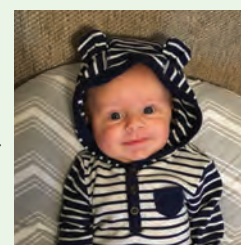
Cameron Terrell ('14) and his wife, Annette, welcomed daughter M'Liss Annette on Aug. 2.



..... Faculty & Staff

Blake Johnson and his wife, Rosamund, welcomed daughter Anna Katherine on Sept. 13. She joins big brother William. Dr. Johnson is an assistant professor of biology at Ouachita.

Wilson and Rachel Jones welcomed son Hayes Oliver on Oct. 10. Wilson is head coach for men's soccer and Rachel is director of career services at Ouachita.



IN MEMORIAM

1940s

Marilynn (Thomas '44) Keys of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on May 13. She is survived by her brother, Duane Thomas; two sons, **Thomas, Jr. ('70)** and David Keys; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Betty Jo (Schuh '44*) Mizell of Greenville, Texas, passed away on June 25.

Sammie (Doss '46*) Andrews of Batesville, Ark., passed away on June 11. She is survived by her brother, David; three daughters, Tommie McDonald, Verna Dees and Nancy Bowers; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Evelyn (Bonham '47) Taylor of Arlington, Va., passed away on Oct. 22. She is survived by her daughters, Priscilla Shisler, Melissa Schmidt and Penny Pullen; and eight grandchildren.

Velma (Woolly '48) Allison of Hampton, Va., passed away on May 6. She is survived by her children, Paula Howerton, James Allison and David Allison; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Rev. Raymond Reed ('48*) of Grady, Ark., passed away on Aug. 10. He is survived by his wife, Sue Anthony Reed; siblings, Rachel Hepler and Fred Reed, Jr.; children, Richard Reed, Ronald Anthony and Becky Peebles; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Paul Henry ('49) of Batesville, Ark., passed away on Sept. 29. He is survived by his sisters, Betty Howard, Mary Parks and Marjorie Tipton; three daughters, Paula Terrell, Mary Henry and Linda Wood; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

FACULTY, STAFF HONORED FOR COMBINED 575 YEARS OF SERVICE

Gathering for Ouachita's annual Faculty/Staff Banquet, the university honored 29 faculty and staff members who have served a combined total of 575 years at Ouachita. Among the longtime faculty and staff members honored, Clark Kuyper and David Sharp were recognized for 35 years of service each.

"Congratulations to our 29 faculty and staff members who were honored for significant service milestones," said Ouachita President Ben Sells. "Thanks especially to Clark Kuyper and David Sharp who each have served at Ouachita for 35 years. Their faithful service is representative of our many faculty and staff who embrace Ouachita's mission as a Christ-centered learning community."

Kuyper serves as the Ouachita Water Lab manager in the Patterson School of Natural Sciences. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Henderson State University. He also has worked as a biological technician for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and with the Arkadelphia Water Department.

Sharp has served since 1999 as director of athletics. He previously served from 1982 to 1998 as assistant football coach. He holds both Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Science in Education degrees from Ouachita. Active in NCAA service, he currently serves on the NCAA Football Rules Committee.

In addition to Kuyper and Sharp, 27 other faculty and staff members were recognized for service milestones, including:

30 Years of Service – Mike Ayres, printing department director; Jeanie Curry, assistant professor of accounting; Dr. Byron Eubanks, professor of philosophy and chair of the department of philosophy; Dr. Dave Ozmun, professor of communications; Dr. Deborah Root, professor of communications and chair of the Rogers Department of Communications.

25 Years of Service – Phil Hardin, assistant to the president for administration; Shirley Hardin, support staff, registrar's office; Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruett School of Christian Studies and professor of Biblical studies; Susan Hurst, associate vice president for student financial services; Eric Phillips, professor of theatre arts and chair of the department of theatre arts; Dr. Doug Sonheim, professor of English, the Clarence and Bennie Sue Anthony Chair of Bible and Humanities and chair of the department of language and literature.

20 Years of Service – Sharon Gattis, support staff, Office of Development; Bryan McKinney, dean of the Hickingbotham School of Business and associate professor of business law.

15 Years of Service – Kristin Grant,



SERVICE MILESTONES President Ben Sells (right) congratulates Clark Kuyper (left) and David Sharp on 35 years of service each to Ouachita. Photo by Caden Flint.

assistant professor of music; Brenda Gorman, facilities management; Leigh Anne McKinney, assistant director of the Elrod Center for Family and Community; Dr. Jeff Sykes, professor of mathematics and chair of the department of math and computer sciences; Misty Thacker, facilities management.

10 Years of Service – Genie Ashcraft, administrative assistant, Huckabee School of Education; Donnie Copeland, associate professor of visual arts and chair of the Rosemary Adams Department of Visual Arts; Judy Duvall, associate director of the Elrod Center for Family and Community; Dr. Kayla Dwelle, associate professor of mathematics; Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications; Sherry Kuhn, cash management, business services; Terry Peebles, vice president for development; Paula Webb, database manager, development; Marie Whisenhunt, facilities management.

AUD REMEMBERED FOR LIFE OF SERVICE

Millard Aud, a member of the Ouachita Board of Trustees since 2014, passed away at age 83 on Nov. 20 at Baptist Healthcare of Little Rock.

Aud, who served as the chairman, trustee and general manager of the Olds Foundation in Amity, Ark., was active in community service in a variety of capacities. He previously was president of the Bank of Amity; the Atlanta National Bank in Atlanta, Texas; and the Merchants & Planters Bank in Arkadelphia.



Millard Aud

In addition to serving as a Ouachita trustee, he was on the board of the Caddo Career Consortium, South West Arkansas Planning and Development Corp and the advisory board of Baptist Health Medical Center in Arkadelphia.

A resolution adopted in his memory by fellow Ouachita trustees noted that Aud “was a loyal friend of Ouachita Baptist University for many years.” Citing Aud’s “consistent and generous support for Ouachita through fervent prayers, trustee service, student recruitment, financial gifts and fund raising,” trustees expressed “gratitude to God for the life and legacy of Millard Aud.”

A U.S. Army veteran, Aud was a member of First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia. He previously served as chairman of the Arkansas Bankers Association and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Industrial Committee and president of Arkadelphia Little League and Clark County & American Legion Baseball. He served on the Executive Board of the Ouachita Area Council Boy Scouts of America and was past manager of the Clark County Fair Association. He also was on the advisory board for the Community Bankers Association of the American Bankers Association and the Independent College Fund of Arkansas.

Aud is survived by his wife, Theda Aud; two sons, Michael and Gregory Aud; and three grandchildren.

1950s

Joan (Bearden ’50) Broening of Little Rock passed away on April 23. She is survived by her brother, **Roby Bearden, Jr. (’56)**; two sons, Daniel and Bill Broening; and three grandchildren.

Billie Jean (Mosley ’50) Hickem of Panama City, Fla., passed away on Dec. 5, 2016. She is survived by her husband, **Dr. B.G. Hickem (’49)**; children, Christy Deese, Rev. Neil Hickem and Rebekah Stanslaski; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Merle (Farmer ’50*) Pierce of Crossett, Ark., passed away on July 29.

James “Pat” Tabor (’50) of Smackover, Ark., passed away on Sept. 8. He is survived by his wife, **O’Nolda (Dyer ’52) Tabor**; two daughters, **Jan (Tabor ’73*) Peeples** and **Joni (Tabor ’77*) Louis**; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Robert Watson (’50) of Arkadelphia passed away on June 12. He is survived by his wife, Cora Watson; brother, Howard Watson; two children, James Watson and Karen Ross; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild.

Joe Kirksey (’51) of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on Aug. 26. He is survived by his wife, Chloe Kirksey; children, Myron Kirksey, Marcia Wise and Monica Freeland; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou (Lowder ’51*) McClain of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on May 25. She is survived by her siblings; children, Thomas McClain and Karen Smith; and three grandchildren.

Rev. J.T. Harvill (’52) of Camden, Ark., passed away on Sept. 18. He is survived by his brother, Bill Harvill; children, **Mary (Harvill ’71*) Buie**, **Annette (Harvill ’76*) Maxwell** and **Jan (Harvill ’80*) Fletchinger**; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Donna (Sullivan ’53) Stark of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Aug. 12. She is survived by her daughters, **Dona (Stark ’82) Bush** and **Molly (Stark ’87) Taylor**; and six grandchildren.

Marianne (Lenderman ’53) Webb of Marshall, Texas, passed away on Oct. 16. She is survived by her sister, **Nancy (Lenderman ’57) McKinney**; two daughters, **Sandi (Webb ’78) Parks** and Shari Walker; two grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two step-great-grandchildren.

C.W. Brockwell, Jr. (’56) of Little Rock passed away on July 6. He is survived by his wife, **Cathryn (Davis ’53*) Brockwell**; sister, Ada Brooks; adopted children, Mark, Jonathan and Benjamin Macklin; and two great-grandchildren.

Kittie (Davis ’56) Cowling of Batesville, Ark., passed away on Sept. 25. She is survived by her husband, **Jesse Cowling (’56*)**; one brother; one son; and one grandchild.

Jacquelyn Howell (’58) of Monette, Ark., passed away on June 10. She is survived by her two sisters, Janis Chambers and Nancy Stewart.

1960s

Leonard Biggs (’60*) of Little Rock passed away on July 8. He is survived by his wife, **Marsha (Jones ’58*) Biggs**; three children, Michael Biggs, Tommy Biggs and Barbara Perrier; and nine grandchildren.

Thomas Lloyd, Jr. (’60*) of Jonesboro, Ark., passed away on Oct. 17. He is survived by his wife, Judy Lloyd; and brother, Harris Lloyd.

Richard Walls (’60) of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on Oct. 23. He is survived by his wife, Denee Walls; children, Joe Walls, Paige Yates and Jennifer Knoedl; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Jackie Bain, Jr. (’62*) of England, Ark., passed away on Aug. 31. He is survived by his mother, Connie; siblings, Robert and Beci; children, Jackie Pendleton Bain III and Devre Bain; and three grandchildren.

Horace Pruitt (’63) of Brownwood, Texas, passed away on Nov. 19. He is survived by his wife, June Pruitt; siblings, Dennis Pruitt, Hulon Pruitt, Hollis Pruitt and Pearlene Kitts; son, Robert Pruitt; two step-daughters, Sheryl Kirchner and Mechelle Sanchez; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Rebecca (Robertson '64) Roberson Moore of Elm Grove, La., passed away on Oct. 30. She is survived by her husband, George Moore, Sr.; two daughters, **Christine (Roberson '85) Street** and **Dana (Roberson '92) Pyron**; and seven grandchildren.

Sandra Dacus ('67*) of Rogers, Ark., passed away on July 30. She is survived by her husband, James Dacus; siblings, Pam Burris, Carolyn Cessna and Clay Grizzle; daughter, Kristina Blaylock; step-daughter, Elizabeth Johnson; and four grandchildren.

Frederick Cobb ('69) of Arkadelphia passed away on June 14. He is survived by his wife, Martha Cobb; siblings, Phillip Cobb and Julie Sanders; two sons, Chris and Justin Cobb; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Frances (Scott '69) Smith of Gwinn, Mich., passed away on Aug. 27. She is survived by her husband, Herschel Smith; children, Karon Wright, Joseph Smith and Margaret Smith; and four grandchildren.

..... 1970s

Mary (Reed '70) Abney of Aurora, Ore., passed away on May 7. She is survived by her husband, Jim Abney; brother, Richard Reed; daughter, Katherine Woodbury; and one grandchild.

Terry Glover ('71) of Little Rock passed away on June 30. He is survived by his wife, **Mona (Sperry '71*) Glover**; mother, Edith Glover; twin brother, **Larry Glover ('71)**; three children, Jimmie Glover, Jamie Dreher and Jacklyn Glover; and one grandchild.

Mary (West '71) Onopa of Little Rock passed away on Sept. 18. She is survived by her daughter, Andrea Woodruff; and three grandchildren.

Charles Hudson ('73) of Donaldson, Ark., passed away on May 12. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Hudson; three sons, Steven Hudson, Jonathan Hudson and Michael Findley; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Caleb Brunson, Sr. ('74) of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on June 21. He is survived by his siblings, Solomon Brunson, Garland Brunson and Priscilla Jones; four children, Eric Brunson, Undra' Brunson, Kenya Harris and Caleb Brunson; and 10 grandchildren.

Roy Martin ('74) of Benton, Ark., passed away on Oct. 29. He is survived by his siblings, Fred Martin, Shirlene Levart and Sheila Jackson; two sons, Brandon and Christopher Martin; two step-children, Lisa Fritz and Robbie Axsom; and many grandchildren.

John Hathcote ('75) of Little Rock passed away on Nov. 5. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine Hathcote; nine children, John, Kyle, Shannon, Shelly, Andrea, Kelly, Erin, Matt and Mark; and 26 grandchildren.

Albirdia Baker ('76) of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 2. She is survived by her children, Dr. Willie Baker, Reola Moore and Rev. Reginald Baker; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Gloria (Jeffries '76) Williams of Little Rock passed away on Aug. 19. She is survived by her siblings, Virginia Gipson, Belynda Jeffries, Terri Jeffries, Bobby Jeffries and Danny Jeffries; two sons, Andre Jeffries and Antione Williams; and two grandchildren.

Dr. Sarah Pirtle ('77) of Lima, Ohio, passed away on Nov. 12. She is survived by her father, George Pirtle; and stepmother, Susan Pirtle.

..... 1980s

Judge LeAne Daniel-Myrick ('81) of Glenwood, Ark., passed away on Sept. 23. She is survived by her husband, Richard Myrick, Sr.; mother, Delores Daniel; siblings, Lisa Whitley and Scott Daniel; four step-children, Rickey Myrick, Martha Weisheit, Elizabeth Myrick and Frances Myrick; and one step-grandchild.

Ethel (Blake '83) Dunbar of Rosston, Ark., passed away on Oct. 13. She is survived by her brothers, Bernis, John, Jackie and Tommy Blake; two daughters, Carmen Dunbar and Lisa Ferguson; and two grandchildren.

Paul K.W. Au ('84) of Honolulu, Hawaii, passed away on July 22.

Debra (Davis '84) Dardenne of Pine Bluff, Ark., passed away on Oct. 5. She is survived by her husband, Jimmy Dardenne; siblings, Chalmers Davis, Donna Timmons and Mandy Davis; two sons, Joseph and Jason Dardenne; and six grandchildren.

Judy (Hahn '84) Haley of Redfield, Ark., passed away on June 23. She is survived by her husband, Curt Haley; brother, Charles Hahn; two children, Champ Haley and Christy Heavner; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Emogene (Berry '85) James of Little Rock passed away on Sept. 16. She is survived by her husband, Albert James, Sr.; siblings, Naomi Berry, Bernice McReynolds, James Berry and Curtis Berry; children, Albert and Paul James; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Robert "Bob" Bumgardner ('87) of Benton, Ark., passed away on Sept. 28. He is survived by his wife, Reita Bumgardner; siblings, Debbie Petty and Randy Bumgardner; two sons, **William ('97)** and Eric Bumgardner; and five grandchildren.

Delaney "Todd" Bagwell ('88) of Benton, Ark., passed away on Sept. 13. He is survived by his parents, Joy Finley and Gene and Alice Bagwell; and sister, Regina Bagwell.

..... 1990s

Pamela (Blackmon '96) Bailey of Richmond, Va., passed away on June 11. She is survived by her husband, Craig Bailey; parents, **Kenneth ('62)** and Lillian Blackmon; two sisters, **Stephanie (Blackmon '94) Phillips** and **Cynthia (Blackmon '99) McSwain**; and two daughters, Irene and Lucy.

* denotes former student



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Detri Brech

Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt

Professor of Dietetics and Pre-Medical Studies

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni Relations

When Detri Brech stepped onto Ouachita's campus for the first time in 1979 for Girls State, she knew she was home.

Dr. Brech grew up on a family farm in Cleveland County, Ark., where her father was a science teacher in the nearby town of Warren. Planning to follow in her father's footsteps and attend college in Monticello, Dr. Brech was surprised how quickly she fell in love with Ouachita. "I kept being drawn back to OBU," she reflected. "First it was Girls State and then journalism camp – Ouachita just felt like home."

After graduating from Ouachita in December of 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics, she earned her master's degree from Louisiana Tech University and taught there for a year. It was at Tech that Dr. Brech realized her love for teaching students in the classroom. She then taught at the University of Central Arkansas while finishing her doctoral work through Oklahoma State University before heading to Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University), where she taught for five years before returning home to Ouachita.

"Since I first taught students in 1985 I have loved teaching," Brech noted. "There is nothing I love more than going into a classroom and finding ways to relate the topics to my students."

Brech said one of the most enjoyable aspects of her work with her dietetics students is the opportunity to work with them outside the classroom. Students visit the local health department, food service programs and hospitals – all centered around engaging students in the material. Brech's summer research program, made possible by a Patterson Research Grant, also allows for deeper study for one or two students each year with the focus on combating childhood obesity in the community.

"There is nothing I love more than going into a classroom and finding ways to relate the topics to my students."

"I enjoy teaching and investing in each of the students in my classes but the one-on-one research is especially rewarding," she emphasized. "We have very bright students who do great work during their time here and go on to do great things in their field around the country."

"Detri Brech is one of the most conscientious people I know," said Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences. "Not only does she take nutritional education seriously, she keeps her students in mind in managing her program. She is a great teacher and wonderful advisor. The success of our nutrition program is a result of her deep investment in Ouachita and our students."

Dr. Brech is a registered dietitian and also consults with AllCare Pharmacy in Arkadelphia as a diabetes educator. She has served at Ouachita since August of 2000 and in June of 2017 was named to the Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Chair of Dietetics and Pre-Medical Studies.

"I feel extremely honored to have received an endowed chair," Brech said. "I was very surprised when it was announced. I have been so blessed in my work at Ouachita."

Brech lives in Arkadelphia and has one daughter, Katie, who graduated from Ouachita in 2016 and is in physical therapy school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Northwest Arkansas.



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Dan Jarboe

University Counselor

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni Relations

Where were you when God called you to Ouachita? If the answer is Moscow, you have something in common with Ouachita's university counselor, Dan Jarboe.

While serving in Russia with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in the area of member care and mental health, Jarboe's IMB supervisor mentioned meeting a volunteer from Arkansas, Dr. Bill Viser, who had assisted with member care at a recent regional meeting of missionaries. Jarboe contacted Dr. Viser, Ouachita professor of Christian ministries, to see if there might be opportunities in the counseling area at Ouachita and was referred to Dr. Keldon Henley, who Jarboe knew from seminary and worked with him at a psychiatric institute in Fort Worth. Dr. Henley, Ouachita's vice president for institutional advancement, was serving at the time as vice president for student services.

"It was so exciting to reconnect with Dr. Henley," Jarboe recalled. "We hadn't talked since working together in Fort Worth. He was an outstanding supervisor to work for as is Dr. Wesley Kluck," Jarboe's current supervisor in student development.

Jarboe, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has extensive experience in counseling from working with traumatized children in institutions and children's homes, private practice, forensic interviewing, child abuse assessment and counseling on the mission field. In his work on campus with Ouachita students, he seeks to invest in students by helping them strengthen their mental health and relationships.

"College students are in such a critical new stage of life," Jarboe said. "I really enjoy helping students find God's purposes for their lives and consider that a great privilege.

"I love coming to work and investing myself, my time, my energy and spiritual life into helping students respond to difficult life challenges and build healthy relationships," he added. "I especially love doing all of this at a Christian university applying a Christian worldview to mental health where I have the opportunity to share insights from Scripture with students during our sessions."

"Dan Jarboe is a highly trained and experienced licensed counselor who uses these skills and combines them with a deep love and investment personally in the needs of the Ouachita family," Dr. Kluck emphasized. "This combination merged with a deep Christian commitment equals a rarely found blend from my medical experiences."

Since Jarboe's arrival at Ouachita nine years ago, student response to university counseling services has continued to increase. Ouachita continues to invest in the health of students by providing individual sessions with Jarboe and Sue Poole who has joined the team to work with female students and group counseling as well as a team established to respond to students struggling with thoughts of suicide.

Jarboe also enjoys teaching at Ouachita. This past semester, he taught Interpersonal Communication and next fall will offer a course on Interpersonal Violence – addressing the needs of victims of child abuse, dating violence, rape and domestic violence. He also teaches a course on Crisis and Trauma Counseling.

Jarboe and his wife, Kyle, have been married for 34 years and have five children. They live in Arkadelphia and are active members of Second Baptist Church where Dan serves as a deacon and Kyle is the director of the Weekday Preschool. Their son Matt is a junior at Ouachita.

"I really enjoy helping students find God's purposes for their lives and consider that a great privilege."



PURSUING FAITHFUL EXCELLENCE

The extended Ouachita family – readers like you – through a deeply collaborative process, charted a new five-year strategic plan to advance our university’s mission: a mission

that matters more than ever.

Six difference-making Strategic Directions guide this plan:

- **Sustain Christ-Centered Identity**
- **Advance Faculty/Staff Support**
- **Ensure Transformative Learning**
- **Grow Residential Enrollment**
- **Diversify Educational Offerings**
- **Strengthen Key Partnerships**

These Strategic Directions, to be fulfilled through focusing on 24 essential goals, build upon the reality that your Ouachita is rising, as evidenced by:

- **Highest graduation rate among all Arkansas universities**
- **No. 1 ranked private college in the state**
- **17.9 percent increase in first-time freshmen**
- **11 percent growth in gifts**

Proverbs 21:5 reminds us that “careful planning puts you ahead in the long-run.” And, we give thanks to the Lord and to the many people who contributed to Ouachita’s progress and to this plan.

Yet, plans are *means*, not ends. But, means toward what?

In recommending the 2018-2022 strategic plan to trustees in December, I choose two words to summarize it: *Faithful Excellence*.

At your Ouachita, all our plans are means to guide us in preparing and graduating men and women whose lives will be marked by faithful excellence – faithfulness to the Lord and excellence in all their pursuits. The inspiration for faithful excellence was drawn from the life of Daniel, which I was reflecting upon throughout the fall during my devotions.

After King Nebuchadnezzar sieged Jerusalem, he brought back to Babylon some of the most promising

young Israelites, placing them in a three-year program – his version of a university – for the purpose of preparing them for places of leadership.

As I read again the story of Daniel and his college friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, I was impressed in a fresh way by two commitments. In reading the biblical narrative, the first one is more obvious: *faithful*.

Their lives were marked by faithfulness to God. You read about it in their convictions – to abstain from some foods. You’re moved by it in their declarations before being cast into the furnace. You see it in a commitment to prayer and worship. And more.

I was drawn to *excellence* from reading Daniel 6:3, where he is described as possessing a “spirit of excellence.” He demonstrated gifts, talents and qualities that exceeded his Israelite peers and Babylonian leaders.

Daniel possessed faith in the God of the Bible and excelled in influencing others, while being a minority in a culture that was both secular and religious, as there were idols and gods vying for their attention. Of course, he was able to do this because of what God was doing in and through him.

At Ouachita, we talk much about our *vision* – to see students grow in their love of God and love of learning through our *mission* of being a Christ-centered learning community, embracing the liberal arts tradition, preparing individuals for ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth, lives of meaningful work and reasoned engagement with the world.

Our new strategic plan for the next five years, with its attendant Strategic Directions, Goals and Priorities, serves as a means to an end: preparing students to live out the vision and mission of Ouachita in whatever they do, wherever they go, all of their days.

And if this plan, and thus our aspirations for our students, could be summarized in only two words, I would suggest faithful excellence. Lord, as we move forward, individually and as the extended Ouachita family in 2018, help us to live lives marked by faithful excellence.

Our university’s mission ... matters more than ever.

Ben R. Sells, PhD
@OuachitaPrez

MAKE A GIFT THAT makes a difference

LONG-TERM IMPACT FOR OUACHITA. ADDED SECURITY FOR YOU.

Looking for a great way to help Ouachita invest in the lives of our students? A charitable gift annuity (CGA) may be the answer.

A CGA is a way to support Ouachita's mission while providing you or other individuals with a secure source of payments for life. A Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract between a charity and donors in which the charity agrees to make payments to you, you and a loved one, or someone else you designate. Each payment is fixed and the specific amount depends on the ages of those who receive the payments on a monthly to annual basis.

To create a CGA, you transfer an asset to the Arkansas Baptist Foundation for the benefit of Ouachita. There are many ways to fund a CGA, including cash. It can be especially beneficial to transfer appreciated stocks. In the year that the gift is made, the donor receives an immediate charitable income tax deduction and, in some cases, can bypass a portion of capital gains tax.

ONE RECIPIENT ANNUITY

AGE: GIFT ANNUITY RATE:

65 4.7%

70 5.1%

75 5.8%

80 6.8%

85 7.8%

TWO RECIPIENT ANNUITY

AGE: GIFT ANNUITY RATE:

65/65 4.2%

70/70 4.6%

75/75 5.0%

80/80 5.7%

85/85 6.7%

To learn more about how to invest in Ouachita's mission through a CGA, contact **Dillon McClain** ('09), vice president and attorney of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, at dillon@abf.org or 501-376-4791.



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BAPTIST UNIVERSITY





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— *CollegeFactual.com*

97% graduate school acceptance rate

**2017 conference championships
in football and men’s soccer**

