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Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita Alumni

Summer 2018

The Ouachita Circle Summer 2018

Ouachita Baptist University

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OUACHITA CIRCLE

Summer 2018



OUACHITA BAPTIST
UNIVERSITY

PREPARATION



Preparation paves the way for service

“Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration,” according to Thomas Edison’s famous quote. The reality is that a significant percentage of that perspiration comes amid persistent preparation.

It’s one thing to plan to accomplish a major task or goal; it’s quite another to do the hard work of preparing to bring those plans to fruition. Preparation is a key aspect of Ouachita’s purpose as faculty and staff seek to “prepare individuals for ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth, lives of meaningful work and reasoned engagement with the world” – worthy goals that require diligent preparation.

This issue of *The Ouachita Circle* focuses on preparation, from preparing to launch new academic programs on campus to our most recent graduates preparing to impact the world through diverse areas of service, ministry and leadership.

Dr. Kathy Collins, associate professor of education, affirms in this edition’s theme interpretation article that preparation “for ‘running the race’ in the life to which God calls us” applies to each one of us at every stage of life. I wholeheartedly agree.

On a personal note, this marks my final issue as editor of *The Ouachita Circle*. It has been my privilege to edit 26 issues of *The Circle* over the past decade, featuring more than 730 pages packed with Class Notes, theme interpretations, alumni features, news updates, campus photos and more.

During my 10-plus years as vice president for communications, a few of my favorite memories have included serving as editor of Ouachita’s 125th anniversary commemorative book, *Ouachita Voices*, and teaching Christian Communications for several years. My single greatest highlight has been working alongside our outstanding Office of Communications team as we have sought to tell the Ouachita story in a variety of creative and engaging ways. They are equipped and prepared to effectively lead Ouachita’s communications, marketing and design efforts in the years ahead.

As my wife, Pam, and I embark next month on a new venture as a freelance national correspondent team serving in partnership with National Woman’s Missionary Union, I always will look back on my years at Ouachita with fondness and gratitude. May God continue to richly bless Ouachita and its students, alumni, faculty and staff as you live out Ouachita’s timeless commitment to a love of God and a love of learning.

Trennis Henderson
Vice President for Communications

PREPARATION

He who is best prepared
can best serve his
moment of inspiration.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

There is no shortcut
to achievement. Life
requires thorough
preparation – veneer
isn’t worth anything.

George Washington Carver

Preparation, I have often
said, is rightly two-thirds
of any venture.

Amelia Earhart

It’s not the will to win
that matters. Everyone
has that. It’s the will
to prepare to win
that matters.

Paul “Bear” Bryant

Preach the word; be
prepared in season and
out of season; correct,
rebuke and encourage –
with great patience and
careful instruction.

2 Timothy 4:2

OUACHITACIRCLE

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OUACHITACIRCLE

Summer 2018

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CAMPUS NEWS



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

UPDATED KLUCK HILLSIDE APARTMENTS SET TO REOPEN FOR FALL SEMESTER

Kluck Hillside Apartments, formerly known as Ouachita Apartments, will reopen this fall following extensive renovations thanks to generous gifts from university donors.

Ouachita President Ben Sells announced the renovation project in February. The Ouachita Board of Trustees voted in June to name the renovated apartments in honor of Dr. Wesley Kluck, vice president for student development, and his wife, Debbie, who provided the lead gift for the project.

“Debbie and I are always wanting to invest in the lives of Ouachita students,” Dr. Kluck said. “By providing a gift to renovate the Ouachita Apartments, we have the opportunity to enhance the OBU living experience of the students and provide a place for the development of a strong community bond.”

The two apartment buildings, which were built in the 1950s, have been vacant in recent years. The facilities include eight one-bedroom apartments and eight two-bedroom apartments.

The renovations include a new kitchen floor plan that makes more efficient use of the space as well as new kitchen cabinets and appliances. The renovated apartments also will feature new kitchen and bathroom flooring and refinished oak flooring in the living area and bedrooms. Additional upgrades include new bathroom fixtures, windows, drywall, insulation, wiring, plumbing and heating and air units.

UPDATE

TIGER TUNES EARNS REGIONAL RECOGNITION AS TOP STUDENT ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Ouachita's annual Tiger Tunes won the CASE Outstanding Student Advancement Program award in the regional competition on Feb. 24 and will compete at nationals this August in Louisville, Ky.

CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, is an international association that serves educational institutions in the areas of alumni relations, communications, development and marketing. The Affiliated Student Advancement Program (ASAP) is an organization within CASE for student organizations like the Ouachita Student Foundation.

"The award recognizes the incredible work of OSF students to put on such a high-profile event and raise so much money for scholarships that they then turn around and give back to students on campus," said Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations and the Ouachita Student Foundation.

OSF joined CASE ASAP in the fall of 2017. "To win the award in our first year as a member of the association against large state schools whose foundations have been members for a number of years is a significant recognition for Tiger Tunes, OSF and for Ouachita as a whole," Merryman said.

Tiger Tunes is a student-produced song-and-dance competition that features social clubs and campus organizations. Income from the show is awarded as scholarships to juniors and seniors who need financial assistance. Tiger Tunes has raised more than \$1.5 million in its 39 years with a record-breaking \$100,000 raised last fall.



OUACHITA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Ouachita's Sutton School of Social Sciences hosted the final U.S. stop of the international traveling exhibit, "Between the Shadow and the Light: An Exhibit Out of South Africa," in January and February. It was the largest art exhibit on Ouachita's campus to date, spanning Mabee Fine Arts Center's Hammons Gallery as well as Moses-Provine Hall's Rosemary Gossett Adams Galleries.

"Between the Shadow and the Light" focused on the history, social movements and current reconciliation efforts of Southern Africa. Dr. Randall Wight, dean of Ouachita's Sutton School, cited the intertwining purpose of hosting the exhibit as both a social science and fine art experience for students and guests.

"Social science studies across place and time the behavior and experience of individuals and peoples – and the narratives they create, the life-ways they embody," he noted. "Art is a mirror of that behavior and experience, a mirror permitting looks into our deepest selves."

OUACHITA HONORS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AT 2018 ACADEMIC AWARDS BANQUET

More than 130 students were honored for academic and leadership achievements at Ouachita's 2018 Academic Awards Banquet. The annual banquet is sponsored by Ouachita's Student Senate.

Hannah Hines, a musical theatre and mass communications double major from Russellville, Ark., was awarded Ouachita's highest academic honor as the university's Overall Academic Achiever and also was named top academic achiever in the School of Fine Arts. She also was honored with the William D. Downs Outstanding Mass Communications Graduate Award and was recognized as a Carl Goodson Honors Program Blue Ribbon Finisher.

Ouachita's Senior Outstanding Man is Matt Savage, a biomedical sciences major from Arkadelphia, Ark. Ouachita's Senior Outstanding Woman is Hannah Bunch, a history and political science double major from Paragould, Ark. These honors are selected by Ouachita's faculty and staff.

Dr. Rachel Pool, assistant professor of education, was named by students as the Lavell Cole Most Inspirational Professor. Dr. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology, and Dr. Johnny Wink, the Betty Burton Peck Professor of English, were named the Carl Goodson Honors Program's Most Valuable Professors.

The Rotary Club Service-Above-Self Award was presented to Teresa Workman, a sophomore elementary education major from Fort Worth, Texas. Numerous other awards were presented by the honors program and Ouachita's seven academic schools.



photo by Danielle Sourber

OUACHITA & HENDERSON CO-HOST “WHAT WERE YOU WEARING?” SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR ART EXHIBIT

Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University simultaneously hosted the traveling art exhibit, “What Were You Wearing?” The survivor art installation, located in the McClellan Rotunda at Ouachita and in Huie Library at Henderson, was on display from April 2-20 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The partnership was designed to educate students and the community about several myths of sexual assault: that it only happens to women, that the predator is unknown and that what people are wearing has something to do with the assault.

Ashlee Giles, Title IX student complaint coordinator at Ouachita, said the goal of the exhibit was “to bring awareness to the reality of sexual assault – that it does not discriminate based on gender, age or even what you were wearing.”

The exhibit, first created on the University of Arkansas’ campus, was inspired by Dr. Mary Simmerling’s poem “What I was wearing.” The poem is her response to the question from the night she was assaulted: a white shirt, jean skirt and white shoes.

“If only it were so simple, if only we could end rape by simply changing clothes,” Simmerling wrote. “I remember also what he was wearing that night, even though it’s true that no one has ever asked.”



DR. CHRIS BRUNE HONORED WITH 2018 ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATOR AWARD

Dr. Chris Brune, associate professor of finance and holder of the George Young Chair of Business at Ouachita, received the C. Sam Walls Entrepreneurship Educator Award at this year’s Arkansas Governor’s Cup Business Plan Competition awards luncheon.

Brune, a 1994 Ouachita graduate, has taught at his alma mater since 2009. He also serves as the advisor to the Ary Student Investment Fund which involves students managing more than \$1 million of Ouachita’s investment funds.

The annual award honors faculty members who have worked to promote entrepreneurial education and efforts at their institutions. Faculty can be nominated by current faculty or administrators of the school or by former or current students. Brune received a \$2,500 cash prize, and the Hickingbotham School of Business also received a \$2,500 cash prize to continue to promote entrepreneurship in its programs.

“I was so proud for Dr. Brune to receive the Entrepreneur Educator Award,” said Bryan McKinney, dean of the Hickingbotham School. “He’s helped multiple teams throughout the years and several have had tremendous success. And in many ways, the students he has worked with are now paying it forward.”

“I’m honored to have been selected, but this is a reflection on the entire Hickingbotham School of Business,” Brune said. “I’m thankful for Dean McKinney’s commitment to entrepreneurial education, the dedication of our faculty, generosity of donors and especially the talented students we’ve worked with over the years.”



OUACHITONIAN YEARBOOK EARNS NATIONAL AWARD

Ouachita’s 2016-2017 *Ouachitonian* yearbook earned a Gold Medalist award and All-Columbian Honors from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

The CSPA critiques and offers instruction on how to improve student yearbooks and other publications by recruiting adviser-judges from across the U.S. The CSPA is one of the premier student publications organizations in the nation.

“Our students produce outstanding work, and we have a strong reputation among the best college yearbooks in the nation,” said Dr. Deborah Root, faculty advisor for the *Ouachitonian* and chair of Ouachita’s Rogers Department of Communications. “I’m proud of our students and their hard work in producing a quality publication.”

“I was thrilled to receive the Gold Medalist award,” said Robert DeSoto, co-editor-in-chief of the *Ouachitonian*. “To me it’s a validation of all the hard work our staff put into designing and creating the book.”

DeSoto, a 2017 mass communications and Spanish graduate from Sheridan, Ark., and Amber Easterly, a 2017 mass communications and business administration/marketing graduate from Bryant, Ark., served as co-editors-in-chief of the yearbook. Andy Henderson, a 2018 mass communications graduate from Royse City, Texas, served as photo editor.

ENACTUS TEAM NAMED REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Ouachita's Enactus team was named regional champion at its annual competition in Dallas, Texas. The team moved on to compete at the Enactus National Exposition in Kansas City, Mo., in May. The competition included a scripted presentation highlighting the various projects conducted by Ouachita's Enactus organization.

"The faculty at Ouachita, especially in the Hickingbotham School of Business, support Enactus wholeheartedly," said Ouachita Enactus President Victoria White, a senior accounting major from Powderly, Texas. "Our success at regional competition is a direct result of their guidance and encouragement."

Enactus is a global entrepreneurship-focused program on more than 1,700 college campuses in 36 countries. Enactus challenges students to use business to help solve social issues locally and globally. Members create and run various programs through university Enactus chapters and present their work at regional and national competitions.

This year, Ouachita's Enactus team presented several projects at the regional competition, including Dr. Jack's Coffee, Generation-U, Mission 58:10 and Bridges. Dr. Jack's Coffee is an initiative that sells coffee on and off campus to raise proceeds for an orphanage and farmers in Honduras. Generation-U allows students to donate gently used dorm furniture and supplies to local high school students attending college. Mission 58:10 raises awareness of Arkadelphia's high food insecurity rate and provides food for students in local schools. Bridges works with entrepreneurs who present a problem or goal to a panel of students who help provide solutions.



FINE ARTS STAGES *SEUSSICAL* SPRING MUSICAL

Ouachita's School of Fine Arts presented *Seussical*, featuring Dr. Seuss' best-known characters colliding in an unforgettable musical, as the university's 2018 spring musical.

Seussical tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust that contains the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child sent off to military school for "thinking too many thinks." Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, but the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. His struggles highlight the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community.

Noting that the cast worked "incredibly hard to put together this fun and heartwarming musical," Will Stotts, a senior musical theatre major from Jonesboro, Ark., who played Horton, said "My character, Horton the Elephant, is like nothing I've played before, which is sweet and innocent. But it's so fun to step into his shoes!"

"It's a fun show without a doubt. It's colorful and silly, but under the surface, the writers have crafted a very touching story that deals with meaningful themes, including connection and the power of imagination," said Drew Hampton, assistant professor of theatre arts and director of the musical. "There is a tremendous amount of power and poignancy in Horton's repeated lines 'a person's a person no matter how small' and 'I meant what I said, and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful 100 percent.'"

OUACHITA SENIORS WIN SECOND PLACE AT GOVERNOR'S CUP BUSINESS COMPETITION

Ouachita seniors Chandler Blake and Chris Clark won second place in the undergraduate division at the Arkansas Governor's Cup Business Plan Competition for their business plan, WinterTerm.com. Blake, a senior finance and business administration/entrepreneurship double major from Frisco, Texas, and Clark, a senior finance and business administration/entrepreneurship double major from Arkadelphia, Ark., received a \$15,000 cash prize.

"It was so rewarding to win second place at the Governor's Cup," Blake said. "All the long hours of hard work paid off in a huge way. It was such an amazing opportunity that we had to represent Ouachita and the Hickingbotham School of Business."

"We've put a lot of time and effort into this business plan and so hearing our name called was such a great feeling," Clark added. "Through this whole process, I've learned how to take my anticipated degrees in finance and entrepreneurship outside of the classroom."

WinterTerm.com is a business designed to help college students find winter term courses to complete hours necessary for them to graduate. They created a website that contains a database of winter term classes offered by colleges around the nation. Students can create an account and search through the database for the classes they need. Bryan McKinney, dean of the Hickingbotham School of Business, served as the faculty advisor for the team.



photo by Andy Henderson

EMMA PITTS CROWNED MISS OBU 2018

Emma Pitts of Clarksville, Ark., was crowned Miss Ouachita Baptist University 2018 at the 51st annual Miss Ouachita Baptist University Scholarship Pageant.

Pitts is a junior music education major and the daughter of Jeremy and Misty Rebeca Scroggs Pitts. She represented Tri Chi women's social club, and her platform is "Inspiring Creativity through Arts Education." Pitts also received the Mac Sisson Alpha Talent Award and the Kiley Engel Alpha Award.

Pitts, who went on to compete in the Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant this summer, won three awards in the state competition for overall talent and vocal performance.

"Receiving the title of Miss OBU will no doubt be one of the greatest honors of my life. So many strong women that I look up to greatly have been in this position," Pitts said. "I am so proud to be following in the great example that they've set before me."

Julia Williams, a senior political science and mass communications major from Arkadelphia, Ark., was first runner-up to Miss OBU. Second runner-up was Caroline Sweet, a sophomore secondary education and English major from North Little Rock, Ark. Kara DeLaune, a junior Spanish major from Conway, Ark., was third runner-up.

SIX STUDENTS EARN FIRST PLACE HONORS AT ANNUAL SINGING COMPETITION

Six Ouachita students earned first place honors at the 2018 Arkansas National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) held at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

"Participation in the competition creates an environment of motivation and goal-setting among our students," said Dr. Jon Secrest, Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music and coordinator of Ouachita's vocal studies program. "Working toward a performance goal always encourages the students in their diligence and level of preparation."

During the competition, students are judged by NATS members from other educational institutions and private studios and receive written critiques on their performances, focusing on musicianship, artistry, expression and other factors. Tenor Scott Wichaël was the featured guest artist at the conference, performing a recital and teaching a master class.

The six first place finishers from Ouachita include: Hannah Anderson, a freshman musical theatre major from Austin, Texas; Logan Dooley, a sophomore musical theatre major from Allen, Texas; Bonnie Gentry, a sophomore musical theatre major from Arlington, Texas; Hannah Hines, a senior musical theatre and mass communications major from Russellville, Ark.; Clay Mobley, a sophomore music industry major from Wylie, Texas; and Zach Myers, a junior musical theatre major from Greenwood, Ark.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM EARNS MARKETING GRAND PRIZE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Ouachita's Office of Communications staff earned 10 national awards, including the grand prize for exceptional achievement in public relations and development, during Baptist Communicators Association's 2018 Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition. The winners were announced at an awards banquet held in conjunction with BCA's annual workshop in Washington, D.C.

The BCA awards honored the work of Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications; Brooke Zimny, director of communications and marketing; René Zimny, assistant director of graphic services; and Tyler Rosenthal, digital content coordinator.

The Office of Communications earned the 2018 Arthur S. Davenport Grand Prize for Exceptional Achievement in Public Relations and Development for its Texas marketing campaign aimed at recruiting prospective students from throughout Texas to explore Ouachita as their higher education choice. Judges noted that the marketing campaign "definitely reached your target audience in a very well thought-out way," adding that "the videos to students and parents ensured you hit all the right people." The Texas campaign also earned a first place award for marketing strategy.

Other awards earned by the Office of Communications included first place for digital media template, promotional video, print booklet, print promotion and social media post as well as second place for integrated branding, billboard design and social media campaign.

OUACHITA EARNS ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMATION FROM HLC, LAUNCHES CAMPUS MASTER PLANNING

Culminating an in-depth planning and preparation process, Ouachita received confirmation from the Higher Learning Commission in February that the commission “continued the accreditation of Ouachita Baptist University with the next reaffirmation of accreditation in 2027-28.”

The university’s 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation followed a two-day campus visit by a three-member HLC peer review team. Ouachita, which was first accredited in 1927, has held continuous accreditation since 1953.

Criteria for HLC accreditation includes confirmation that the university’s mission is clear and articulated publicly and that the university acts with integrity; provides high quality education; demonstrates responsibility; and provides resources, structures and processes sufficient to fulfill its mission and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs, said the HLC campus visit went well as students, faculty and staff shared “a positive sense of direction and momentum for the university.”

Ouachita submitted a 178-page Assurance Argument compiled by a nine-member Assurance Review Committee, chaired by Dr. Deborah Root, chair of the Rogers Department of Communications and director of assessment and institutional research.

According to Ouachita President Ben Sells, the Assurance Review Committee “involved a significant portion of our campus community in compiling this information and developing these documents. We are a better institution because of the accreditation process.”

Highlighting Ouachita’s theological and missional contexts, Dr. Sells told trustees that the university’s HLC reaccreditation report “demonstrates that we excel in delivering Ouachita’s Christian and academic mission.”

In addition to the HLC reaffirmation of accreditation, Ouachita recently hosted an HLC team to evaluate the university’s plans to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Pending final HLC approval, Ouachita’s inaugural BSN class is scheduled to enroll this fall. (See related article on page 10.)

In other recent board actions, trustees approved university priorities for 2018-19 and heard an update on campus master planning.

Ouachita’s 20 priorities for 2018-19 are organized under the university’s 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, which emphasizes sustaining Christ-centered identity, advancing faculty/staff support, ensuring transformative learning, growing residential enrollment, diversifying educational offerings and strengthening key partnerships.

According to President Sells, the 20 priorities “are intended to be accomplished in one year to help us achieve our five-year plan,” adding that “we believe these deserve special attention and focus to help the university move forward.”

Concerning campus master planning, one of the university’s Strategic Plan goals is to “develop and implement a campus master plan to guide strategic investments in physical facilities.” The yearlong planning process, designed to accommodate current enrollment and projected growth, was launched in March. It will address such issues as facilities, parking and traffic flow, campus aesthetics and safety.

In other actions, trustees:

- Heard updates on the Berry-Peoples Bible Building renovation and Horne Center for Biblical Preaching which will open this fall and be dedicated on Sept. 27.
- Approved plans for the university to apply for membership in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. CCCU is the primary professional association for Christian universities with more than 180 member institutions in the U.S. and around the world.
- Elected Dr. John McCallum, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hot Springs, as chair of the Board of Trustees and Julie Dodge of Conway as vice chair.

GET READY... GET SET... GO!

PREPARATION FOR LIVES OF SERVICE

By Kathy Collins



How many times have we heard the challenge: Get ready ... Get set ... Go? Too many times to count, no doubt. Those three simple commands, while reminiscent of childhood games, can easily relate to adulthood as well, and especially to our preparation for “running the race” in the life to which God calls us.

GET READY. In the Huckabee School of Education’s Department of Education, we operate on the premise that teaching is a calling. Our students graduate from Ouachita and begin teaching in Arkansas, in other states and even around the world. In order for our students to meet the challenge of the mission to which God calls them, we must do our part to get them ready by equipping them with the knowledge, skills

and attitudes they will need to enter the mission field of teaching. The same is true for our colleagues all across campus, whether they are equipping students for the diverse fields of business, communications, ministry, medical professions or a host of other careers.

The groundwork for the preparation for our future educators is laid through a series of courses, experiences and high-impact practices leading to a degree and licensure in the students' chosen content area. In their coursework, our students first study the foundations of education, including the history, theories, philosophy and methods of teaching. They then transition to the classroom phase of their training. Through field experience, they observe professional teachers at work and then through methods classes, practicum and student teaching, they practice their teaching skills.

Learning in real-world settings is one characteristic of high-impact practices that lead to transformational learning. The real-world setting for our students is public school classrooms, which we are able to visit because of our partnerships with area school districts. To prepare for working in diverse classrooms, students receive training in and must demonstrate competency in four key areas: planning and preparation, the classroom environment, instruction and professional responsibility.

Another high-impact practice that is equally important to our preparation of future educators is diversity and global learning. To meet the challenge of exposing our students to greater diversity, we provide travel opportunities that are related to coursework. Two regularly scheduled trips are the EdUK Trip and the EdUSA Trip. In both cases, the two-week May term excursions provide students valuable experience with diverse populations, expose them to a broader worldview and help them increase their cultural intelligence. The EdUK experience involves travel to London, Liverpool and at least one other destination, decided upon by the group making the trip (previous groups have traveled to Cardiff, Wales; Dublin, Ireland; and Edinburgh, Scotland). In Liverpool, through our partnership with Liverpool Hope University, our students interact with LHU education faculty and students and observe in classrooms to learn about the British school system.

The EdUSA trip, our newest travel opportunity, was created to provide students with an opportunity to explore the diversity of schools, culture and populations right here in the United States. Our inaugural EdUSA trip took us to inner-city, low socioeconomic, high-minority schools in West Memphis, Birmingham and Atlanta. A highlight of that phase of the trip was the day of training at the famed Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta. From Atlanta, we traveled to Amish country in Pennsylvania where we visited a Mennonite school, the Milton Hershey School and a replica of a one-room Amish school. The final stop on our EdUSA trip was New York City, where our students observed in classrooms in the Manhattan Christian Academy.

Through a great deal of time and effort spent on all of the coursework, multiple opportunities for interactions with faculty and peers, experience with diversity, frequent feedback, learning in real-world settings and challenging curriculum, our students leave Ouachita ready to teach and shape young lives.

GET SET. A wise person once told me, "Students won't care how much you know until they know how much you care." I have found that to be true in every teaching experience I have had through the years. The team of former public school educators that comprises the faculty in our department have spent multiple years serving their communities through teaching and seeking every day to demonstrate love for students, parents and colleagues alike. Why do our students enter the teaching field? What are they getting set to do when they graduate? Most of them tell me they want to make a difference, they want to be a servant or they want to help inspire kids.

**AS LONG AS WE ARE BREATHING,
WE ARE BEING PREPARED ...
TO SERVE SOME PURPOSE.**

GO! When I was an undergraduate preparing for a career in teaching, I had no idea I eventually would earn a doctorate and teach at the college level. I expected my career in education to end where it started, in an elementary classroom in a public school. After many years of teaching and through the encouragement of some wonderful people, I worked to earn my master's degree and principal certification and finished my public school career as a principal in 2007. All of that experience was the preparation that led me to Arkadelphia and to Ouachita. Without the 30-plus years of experience, I would not have been prepared to make the move to higher education. I love teaching and I want my students to love what they do too. I want them to not be afraid to go where the Lord leads them.

Reflecting our university mission statement, students in each of our academic schools graduate from Ouachita equipped for "ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth, lives of meaningful work and reasoned engagement with the world." What more could we ask?

In a recent Bible study class I attended, the lesson focused on Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. What he wrote to the Thessalonians reminded me of how we feel about our students and the work we do here at Ouachita. In I Thessalonians 1:2-4, it sounds like Paul is telling us to get ready, get set and go: "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that He has chosen you."

As long as we are breathing, we are being prepared for something, to serve some purpose. Are you prepared to serve your purpose? Get ready, get set, go!



Dr. Kathy Collins, associate professor of education, has taught in Ouachita's Huckabee School of Education since 2009. She holds degrees from Baylor University, Tarleton State University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

New Ouachita programs focus on nursing, graphic design and interdisciplinary studies

As Ouachita seeks to “ensure transformative learning” as one of its strategic directions over the next five years, university leaders are pursuing a number of new academic opportunities, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design and an online Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies.

Affirming that “Ouachita is rising, going from strength to strength,” Ouachita President Ben Sells said the university “must continue to be intentional about being better in deepening and expanding the impact of the Ouachita mission.”

“By emphasizing excellence in our classrooms and by adopting new strategies designed to advance student learning,” he added, “we can strengthen the university’s effectiveness in preparing students for the world beyond Ouachita.”

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

As part of that emphasis, Ouachita recently hosted a Higher Learning Commission team to evaluate the university’s plans to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Concerning the proposed BSN program, Dr. Sells told university trustees, “We received a very encouraging report from the Higher Learning Commission visit team and will receive a formal response from HLC in early August.”

The Arkansas State Board of Nursing confirmed in December that the university’s innovative dual enrollment program with Baptist Health College Little Rock qualifies as an RN-to-BSN completer program. Pending final HLC approval, Ouachita’s inaugural BSN class will enroll this fall.

As part of that process, university trustees endorsed the appointment of Dr. Brenda Trigg as Ouachita’s director of nursing. Dr. Trigg, who has served more than 30 years in the nursing profession, holds degrees from Baptist Health School of Nursing in Little Rock as a Diploma Registered Nurse, bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Doctor of Nurse Practice degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. (See Q&A with Dr. Trigg on page 11.)

“We are pleased to have Dr. Trigg lead our efforts in this strategic area of growth,” Dr. Sells emphasized. “Her experience in clinical and educational settings will serve us well as we launch Ouachita’s nursing program for the benefit of students and to address the need for more nurses in this state and region.”

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

Ouachita’s new Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design also will get under way this fall.



According to Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs, the new degree will help make Ouachita’s graphic design program “more competitive for students interested in this growing field and better prepare graduates for the workplace.”

Ouachita’s BFA in graphic design is a professional degree for students who intend to pursue a career as a professional designer. It provides in-depth training necessary for a career as a designer, with courses in graphic design, typography, user experience and web design. In addition to the BFA in graphic design, the Rosemary Gossett Adams Department of Visual Arts offers Bachelor of Arts degrees with majors in graphic design, studio art and K-12 certified art education.

ONLINE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Ouachita Online’s Advance Program will offer the new Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies exclusively online. In the spirit of Ouachita’s liberal arts tradition, the university’s online degree completion program in interdisciplinary studies allows students to engage multiple disciplines in creating a unique portfolio of learning experiences. This program offers students the flexibility to design a program of study that best serves their educational goals while utilizing prior credit earned at Ouachita or other accredited institutions.

Emphases are available in such areas as business administration, Christian studies, kinesiology, professional writing, social sciences and teaching English to speakers of other languages (ESOL). Students pursuing a major in interdisciplinary studies also can chart their own course by proposing emphases that suit their interests, passions, experience and future plans.

For more information about any of these new academic programs or other areas of study, contact the Office of Admissions Counseling at **1.800.DIAL.OBU**.

OUACHITA'S DIRECTOR OF NURSING REFLECTS ON NEW BSN PROGRAM



Dr. Brenda Trigg, who has been named Ouachita's director of nursing, has served more than 30 years in the nursing profession. An experienced nurse educator, she will help launch Ouachita's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program that pairs the strengths of Ouachita and Baptist Health College Little Rock. Pending final approval from the Higher Learning Commission, Ouachita's inaugural BSN class will enroll this fall. Dr. Trigg shares her perspectives about the new program in the following Q&A feature:

Q: Share briefly about your experience and interest in the field of nursing.

A: As a young girl I watched my mother, a certified nurses' aide, provide compassionate and loving care to older adults. I realized that this vulnerable population as well as other populations were often left alone without anyone to care or advocate for their healthcare needs. The nursing profession is diverse and has many avenues from which a nurse may choose to make a difference. For me, the nursing profession has allowed me to advocate for patients at the patient bedside, as a healthcare professional and in the nursing education classroom to ensure that the patient receives the best evidence-based care.

Q: What do you see as the significance of Ouachita launching its new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program?

A: The nursing profession is experiencing a nurse shortage which is expected to extend past 2025. In addition, many of the top leaders in the nursing profession are nearing or at retirement age. Ouachita has a history of producing graduates who become excellent Christian leaders. Ouachita's BSN program has the opportunity to provide more nurses to combat the nursing shortage and to produce nurse leaders to guide the nursing profession.

Q: What is your personal motivation in leading Ouachita's efforts to establish this new program?

A: Ouachita is the most prestigious Christian private university in Arkansas and has multiple exemplary degree programs that produce outstanding community leaders. I feel honored to have the opportunity to be a key player in developing a contemporary and unique BSN program for Ouachita. My goal is to lead a nursing program that embodies the university's mission and philosophy and to produce successful nurse leaders who will excel in the nursing profession.

Q: What can future Ouachita nursing students expect to gain from involvement in Ouachita's BSN program?

A: As nursing students at Ouachita and Baptist Health College, many opportunities can be established. Students can expect an excellent education from diverse, highly educated nurse educators. Students may elect to be a part of the National and State Student Nurse Associations as well as the possibility of becoming inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, a national nurses honor society. Being dually enrolled in both programs will allow for greater networking among some of the most prestigious nurse leaders which ultimately may generate employment opportunities, may aid the nursing student/nurse to become more influential within the community and/or may support acceptance in nursing graduate programs.

Q: How is Ouachita's BSN program unique compared to other available nursing programs?

A: Ouachita's program is unique in that it allows for two degrees in four years from the best private Christian university in Arkansas and the No. 1 healthcare system in Arkansas. Students will have the opportunity to gain education from different perspectives while all the time being a Ouachita student. The dual enrollment education will allow our students to develop relationships to assist in future employment or education opportunities.

Q: What words of advice or encouragement would you share with students who are considering enrolling in this program?

A: Let God lead your heart. Nursing is rigorous and challenging – as it should be when people's lives are in your hands. The rewards of being a nurse are in having the opportunities to care for each person in need as God would have you do.

CLASSROOMS WITHOUT WALLS

Ouachita students experience high-impact learning opportunities

From Alaska to the Caribbean to the Sea of Galilee, Ouachita's commitment to high-impact learning provides diverse opportunities for students to gain memorable and meaningful educational experiences in a variety of settings. Among major goals in Ouachita's Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 is to "elevate high-impact education practices as a distinctive feature of the Ouachita student experience." In keeping with that goal, all seven of Ouachita's academic schools offer unique options for students to be involved in high-impact learning in the classroom and beyond. A few recent opportunities outside the traditional classroom settings include:



◀ BUSINESS

Southern Bloodline Apparel, founded and co-owned by three Ouachita students who graduated in May, recently earned the \$10,000 first prize in the Collegiate Venture Competition sponsored by The Conductor, a partnership that promotes entrepreneurship. Kyle Alexander and J.D. Speed, both business administration majors, and Ty Owens, a biology major, partnered to create the Southern Bloodline e-commerce company in their Ouachita residence hall in 2017. It has since been granted two registered trademarks and generated \$95,000 in sales.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES ▶

Walking in the land where Jesus walked, a group of 22 students and two faculty members explored major biblical sites in Israel during Ouachita's summer Biblical Studies Trip. Visiting such locations as Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum and Jerusalem as well as the Sea of Galilee, Jordan River and Dead Sea, the students earned six hours of class credit for "Life of Christ" and "Biblical Studies Trip" with a focus on archaeology. Each student researched a site prior to the trip and presented their research on location during the trip.



◀ EDUCATION

The Huckabee School of Education alternates offering education-related trips to either the United Kingdom or the United States every other year for education majors. Students and faculty have traveled to Liverpool Hope University, Ouachita's university partner in the UK, as well as a tour of various school settings in Memphis, Atlanta, New York City and other cities in the U.S. The trips help equip future educators to gain up-close experience in such areas as diversity and global learning.

FINE ARTS ▶

Ten students from Tiger Steel, Ouachita's steel band, went on a weeklong trip to Trinidad in January. In addition to being the birthplace of the steel pan, the Caribbean island is packed with a variety of cultures, religions and food styles in a small setting, providing enriching experiences for the students involved in the trip. Band members rehearsed with the Sforzata Steel Orchestra, attended two Panorama semi-final competitions and visited Gill's Pan Shop where Tiger Steel's instruments were made.





▲ HUMANITIES

Sports journalism students attended a sports journalism workshop at Vanderbilt University in February, visiting with media professionals from ESPN, Fox Sports, *Sports Illustrated* and the Memphis Grizzlies. Some of the students also had the opportunity to use full-access media credentials to cover the Grizzlies, including broadcast truck access for the Fox Sports broadcast, interviews with the play-by-play announcer for the Grizzlies and locker room interviews. The outings allowed the Ouachita students to gain hands-on experience in sports reporting as undergraduates.



▲ NATURAL SCIENCES

Ouachita's "Alaskan Ecology" course, which provides students an introduction to Alaskan native culture, geology and ecology, isn't your typical college ecology class. It also includes a field trip to Alaska. The in-depth travel experience features such adventures as a Kenai Fjord coastal cruise, watching harbor seals at Rugged Island, enjoying the spectacular views from Portage Pass and hiking Matanuska Glacier. The weeklong trip allows students to immerse themselves in the geological and ecological wonders of one of the world's final frontiers.



▲ SOCIAL SCIENCES

Commemorating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the 50th anniversary of his death, the MLK50 Conference held in Memphis in April attracted thousands of participants, including Ouachita students, faculty and staff. Members of Ouachita's student-led Multicultural Organization Reaching Equality (MORE) were among conference participants, gaining firsthand insights into addressing racial injustices. Dr. Myra Houser, assistant professor of history, reflected, "Any time students can learn experientially, that is powerful."

BIOINFORMATICS CLASS HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GENOME HACK-A-THON

Ouachita's bioinformatics class spent the past semester learning how to examine and decode different viral genomes. The class recently invited junior and senior high school students from six schools from around the state to campus to teach them to do the same during a Genome Hack-A-Thon.

Kayla Haberman, a junior biology and psychology double major from Lorena, Texas, attended Howard Hughes Medical Institute last summer to present research she had completed on viral genomes at Ouachita. During the conference, a group from another university presented on decoding a genome within a day. This gave Haberman the inspiration to do the same but to also include high school students in the process.

"I thought, 'What if we can get high school students to come and not only introduce them to bioinformatics but also engage them in the active role science is now?'" Haberman said. "It's hands-on, and you actually do use computer software in the world today to analyze genes."

During the Hack-A-Thon, the students utilized DNA Master, a software program to analyze where the gene sequences in a phage started and stopped. The visiting students and their teachers worked together in small groups, and Ouachita students led each group. Periodically, each group would stop and share an update about their decoding.

"The genome will be reviewed by my bioinformatics classes," explained Dr. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology. "Eventually, it will be submitted to the National Genome Database and will be used by others. They are not working on a model or with mock data. They are working on real research and will contribute to the scientific community. I think that's what makes this mode of teaching exciting. Students are still learning basic science, but they are now learning in the context of a much larger project."

Along with providing Ouachita students the opportunity to teach, the Hack-A-Thon gave the high school students the opportunity to experience what studying biology is like in a university setting.

"I think just being exposed to bioinformatics will help me a lot next year," said Kayla Ventress, a senior at Bismarck High School. "I think this will definitely help because I'll be exposed to more of what you see in college."



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OUACHITA HONORS 336 GRADUATES AT 131ST SPRING COMMENCEMENT

By Brooke Zimny, OBU Director of Communications & Marketing

Ouachita Baptist University celebrated 336 graduates during its 131st spring commencement on Saturday, May 12, with university officials conferring Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Fine Arts and Associate of Arts degrees. Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president, presided over the annual commencement exercises.

“As a residential, Christian liberal arts university, place matters,” Dr. Sells said as he opened the ceremony. “Today we’re gathered purposely in front of our most historic structure, Cone-Bottoms Hall. We’re surrounded by places where you have worshipped, where you’ve learned and where you’ve lived these last four years.

“You’re surrounded by many of the people who’ve helped make this day possible for you,” he added, “people who believe in you, people who continue to be for you, people who are eager to see all that God will do in and through you. Class of 2018, this ceremony is about you and celebrating your college degree. It’s about welcoming you to the Ouachita alumni family and commencing the next and exciting season in your life.”

This year’s graduating class featured 157 honor graduates, including 33 who graduated *summa cum laude* with a grade point average of 3.95 or higher, 63 who graduated *magna cum laude* (3.75 GPA) and 61 who graduated *cum laude* (3.5 GPA). University officials also recognized 39 graduates who completed Ouachita’s Carl Goodson Honors Program and 31 members of the Alpha Chi national honor society.

Dr. Sells shared “Wisdom for Ouachitonians,” insights drawn from Proverbs, as his commencement address.

“What are the sources of wisdom?” he asked. “Proverbs is clear that wisdom comes first and foremost from ‘knowing a holy God.’ Wisdom grows out of an ever-deepening personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

“Wisdom also comes from our parents,” he added. “One verse says: ‘Follow your father’s advice; don’t wander off from your mother’s teachings.’ Many Proverbs also focus on seeking counsel from others. One says, ‘The more wise counsel you follow, the better your chances.’ We never graduate from getting counsel from others.”

Noting that “many of our regrets come from what we say, how we said it or what we didn’t say,” Dr. Sells said, “No wonder there are so many Proverbs about words, including: ‘Good leaders cultivate

honest speech.’ ‘Pleasant words are persuasive.’ ‘The words of the wise bring healing.’

“Your Ouachita education and experience provide you a wonderful foundation – from working and studying with faculty and staff to living, learning and worshipping together,” he emphasized. “Our university theme this year is ‘Love God and love learning.’ It comes from our vision statement, and the integration of the two cultivates wisdom.

“Let me leave you with these last two Proverbs on this special day,” he concluded. “If you follow them, they will make you wiser and give you a life with fewer regrets: ‘Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life,’ (Proverbs 4:23) and ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths’ (Proverbs 3:5-6).”

Senior Class President Lauren Ford, a political science major from Cabot, Ark., led the commencement invocation. The university’s vision, mission and values statement was read by Rickey Rogers, dean of students; Kori Bullard, a biology major from Percy, Ark.; and Dr. Rachel Pool, assistant professor of education.

Scripture reading was led by the top three graduates from the Pruet School of Christian Studies: Ashley Sharpe, a Christian studies/Christian missions

and Christian theology major from Houston, Texas; Sarah Shepard, a Christian studies/Christian missions, Christian ministries and Christian theology major from Benton, Ark.; and Kristopher Torres, a Christian studies/Christian missions major from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

Dr. Terry Carter, W.O. Vaught Professor of Christian Ministries, and Dr. Ray Granade, director of library services and professor of history, served as commencement marshals. Honorary marshals were Dr. Scott Holsclaw, professor emeritus of theatre arts, and Dr. Phil Rice, professor emeritus of business administration. Additionally, two emeriti administrative staff were recognized: Sharon Cosh, director of English as a second language emerita, and Phil Hardin, assistant to the president for administration emeritus.

President Sells noted that these emeriti faculty and staff members “are emblematic of an unbroken chain of loyal and effective service that is linked to Ouachita’s founding.”

Your Ouachita education
and experience provide you
a wonderful foundation –
from working and studying
with faculty and staff
to living, learning and
worshipping together.

LIVING FORWARDS:

A journey of calling, preparation & patience

By Rachel Moreno

Like many youth who feel the Lord prompting them to serve His church, Kristen (Lindsey) Padilla publicly accepted God's call to vocational ministry at the age of 15. But for nearly 10 years, she would struggle with what she calls "the materialization" of that calling.

Now the author of *Now That I'm Called: A Guide for Women Discerning a Call to Ministry*, Padilla – a 2005 Ouachita graduate – finds it fitting to quote Christian philosopher Søren Kierkegaard as she reflects on her journey: "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

Her first book, which was just released in June, *Now That I'm Called* was published by Zondervan and already has gained positive responses from *Christianity Today*, young female readers and seminary and college professors. But the origins of Padilla's book are rooted in the very questions that she wrestled with for years following her call.

Padilla said she struggled with doubts, feelings of inadequacy and temptation from her senior year of high school through her freshman year of college. By the start of her sophomore year at Ouachita, Padilla said she "began to take the call more seriously."

Initially a mass communications major, Padilla made the switch to the Pruet School of Christian Studies. That's where she said she found mentors who would set her on the path that she otherwise "would not be where I am today."

Dr. Barbara Pemberton, professor of Christian missions, was one of those people. "I remember sitting in her office and thinking about how I didn't see any females in ministry. I said to her, 'Well, I guess it means that I need to be a pastor's wife to be as close to Gospel ministry as possible.' But she helped correct my assumptions, and she gave me a lot of encouragement and confidence."

Padilla also mentioned Dr. Randy Richards and Dr. Scott Duvall as mentors. Dr. Duvall, professor of Biblical studies, had answered her questions about attending seminary.

"I would say that for anyone who is feeling a call to ministry, having mentors who can see things in a way that you can't see things makes a difference, especially for women who feel called to ministry," Padilla said. "Ouachita was formative for me in that way."

With over half of Ouachita's Christian Studies majors now being women, Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruet School, said that preparing women for ministry and missions is a big part of their mission.

"Over the last several years, we have tried to revise the curriculum, add new classes and even create new majors to respond to this shift in demographics and to provide ministry training across a wider field than just pastoral and youth ministry," Dr. Hays said.



Kristen Padilla is a Christian author and speaker. She lives in Birmingham, Ala., with her husband, Osvaldo, and their son, Philip.

The Pruet Advisory Board and Ouachita donors also have created more scholarships specifically for women majoring in Christian studies. The Pruet School and Pruet Sisterhood also regularly invite women scholars to speak with female students.

Padilla will be a featured speaker at this year's Called to Ministry Retreat at Ouachita on July 26-28, which is designed to encourage both young men and women who are exploring a call to ministry. "Alumni like Kristen Padilla are critical in demonstrating to our current students the possibilities for women in ministry," Dr. Hays noted.

Ouachita's overall heart for missions is what Padilla said prepared her for her next steps. "Having that commitment to a Christian mission meant that I was formed in an environment that

positively prepared me for God's church and for taking the Gospel into the world," she said, adding that it also was "the degree, the professors and what we learned in class. I was very prepared when I went to seminary. I had a strong foundation."

She also cited her involvement in Campus Ministries, EEE women's social club, Refuge worship and Tiger Serve Day as memorable growing experiences while at Ouachita.

After graduating from Ouachita, Padilla attended Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., earning her Master of Divinity degree. It was during her second year at Beeson that God began to burden Padilla's heart for other women who were discerning a call to ministry.

"As I was praying about my call, there was the idea for this book for women who felt like they had no one to guide them," she said. "It would be 10 years from when God gave me the idea for the book until I got the contract, so it was a 10-year prayer."

During that time, she married and became a mother. She worked for *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper in Birmingham, started a blog and wrote Bible studies and other materials for entities such as Woman's Missionary Union, The Gospel Coalition, *Credo* magazine and The Well. Her family also moved to Cambridge, England, for six months for her husband's sabbatical.

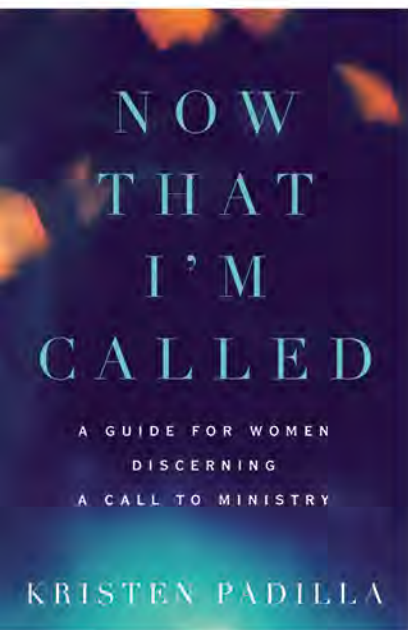
Living in England and pouring over Scripture "helped put things into perspective and view things a different way," Padilla said. "It helped me see we were living in a culture (in the U.S.) that has a lot of pressure to succeed in a certain way at a certain time.

"With the book, I am not getting into what roles are open to women and whether or not women be ordained," she explained. "I'm really just focused on answering what this looks like for women across denominations and traditions. I'm trying to provide a theological framework for women to understand and look at their calling."

She said her hope for women who read *Now That I'm Called* is that they will be "really encouraged and affirmed that God uses women in Gospel ministry."



Rachel (Gaddis) Moreno, a 2016 Ouachita graduate with a major in mass communications, is the content manager for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's media services office.



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EMERITI FACULTY AND STAFF REFLECT ON YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUACHITA



Recent Ouachita retirees include (from left): Dr. Scott Holsclaw, Sharon Cosh, Dr. Phil Rice, Shirley Hardin, Phil Hardin and Judy Hollingsworth. Not pictured is Luke Owens.

Serving Ouachita for a combined total of more than two centuries, seven retiring faculty and staff members were recognized during a recent campus retirement reception. The retirees include four longtime faculty and staff who were honored with emeritus status by the university's Board of Trustees.

The four emeriti recipients include Dr. Scott Holsclaw, honored for 33 years of service; Phil Hardin, 26 years of service; Dr. Phil Rice, 25 years of service; and Sharon Cosh, 25 years of service. Other retirees who were honored include Luke Owens, 34 years of service; Judy Hollingsworth, 33 years of service; and Shirley Hardin, 26 years of service.

Citing the long-term impact of the seven retirees, Ouachita President Ben Sells said, "Ouachita won't be the same without you. We thank the Lord and we thank you for coming to Ouachita, for staying at Ouachita and for finishing well."

In honor of their distinguished service, *The Ouachita Circle* invited the university's four new emeriti faculty and staff to share brief reflections about their years of service:



DR. SCOTT HOLSCRAW

Professor Emeritus of Theatre Arts

When I begin my career as a college professor in 1985, I never could have imagined how Ouachita would impact my discipline, my faith and my relationships.

Ouachita has provided me with resources to grow as a theatre professor and artist. With

the university's support I completed my doctorate in theatre from New York University, opening doors to professional opportunities at home and abroad. Ouachita gave me freedom to pursue acting and directing professionally. As the dean of the School of Fine Arts from 2007 to 2015 and as a member of the Arkansas Arts Council, I began to explore the philosophical aspects of how the arts impact our communities and the overall educational quality of our students. I am a strong advocate for the arts in our schools and in our curriculum.

Teaching at Ouachita has afforded me the opportunity to grow in my faith as a follower of Christ. By loving, guiding and mentoring students, I have learned that my students also teach, challenge and encourage me. I believe strongly in the adage that "all truth is God's truth," and pursuing this truth leads to a dynamic faith and a stronger relationship with my God.

Ouachita is more than an institution. It is a community of scholars, colleagues, mentors and friends. It would be impossible to list the names of all who have inspired me in my discipline, motivated me in my scholarship and encouraged me in my faith. I have spent the past 33 years teaching at a university whose mission makes a difference in the lives of all it touches. For that I am forever grateful.



PHIL HARDIN

Assistant to the President for Administration Emeritus

My career in higher education was unexpected. After graduating from Ouachita and then graduate school, I pursued a career in music ministry and served four Arkansas Baptist churches. Nearly 18 years later, my active involvement in Ouachita's alumni association resulted in an invitation from President Ben Elrod to lead the alumni program and work as his assistant.

Though this was not the path I chose earlier, I found that the transition from local church ministry to service at Ouachita was a natural one for me. I believed strongly in the importance of Christian higher education, particularly for believers who want to follow God's guidance for their lives and careers. So I was excited to be involved in supporting Ouachita's mission with students, serving alongside Ouachita presidents and other members of the faculty and staff.

One of my favorite experiences over 26 years has been to meet new students who come from Ouachita families: children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and other relatives. It's been interesting to learn all the family connections and to realize what a rich heritage Ouachita is providing for generations of students.

My appreciation for Ouachita continues to grow. I've seen the positive impact that the men and women who serve here can have on the lives of students, and I've watched students blossom and mature and do amazing things. God continues to bless Ouachita. I'm very grateful that I had the opportunity to finish my career serving Him in this place.



DR. PHIL RICE

Professor Emeritus of Business Administration

I came to Ouachita because I believe strongly in its mission as a Christian, residential university. I particularly like Ouachita because it is small enough to allow significant personal interaction among faculty, staff and students and large enough to offer many majors and minors.

Though curricula and technology change, the one constant is the students. They come to learn and also to grow in the areas of personal independence and decision-making. Watching this progress over three or four years is very satisfying as they prepare for their next big step. Perhaps a recent graduate said it best: "I believe I am growing up."

I feel privileged and fortunate that I spent the past 25 years at Ouachita. Overall, I have been involved in higher education for 50 years and enjoyed each year. I will always be grateful to Dr. Ben Elrod and Dr. Mike Arrington for the opportunity to work at Ouachita.



SHARON COSH

Director of English as a Second Language Emerita

As I retire after teaching for 24 years, I still smile at how God totally orchestrated the beginning of Ouachita's English as a Second Language program.

In the summer of 1993, my world shifted! I traveled to Taiwan with Campus Ministries (Baptist Student Union), and watched Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary Ron West teach nurses English using the Bible as the textbook. I knew without a doubt that I felt passionately drawn to do the same.

As a trained teacher in my homeland of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), I immediately returned and took the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board ESL training workshop. Along with Kathy Carter and Donna Hays, we helped establish a community ESL program at First Baptist Church, leading to the formation of Arkadelphia's first Spanish mission church in town.

Two years later, Ouachita invited us to start an ESL program at an historic moment on the campus. We were asked to teach English to some of the first Russian and Uzbek students exiting the communist bloc and a consistent group of about eight Japanese students per year. I knew undoubtedly that this was my mission field!

I returned to college, and by 1999 had completed my Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages! That was probably the greatest challenge of my life – a busy BSU minister's wife and mother of five daughters!

Being able to teach so many wonderful students from all over the world has enriched my life! I have learned that I serve best when I have to totally lean on God! He entrusted me with this ministry, and He has given me unimaginable joy in serving.

In addition to the emeriti faculty and staff, other retirees include:

LUKE OWENS began serving at Ouachita in Facilities Management in 1983. He retired in October 2017 after 34 years of service.

JUDY HOLLINGSWORTH began working at Ouachita in 1984. She spent her entire 33-year Ouachita career serving in Student Accounts.

SHIRLEY HARDIN graduated from Ouachita in 1974 and worked here since 1992. In addition to serving as assistant registrar, she previously served as a development officer and in a support staff role.



TIGER WRESTLER TYLER MANN EARNS ALL-AMERICA HONORS

Tyler Mann is the latest Ouachita Tiger wrestler to earn All-America honors at the NCAA Division II national championships. Mann, a senior kinesiology & leisure studies and theatre arts major from Little Rock, gained a top-four finish in the nation at the 165-pound weight division. He became the eighth Tiger wrestler to earn All-America honors.

“We are elated with the way that Tyler finished by representing the fans, teammates, program and institution,” said Ouachita Wrestling Coach Kevin Crutchmer. The Ouachita wrestling team finished 23rd overall in the nation, marking the sixth time in the program’s eight years that the Tigers have earned a top 25 finish.

Mann grew up as the middle child with two brothers. His mother, Kristi, was a former gymnast and university cheerleader and his father, Travis, is a longtime high school coach. “The two of them told me at a young age that they wanted me to take part in athletics,” Mann noted.

“I started wrestling at the age of 10 after I saw Hulk Hogan on television and I thought that it looked like a lot of fun,” he reflected. “My mom was looking for wrestling classes and came across actual amateur wrestling. I got into the classes and loved it. I won my first tournament and from that point on I realized that I enjoyed competing in wrestling competitions.”

Going into high school, Mann realized he had big shoes to fill because of the legacy his older brother, Tanner, who was a three-time Arkansas State Champion at Little Rock Central High School.

“Competing against my older brother helped me tremendously but not at the time. Having to compete against my older brother was actually helpful though because he kept my pride in check.”

The hard work paid off for the younger Mann as he won a state championship in overtime against an opponent who had beaten him on several occasions. “After that win, I knew that I wanted to pursue wrestling as a serious sport,” he recalled.

By the end of his prep career, Mann was a two-time All-American, the first ever in the state of Arkansas, and a four-time Arkansas State Champion. With his success also came Division I college offers. Ouachita recruited Mann coming out of Little Rock

Central, but he felt that he owed it to himself to try to compete at the Division I level.

Mann chose to wrestle at Oklahoma State University coming out of high school. The Cowboys have won 34 team national championships and Mann saw the program as his next challenge.

“I quickly realized at Oklahoma State that I was at the bottom of the pole again,” Mann acknowledged. “In Arkansas I was at the top in a class of my own. At State I was sitting in a room with 22 other guys who were as good or better than me. Wrestling had been my identity throughout high school, and it had been taken away from me because of how talented Oklahoma State is at wrestling.”

“So, my mom encouraged me to come home, and that summer she got me a manual labor job,” he said. “That’s when God started to speak to me, in those quiet moments during the job. The Lord was pushing me toward Ouachita. My parents and I both agreed that I should try out OBU. I wanted to come here and not just be a wrestler; I wanted to be a person again. Ouachita gave me an opportunity at redemption and a chance to rewrite the wrestling chapter in my life.”

After his first wrestling season at Ouachita, Mann experienced a coaching change when Coach Crutchmer was named the new head coach. “He gives you the opportunities to succeed and be a champion,” Mann affirmed. “It’s up to you to put in the work and show him that you want to be a wrestler on his team.”

During his junior season, Mann excelled under Coach Crutchmer’s leadership, compiling a 23-7 regular season record. He even defeated a few Division I opponents during the season, but was named the lowest seed in the NCAA Super Regionals.

Coach Crutchmer reminded Mann that the seeds do not matter once you get in the circle. Mann defeated three-time All-American JaCobi Jones of Colorado State-Pueblo and then went on to claim the regional championship in the 165-pound weight division.

“I’ve learned that I do better when I shut out all the distractions and focus in on the little things,” Mann emphasized. “At the end of the day, as long as I give it everything I’ve got, there is nothing that I can go home disappointed about.”

LUKE HOWARD NAMED HEAD BASEBALL COACH



LUKE HOWARD

Luke Howard has been named Ouachita's new head baseball coach, according to Director of Athletics David Sharp. Howard has spent the past seven years serving as the associate head coach at King University, an NCAA Division II institution in Bristol, Tenn.

"We are extremely excited about Coach Howard becoming our baseball coach and leading our program," Sharp said. "His work ethic, character and experience recruiting quality student-

athletes fits well with the vision we have for Ouachita Baseball."

"First and foremost, I would like to thank God for this opportunity," Howard said. "His guiding hand has been ever present during this entire process. Secondly, my wife, who has supported my coaching journey every step of the way and is the best mom to our two sons."

Howard is leaving a program that competes in a conference with three teams ranked in the final American Baseball Coaches Association Top 30 Poll. He was a three-year letterman as a pitcher for the Purdue University Boilermakers and concluded his collegiate career lettering for the Ohio University Bobcats. He was a three-sport athlete in Springboro, Ohio, where he is a member of the Springboro High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

His coaching career has included stints at the University of Cincinnati, Murray State University and three years as assistant coach at Ouachita. As recruiting coordinator at Ouachita, he was instrumental in recruiting four players who went on to sign professional contracts, including Keegan Ghidotti (Baltimore Orioles) and Davis Ward (St. Louis Cardinals).

Howard expressed appreciation to Ouachita President Ben Sells and Coach Sharp "for believing in my vision and entrusting the Ouachita baseball program to my leadership. It is my vision for this baseball program to both win games on the field and teach young men how to succeed and prepare for the game of life."

Howard and his wife, Annie, have two sons, Drew, 7, and Will, 4.

RACHEL JONES NAMED WOMEN'S TENNIS COACH



RACHEL JONES

Rachel Jones has been named Ouachita's new women's tennis coach, according to Director of Athletics David Sharp.

"We are excited to have Rachel join our athletics staff as our women's tennis coach," Sharp said. "Her passion for the game and desire to work with student-athletes will resonate well as she works with and prepares our team for competition next fall."

Jones previously served as director of Ouachita's career services office. Her husband, Wilson Jones, serves as Ouachita men's soccer coach. They have one son, Hayes, who was born in October.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to lead such a great team," Jones said. "I am very passionate about this sport and I am excited about building a successful team for next season."

Jones is a 2011 graduate of Oklahoma State University with a major in international business and minors in Spanish, marketing and management. While at Oklahoma State, she competed on the women's tennis team.

Jones inherits a team that features senior leadership with Mallory Tabler, a biology major from Bentonville, Ark., and Kendra Dinsmore, a business administration/marketing major from Rogers, Ark. Tabler has been the Tigers' top option recently as she competed at both the No. 1 singles position and on the No. 1 doubles team this past season. She also was named to the Great American Conference Second Team.

"I can't wait to get out there and help this team succeed both on and off the court," Jones said. "This team has all the pieces to be a winning team. I can't wait to help them accomplish their individual goals this upcoming season."

Swimming and diving teams named CSCAA Scholar All-America Teams

Ouachita's men's and women's swimming and diving teams have been named to the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America team list. The CSCAA recognizes teams with the Scholar All-America Award for achieving a team GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The women's team compiled a 3.55 team GPA this past spring. "A 3.55 average just blows my mind," said Steven Bostick, Ouachita's head swimming and diving coach. "These women are making this in everything from biology to English."

"I would like to highlight the efforts of senior Kristina Beall, who graduated with a 3.89 and will be pursuing a PhD in psychology at the University of Alabama," he added. "These young women are capitalizing on all Ouachita academics and athletics have to offer."

The men's team compiled a 3.11 GPA in the spring semester. "I'm very proud of the men's team. They made it a goal first semester to have over a 3.0 and fell just short," he said. "It's nice to see a group of men who can step up after a setback. These young men want to be the best at it all – faith, family, academics and athletics."

CLASS NOTES

connecting the circle

1970s

Dr. Randy Hyde ('71) retired as senior pastor of Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock after more than 21 years of ministry. Hyde is the author of two books and is now serving as associate pastor of congregational nurture at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock.

Dr. Steve Butler ('76) graduated in May 2017 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Educational Ministry degree. He served Calvary Baptist Church in Henderson, Texas, for 41 years as associate music pastor and currently serves Texas Baptist Institute & Seminary as CEO and academic dean. His wife, **Monty (Roach)** ('75), recently retired after teaching 4th grade for 25 years at Henderson Independent School District. They have three sons and six grandchildren.

David and Laura (Berry) Spiegel ('76) live in Brasilia, Brazil, where he serves as the logistics coordinator and administrator for all Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries in Brazil. They have served in Brazil for 38 years as IMB missionaries and are active in areas of evangelism and music in their church.

Mike Carroll ('77) was appointed in April as the chairman of the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is a member of Beall Barclay & Company, PLC, in Fort Smith, Ark.

Angela Garner ('77) retired as principal of Goza Middle School in Arkadelphia effective June 30. Garner, who was principal for 16 years, served in education for 41 years. She and her husband, **Randy** ('74), plan to relocate to Clarksville, Ark.

Susan Grafton ('79) moved to North Little Rock in February after living in Colorado for 30 years. She now serves as senior advisor for Allegiance, a company owned by former classmate **David Martin** ('79).

1980s

Scott Baugh ('87) coached his 300th win in baseball this spring. He and his wife, Kimberly, live in Alva, Okla., where he works and coaches for Enid Public Schools.

Robin (Harwell '87) Fleming was announced in February as entrepreneur in residence for High Alpha, a leading venture studio. She previously was senior vice president of technology at Angie's List and has more than 30 years of experience in enterprise cloud technology.

Greg Harris ('87), head baseball coach for the Huntsville, Ark., School District, was named the 2018 All-Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Division II Baseball Coach of the Year.

Pat Ponder ('88) and Tarleton State University's women's cross country team won the Lone Star Conference cross country championship in November 2017 for the second time in three years. He was named the Lone Star Conference women's coach of the year.

1990s

Chris Norris ('90) and **Brad Green** ('95) collaborated with their respective choirs from two private schools in Augusta, Ga., for the 2018 Augusta Youth Choir Festival. Norris



is the fine arts coordinator for Augusta Christian Schools and Green is the choral director for the Augusta Preparatory Day School.

Dr. Steve Galatas ('91) recently received Stephen F. Austin State University's College of Liberal and Applied Arts Teaching Excellence Award for outstanding teaching. The winner is selected by a committee of peers.

John Bunch ('95) completed a Master of Science degree in college student personnel services from Arkansas State University in August 2017 and began serving as the communications manager for Texas A&M University-Texarkana in March 2018.

Chris Meseke ('97) has been named head boys basketball coach of the Cabot School District effective July 1. He previously held the same position for the Malvern School District and Fountain Lake High School.

Dana (Hubbard '98) Guthrie joined *The Saline Courier* in Benton, Ark., as a news reporter in March after working as a reporter at *The Daily Citizen* in Searcy, Ark. She and her husband, **Bruce** ('93*), relocated to Benton and he serves as the sports editor for *The Daily Citizen*.

Kevin Schutte ('98) has joined the Dallas office of the law firm Shapiro Biegging Barber Otteson LLP as a partner. His practice focuses on commercial and business litigation at both the trial and appellate court levels.

State Rep. Matthew Shepherd ('98) of El Dorado has been elected as the new speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives. Shepherd, previously elected as speaker-designate for the 2019 General Assembly, was elected by acclamation as speaker for the remainder of the 2018 term following the resignation of Speaker Jeremy Gillam. Shepherd, who majored in political science and history at Ouachita and earned his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law, is serving his fourth term in the House of Representatives. He and his wife, **Alie (Hill '99) Shepherd**, have three children.

2000s

Dr. Doug McPherson ('02) earned his Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis in New Testament context from Northern Seminary.

Bryant Adams ('03) and his partners at Capitol Advisors Group recently formed Shiloh Strategic Advisors, a new public affairs and public relations firm in Arkansas. Capitol Advisors Group has been named one of the top lobbying firms in Arkansas by *Southern Political Report*.

Kristin Hare ('04) married Jon Mark Seitz II on Nov. 18, 2017, at First Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark. They live in Cordova, Tenn., where he is a project manager and estimator for a construction company. She graduated with her master's degree in occupational therapy in 2015 from the University of Central Arkansas and currently is working as an occupational therapist at Madonna Learning Center, a faith-based, private school for students and adults with special needs.

Ashlee Hill ('05) married Daniel Smith on Nov. 18, 2017. They live in Junction City, La., and are expecting their first child in October.



Kenley Singleton ('09) married Dr. Dusty Boyd on March 25 at Cedar Hall in Memphis, Tenn. They live in Paragould, Ark., and both work at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro. She serves as the department midlevel facilitator and he is an emergency department physician.



2010s

Eli Cranor ('10) authored a short story, "Don't Know Tough," that won the *Greensboro Review's* 2018 Robert Watson Literary Prize. The story is based on one of Cranor's longer works of fiction and came from his years in football and the kids who play football.

Austin Walker ('10) is serving in the lead student pastor role at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock.

Philip Reeves ('12) married Kavya Pidaparathi from Hyderabad, India, on Jan. 6 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. They live in Little Rock.



Emily Vinson ('12) married Jesse Pierce on Feb. 3 at the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock. They live in Little Rock and both work at Fellowship Bible Church; she is the executive assistant to the teaching pastor and he is a worship pastor.

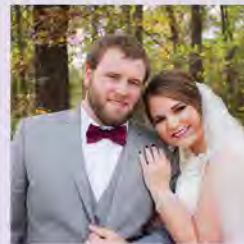


Lara Overman ('13) married Vincent Purvis on Nov. 5, 2017, at Lake Tyler Petroleum Club in Tyler, Texas. They live in Longview, Texas, where she is a marketing specialist for KSA Engineers, Inc., a civil and architectural engineering firm. He owns Silver Grizzly Espresso, a local craft coffee shop, and works full time as a product manager at Stemco.



Jordan Snook ('13) has been named the owner and operator of a Chick-fil-A slated to open July 19 in Glastonbury, Conn. He and his wife, Emily, have two daughters, Guinevere and Clare.

Lindsey Upshaw ('13) married Caleb Daniel on Nov. 18, 2017, in Jacksonville, Ark. They live in Palm Harbor, Fla., where she works for Baptist Health Foundation as their stewardship coordinator and he works for the Toronto Blue Jays baseball organization as an athletic trainer.



John Mark Burgess ('14) married **Taylor Wentz ('15)** on Nov. 4, 2017, in Little Rock. They live in Texarkana, Texas, where he works as an attorney alongside his father at Burgess Law Firm, PLLC, and she is a speech-language pathologist at Encompass Health Rehab Hospital.



Ellen Flint ('14) married Garrett Gastil on Jan. 6 at Fort Worth Presbyterian Church. They live in Fort Worth, Texas, where she is an associate attorney at Anderson & Riddle, LLP and he works in healthcare consulting at JTaylor.



Rachel Hooker ('14) married Garrett Nelson on May 11 in Paron, Ark. They live in Little Rock, where she is an accountant for a management group for doctor offices and he is a 1st Lieutenant in the National Guard and works for Pulaski County.



Joseph Koon ('15) married **Caroline Dunlap ('17)** on July 8, 2017, at The Bible Church in Little Rock. They live in Little Rock, where he is attending medical school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and she teaches piano at Little Rock Christian Academy.



FACULTY & STAFF UPDATE

HUBBARD, PLYMALE NAMED TO CHAIRS

Dr. Sara Hubbard and **Dr. Ruth Plymale** have been named to endowed chairs by the Ouachita Board of Trustees. Dr. Hubbard, associate professor of chemistry in the Patterson School of Natural Sciences, was named to the Nell I. Mondy Chair of Chemistry. She joined the Ouachita faculty in 2009 and holds her PhD in analytical chemistry from the University of Wyoming. Dr. Plymale, associate professor of biology in the Patterson School, was named to the J.D. Patterson Chair of Biology. She also joined the Ouachita faculty in 2009 and holds her PhD from Pennsylvania State University.

HARDIN HONORED BY ELROD CENTER

Phil Hardin, assistant to the president for administration emeritus, was honored with the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community's 2018 Community Service Excellence Award. Hardin, a 1973 Ouachita graduate, served at Ouachita for 26 years alongside five university presidents. He also has provided worship music both for the residents of Twin Rivers Nursing Home and The Plaza at Twin Rivers, involving several students in the nursing home ministry.

JEFFERS EARNS ACS RECOGNITION

Dr. Joe Jeffers, professor emeritus of chemistry, was named 2018 Professor of the Year by the Central Arkansas Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) at the society's recent awards banquet in Little Rock. This marks the third time Jeffers has been honored as the Central Arkansas ACS Professor of the Year throughout his career. Jeffers, a 1966 Ouachita graduate, served as the founding dean of the J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences from 2002 to 2011.

MINTON: SUPPORT STAFFER OF YEAR

Elaine Minton, administrative assistant to the dean of Ouachita's Patterson School of Natural Sciences, has been named 2018 Support Staff Member of the Year. Minton, who has worked at Ouachita for 13 years, was honored by Ouachita's Staff Development Committee and President Ben Sells. A 1978 Ouachita graduate, she has served in the dean of natural sciences' office since 2005.

ROGERS NAMED TO HALL OF FAME

Ricky Rogers, a four-year starter for the Ouachita Tigers football team, was inducted into the Scott County Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony held April 28. Rogers, a 2002 Ouachita graduate, earned top honors in football and basketball for the Lake High School Hornets. He was named Ouachita's dean of students last year.

DeWITT REAPPOINTED BY GOVERNOR

Dr. Terry DeWitt, professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, has been reappointed by Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson to a three-year term on the Arkansas State Board of Athletic Training. DeWitt, a 1988 Ouachita graduate, has taught at Ouachita since 1999.

HENDERSON ACCEPTS WMU ROLE

Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications at Ouachita since 2008, has accepted a new ministry role in partnership with National Woman's Missionary Union effective Aug. 1. He will serve as WMU's national correspondent, traveling the nation to produce news and feature articles and related content. **Brooke Zimny**, a 2008 Ouachita graduate and director of communications and marketing, will assume responsibility for supervising the work of the Office of Communications.

Seth Boyd ('16) married **Kaylee Barnett** ('15) on Dec. 30, 2017, at Bella Woods in Midlothian, Texas. They live in Cabot, Ark., where she is a medical assistant for Arkansas Dermatology Clinic and he works as an agent for Shelter Insurance Companies, the Bowman Agency.



Jake Briggs ('16) married **MaryLacey Thomson** ('14) on Sept. 9, 2017, at Loft 2023 in Little Rock. They live in Little Rock, where he is the student worship pastor at Fellowship Bible Church and she is a department manager at Anthropologie.



Houston Crow ('16) married **Brittany McElroy** ('17) on July 15, 2017. They live in Bolivar, Mo., where he is in physical therapy school at Southwest Baptist University and working on a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in health administration. She is working on her Master of Science in Education in curriculum and instruction from SBU and is also an administrative assistant at Southwest Baptist and an assistant softball and cheer coach at Walnut Grove High School.



Sydney Hoffman ('16) married **Garrett Logan** ('19) on Sept. 24, 2017, at The Silos in Bono, Ark. They live in Arkadelphia, where she is an admissions counselor at Ouachita and he is completing his undergraduate degree.



Jacob Moreno ('16) married **Rachel Gaddis ('16)** on Nov. 11, 2017, in Little Rock. They live in North Little Rock, where he is a medical interpreter for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and she is on the communications team at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Zach Bumpers ('17) married **Samantha Pascoe ('17)** on June 15, 2017, in Anthony Chapel at Garvan Gardens. They live in Little Rock, where he is an auditor for BKD and she is starting nursing school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and is a wedding photographer.



Will Combs ('17) married **Sarah Fish ('18)** on Jan. 6.



Luke Jamison ('17) married **Samantha Griffin ('17)** on April 21 in El Dorado, Ark. They live in Bryant, Ark., where he works as a medical scribe at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock and she works as a financial analyst at Windstream. In July, they will move to Memphis, Tenn., where he will begin his first year of dental school.



Ali Kinsey ('17) married **Jared Keith** on Oct. 21, 2017, in Hot Springs, Ark. They live in Shreveport, La., where she owns Kinsey Designs and he is a U.S. Air Force senior airman.



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Jessica Saunders ('17) married **Isaac Sims** on Feb. 10 at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock. They live in Little Rock, where he is the director of community development and planning at Conway's Chamber of Commerce and she is the care ministry administrative assistant at Fellowship Bible Church.



Shelby Spears ('17) married **Kacy Earnest ('18)** on May 20, 2016, in Berry Chapel. They live in Arkadelphia. She is the assistant to the director of communications and young adult ministry at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church.



Hayden Thornton ('17) married **Jessica Compton ('16)** in May 2017. They live in Conway, Ark., where he is a coach and math teacher at Conway Christian School and she is in pharmacy school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Dylan Watson ('17) married **Kaitlyn Thomas ('18)** on Aug. 14, 2016, at Ausley Family Farms in Bismarck, Ark. They will be moving in August to West Palm Beach, Fla., where he will be attending Palm Beach Atlantic University to pursue his Master of Divinity degree and she will be working as the study abroad assistant for the Rinker Center for Experiential Learning.



Paige Snow ('18) married **John Smith ('19)** on July 29, 2017, at Sachse's First Baptist Church in Sachse, Texas. They live in Arkadelphia, where she will complete her bachelor's degree at Ouachita with a major in elementary education in December 2018 and he will graduate in May 2019 with a major in mass communications and a minor in Christian studies.



FUTURE TIGERS

1990s

Mark and Shannon (Atwood) Edds ('97) welcomed son Owen Michael on May 28, 2017. He joins siblings Jackson (13), Parker (9) and Joshua (7).



Kevin Taylor ('97) and his wife, Regina, welcomed son Karson Stanley on Jan. 26. He joins siblings Nicholas (10), Chloe (8) and Liam (5).



2000s

Dr. Teri Jeffers ('00) and her husband, Toby, welcomed son Dylan Greer Vancil on Jan. 25.

Kim (Ward '01) Embry and her husband, Marshall, welcomed twins Callie Gray and Cooper James on April 17.

Amanda Horton ('01) adopted daughter Julia Marie (3) in November 2016 and son Joshua Glenn (5) in May 2015.



Jon ('05) and Katie (McCormack '08) Hardin welcomed son Leo Grant on Feb. 25. He joins big brother Charlie. He is the grandson of **Phil ('73) and Shirley (Grant '74) Hardin** and the great-grandson of Ouachita President Emeritus **Dr. Daniel ('45) and Betty Jo (Oliver '47) Grant**.



Chris ('05) and Keisha (Pittman '04) McKinney welcomed son Joshua Ray on Jan. 30.



Audra (Burkhart '05) Savage and her husband, David, welcomed daughter Ruby Arden on Sept. 8, 2017. She joins siblings Elysen (6) and Judah (4).



Jennifer (Jerles '05) Wallace and her husband, Doug, welcomed son Jack Henry on Oct. 4, 2017. He joins big brother James.



Autumn (Massey '06) Pride and her husband, Daniel, welcomed son Jonathan Dean on March 7, 2017.



Kim (Hull '08) Granich and her husband, Will, welcomed son Eli James on March 24. He joins big sister Kate.



Dillon and Brittany (Cosh) McClain ('09) welcomed daughter Ellasyn Joy on Feb. 20. She joins big sisters Perri and Zoey. She is the 13th grandchild of **Ian ('87) and Sharon (Fitt '96) Cosh**, who both serve at Ouachita.

2010s

Charles Hunter ('10) and his wife, Andrea, welcomed daughter Charlotte Jo on Feb. 26. She joins siblings Emma Grace (6) and Brody Maddox (3).



Audrey Anna (Harrell '10) Mortenson and her husband, Jack, welcomed daughter Merritt Jane on Dec. 11, 2017. She joins big brother Walt (2).



Sarah (Greeson '11) Bearden and her husband, Alex, welcomed daughter Juniper Kate on Jan. 17.



Jake ('11) and Dayton (Lavender '12) Stanley welcomed son Everett Cole on July 14, 2017.



Chris ('11) and Jenna (Lindsey '12) Nissen welcomed twin sons Judah James and Silas Christopher on Jan. 26.



Cara (McKinney '12) Carrington and her husband, Kevin, welcomed daughter Molly Ann on Dec. 19, 2017.



Lindi (VanSlyke '12) Jacks and her husband, Alec, welcomed son Elliot Michael on Feb. 17.



Caitlyn (Wamble '12) Robnett and her husband, Tim, welcomed daughter Naomi Grace on March 22. She joins big brother Scotty.



Andrew and Alyssa (White) Hassell ('14) welcomed daughter Lily Mae on March 15.



Wade ('14) and Sam (Cummins '13) Stotts welcomed son Nathan Wade on July 20, 2017.



Carthel Jones ('15) and his wife, Macy, welcomed daughter Delta Rae on Feb. 25.

..... Faculty & Staff

Kane Bryen and his wife, Deitra, welcomed son Beau on May 17. Kane is an assistant football coach at Ouachita.

Dr. Amber Chelette and her husband, Adam, welcomed son Joel Adam, Jr. "JAC" on Nov. 29, 2017. Dr. Chelette is an assistant professor of kinesiology and leisure studies.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP HONORS LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. WILLIAM DOWNS

Alumni of Ouachita's Rogers Department of Communications have established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship to honor the life and legacy of Dr. William D. Downs, professor emeritus of communications at the university. Downs served for 41 years on the Ouachita faculty, retiring in 2007.

The William D. Downs Endowed Scholarship was supported by alumni taught by Dr. Downs from the 1960s through the 2000s, and the endowment doubled recently thanks to a generous gift from Sarah Clark, a 1983 Ouachita graduate.

"It is an honor and privilege to pay this forward for Dr. Downs," Clark said. "He was an encourager and had a special way of making you better – stretching you without you even knowing it. He never accepted mediocrity."

Clark shared the sentiments of many communications alumni concerning Dr. Downs' influence on his students' lives.

"Dr. Downs made us feel as if we were the most important student. He had the biggest smile on campus and just made you feel good by his presence," she said. "He challenged us, taught us, loved us and positioned us for life with the real-life lessons he shared. Personally, I have tried to carry many of those attributes forward in my own professional career. Dr. Downs will forever be an important part of my story."

The endowed scholarship will benefit students in the Rogers Department of Communications who are pursuing a major in communications & media.

"Several alumni discussed with me the desire to honor Dr. Downs with this scholarship, and we have worked over the last few years to make this a reality," said



Dr. Jeff Root, professor of communications and dean of the School of Humanities and Huckabee School of Education. "Thanks to these alumni, and a special gift from Sarah, this scholarship will benefit students and honor a man who has influenced hundreds of students throughout his life."

Root, along with current faculty members Dr. Deborah Root and Dr. Dave Ozmun, and former faculty member Mitch Bettis, shared the news with Downs, who is dealing with advanced stages of Parkinson's. He and his wife, Vera, and son, Bob, expressed gratitude for the recognition.

IN MEMORIAM

1930s

Manie (Terrell '39*) Whitten of Longview, Texas, passed away on Dec. 28, 2017. She is survived by her brother, Marvin Terrell; daughter, Manie "Bette" Higgs; four grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

1940s

Margaret (Burton '40*) McCarty of Memphis, Tenn., passed away on Nov. 11, 2017.

Marian "Dickie" (McConnell '48) Copeland of Carlsbad, Calif., passed away on Jan. 6. She is survived by her brother, Rick McConnell; children, Doug Copeland and Vicki Pearson; and two grandchildren.

Dr. Roy Reed ('48*) of Fayetteville, Ark., passed away on Dec. 10, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Norma Reed; and two children, John Reed and Cindy Buck.

Laura (Hoofman '48) Yarnell of Searcy, Ark., passed away on May 4. She is survived by her step-children, Rogers Yarnell, Camille Forte and Melissa Yarnell; four step-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.

Rev. James "Jim" Benham, Sr., ('49) of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on April 8. He is survived by his children, Ruth, Sue, Jim, Jr., and Rick; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and 17 great-great-grandchildren.

Jodie (Halk '49*) Dugan of Wynne, Ark., passed away on Dec. 13, 2017. She is survived by her children, Ann Spearman and Bill Dugan, and three grandchildren.

1950s

June (Pratt '50) Denton passed away on Feb. 4.

W.D. Goff ('51) of San Luis Obispo, Calif., passed away on Nov. 15, 2017.

Claire (Lee '51) Sims of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away on March 18. She is survived by her siblings, John Sims Sr., Lou Anne Currie, Virginia Barr and Caroline Garnier.

Dr. Harold Tatum ('51) of Melbourne, Ark., passed away on Jan. 1. He is survived by his brother, **Phil Tatum ('62)**; five children, Angel Craddock, Lisa Tatum, Lori Purtle, Maury Quo and Tobias Tatum; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

George Puckett ('53*) of Springdale, Ark., passed away on Sept. 8, 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy Geraldine (Head '53) Puckett**; three children, **Lamar Puckett ('78)**, **Lynda (Puckett '80*) Cline** and **Larry Puckett ('83*)**; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Dr. Bill Arrington ('55) of Monroe, La., passed away on March 28. He is survived by his wife, Chlorica Arrington; brother, Jim Arrington; children, Kent Arrington and **Elise Leitzel ('85)**; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Rev. Mel Hampton ('55) of Gaffney, S.C., passed away on Jan. 31. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette Maxey Hampton; four children; four foster children; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Elfrida (Wider) Hayes ('56) of Benton, Ark., passed away on April 23. She is survived by her siblings, Margarida Richter, Alfredo Wider, Luiza Tillery and Ana Maria Sanders; two daughters, Tahnya Hayes and Shana Rawlings; and one granddaughter.

Ralph Morris ('56) of Louisville, Miss., passed away on Aug. 6, 2017.

Don Parker ('56) of Paris, Texas, passed away on Jan. 26. He is survived by his wife, Gloria Parker; brother, William Parker; two children, Don Parker II and Donna Golden; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Norma "Ann" (Salter '58) Clark of Independence, Mo., passed away on Nov. 27, 2017. She is survived by her siblings, **Nancy (Salter '65) Matlock**, Don Salter and Carol Stuart.

Kenneth Hughes ('58) of Benton, Ark., passed away on Dec. 28, 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Helen (Leech '59*) Hughes**; three children, Amy Lee, Matt Hughes and Mary Alice Hughes; six grandchildren; and three great-grandsons.

OUACHITA ONLINE IS NOW OFFERING DEGREE COMPLETION

It's been 20 years from the day I started to the day I graduated. When you're faithful to stay the course, when you're faithful to continue in the journey, no matter how difficult it gets, the reward is absolutely incredible that's waiting for you in the end.

— *Ryan, Ouachita Online graduate*



OBU.EDU/ONLINE

Patricia (Morrison '58*) Johnson of Edmond, Okla., passed away on Dec. 14, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Rick Johnson; two brothers, David and Mike Morrison; five children, Lisa Thomas, **Blair Thomas ('84)**, Candice Barrera, Rick Johnson and Mary Johnson; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Catherine "Cathy" (Wiley '59) Bolton of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Dec. 25, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Jim Bolton; sister, Alma Jean Embry; children, Beth Ellis, Ann Gilliland and Robert Bolton; and eight grandchildren.

Wilda Jean (Hughes '59) Hulse of Lebanon, Mo., passed away on Sept. 29, 2017.

Dr. Jerry Stewart ('59) of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away on Dec. 26, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Sandy Stewart; sister, Dottie Youngblood; three children, Laura Hood, Daniel Stewart and Todd Stewart; and five grandchildren.

Paul Stone ('59) of De Queen, Ark., passed away on Nov. 14, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Betty Stone; children, Flint Stone and Paula Ann Justice; and five grandchildren.

..... 1960s

Betty (Witherington '60) Gardner of Tallahassee, Fla., passed away on April 5, 2017. She is survived by her husband, William Gardner; two daughters, Tracy Showman and Meg Duckworth; and six grandchildren.

Milton Bolgiano ('61) of Buda, Texas, passed away on March 30. He is survived by his brother, **Morris Bolgiano ('60)**; children, Donna Courtright and Milton Steven Bolgiano; and two granddaughters.

L.A. Collins ('61) of Crossett, Ark., passed away on Feb. 16, 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Shirley (Miles '67) Collins**; siblings, Wayne Collins, Dennis Collins, Ronnie Collins, Wanda Knight, Barbara Wells and Charlotte Money; two children, **David Collins ('84)** and Janet Friesen; and three grandchildren.

CHAROLETTE ALLISON LEFT LEGACY OF SERVICE TO SIX PRESIDENTS

Charolette Allison, a longtime Ouachita staff member who served 31 years alongside six Ouachita presidents, passed away June 28 at age 74.

Mrs. Allison, a former Ouachita student, served in the president's office from 1986 to 2017, working in the administrations of Dr. Daniel Grant, Dr. Ben Elrod, Dr. Andy Westmoreland, Dr. Rex Horne, Dr. Charles Wright and Dr. Ben Sells.



Charolette Allison

In conjunction with her retirement last spring, the university's Board of Trustees named her executive secretary to the president emerita in honor of her years of service.

"I treasure most the lifetime friendships made with students, staff, faculty and trustees," Mrs. Allison reflected at the time. "Having the privilege of serving alongside six Ouachita presidents as receptionist, secretary and later executive secretary was beyond my wildest dreams. I thank God for them and the impact they've had on my life and on my family's lives."

"Charolette Allison had a love for people that fueled her many years of dedicated service to this university," said Ouachita President Ben Sells. "In that time, Charolette's life touched thousands who have been connected with Ouachita, and all are grateful to have known her."

Mrs. Allison served in various roles with Southwestern Bell for 15 years before beginning her Ouachita career working for Dr. Grant. In addition to her work with Ouachita's presidents, she prepared for all of the Board of Trustees' meetings and compiled detailed minutes. She also supervised the executive office's work study students.

She is survived by her husband, Wade; two daughters, Cindy Turnbow, a 1991 Ouachita graduate, and Keri Burkman, a 1994 Ouachita graduate; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. In memory of their son, Mrs. Allison and her family have supported the annual Andy Allison Super Kids Run, a community-wide event focusing on childhood fitness.

Her memorial service was held July 2 at Second Baptist Church of Arkadelphia, where she and her husband have served as active members.

Sarah Powell ('61) Kinard of El Dorado, Ark., passed away on Jan. 25. She is survived by her brother, Tommy Powell; three daughters, Karen Robertson, Jennifer Wylie and Juliane Mathews; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Campbell Cameron ('62) of Lebanon, Tenn., passed away on July 28, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Cameron; sister, Sharon Bates; daughter, Gigi Tucker; and two granddaughters.

David Kuhl ('62) of Dallastown, Pa., passed away on March 22. He is survived by his wife, Janet; two daughters, Vikki Franks and Andrea Slaughter; and five grandchildren.

Ed McBrayer, Jr. ('62) of Bismarck, Ark., passed away on Nov. 26, 2017.

Carol (Nichols '62) Ray of Eden Isle, Ark., passed away on Feb. 25. She is survived by her husband, **Charles Ray ('62*)**; children, Louis Ray and Catharine Kennedy; and two grandchildren.

LTC (Ret.) Harley Brinkley ('63), of Bixby, Okla., passed away on Jan. 7. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Brinkley; brother, **Phyl Brinkley ('70)**; and two sons, Christopher and Eric Brinkley.

Vivian (Steward '63) Knapp of Bauxite, Ark., passed away on April 18. She is survived by her sister, Mary Perkins; son, Phillip Knapp; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

DR. TRANTHAM REMEMBERED FOR MUSIC CAREER AT OUACHITA

Dr. William Trantham, a longtime professor of music at Ouachita, passed away March 11 at age 88.

Dr. Trantham, who joined the Ouachita faculty in 1960, served as the first dean of the School of Music and chair of the Division of Fine Arts. He also held the endowed Addie Mae Maddox Chair of Music. He retired in 1994 and was named professor emeritus of music.



Dr. William Trantham

Reflecting on his Ouachita career during his "Last Lecture" delivered in January 1994, Dr. Trantham

told his colleagues that his wish for Ouachita was "that all people here would be on the lookout for all of the good work that is done, and would make aggressive efforts to make sure that those good works are 'put on their stand and ... give light to everyone in the territory.'"

"Dr. Trantham was one of the most gentle spirits I have ever known. He came by every week when I was dean just to encourage me," noted Dr. Scott Holsclaw, professor emeritus of theatre arts and former dean of the School of Fine Arts. "He was truly a loving Christian man. He will be deeply missed."

Dr. Trantham earned his PhD from Northwestern University in 1966. Prior to his 34 years of service at Ouachita, he taught at Southwest Baptist College. A veteran of the U.S. armed forces, he served in the Korean War.

He was a member of several professional organizations, including the Mu Omicron chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia National Honorary Music Fraternity, College Music Society, Music Teachers National Association, Federated Music Clubs, American Musicological Society, American Guild of Organists and the Epsilon Delta chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda. In 2016, he was honored as a Distinguished Member of the Friends of the Arts by the Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity Hot Springs alumnae chapter.

Dr. Trantham served as organist and as organist/choir director for several churches throughout his career. He served as organist/choir director for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs for more than 23 years before retiring from that position.

He is survived by his children, Rachel (Trantham '82) King and Gene Trantham ('85); four grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Memorial gifts may be made to the Ouachita Division of Music, 410 Ouachita St., Arkadelphia, AR 71998.

Col. (Ret.) Gary Meeks ('68) of Siloam Springs, Ark., passed away on April 12. He is survived by his wife, Alice Meeks; sister, Wanda Steed; daughter, Kristen Carter; step-daughter, Rochelle Combest; two grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

Alan Rawley ('68) of Kansas City, Mo., passed away on Jan. 7. He is survived by his brother, Cliff Rawley; two children, Sarah Price and Brian Rawley; and three grandchildren.

David Kersh ('69) of North Little Rock passed away on March 18. He is survived by his sister, Rebecca Hyatt; and two children, Lakey Kersh and Steven Kersh.

..... 1970s

Judith (Redden '72) Fetterhoff of Arkadelphia passed away on Jan. 30. She is survived by her husband, **Charles Fetterhoff ('70*)**.

Glenda Sherrill ('72) of Kansas City, Mo., passed away on May 22, 2017. She is survived by her brother, James Sherrill; son, Philip Hodges; and her former husband, William Hodges.

Robert "Mac" McCloskey ('73*) of Whidbey Island, Wash., passed away on March 5. He is survived by his wife, Josephine McCloskey; two daughters, Susan Burkett and Patricia Blick; and three grandchildren.

Dennie Calhoun ('74) of North Little Rock passed away on May 9. He is survived by his wife, Connie Calhoun; brothers, Donald and Arnie Calhoun; three sons, Dwayne, Tim and Mark Calhoun; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Bill Humphries ('74*) of McKenna, Wash., passed away on Jan. 20. He is survived by his wife, **Margaret "Kay" (Engstrom '74*) Humphries**; three sisters, **Earlece (Humphries '66*) Pearce, Janie (Humphries '77*) Blome** and Gwen Ross; children, John Humphries and Lea Harmon; and one grandson.

Janet (Harris '64*) Allen of Little Rock passed away on March 22. She is survived by her husband, **Arthur Allen ('64)**; siblings, Claude, Michael, Edward and Tina Harris; three children, Aric Allen, James Allen and Jennifer Allen; and nine grandchildren.

Doug Willis ('64) of Russellville, Ark., passed away on Nov. 15, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Betty Willis; siblings, Phillip Willis, Bill Willis, Beverly Scroggins and Carol Willis; children, Derek Willis and Stephanie Frank; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Anita Middleton ('66*) of Little Rock passed away on May 5.

Elliott "Bill" Arnold ('67) of De Valls Bluff, Ark., passed away on Dec. 28, 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Sharon (Owens '67) Arnold**; two sisters, Carol Cavitt and Lynn Bush; two sons, **Curtis ('92) and JP ('94) Arnold**; and eight grandchildren.

Patricia Bates ('67) of Cedarville, Ohio, passed away on June 17, 2017. She is survived by her siblings, John Bates, Carolyn Short and Rebekah Crego.

Dr. Charles Draper ('68*) of Louisville, Ky., passed away on June 25, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Retta Draper; children, David Draper and Shelly Hardin; and six grandchildren.

James “Jim” Danner (’75) of Plano, Texas, passed away on Feb. 26. He is survived by his siblings, John Danner, **Mark Danner** (’72*), and **Rebecca (Danner ’80) Remley**.

Rev. David Wesley (’75) of Cave City, Ark., passed away on March 11. He is survived by his wife, **Jan (Battles ’75*) Wesley**; brother, Jerry Wesley; two daughters, Sarah Huckabee and Rachel Dodd; and five grandchildren.

Martha (Smith ’78*) Ghent of Plano, Texas, passed away on Jan. 7. She is survived by her brother, Terry Smith; children, Louis Ghent and Cindy Smith; and one granddaughter.

Arthur “Otto” Williams (’78) of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 7, 2017. He is survived by his children, Edith Chandler, Arthur Williams, Jr., Anthony Williams, Andre Williams and Antione Williams; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

..... 1980s

Victor Lee Simpson (’81) of Prince Frederick, Md., passed away on June 4. He is survived by a son, Christian Allen; a daughter, Victoria Leigh; and a sister, Connie Patrick.

Ruby “Maude” (McDougal ’82) Zachry of Camden, Ark., passed away on Jan. 5. She is survived by her husband, Rodney Zachry; brother, Micky McDougal; children, Jeff Zachry, Greg Zachry, and Nancy Stokes; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

James “David” Parker (’83) of Waco, Texas, passed away on Feb. 2. He is survived by his parents, Dr. John and Mary Parker; and siblings, John Parker II, Paul Parker and Lanora Aucoin.

James “Jim” Freeman (’86) of Arkadelphia passed away on Oct. 22, 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Stacy (Simmons ’86) Freeman**; mother, Patricia Malcom; father, James Freeman; siblings, Jennifer Thompson and Tim Freeman; children, **Olivia** (’17*) and Walter Freeman; and one granddaughter.

Stanton Lee (’86*) of Spring, Texas, passed away on June 6. He is survived by his wife, Deanna Lee; and three children, Lauren Kelley, Ashlen Lee and Austin Lee.

..... 1990s

Brian Pendergrass (’93*) passed away on Nov. 11, 2017.

Holly (Smith ’97) Norton of Texarkana, Texas, passed away on Dec. 30, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Paul Norton; mother, Linda Smith; two children, Julia and Caleb Norton; and one step-daughter, Emily Norton.

Amanda (Bobbitt ’99*) Doherty of Wasilla, Alaska, passed away on May 4, 2017. She is survived by her parents, Danny and **Peggy (King ’74) Bobbitt**; and sister, Emily Upshaw.

..... 2000s

Melissa (West ’00) Ray of Sunnyvale, Texas, passed away on Dec. 6, 2017. She is survived by her parents, **Billy** (’87) and Pam West; siblings, **Adam West** (’04), **Brooke (West ’08) Butler**, and **Lauren (West ’14) Stubbs**; two children, Katie and Jacob Ray; and grandparents, Billy George and Jean West, and Oneta Henderson.

Daniel “Dan” Pryor (’03) of Little Rock passed away on Jan. 4. He is survived by his parents, **Mike** (’76) and **Linnette (Baughman ’76) Pryor**; and grandmother, Wanda Pryor.

..... Faculty & Staff

Mary Holiman of Malvern, Ark., passed away on May 19. She is survived by her daughter, Virginia Wells; one grandson; and two great-grandchildren. She served for many years as the registrar at Ouachita.

** denotes former student*

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photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Donnie Copeland

Chair, Department of Visual Arts

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni Relations

Donnie Copeland, who was interested in studying psychology on the university level, heard about Ouachita from friends who attended Ouachita. As a result, he traveled 6,300 miles from his home in Ogbomoso, Nigeria, where his parents served as missionaries, to Arkadelphia in the fall of 1996.

Upon his arrival, Copeland met with his advisor, Dr. Randall Wight. “After putting together a schedule and needing one more class, Dr. Wight asked what other interests I might have, to which I replied, ‘I really enjoy art,’” Copeland recalled. “He signed me up for a painting class with Sandy McDowell, and that was a moment which has largely set the course of my life ever since.”

One of the things Copeland enjoys most is working with visual arts students on their senior exhibits. “I enjoy working with students and seeing things come together for them,” he explained. “I enjoy helping them think through projects and working on their senior exhibits. Hearing from students after graduation – when they find their first job, sharing their work from graduate school or their most recent mural or artistic work – is also incredibly rewarding.”

A significant change that Copeland and his colleagues have helped bring to Ouachita is the introduction of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design launching this fall. This in-depth, professionally-focused program offers students the opportunity to take their design work further, whether their interest is in web, screen, print, illustration or fine art.

“The true strength of our new BFA in graphic design is that the degree program is housed here at Ouachita, in this liberal arts environment, where students can combine and extend their learning in design with learning and ideas from all around campus,” he noted.

“Donnie brings creativity and imagination to the visual arts department,” said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of the School of Fine Arts. “His passion for art can be seen in the work of his students, as well as his personal works, which have recently been on exhibit around the United States.

“Donnie also has the vision and excitement for the new BFA in graphic design,” Gerber added. “His work, along with the other visual arts faculty, helped to bring this new degree to fruition.”

Copeland said he enjoys helping prepare student artists for their lives and careers because he feels Ouachita prepared him well for his life and career.

“Ouachita provided a curriculum and the mental and physical space for me to develop and explore ideas as an artist in a Christian environment, where I had the support of faculty from all around campus,” he said. “I studied studio art, K-12 education and speech communication, and different aspects of those studies have served me at different times. Ouachita’s faculty helped me get started as an artist in that first painting class, helped me develop a portfolio for graduate school and helped prepare me for life beyond college.”

In addition to his undergraduate degree from Ouachita, Copeland holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Dallas. Copeland ('00) and his wife, Lori (Cain '01) Copeland, live in Arkadelphia with their children Jack (8), Lydia (7) and Esther (3). Copeland’s paintings have been included in exhibits around the country including Dallas, Houston, Kansas City and Little Rock. You can view his works and learn more at: www.donniecopeland.com.

“I enjoy working with students and seeing things come together for them.”



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Jeff Crow

Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Management

By Jon Merryman, OBU Director of Alumni Relations

Jeff Crow has been a Ouachita Tiger fan for years, attending football games, cheering on the Tigers and serving in various security roles around Cliff Harris Stadium, but when his daughter enrolled as a student, Jeff's admiration and respect for Ouachita deepened.

"I respect what Ouachita stands for and all the university accomplishes, and I have been able to see the difference it has made in my daughter, Addison," Crow explained. "I'm thankful my experiences and work history make me well-suited and prepared for this new role at Ouachita. I believe it was God's perfect timing for me to begin serving here."

Crow has 35 years of experience in public service including 15 years as a trooper and sergeant with the Arkansas State Police. He most recently served as director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and now serves as the first director of Ouachita's new Department of Campus Safety and Emergency Management. He also is a former corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps and a retired sergeant major with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

"I am very happy to join the Ouachita family and have enjoyed getting to know all of the students, faculty and staff," Crow noted. "I have been welcomed warmly and look forward to working collaboratively with everyone to create the safest possible environment for the Ouachita community."

Students, alumni and guests to campus will notice some changes on campus beginning this summer as university employees took over responsibility for campus safety at the conclusion of the university's previous security contract.

"When there are students on campus and people moving from place to place, there will be uniformed law enforcement present," Crow said. "The goal is not intimidation but the safety of our students and guests. We want Ouachita to be a safe place to learn, worship and thrive."

"Jeff has a wealth of knowledge and experience in law enforcement, administration, leadership and education," said Dr. Wesley Kluck, vice president for student development. "Since starting on the job in February, Jeff has obtained certification of our university's police department, restructured the campus safety office, started a campus safety survey/inventory and provided active shooter training for over 200 faculty, staff and students."

While there are many opportunities and challenges in creating this new department and campus safety model at Ouachita, Crow said he is looking forward to presenting law enforcement in a positive light to students.

"I am most looking forward to the opportunity to model servant leadership to students," he added. "I want them to gain an appreciation for public service and to show them what engagement, service and stewardship look like as we work together to identify ways to make campus safer for everyone."

Crow is certified as a professional law enforcement instructor. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational management from John Brown University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Arkansas State University.

He and his wife, Susanna, live in Malvern. Their daughter, Addison, graduated from Ouachita in May with majors in English and secondary education.

"I am most looking forward to the opportunity to model servant leadership to students."



WATCHWORD AFFIRMS PREPARATION

I recently called one of my mentors, now in his 80s, having learned he was dealing with a health issue. He was a leader among leaders of Christian college presidents, and his friendship and counsel over the years means much to me.

In his early days, my friend was associated with Billy Graham, knowing him as an innovative young evangelist before most of us would know him as an elder Christian statesman. Through my friend, I learned that one of Graham's early watchwords was *Geared to the Times, Anchored to the Rock*.

Part of Graham's appeal was that he preached socially relevant and biblically based sermons. He knew the timeless truths of the Bible and he understood the times in which people lived, so he was able to show how the Gospel speaks to people and society.

Graham's watchword – *Geared to the Times, Anchored to the Rock* – is one of those phrases that I never forgot after hearing it the first time. Perhaps it resonated so deeply with me because it reflects Acts 13:36, which has become a life verse for me, "... David had served God's purpose in his own generation."

My deep desire for Ouachita students is that, as a result of their education and experience in this college community, they will become men and women with the *preparation* to serve God's purposes in their generation – through their families, churches, careers and communities.

This kind of preparation requires Ouachita to be *Geared to the Times and Anchored to the Rock*. It's

why our new strategic plan includes "Sustain Our Christ-centered Identity" as well as "Diversify Educational Offerings."

Our regional accreditation visit in December 2017 through the Higher Learning Commission affirmed that Ouachita excels as a Christian liberal arts and highly residential undergraduate university. Other evidence includes recording the highest graduation rate in the state of Arkansas.

And, we want to be better – and will be better. As part of being better and extending our mission,

we must grow to residential capacity, moving from 1,500 to 1,750 students. This is a multi-year journey, and we're making progress.

As Ouachita begins its 133rd year, there is much evidence that we are *Geared to the Times* even as we diversify our educational offerings.

The most significant new venture is an innovative Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program highlighted on pages 10 and 11.

We will advance Ouachita Online, serving working adults who share our values, prize our education and desire a Ouachita degree. It is a special delight to hand these men and women their diplomas at commencement.

We are actively exploring the addition of graduate programs, and I fully anticipate that we will offer one or more degrees in areas that reflect our commitment to Christian and academic excellence and to prepare traditional and non-traditional students for their generation.

The phone call to one of my mentors reminded me that *preparation* – the theme for this issue of *The Ouachita Circle* – requires that Ouachita continue to be *Geared to the Times, Anchored to the Rock*.

Preparation requires that Ouachita continue to be Geared to the Times, Anchored to the Rock.

Ben R. Sells, PhD
President
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Monday, September 24

CLARK COUNTY ALUMNI DINNER • 5:30 p.m.
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Tuesday, September 25

HOMECOMING CHAPEL • 10 a.m.
featuring speakers Austin ('08) & Ashton (Berry '08)
Samuelson, founders of Tacos 4 Life Grill

Wednesday, September 26

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TIGER TUNES PREVIEW PERFORMANCE
• 6:30 p.m.
visit obutigertunes.com for more information

Thursday, September 27

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BERRY-PEEPLES BIBLE BUILDING DEDICATION • 3 p.m.
celebration & open house for the renovated Berry-Peeples
Bible Building and new Horne Center for Biblical Preaching

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

Friday, September 28

SENIOR WALK RIBBON CUTTING • 5:30 p.m.
Class of 2017 • Senior Walk

OUACHITA FAMILY REUNION DINNER • 6 p.m.
Classes of 1973, 1978, 1988, 1998 & 2008 • tickets required

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

Saturday, September 29

TIGER FEST • 9 – 11 a.m.
Grant Plaza & Campus Lawn • all classes welcome

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

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

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME • 12 noon
vs. Arkansas Tech

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

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

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

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



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Ouachita Baptist University is pleased to announce a new degree program: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.*

Answering nationwide calls for innovation in health care education and more baccalaureate-level nurses, **this new degree pairs the strengths of Ouachita Baptist University with the strengths of Baptist Health College Little Rock.** Ouachita is a nationally ranked liberal arts university founded in 1886 with a mission of fostering a love of God and a love of learning. And Baptist Health College Little Rock is a recognized leader in health care education since 1920 and an integral part of Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock and Baptist Health, the largest health care system in Arkansas.



Baptist Health College
Little Rock

For more information, visit obu.edu/bsn

*Pending approval from Ouachita's accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, the nursing program will begin this fall (August 2018).

