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Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita Alumni

Summer 2021

The Ouachita Circle Summer 2021

Ouachita Baptist University

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WORSHIP ARTS PROGRAM RAMPS UP | FIRST DIETETIC INTERNSHIP GRADS WALK | "FEED ARKADELPHIA" MEETS NEEDS

OUACHITA **CIRCLE**

Summer 2021

HOPE

A field of purple tulips in bloom, with a blurred background of a brick building and a window. The tulips are in various stages of opening, and the overall scene is bright and cheerful.



Turning from fear to hope

I had a front-row seat to Ouachita's approach to pandemic planning as a member of several administrative groups on campus. I remember feeling fear, anxiety and discouragement starting in March 2020 at the challenge ahead of and all around us. Perseverance, optimism and grit were displayed in abundance, but still a strange cloud hung over the year for me, knowing how it compared to typical years not only on campus but also personally. We were adapting as well as we could, but everything was different about how we were experiencing the world.

One of my roles this academic year was to update our "COVID-19 dashboard" on the website each weekday with the number of cases and quarantines on campus and other data. After a fall with ups and downs and the significant nationwide increase in cases over the holidays, I steeled myself for another difficult journey as we entered the spring semester. And it wasn't easy. But by January 29, only two weeks into the semester, our daily report never again increased above five cases a day. By March, the daily increase was always one or zero, and there were no new on-campus cases after March 11 – and none even from off-campus after April 16. For the entire academic year, there had been no hospitalizations among our Ouachita students or employees. Sometime in March, I began to feel hope.

It's not a new insight to compare the return of spring to God's blessings. But this year, I really felt it. Even after our record-breaking winter storms in Arkansas this February, the flowers returned, some of them more beautiful and abundant than ever. I was astounded and appreciative. The 2020-2021 school year was a record-breaking storm. As Dr. Doug Nykolaishen helps us remember on page 8, lamenting the losses of this year is a healthy process but one that can be balanced with hope. Rising senior Anna Roussel reflects on her experience as a student this year and her hopes for next year on page 14.

Amid the pandemic, programs began: our first class of post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internship grads crossed the Commencement stage (p. 10); the student worship band Ouachita Worship exemplified the evolving Worship Arts Program (p. 16); and junior Reanna Johnson ramped up a new volunteer program to "Feed Arkadelphia" and simultaneously reduce waste from campus dining. We also marked the time for many to move on from their time on campus, whether through graduation (p. 6), retirement (p. 12) or other circumstances. These groups hold a particularly special place in Ouachita's history.

Even as I personally felt weighed down by the challenges of the year, the Ouachita world kept turning. The *whole* world kept turning. God remained faithful and present, even if we couldn't feel it in our limited ways. There is hope. Thanks be to God.

Brooke Zimny

Assistant to the President for Communications & Marketing

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Telling your COVID story: A message from the university archivist

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How to improve your mental health, coping skills while in college

5 tips to get ahead if you plan to study two (or three!) college majors

Fearful of going back to school? 3 reasons you can earn a degree online

Coming full-circle, from around the globe: Ouachita's first international student

TOP YOUTUBE VIDEOS



"Holy Fire" (Live) by Ouachita Worship



Martin Luther King, Jr. Reflections



IFF Recipes
See four recipe videos from this year's virtual International Food Festival



Academic Program Series
See what students & profs have to say about our academic programs

OUACHITA CIRCLE

INSIDE THE CIRCLE

3 **Campus Update**
Nursing program earns
ACEN accreditation

.....

18 **Faculty Profile**
Dr. Rachel Pool studies
Master Teacher as model

.....

20 **Staff Profile**
Rickey & Lydia Rogers
serve students with grace

.....

26 **Sports Update**
Women's soccer wins
GAC tournament

.....

32 **Class Notes**
Stepping Up for Ouachita
honorees announced

.....

36 **Closing Thoughts**
A picture of hope through
fellowship & community

8 **BALANCING LAMENT WITH HOPE THROUGH OUR FAITH**



Dr. Doug Nykolaishen, professor of biblical studies, helps us process this year with help from the psalms.

10 **FIRST DIETETIC INTERN GRAD STUDENTS FINISH**



The inaugural class of dietetic interns completed the program, which was launched this year.

16 **WORSHIP ARTS PROGRAM EVOLVES TO EQUIP LEADERS**



Interdisciplinary training and hands-on practice with Ouachita Worship band has lasting impact.

18 **ELROD CENTER LAUNCHES FEED ARKADELPHIA**



Program picks up following initiative and passion from student Reanna Johnson.

OUACHITA CIRCLE

Summer 2021

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SUBMIT ADDRESS CHANGES AND CLASS NOTES

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VISION Ouachita Baptist University seeks to foster a love of God and a love of learning by creating for students and other constituents dynamic growth opportunities both on campus and throughout the world. With foresight and faithfulness, Ouachita makes a difference.

MISSION Ouachita Baptist University is a Christ-centered learning community. Embracing the liberal arts tradition, the university prepares individuals for ongoing intellectual and spiritual growth, lives of meaningful work, and reasoned engagement with the world.

VALUES Ouachita strives to be an academic community of vision, integrity, and service grounded in the following values:

Faith. We believe that life is lived most abundantly in response to the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Scholarship. We advance excellence in teaching, learning, research, and creative expression.

Growth. We foster broad-based education, encouraging growth in intellectual, spiritual, physical, and social domains.

Character. We affirm that respect and honesty undergird responsible citizenship and stewardship.

Community. We promote a vibrant community strengthened by diversity, sustained by common aims and supportive relationships, and committed to leadership and service on campus and beyond.

CAMPUS NEWS

SENIOR CHASSIDY BARNES AUTHORS PAPER IN “JOURNAL OF MICROBIOLOGY & BIOLOGY EDUCATION” AND CREATES BI-LINGUAL TUTORIAL VIDEOS

Chassidy Barnes, a senior biology major from Little Rock, Ark., is the lead scientist on a collaborative scholarly paper titled “Gene Expression and Data Analysis Pipeline Using Cancer BioPortal in the Classroom,” published in April by the *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education* (JMBE). Barnes also created video tutorials explaining her research, which already have been utilized in coursework by four American universities and the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla.



Chassidy Barnes

Barnes worked with Dr. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology at Ouachita, for the online data analysis project using Cancer BioPortal (cBioPortal), an interactive database that contains clinical sample data from over 15,000 patients. Her work focused specifically on mutated genes common to both breast and liver cancer.

“It is extremely rare for an undergraduate to be the first, or lead, author on these types of articles,” Reyna explained. “People often think undergraduates cannot do this caliber of work. However, at Ouachita, we have a history of incorporating students into our projects. Students learn to think like a scientist in the classroom, and, as a result, we treat them as scientists in the research lab.”

In addition to her work with Reyna, Barnes collaborated on the paper with faculty at the University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Jacksonville State University in Alabama. Along with her research, Barnes developed videos explaining the portal, which were later translated into Spanish.

“I think by having the videos in Spanish this will help make my research useful cross-culturally,” Barnes said. “I wanted to make videos that were short and sweet but were still useful for those learning to use the portal.”

Aside from Barnes' work being recognized in the JMBE, it is also being publicized by the Cell Biology Education Consortium (CBEC), a national group of more than 175 institutions working on incorporating cell culture research into the classroom.

UPDATE

NURSING PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL ACEN ACCREDITATION

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) recently affirmed accreditation for Ouachita’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program.

“Nursing accreditation is a stamp of excellence and a milestone in Ouachita’s nursing history,” said Dr. Brenda Trigg, director of nursing at Ouachita. “Our nursing students can expect to gain a sound foundation in nursing education and become leaders in the profession to ensure quality healthcare is provided to all individuals, groups and communities.”

ACEN sets the benchmark for nursing education excellence both nationally and internationally. The ACEN Board of Commissioners granted accreditation upon meeting in March 2021 following a review process that began when Ouachita launched its program in 2019. The effective date for Ouachita’s initial accreditation is Dec. 2, 2019, when the program first gained ACEN candidacy.

Ouachita’s BSN Program was introduced in Fall 2019 as an innovative, RN-to-BSN dual enrollment completion program in partnership with Baptist Health College Little Rock. The Department of Nursing has since added a fully-online RN-to-BSN degree program option for students who already have a valid registered nurse license and who seek to earn a BSN degree. Enrollment in the BSN program for Fall 2021 is expected to exceed 100 students.



photo by Abby Blankenship

611 VOLUNTEERS ACT AS “HANDS OF HOPE” FOR SPRING 2021 TIGER SERVE DAY

Ouachita’s Elrod Center for Family and Community held its Spring 2021 Tiger Serve Day community service event on Saturday, April 10, with 75 teams completing 76 projects throughout the Arkadelphia community. A total of 611 Ouachita student, faculty and staff volunteers represented the university with this semester’s theme, “Hands of Hope.”

“A spirit of hope was evident in all that was accomplished during Tiger Serve Day,” said Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international relations. “We had perfect weather, a joyful attitude and dedicated students who worked hard and served with energy and grace.”

In addition to outdoor service projects throughout the community, the team delivered gift baskets and encouraging signs to thank healthcare workers for their work during the pandemic.

“We were able to help 20 senior adult homes, a public school, nursing homes and nonprofits. We were still working outside, but we were able to extend our projects to actually see some people in safe ways,” said Judy Duvall, associate director of the Elrod Center. “This has felt like our first normal day at Ouachita in a really long time.”

SIX OUACHITA STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT VIRTUAL MIDWEST MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Six student delegates from Ouachita attended and received recognition for their respective roles at the Midwest Model United Nations simulation, held virtually Feb. 19-21. All six participants received recognition this year, either through individual awards or as part of a delegation.

“In my 27 years at Ouachita, these were the best results achieved by our delegations,” said Dr. Kevin Brennan, professor of political science. “Five students represented Mexico, while one student represented Uruguay.”

Faith Moore, a senior from Marianna, Ark., was awarded Outstanding Delegate for work on the General Assembly’s Third Committee; Anna Roussel, a senior from Searcy, Ark., won Outstanding Delegate for work on the Economic and Social Council; and Spencer Worth, a senior from Cabot, Ark., was awarded Outstanding Position Paper on the General Assembly’s First Committee. These students all represented Mexico and also received Outstanding General Assembly delegation along with Cole Alexander, a senior from Forney, Texas, and Taryn Bewley, a senior from Conway, Ark. Rylie Slone, a senior from Bella Vista, Ark., won awards for both Outstanding Position Paper and Outstanding Delegate on the Economic and Social Council, representing Uruguay.



HAMILTON AWARDED \$20,000 ARKANSAS INBRE GRANT FOR LYOPHILIZER

Dr. Sharon Hamilton, Ouachita assistant professor of chemistry, has been awarded \$20,000 in funding by Arkansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) to purchase a lyophilizer freeze-dryer, an instrument used to remove aqueous solvents in industry and research. The instrument will be used to enhance both course-based undergraduate research and independent research projects in Ouachita’s Patterson School of Natural Sciences as well as Henderson State University’s Ellis College of Arts and Sciences. The grant also will enhance the Patterson Summer Research Program.

“Having freeze drying equipment provides students with expanded laboratory experiences not typically available to undergraduates at private liberal arts schools,” Hamilton said. “Exposure to this instrument would better prepare our students for equipment they will encounter in their future careers.”

One organic chemistry lab that Hamilton is planning will use the instrument with native Arkansas plants. “We would use the lyophilizer to isolate compounds, which we could then give to students in cell and molecular biology to test on various cell types, including cancerous cell lines,” she said.

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL AND STATE AWARDS

Ouachita communications & media students received five national Gold Circle Awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) for the *Ouachitonian* yearbook. Only eight universities in the country received CSPA awards, and Ouachita was smallest university in the group of winners.

The Arkansas College Media Association awarded Ouachita students 39 state awards for the *Ouachitonian*, *Signal* newspaper and Ouachita Sports Digital Network, including Ben Swanger receiving a top General Excellence award for Yearbook Editor of the Year. Swanger is a senior communications & media/sports media major from Forney, Texas.

HONORS PROGRAM INDUCTS MEMBERS, CELEBRATES THESES & AWARDS GRANTS

The Carl Goodson Honors Program inducted 123 new members and presented a record 63 thesis proposal badges.

It also awarded research grants to three junior students. Maddie Bailey, a political science major from Bauxite, Ark., is the Carl Goodson Scholar and plans to attend the JuST conference on juvenile sex trafficking. Cora Saddler, a English and Spanish double major from Cabot, Ark., is the Ben Elrod Scholar and plans to research the impact of surrealism on art and literature in New York City. Jael Winterholter, a Christian studies/biblical studies & theology major from Fort Wayne, Ind., is the Garrett Ham Scholar and plans to research the biblical concept of the glory of God.

OUACHITA STUDENT FOUNDATION & TIGER TUNES REWIND EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Ouachita Student Foundation (OSF) received national recognition from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s Affiliated Student Advancement Program (CASE ASAP) for its work to create Tiger Tunes REWIND. It was awarded the national Pivot Award in May after winning the District 4 Pivot Award in March. The Pivot Award was a new category introduced this year to acknowledge changes made to programming during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are so excited and honored to receive this recognition,” said Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations and the Ouachita Student Foundation. “Our students and alumni really embraced the online Tunes REWIND format, allowing us to continue our mission of ‘students helping students’ by providing scholarships. With every student organization in the country having to pivot, what an honor to be recognized. We loved Tunes REWIND, but we can’t wait to welcome everyone home for Tiger Tunes in person this fall.”

CASE is an international association that serves educational institutions in the areas of communications, marketing, alumni relations and development. ASAP is an organization within CASE that helps organizations such as OSF elevate their programs and learn best practices. Since joining ASAP in 2017, this marks OSF’s third national recognition.

Tiger Tunes REWIND adapted OSF’s annual flagship event as a showcase of previous shows. Viewers watched online and voted on winners through donations. Within days, Tunes REWIND raised over \$65,000. Through other adjusted efforts throughout the year, OSF reached their \$100,000 goal, matching the amount raised in a typical Tiger Tunes year.



BEAUMONT AND FISHER ONLY DIETETICS STUDENTS TO PRESENT AT POSTERS ON THE HILL

Ouachita's Jorie Beaumont and Cannon Fisher were the only nutrition & dietetics students selected to present their research at Posters on the Hill, an event where Arkansas state legislators learn about current undergraduate research. They were among the 60 researchers who were selected from hundreds of applicants to participate in the virtual event, which was held in April.

"Jorie and Cannon are excellent students, and their research has implications for Arkansas," said Dr. Detri Brech, Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Professor of Dietetics and Pre-Medical Studies. "I am very proud of them and their research."

Their research presentation, "A Systematic Review of the Nutrition Focused Physical Exam (NFPE) in Assessment of

Malnutrition: Focus on the Elderly," assessed how or if the NFPE is being used to diagnose malnutrition and how the outcomes of using NFPE differ from other exams and lab tests.

Beaumont, a senior from Lockport, Ill., and Fisher, a junior from Wynne, Ark., conducted their research through Ouachita's Patterson Summer Research Program under the direction of Brech and Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences.



Jorie Beaumont



Cannon Fisher

SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS HOSTED ADJUSTED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

Ouachita's School of Fine Arts adjusted its Spring 2021 events to provide a mix of in-person and streamed concerts, theatre productions and art exhibits to allow students to continue their performance education as well as provide safe viewing for audiences.

"It's been an unusual year for the School of Fine Arts," said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of the School of Fine Arts. "The professors and students have managed to work with the protocols and still create and produce their art. This in itself has been a tremendous accomplishment for them and Ouachita."

In-person events either had limited seating for students, faculty and staff or were held outdoors. Concerts that were streamed at [livestream.com/obu](https://www.livestream.com/obu) are available there for viewing now, as well, and included the: Virginia Queen Piano Competition, Shambarger Competition for Singers, Jazz Band Concert, Ten-Minute Play Festival, Wind Ensemble Concert, Symphonic Band Concert, Chamber Winds Concert, Percussion Ensemble Concert, Concert Choir Concert, Prism Concert (Instrumental Ensembles), Women's Chorus/Singers Concert and Steel Drum Band Concert. In-person-only events included an outdoor choir concert, two outdoor steel drum concerts and the One-Act Play Festival.

In the festival, senior musical theatre majors directed each play. Hannah Adair from Alexander, Ark., directed "The Great Gaffe" by Jennifer O'Grady; Hannah Anderson from Austin, Texas, directed "She Has Seen the Wolf" by Allie Costa; Carlin Campbell from Rose Hill, Kan., directed "Bad Bert and Sheriff Sally" by Adam Szymkowicz; Molly Kennedy from Melissa, Texas, directed "Canker Sores and Other Distractions" by Christopher Durang; and Madeline Martin from Sheridan, Ark., directed "Joy Ride" by Christine Foster.

Mainstage productions were available in person for the campus community; off-campus viewing also was available through paid streaming. The spring musical was "Little Women: The Musical," and the Muse Project production was "The Old Man & The Old



Moon." Written and produced by PigPen Theatre Co. in New York City, "The Old Man and The Old Moon" was directed by Molly Kennedy, a senior musical theatre major from Melissa, Texas. Based on the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott, "Little Women: The Musical" was written by Allan Knee, with lyrics by Mindi Dickstein and music by Jason Howland. Ouachita's production utilized a double cast, with each cast performing two of the four shows.

"We wanted to find a way to create ample opportunities for the students while still keeping the cast a smaller, more COVID-friendly size," said Stephanie Murry, assistant professor of theatre arts at Ouachita and director of the show. Dr. Jon Secrest, Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music, served as music director.

In addition to several senior exhibits, the Rosemary Adams Department of Art & Design hosted a Student Juried Art Show, a faculty exhibit and a guest artist exhibit featuring Brad Wreyford. Exhibits were open to the community in limited viewing hours. The Wreyford exhibit, "Perpetual Fringe," featured a mixture of sculptures and paintings by the Hot Springs-based artist.



OUACHITA HONORS 364 GRADUATES, CONFERS FIRST EVER POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATES

By Rachel Gaddis, editorial coordinator

Ouachita celebrated 364 graduates during its 134th Spring Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 8, at Cliff Harris Stadium with Dr. Ben Sells, university president, presiding.

University officials conferred Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education and Associate of Arts degrees, with seven students receiving Ouachita's first ever post-baccalaureate certificates for dietetic internship.

As Sells began his remarks, he thanked the Class of 2021 for leading the Ouachita student body in a "long, challenging, tiring, yet ultimately successful year."

"You led by example to live and learn with new protocols," Sells said. "You found new ways to have a meaningful campus life. You persevered when it would have been easy to panic. You encouraged peers when spirits lagged.

"When you feel uncertain or alone, an experience we've all had this past year, remember that God is with us, desiring to work for your good and his purposes, day by day," he added. "Remember what you did this year, what we did together, a company of the committed, known as Ouachitonians, who didn't shrink away or just aim to survive, but succeeded in ways we couldn't have imagined."

For a full list of graduates,
photos, videos and more, visit
[OBU.EDU/2021GRAD](https://www.obu.edu/2021grad)

photos by Abby Blankenship & Andy Henderson



CAMPUS UPDATE



A Sample of the Semester

COVID-19 TESTS ON CAMPUS
FALL 2020: 1,222 / SPRING 2021: 1,539

SPRING SEMESTER VACCINATIONS*
45% OF RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS
80% OF EMPLOYEES *at least one dose



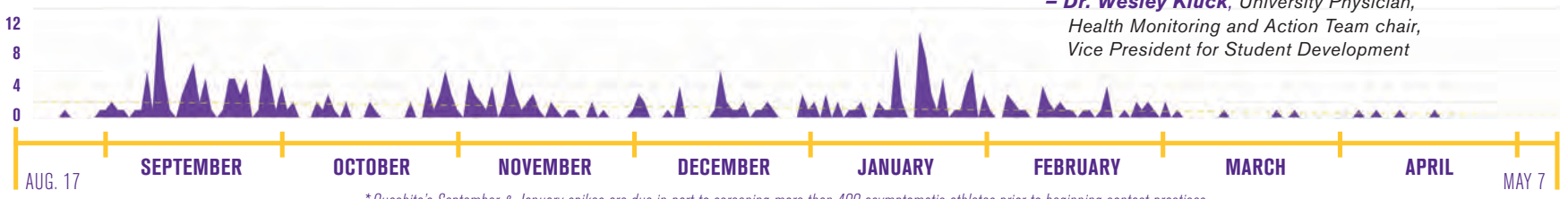
4 SPRING VACCINATION CLINICS FOR OUACHITA FACULTY, STAFF OR STUDENTS

photos by Ouachita Photo Lab: Hannah Adamson, Abby Blankenship, Levi Dade, Sarah Dean & Callie Rogers

DAILY COVID-19 CASES ON CAMPUS, 2020-2021

"The 2020-21 Ouachita Baptist University school year is over, and the score of the pandemic game for last year was OBU: 1, COVID-19: 0. Even though the time was full of hard teamwork and exhaustion, the year was a success and ended more positively than I expected. We were blessed."

- Dr. Wesley Kluck, University Physician, Health Monitoring and Action Team chair, Vice President for Student Development



*Ouachita's September & January spikes are due in part to screening more than 400 asymptomatic athletes prior to beginning contact practices.



Hope by way of LAMENT

By Doug Nykolaishen

Psalm 13 (NLT)

¹O LORD, how long will you forget me? Forever?
How long will you look the other way?

²How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day?
How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

³Turn and answer me, O LORD my God!
Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.

⁴Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!"
Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.

⁵But I trust in your unfailing love.
I will rejoice because you have rescued me.

⁶I will sing to the LORD
because he is good to me.

“Back to normal.” Since the middle of last March, those words have felt like an impossible dream. As illness disrupted life for many and restrictions disrupted life for all, we longed for things to just be the way they used to be.

Now the widespread distribution of effective vaccines has encouraged many to hope that life may indeed be on its way back to something much closer to what we previously knew. Our natural desire is to get on with what’s good as quickly as we can. But in our haste to get to “a better world,” it’s worthwhile noticing a couple of things.

First, it’s important to give ourselves and others permission to lament. There are many who, although they would *like* to feel optimistic and hopeful, find that they simply *don’t* feel that way. They may have suffered serious loss in this past year – relationally, physically or financially – and it is still weighing them down heavily. In fact, for them it might feel as though life can never again be as good as it was. And a lot of us are in a mixed state. We may not have experienced the worst of the pandemic, but we find that we’re just anxious and tired and frustrated and a little worried, even if we’re not always sure why.

Fortunately, for times like these, the Bible gives us many examples of godly people who didn’t just try to be happy. It shows us instead that they lamented. But even better, it shows us how they lamented, so we can follow their example.

A good place to look is Psalm 13. We immediately notice that the writer doesn’t feel he has to pretend that he’s happy (vv 1-2). Not only does he tell God how he’s feeling, he even writes it down for other people to read! Sorrow, pain and frustration are normal feelings to have when things happen that hurt us. God knows this. The Bible even says he has some of those feelings himself! While we may be unsure about how others will react to our feelings, God already knows how we feel, so there’s no point trying to hide it from him. It isn’t sin to feel anger or sadness.

Now that doesn’t mean we should start throwing things, but it’s good to honestly verbalize our negative emotions, and the psalms can even provide us with words to help us express what we’re feeling. It’s wise to let Scripture shape our conversations with God.

Additionally, the writer has been in his present difficulties for some time. The hard times we go through are often not brief. When we have sorrow or pain or frustration that hangs on for longer than we think it should, it’s tempting to think that something must be wrong with us. We assume that doesn’t happen to normal people, especially normal Christians. But this poet feels as though God might not even be listening to him (vv 3-4). He has no clue why God isn’t answering his prayer.

Not only is it normal to go through hard times, it’s even normal for those times to extend much longer than we want them to, and even for God to seem silent. When we have no idea why God is allowing us

to suffer and he seems distant, the best thing we can say to him is that we have no idea why he’s allowing us to suffer and that he seems distant – just tell him how we feel.

Second, hardship provides a great opportunity to refocus our hope. It’s surprising how this psalm ends (vv 5-6). The writer has admitted that he has felt terrible for some time. He hasn’t heard from God and doesn’t feel close to him. But that’s no reason to stop trusting him. God has proven to the poet that he is good, and that isn’t going to change.

As Christians, we have even more reason to be confident about God’s goodness than the writer of this psalm did. Whatever we have to face, and regardless of how long we have to face it, our greatest hope is in being united with Christ for eternity. That’s when we know our sorrow and sadness will finally be taken away.

If our circumstances begin to brighten, and our COVID frustrations, fears and fatigue begin to diminish, we can celebrate God’s mercy and kindness to us. Every instance of healing and flourishing is a token of the salvation God has in store for his people and rightly fuels our hope. But we also do well to maintain perspective.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it should be that the pleasures of this life are unreliable. The biblical advice to store treasures in heaven instead of here on earth (Matthew 6:19-20) has never seemed more astute. That’s why, along with any renewed optimism about our near future, we must be wary of the temptation to place our hope in a comfortable earthly life. This is like chasing a mirage and will end in disillusionment (Luke 9:24).

Instead, it makes more sense to set our sights on the realities of heaven more than on the things of earth, as Paul instructs (Colossians 3:1-4). That will lead us to a priceless inheritance that will never diminish (1 Peter 1:4), better than we can even imagine (1 Corinthians 2:9).

For followers of Christ, pain still hurts, grief is still sad, confusion is still complicated. But we don’t have to pretend. We can and should tell God all about it, honestly. And we can refocus our attention on what really matters – that God has promised amazing things to those who trust in Christ. And he will keep all his promises in his time.

Every instance
of healing and
flourishing is a token
of the salvation God
has in store.



Dr. Doug Nykolaishen, professor of biblical studies, has taught in Ouachita’s Pruet School of Christian Studies since 2003. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, his M.Div. and M.A. degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and his B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan.

OUACHITA LAUNCHES GRADUATE DIETETIC INTERNSHIP

during pandemic

By Rachel Gaddis, editorial coordinator

To say you started anything new in 2020 would, well, raise eyebrows – especially launching something as involved and hands-on as an academic program including clinical healthcare. But that’s exactly what Ouachita did during the 2020-2021 academic year, launching its first graduate programs in more than 20 years. The new programs are producing quick fruit, with seven students earning Ouachita’s first-ever post-baccalaureate certificate for dietetic internships in May 2021. (The first cohort of applied behavior analysis master’s degree students will graduate in August 2021.)

“Ten years ago, the placement rate for nutrition & dietetics students in a post-graduate internship was only about 50% nationwide; there was a shortage of internships,” said Dr. Detri Brech, Ouachita’s Charles S. and Elma Grey Goodwin Holt Professor of Dietetics and Pre-Medical Studies and chair of the Department of Nutrition & Dietetics. “Seeing the need is what led us on the road we are now. We used to have students who couldn’t be placed in an internship due to a lack of spots. We saw that and talked many times about how we knew this was something that Ouachita could provide.”

Following additional market research that reflected a growing nationwide need for registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs), Ouachita set a goal for launching the post-baccalaureate Dietetic Internship program in August 2020. The department moved quickly to hire Holly Kyzer, a 2000 Ouachita graduate, to serve as instructor and director of the new program and complete the process for gaining accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

“We are reaching students all over the U.S. and providing a seamless education from incoming freshmen to entry-level registered dietitian nutritionists entering the workforce,” Brech said. “We are meeting a demand by providing this program.”

Ouachita’s Dietetic Internship offers students 18 hours of academic credit – more than any program like it in the state of Arkansas – combining on-campus and online coursework, 1,200 hours of clinical practice and one-, two- and three-week rotations among more than 35 sites of students’ choice in locations across the state. And students also complete the program in only nine months.

“Nutrition is one of those fields where you can help people prevent and deal with a condition or disease that they have, and it might be a better option than prescription medications,” Kyzer explained. “And, you can go into any area you are interested in: sports nutrition, pediatric nutrition, diabetes, obesity, weight loss, marketing and social media, eating disorders, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, research. You find that niche that you like, and you can basically create your own job.”

I feel confident and ready for a career as a registered dietitian.

– Shelby Kraft

Ouachita’s program divided the required supervised practice hours into three different types of sites – clinical, community and administrative (or food service) sites so that students see the diversity of options available for their career. More than 120 preceptors have signed on to serve as supervisors for Ouachita students, and new preceptors are added to meet students’ interests, building the database of options for future students to experience, as well.

“This program provided hands-on experience in all different aspects of nutrition,” said Shelby Kraft, a 2021 dietetic internship graduate from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. “I feel confident and ready for a career as a registered dietitian.”

“Shelby told me in her first two-week rotation, ‘I learned more in my first two weeks than my entire undergraduate experience,’ Kyzer said. “We had a great year, despite COVID-19, because the majority of our rotations were still in-person, not virtual, while most of the country was shut down.”

Kyzer said their team was pleasantly surprised “to find sites and preceptors open to working with students,” even amid the pandemic. Many preceptors also happened to be Ouachita alumni who “stepped up and were more than willing to go above and beyond to help our students,” she said. Students trained one-on-one under preceptors in areas ranging from cardiology, oncology/critical care and pediatric research to the Health Department, Head Start and sports nutrition.

As an in-demand healthcare career, nutrition & dietetics requires – and will continue to require – necessary training and advanced degrees. Before graduating from Ouachita with a major in biology and minor in chemistry, Kyzer took an elective course in nutrition and loved it. She returned to complete the requirements to qualify for a dietetic internship.

“In order to become a registered dietitian (RD), you have to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition & dietetics or a related field and complete an internship before you can sit for the RD exam,” Kyzer said. “And in January of 2024, a new requirement will be to have a master’s degree along with the internship in order to sit for the RD exam.”

On the heels of this year’s promising launch of the Dietetic Internship, Ouachita began working toward expanding to offer the full Master of Science degree in nutrition & dietetics and currently is pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission. A graduate program in education also is expected to be approved by the HLC for 2022.

Kyzer said she is excited for Ouachita’s Department of Nutrition & Dietetics to be “a one-stop shop” for students seeking to be RDs.

“As a student, you can fall in love with Ouachita, earn your bachelor’s degree in nutrition & dietetics, pursue the internship and stay on this beloved campus,” she said. For those with some concurrent credits, “Within four to five years they can have their bachelor’s, internship and a master’s (elsewhere or, hopefully, from here) and be ready to sit for the RD exam.”

It promises to be a bright future for the department, but they also are taking time to give thanks for the feats achieved in this unusual year.

“I will always remember this group of students because of how they dealt with this in a pandemic. Things were always changing,” Kyzer noted. “Our students all came through it with remarkable grace and good attitudes.

“Year one is done,” she said, laughing. “Who knew we were this tough?”



GIVING THANKS FOR NEARLY A QUARTER OF A MILLENNIUM OF SERVICE

In May, the Ouachita community gathered to honor 10 retiring faculty and staff members who have served at the university for a total of 240 years. A few moments on stage and words of recognition can't begin to accurately reflect the innumerable lives these devoted Ouachitonians have touched or the lasting difference they have made on the institution. Included here are a few of the remarks shared by the supervisors of the five who were awarded emeritus status by the Board of Trustees.



Dr. Danny Hays

Served 29 years

Professor of Biblical Studies and Dean of the Pruett School of Christian Studies Emeritus

"A prolific writer, Danny has published 16 books, including *Grasping God's Word*, the textbook he coauthored with his good friend, Scott Duvall, a book that's used in college and seminary classrooms literally around the world. There's no question that he's had a profound influence on countless young men and women seeking to know God's will and prepare for service to the kingdom. Since Danny stepped into the Dean's role in 2007, he's worked to maintain and build on the school's reputation. His colleagues describe him as truly collaborative, and they credit his generosity and his sense of humor for the strong sense of collegiality they share."

-Dr. Stan Poole, Vice President for Academic Affairs



Ian Cosh

Served 33 years

Vice President for Community and International Engagement Emeritus

"Ian grew up in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, and came as an international student of Ouachita, graduating in 1987, and he has worked here since 1988. For 33 years, Ian has served and led Ouachita in three areas that also define him: spiritual growth of students, community service for students and international education for students. He has done so with effectiveness, excellence and distinction. Whatever the situation, from planning for the future, to responding to a current challenge, Ian has been a trusted and wise partner, with the commitment to honor the Lord, to serve students, to advance Ouachita."

-Dr. Ben Sells, President



Dr. Dave Ozmun

Served 34 years

Professor Emeritus of Communications

"We became a true department of communications when Dave Ozmun joined the faculty in 1987. I think there may have been one video camera in the department before Dave got here, but I don't believe anybody knew how to use it. Dave really created the curriculum, bought the equipment, set up our studio and made all of the video work that we do at Ouachita now possible. It all stems from Dave Ozmun's presence here on campus. It's been a joy to work with Dave and a joy for the department to grow under his leadership."

-Dr. Jeff Root, Dean of the School of Humanities



Dr. Steve Hennagin

Served 36 years

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics

"There are several things I can tell you about Steve: he is one of the most steadfast-in-his-faith people I know; he is consistent; he has a great eye for detail; and he has never come in my office and complained. I'm sure Steve has good days and bad days, but you don't know it. Good attitudes are contagious, and I appreciate that. There are students who love Steve and come back and see him. I have no doubt those conversations start with, 'I didn't do well in your algebra class,' but I think they ended up about family and faith. We're better off because Steve was here."

-Dr. Tim Knight, Dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences



Dr. Ray Granade

Served 50 years

*Professor of History and Director
of Library Services Emeritus*

“In his 50 years at Ouachita, Ray Granade has served under five of Ouachita’s 16 presidents. His tenure represents well over one-third of the university’s entire history. As a teacher, scholar, mentor and administrator, Ray has left a deep imprint on Ouachita’s academic culture and on the lives of many students and colleagues. Initially, he was hired to develop the academic skills program and teach courses in history. Ray transitioned to full-time teaching and took leadership of the library in 1983. He worked to transform the library, leading a major renovation and expansion of the building in 1987. By every measure of academic quality and patron service, the library has grown under his leadership. Ray led these changes while continuing to be an active historian. It’s been my privilege to observe how effectively he has brought together his many roles and responsibilities as he lives out his sense of Christian calling.”

-Dr. Stan Poole, Vice President for Academic Affairs



Sue Shults

Served 9 years

*Retiring as Lecturer of Education,
Director of Student Teaching and Student
Licensure Officer, School of Education*



Brenda Gorman

Served 18 years

Retiring from Facilities Management



Martha Womack

Served 21 years

*Retiring as Administrative Assistant,
Campus Ministries*



Donna Reynolds

Served 22 years

*Retiring as Director, Foster
Grandparents Program*



Phillip Easley

Served 38 years

Retiring from Facilities Management

DR. RAY GRANADE ON 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

I had decided to be a mechanical engineer in high school in Alabama. God called me to teach college history. From then on, I watched him draw straight with crooked lines. I finished grad school ABD in a lack luster market. A last-minute phone call from a place of which I'd never heard ended with a visit, an interview and the job. It felt like the Abraham story, for we left all we knew and crossed the Mississippi River to an unknown place on September 7, 1971.

I watched the school demolish 52 buildings, renovate ours, repurpose six others and build 31 new. I've had three “careers,” starting Academic Skills, teaching history and being director of the library longer than three of the people who now work in there have been alive. We enlarged and renovated the library and changed it to meet our patrons' needs and usage patterns; we professionalized the staff; and we kept pace with technological advances to provide digital access to materials.

It's been a remarkable – and in some ways enchanting – place in which to live and rear our two children and to which we welcome our grandchildren. Here, God blessed us by providing wonderful people with whom to work, people willing to share their lives as our work together touched lives around us. Those people have made it possible for me to get up each morning and think, “I get to go to work.” It is a place in which I've tried to be faithful to God's calling and in which I've always found him faithful, even if he does wait to the last minute.

“Ouachita won't be the same without you. We thank the Lord, and we thank you for coming to Ouachita, and for staying at Ouachita.” – Dr. Ben Sells, president



photos by Abby Blankenship & Hannah Adamson

LEADING AND LEARNING IN A PANDEMIC YEAR – AND BEYOND

By Anna Roussel

Navigating college always has its unique challenges, but doing so in the midst of a global pandemic is a feat that seemed nearly impossible a year ago. When we left campus suddenly in March of 2020, the uncertainty surrounding my college career was enough to literally move me to tears. I had spent my entire life hearing family members and friends tell stories of their time at Ouachita and longing for the day I was on campus, and I did not want to come to terms with my time being cut short. However, in the middle of the chaos, I could still see just how incredible the Ouachita community is.

This past school year, I served as vice president of the Ouachita Student Foundation (OSF) and will have the honor to serve as president for 2021-2022. Because of my leadership role, I was able to serve on President's Leadership Circle (PLC). This newly established group of 165 students enjoyed a direct line of communication with Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita's president, to make suggestions for how the school could navigate the current situation and be informed and encouraged as leaders of our respective groups. Having that firsthand experience is something we will all value going into our careers.

“Students took on the changes with a grace and maturity people often think young adults lack.”

I heard friends from other schools longing for administrators who truly cared about their well-being. I can say without a doubt that the leaders at our school genuinely cared about how each student was handling the new and changing atmosphere. Waking up every morning to an email from my university president containing Scripture from his personal quiet times and prayers for us as student leaders provided a reassurance I wish all college students could have experienced this year. Dr. Sells provided encouragement during a time when everyone was predicting our failure as a student body to combat COVID-19, and the faith

he and the rest of the Ouachita community had in us provided motivation to accomplish extraordinary things.

Entering this year, my biggest source of stress personally was figuring out how OSF would raise any significant amount of money for scholarships without our premier event, Tiger Tunes. We set our fundraising goal for our adjusted event, Tiger Tunes REWIND, at \$10,000 with the thought that not many would contribute large amounts of money to a livestream of recycled Tunes shows. We underestimated the dedication and love of the Ouachita community.

As we sat on the lawn of Cone-Bottoms that night refreshing the donation webpage on our phones, OSF's leadership team was moved to tears as we watched thousands of dollars pour in. By the end of the two-hour event, over \$60,000 had been raised to help our peers complete their degrees at Ouachita. Sitting outside at our first campus-wide event of the year, while honoring one of our school's most sacred traditions, was the moment I knew we would make it through the year.

While creating a semi-normal social atmosphere was a high priority this year, we also saw the sacrifice so many were making to ensure we could receive an in-person education. Many of my professors were at an age that put them in the high-risk category, so the simple act of showing up each day to teach us was a reminder of how well they love their students.

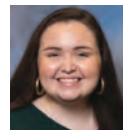
I've never seen a group of people adapt to a new environment as quickly and diligently as the professors at Ouachita. Dr. Deborah Root worked to give our yearbook staff all of the tools we needed to successfully create a beautiful yearbook, and we submitted all of our pages in record time. Dr. Kevin Brennan provided our Model UN team with the resources and encouragement for an incredible learning experience at our simulation, even if it was fully online, resulting in the most awards Ouachita's delegation has ever won at a single conference. The examples are endless. Ouachita students were in the very best hands.

When people ask me why I think Ouachita was so successful compared to other universities in the nation, I think Dr. Sells described it best in saying, "when we could've panicked, we persevered." Ouachita endured a pandemic, cyber attack, hurricane, snow storm and every other obstacle a student normally faces in their college years. Our community was determined to make an

in-person experience happen. With every new development in combatting COVID-19, students took on the changes with a grace and maturity people often think young adults lack.

As I think about returning to campus for the next year, I'm hopeful not only for the return of valued traditions but also because of the character we've displayed through the challenges of this year. I look forward to welcoming people into JPAC for Tiger Tunes and professors seeing their students smile again. My younger friends will finally experience Ouachita at her best. My class, the rising seniors, will be the only students at Ouachita who have experienced a full, normal school year here. I am confident we are up to the task of leading our student body out of a pandemic world.

I felt I caught a glimpse of how this will feel at our campus-wide end-of-year celebration. As I looked around and saw almost the entire school laughing, playing on bounce houses and enjoying an outdoor picnic with no masks, I looked to my friends and said, "This is what Ouachita should have been like all year." Yet, in hindsight, I do not think we would have appreciated the event as much if we hadn't endured the trials of the previous year. We were forced to make hard decisions and sometimes live in discomfort, but it was because of this I've gained an even better grasp on the beauty of the Ouachita community. I've grown up hearing Ouachitians talk about how there was just "something special" about this university, and I'm not sure there is any better way to prove it than surviving and thriving together through a global pandemic.



Anna Roussel is a rising senior communications & media strategic communications and political science double major from Searcy, Ark. She will serve as yearbook co-editor and OSF president in 2021-2022.



EQUIPPING LEADERS:

WORSHIP ARTS PROGRAM COMBINES HANDS-ON MUSIC EXPERIENCE WITH THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

By Rachel Gaddis, editorial coordinator

With its strong history of producing worship leaders who serve in well-known churches in Arkansas, Texas and beyond, Ouachita's School of Fine Arts has been on the radar of local churches for decades. And as the ministry of worship continues to change, the preparation Ouachita offers also is shifting to equip rising worship leaders.

"Being proficient in music is not enough," said Larry Grayson, chair of the Department of Worship Arts and instructor of music. "You have to be good at it, but it's not enough. Students have to be willing to be equipped for ministry. It is crucial for today's worship leader to be a sound theologian. If you come to Ouachita as a gifted high school worship leader and you leave the same, we've failed at our job. We want to equip you musically, spiritually and as a leader to serve the local church."

Grayson, a 1975 Ouachita alumnus, joined the faculty in the spring of 2020. He previously had served as an adjunct instructor at Ouachita before retiring as the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's (ABSC) music and worship consultant. Prior to his decade of service at the ABSC, Grayson served churches in Alabama, Arkansas, South Carolina and Texas, including leading worship choir, orchestra, contemporary worship and student choirs and engaging in mission trips across the U.S.

Grayson explained the approach Ouachita's Department of Worship Arts is taking, which includes equipping students with a theology of worship, training them in ministry skills such as teamwork and budgeting and encouraging them in their own spiritual growth that shapes their hearts for ministry.

Of course, a lot of time also is dedicated to providing students with practical, broad experiences leading worship. The musical

skills training is diverse and extensive, including classes such as Applied Voice, Directing the Rhythm Section, Songwriting, Guitar, Keyboard, Conducting and more.

"If I had to count the number of people who thought they would never have to experience leading a choir, I would be in hot water right now," Grayson said, grinning. "Worship-leading choirs are still very vibrant and alive in the church today, as well as praise teams and bands.

"I tell students: we are training you to serve in any church, any size, any place," he added. "I'm hoping we can take opinions, styles and tastes out of it and prepare students to go where God wants them to go. How can you know what God has planned for you – which may be incredibly different than what you have in mind – if you're training for something narrow?"

We want to equip you musically, spiritually and as a leader to serve the local church. – Larry Grayson

To maximize worship arts students' practical experiences, a recent addition to the curriculum is Worship Practicum, which allows students to share their ideas with each other and take turns leading one another.



For Cloe Humphry, a senior worship arts major from Benton, Ark., who felt called to ministry as a junior in high school, Worship Practicum has been one of her favorite classes.

“Worship Practicum is a time where all of the worship arts majors come together every Thursday,” she said. “Guest speakers will visit us in person or talk to us via Zoom. One guest came to show us how to play a Nord keyboard. Other times, we will take turns leading the class in worship, while other times we have band rehearsals so that we can have practical, hands-on experience in front of a band.”

Worship arts students also are required to complete a 150-hour internship, which 2021 graduate Andrew Coop said “has already proven invaluable.”

“More than 18 months after I finished my internship, I found myself using the same knowledge that I gained from that experience,” said Coop, who hails from Liberty City, Texas. “Seeing how things I learned in the past come into play in different areas down the road is a neat experience.”

Looking back on his time as a worship arts major at Ouachita, Coop reflected that he became “much more well-rounded and now possess tools that will continue to stretch and grow me in whatever God calls me to do.”

“I was sharpened in some musical skills I had a loose grasp on coming in,” Coop explained. “I also learned how to use technological tools (which were completely new to me) that I can employ in future ministry situations. I also was presented with issues that arise in the church, which challenged me and therefore improved my ability to respond.”

Another opportunity worship arts students are excited about is Ouachita Worship, the student worship band formed in 2018 to lead worship during Ouachita’s weekly Chapel gatherings. While students have led worship at chapel for decades, this audition-only group has formalized the process, seeking to parallel the professional worship leader training they receive in class. Ouachita Worship has three rotating student teams, is available to travel to lead worship at churches in the region and even composes songs. In January, they released their first original song, “Holy Fire,” to Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube, gaining nearly 30,000 views and streams.

“Ouachita Worship is a fantastic opportunity for students and has only grown stronger and better because of the experiences they’ve had together,” Grayson said. “Churches benefit, but our students do, as well. That’s really important.”

The Department of Worship Arts has even more plans to continue adapting its degree to become increasingly practical and relevant to both students and churches.

“To stay current and relevant with our approach of instructing potential worship leaders, the faculty is working on revisions to our current worship arts degree and are close to promoting a new and exciting curriculum in the future,” said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of the School of Fine Arts. “I’m grateful to Larry – and to Dr. Rob Hewell, our former worship arts chair, now director of Ouachita Online, who brought us to where we are today – and to our faculty and alumni who have offered outstanding feedback and insights.”

Grayson insists that even as curriculums or degree requirements evolve, Ouachita’s personal approach to higher education won’t change.

“Our relationships with one another, the hands-on attention ... that’s different at Ouachita,” he said. “As long as God lets me live, I’m going to stick with you for life and be your biggest supporter as you walk through your ministry. We all feel that way, and I believe that makes us different.”



WATCH OUACHITA WORSHIP AT
[youtube.com/ouachita](https://www.youtube.com/ouachita)



photo by Sarah Dean



photo by Hannah Adamson



photo by Hannah Adamson



FEED ARKADELPHIA SEEKS TO ADDRESS HUNGER, REDUCE WASTE, REACH HEARTS

By Mandy Halbert

As a senior in high school, Reanna Johnson first realized her passion for ending hunger through her volunteer work with a local food pantry. After getting plugged in to Ouachita's Elrod Center for Family and Community freshman year and gaining support across campus, she knew she wanted to build a way to make a tangible impact in Arkadelphia.

Now a rising senior at Ouachita, she has created Feed Arkadelphia, a program similar to Meals on Wheels that partners with Ouachita's food service provider, Sodexo, to redistribute Ouachita's unused cafeteria food to families in need in the Arkadelphia community.

"Universities alone waste 1.6 million tons of food annually," Johnson said. "In 2019, 20% of people in Arkadelphia struggled with food insecurity."

During her work with the Elrod Center freshman year, she saw this firsthand.

"On Wednesdays, I'd help pass out food to people, and I got to hear a lot of their stories," said Johnson, a psychology and social justice studies double major from Rio Vista, Texas. "I also saw a lot of people that I actually knew. Seeing how a lot of them were affected by hunger and food insecurity made me realize how relevant the problem was."

It's not just giving them a box of food.
It's making lasting relationships, being
there for them, praying for them.

– Reanna Johnson

"That's what started making me want to do something about it," she added. "Anyone is capable of making a difference. You've just got to try."

Johnson began to develop the idea for Feed Arkadelphia with the Elrod Center freshman year. While the idea initially seemed improbable due to logistical challenges, Johnson applied for a Kluck Service Enrichment Grant – university grants awarded to enhance student programs – and the Elrod Center connected her with an Arkadelphia family they knew was in need of help.

"My roommate and I cooked meals and bought a few groceries for that family," Johnson said. "When I would go to the family's house, if they needed me to, I would babysit the kids. I got to see these kids live in dire conditions that I felt were unacceptable."

Because the family struggled to make ends meet, their dinners often consisted of just a piece of bread and a slice of lunch meat.

"I remember one time when I was babysitting the kids, they asked me if we could eat," Johnson said. "I looked in their cupboards to see what I could make. All they had was cereal, but no milk. Even though I was helping that one family once a week, it wasn't enough. It made me want to do more. I realized that more people were struggling with the same problem."

Johnson discussed the idea of Feed Arkadelphia with her advisor, Dr. Myra Houser, assistant professor of history and coordinator of Ouachita's Social Justice Studies Program.

"I work with a lot of students who have ideas about social change and programs such as Feed Arkadelphia that can really help people materially, but it is pretty rare for folks to have as much drive as Reanna has to actually implement, grow and sustain a program like this," Houser said. "I think that her involvement speaks to her big heart, her ability to be practically-minded and her work ethic. She has all of those in droves, and she carries an amazing, joyful spirit with her as she does."

Johnson then presented Feed Arkadelphia to Sodexo in 2019. Sodexo not only agreed to help but also hired Johnson to their marketing team and for part-time work in the Ouachita Commons. Additionally, Feed Arkadelphia was incorporated into Sodexo's "Stop Hunger" campaign.

Feed Arkadelphia officially launched in February 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic. When Ouachita returned to fully residential learning for the 2020-2021 academic year, the program really took off. Every Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m., Johnson and anywhere from 12 to 25 Ouachita student and Sodexo volunteers assembled up to 85 meals from the Ouachita Commons' unused food. The volunteers then delivered the meals to 30 families within the community.

"The mission of the Elrod Center is to engage with the community in areas where the energy of our students and the resources of our campus can be brought together in a mutually beneficial way," said Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement emeritus. "The Feed Arkadelphia program is an excellent example of how we harness the human talent and material resources of the university to address a specific need."

The program has since been awarded another Kluck Service Enrichment grant that allows it to include additional purchased food items with the meals. Johnson also has been recognized with a national Experience Matters award from Sodexo and the Ray of Light Award from the Sunrise Rotary Club of Arkadelphia.

"It really is a group collaboration," Johnson said. "I am very honored, but this is not a one-man show."

"Reanna puts in an extraordinary amount of effort each day and goes above and beyond for our students and community," said Kari Ledford, Sodexo's retail and marketing manager at Ouachita.

"This has led to a lot of attention from other Sodexo-supported universities across the nation inquiring about the process and start up," Ledford added. "We are proud of her for stepping up and being an advocate for families and educating our community on the effects that hunger can cause within the body and also mental health and education."

Johnson and the other students who serve with the program have learned that it's about more than simply providing a meal.

"You get to make relationships with these families," Johnson said. "It's not just giving them a box of food. It's getting to love on people. It's making lasting relationships, being there for them, praying for them. You get to connect with someone."

For Tehya Hinkson, a senior studio art and education double major from Benton, Ark., serving as a volunteer through Feed Arkadelphia "is an amazing opportunity to give back to this community that gives so much to us. ... We can give back to them and let them

have a little easier and better week. There is nothing better than arriving at their homes and seeing the smiles on their faces."

"I love to be a volunteer of Feed Arkadelphia," said Molly Mai Borneman, a senior Christian studies/Christian ministries and missions double major from Greenfield, Tenn. She said the direct impact and relationships she has built with those she serves has been a highlight. "It's the simple connections like that that make such an impact, and that's why I love it."

Following her graduation this coming December, Johnson hopes to work full-time with a nonprofit and dreams of one day starting a nonprofit of her own.

"I hope to keep motivating people to know that they can make a difference," Johnson said. "The world might seem too broken sometimes, but even the smallest act of kindness can make a difference."



Mandy Halbert is a 2021 graduate from Allen, Texas, with majors in communications & media/multimedia journalism and graphic design.

FEED ARKADELPHIA

— provided up to —

85 MEALS TO 30 FAMILIES

weekly this school year



Rachel (Waggener) Pool ('07)

Associate Professor of Education

By Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations

When Dr. Rachel Pool stepped onto Ouachita's campus for Super Summer in high school, she fell in love. Not with a boy from another Arkansas town – she was in love with Ouachita.

“I was looking for a small, Christ-centered university where I could make quality Christian friendships, and I found that at Ouachita,” Pool said.

After graduation, Pool moved back to her hometown of West Memphis to teach high school algebra and later taught at McNair Middle School in Fayetteville, Ark., and Benton Junior High School in Benton, Ark. Since graduating from Ouachita, she earned her National Board Certification, a Master of Science in Education degree in educational theory and practice, an Educational Specialist degree in educational leadership and a Doctor of Education degree in higher education/faculty leadership. In 2011, she was hired to return to Ouachita to teach future educators and was voted Ouachita's Most Inspirational Professor in 2018.

“I love to watch Rachel Pool teach. She has an electric presence that infuses the entire room and everyone in it with energy,” said Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the Huckabee School of Education. “She encourages vocal participation, but you also see the definition of active listening.

“She engages her students from the moment class starts until the end,” Root continued. “None of the energy is wasted. Every movement and voice inflection has a purpose. Dr. Pool has mastered the science of preparation and the art of presentation.”

Pool began building her approach for teaching while an honors student at Ouachita, researching Jesus as the Master Teacher for her senior honors thesis.

“My passion has been to study the life of Jesus as the Master Teacher and to analyze his teaching methods and strategies,” Pool said. “I even had the opportunity to go to Israel to walk where Jesus walked and see His ‘classroom.’ I am so blessed to serve at Ouachita, helping future teachers along their journey.”

She found that Jesus is referred to as “teacher” 45 times in the Bible, and she described 19 characteristics He exemplified as a master teacher. She wrote, “Jesus explained lessons clearly by providing the ‘whys’ behind each statement. His audience was able to grasp the cause-and-effect relationships His message described, giving it meaning, significance and comprehension.”

Pool said her work at Ouachita and the work she prepares students for is a calling and a ministry.

“Jesus stated in John 17:4: ‘I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do,’” she said. “My amazing professors at Ouachita helped me realize that with each day and with each school year, I should be using my calling to reach and minister to the students God has placed in my life. That is true of my work here at Ouachita, too, as I prepare students to step into classrooms of their own.”

Dr. Pool lives in Benton, Ark., with her husband, Jim, and their son, Caleb.

“With each school year, I should be using my calling to minister to the students.”



Rickey Rogers ('02)

Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life

Lydia (Gutierrez) Rogers ('02)

Senior Woman Administrator and Director of Athletic Compliance

By Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations

Rickey and Lydia Rogers have developed more than 20 years of history at Ouachita, in part due to simple geography. With Rickey recruited to play football from six hours away in Mississippi and Lydia coming from six hours away in Texas, Ouachita and Arkadelphia were right in the middle – which made attending college and settling after graduation here between their families a perfect fit.

They've made their mark on campus in a variety of ways over the years, but always making a direct impact on students. Lydia previously taught Spanish and served as a resident director and now is senior woman administrator in the Department of Athletics and director of athletic compliance; she earned a B.A. in accounting from Ouachita in 2002. Rickey previously served as a football coach and resident director and now is dean of students and director of residence life. He earned a B.A. in physical education from Ouachita in 2002 and an M.S. in clinical mental health counseling from Henderson State University in 2012 and currently is pursuing a doctoral degree in higher education leadership and management from Regent University.

"Always learning, growing and improving would be my three words to describe Rickey Rogers and his work in student development," said Dr. Wesley Kluck, vice president for student development. "My other three words to describe him as a person are honest, fair and committed. It has been a true pleasure to have Rickey as a valuable team member over the past few years. I value his friendship and devotion to Christ, his family and to Ouachita."

"This year speaks volumes of the resiliency of Ouachita students."

Serving as dean of students can be a difficult role, but Rickey said he enjoys the challenge.

"I want students to walk away knowing I'm not out to get anyone," he said. "I want to be consistent, and I like my work most when a student leaves my office feeling I was fair. What I enjoy most, though, is interacting with students I wouldn't have seen in my previous roles on campus."

The Rogers credit many Ouachita faculty and staff for encouraging them during their time as students and seek to do the same in their roles on staff. Lydia said she enjoys "paying it forward" and getting to know student-athletes along their journey at Ouachita.

"Lydia Rogers has been a tremendous asset to Ouachita athletics," said David Sharp, director of athletics. "She has such a heart for working with our student-athletes and has commanded a great deal of respect both from students and our entire athletics staff."

"I tell myself I'm not going to get attached to these students; they're just going to graduate soon!" she said. "And then I get to know the students and their stories and become a part of their lives, and I love it. To see the transformation and growth in the lives of our student-athletes over their time here is so rewarding."

Both Rogers saw how the pandemic put extra strain on Ouachita students.

"I saw students go from straight A students to students who struggled to just focus," Lydia said. "I tried to show the students how to see the good and not the bad and let them know they weren't alone."

"I think this year speaks volumes of the resiliency of Ouachita students," Rickey added. "There are some unbelievably difficult situations that many students had to overcome to finish this year. I try to remember that although my environment seems to be entering some type of normalcy, there are many still trying to figure out what normal will look like after this year of difficulty."

Rickey and Lydia live in Arkadelphia with their children, Rickey Jr. ('24), Reyna ('25) and Ryan, and are active members of First Baptist Church Arkadelphia.

Stephany Quintero ('21)

**CHOSEN AMONG ELITE 2%
OF NATION'S ROTC GRADS**

By Mandy Halbert



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

Stephany Quintero has been passionate about serving as a member of the U.S. Army since her time in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at Arkadelphia High School. In her senior year of Ouachita's ROTC program, she was accepted to the U.S. Army's Educational Delay Program, an honor only 2% of cadets in the nation receive.

Quintero is one of 136 among 6,000 cadets chosen for the honor, which defers service years and allows cadets to further pursue their studies for medical or law degrees. Of those 136, Quintero is one of 23 who were selected for the law school option, which leads to competitive selection for the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps, the legal organization within the U.S. military.

"The Army's Educational Delay program is a highly selective process that goes through several boards, and for good reason," said Lt. Col. Kevin Moyer, professor of military science at Ouachita. "The Department of Defense is taking a financial gamble on a student by allowing them to delay their service commitment in pursuit of a specialized degree."

Quintero graduated from Ouachita *summa cum laude* in May as an accounting and finance double major, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and has been accepted to the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Bryan McKinney, dean of Ouachita's Hickingbotham School of Business, helped her prepare for the application process, and Quintero said he inspired her to pursue a career in law.

McKinney recalled his first meeting with Quintero as a high school student visiting campus: "She was dressed in her JROTC uniform. She took notes and asked great questions. I knew that she came from a supportive family, but I was impressed that she came alone. This was her journey – the first in her family to attend college – and she was ready to tackle it."

Meeting a former JAG officer helped Quintero make the connection between military service and law studies.

"I want to represent soldiers and help them with their troubles before they deploy, or if they seek legal counsel," Quintero said. "I want them to have peace of mind that their wills and contracts are safe as they make their way to dangerous areas. I just want to put the skills that I have to best use by being the best lawyer for soldiers and care for the U.S. in that way."

At Ouachita, Quintero led as the ROTC cadet company commander in Fall 2019 and as a resident assistant in Susie Everett Hall. She was consistently named to Ouachita's President's or Dean's Lists and was a member of the Carl Goodson Honors Program and Tri Chi women's social club.

"Stephany has the unique quality of being the type of leader who can balance emotional and mental intelligence," Moyer said. "Stephany's demeanor and compassion at such a young age is commensurate with effective military leaders today."

"It has been very hard, both mentally and physically," Quintero said, "but here I am demonstrating that it is possible to get it done."

The Johnson Family

A OUACHITA LEGACY FROM A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

By Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations

When you think of Tigers for Life, the Johnson family may have set a record – six Ouachita graduates in eight years, and one more headed for the stage in 2023. The Johnson family legacy began with Sally (Sullivan) Johnson, a 1954 graduate, and the Ouachita connections continued in the next generation. Sally's son, Jerry G. Johnson, didn't attend Ouachita but came to know the institution through his work and friendship with Ouachita alumnus and benefactor Frank Hickingbotham. Neither Sally nor Jerry could have guessed that all seven of Jerry's children would one day call Ouachita home.

Jerry and his wife, Buffie, split time between Arkansas and California for many years as part of Jerry's work. With so much travel, as well as their desire to be active in helping their children develop their personal faith, Buffie homeschooled the Johnson children. The Johnson's oldest daughter, Lacey, didn't attend college directly out of high school, but their second child, Cameron, began at Ouachita in 2009. Lacey followed the next year.

"Some of the younger kids thought they might go elsewhere, but landed at Ouachita based on the experiences of their older siblings, Ouachita's mission and their sense of God's direction for them personally," Jerry said.

Sally had found her way to Ouachita through church connections and later married her husband, Jerry E., while working at First Baptist Church of Lawton, Okla. Jerry E. went on to serve on staff at First Baptist Church Little Rock for 27 years.

"Mom was our introduction to Ouachita, but our exposure was expanded through OBU's connection to First Baptist Little Rock, as well as friends," Jerry G. said. "Mom loves the fact that seven of her grandchildren are fellow Tigers."

His daughters even lived in a dorm named for their grandmother's former boss. Sally had worked her way through college by serving as a secretary for Frances Crawford, who was Ouachita's registrar at the time and now is namesake of the freshman girls' residence hall.

As parents, Jerry and Buffie have seen many sides of the university through their children's seven different experiences.

"We have had two kids now in business, one in history and theater, one in music, two in the sciences (physics and chemistry) and one in Christian studies, and we have had exposure to other schools through double majors or emphases," Jerry said. "All have had successful and enjoyable journeys. As our older children pursued advanced degrees or careers, it was obvious their Ouachita education had well-prepared them for future endeavors."

He admitted that they were nervous how Ouachita would navigate the pandemic and sought reassurance that their children would be safe returning to campus.

"I was certainly impressed by the meticulous efforts Dr. Sells orchestrated to care for all OBU constituents in the pandemic and knew if any place would be successful, it was Ouachita," he said. "Dr. Sells confidently assured me they would make it to May. His confidence was not unfounded, but was rather based on his knowledge of the 600+ item action plan he and his team had implemented and were continuously adjusting and monitoring."

"His confidence was contagious to Buffie and me," Jerry continued. "In times of trial true character is revealed, and the strong character of Ouachita, its community and its leadership have been revealed through this pandemic."

"Ouachita has been great for us," he concluded. "We have enjoyed watching as God has directed, as Ouachita staff and faculty have nurtured and as our kids have endeavored to learn and accomplish what God has in store for them. It has been a wonderful joy to behold."



The Johnson family gathered for Sally's 90th birthday in May (left to right): Lauren ('16), Jessica ('23), Cameron ('13), Keeley ('19), Jerry E., Sally ('54), Lacey ('14), Jerry G., Buffie, Hamilton ('17) and Felicity ('20).

HALL OF FAMER DERRICK GRIMES NAMED SOFTBALL HEAD COACH

Arkansas Softball Hall of Famer Derrick Grimes was hired as head coach of Ouachita softball in January and led the team to its first winning season in over a decade.

With more than 20 years of coaching experience, Grimes has coached at the NJCAA, high school and travel ball levels. He has coached teams to five ASA/USA National Championships, eight top-three national finishes and 16 state titles, as well as five USSSA World Championships.

Grimes spent the past four years as an independent softball instructor in Little Rock and the past 24 years as head coach of Cole Minnows Softball, coaching more than 30 Minnows players who went on to receive college softball scholarships.

Additionally, Grimes spent 35 years as a North Little Rock firefighter and has served as a deacon at Highway Baptist Church and as a youth pastor at Steel Bridge Baptist Church. He earned a bachelor's degree in fire science and a master's degree in health and safety from Columbia Southern University and spent two years as a member of the Henderson State University baseball team.



photo by Thomas Donley

TIGER FOOTBALL READY FOR 2021 COMPETITION

Ouachita's football team is ready to defend their three consecutive GAC titles and will kick off the 2021 season at home on Sept. 2 against Oklahoma Baptist. Homecoming is scheduled for Oct. 2 against Northwestern Oklahoma State, and the regular season concludes with the Battle of the Ravine against Henderson State University (HSU) on Nov. 13 at Cliff Harris Stadium. Ouachita is 44-43-6 all-time against HSU after winning the last four rivalry games.

The Tigers enter the 2021 season having won 27 straight GAC games and four of the last five conference championships and are seeking to continue the second-longest active conference winning streak in all of Division II. See ticket information at obutigers.com.

photo by Levi Dade



photo courtesy of the GAC

WOMEN'S SOCCER WINS GAC TOURNAMENT

Ouachita's women's soccer team claimed their first GAC tournament title since 2014 on a 100th-minute goal from freshman Frankie Nine, her first career goal. The No. 2 seed Tigers beat the No. 1 seed Oklahoma Baptist University Bison on their home turf in Shawnee, Okla.

Ouachita created some danger early in the second half, forcing Bison goalie Mia Pendleton to make four of the first five saves of the half. Tiger goalie Michele Snow stood tall, making five saves in regulation. The Bison outshot the Tigers 20-8 in regulation. Ouachita turned the tide in extra time, outshooting the Bison 6-2, with all six of those overtime shots on goal. Pendleton saved the first five, but with 57 seconds remaining in the first overtime period, Nine went top right for the game winner.

Tiger junior Jaymee Dotson earned Tournament MVP honors. She scored the winning goal against Southern Nazarene in the semifinals. Snow, Meagan North, Erica Gaddie and Ashlyn Lynch joined Dotson on the All-Tournament Team.

The Tigers did not allow a single goal in the tournament, the first team since the 2014 Ouachita team to achieve that tournament feat.

FALL 2021 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT
SEPT. 2	6 p.m.	Oklahoma Baptist University
SEPT. 11	1 p.m.	Southern Nazarene University
SEPT. 18	6 p.m.	Arkansas Tech University
SEPT. 25	6 p.m.	Harding University
OCT. 2*	12 noon	Northwestern Oklahoma State U.
OCT. 9	2 p.m.	Southwestern Oklahoma State U.
OCT. 16	2 p.m.	University of Arkansas – Monticello
OCT. 23	1 p.m.	Southern Arkansas University
OCT. 30	2 p.m.	East Central University
NOV. 6	1 p.m.	Southeastern Oklahoma State U.
NOV. 13	1 p.m.	Henderson State University

HOME GAMES IN GOLD. // *DENOTES HOMECOMING

LOUIS STEEN AND MADISON MILLER ACHIEVE GRAND SLAM GLORY

Tiger baseball's Louis Steen and softball's Madison Miller both accomplished an incredibly rare feat this spring; both players hit two grand slams in the same game. Only 13 players in the history of Major League Baseball have hit two grand slams in the same game.

Steen hit his slams April 10 in an 11-9 come-from-behind victory at University of Arkansas at Monticello, the second of which put the Tigers on top as part of a six-run ninth-inning rally. Miller's blasts came in back-to-back innings against East Central University as Ouachita erased a 3-0 deficit to win 12-3. Her second grand slam ended the game by incurring the mercy rule.



WOMEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO GAC TOURNAMENT

Ouachita's women's tennis team made its first GAC tournament appearance this spring since 2017, following the team's first GAC match victory since 2013. The No. 6 seed Tigers lost in the quarterfinals to No. 3 seed Arkansas Tech.

In the regular season win over Oklahoma Baptist University, the Tigers swept the doubles point and picked up singles wins from Austynn Crocker, Shelly Davilus, Clarisa Valenzuela and Olivia Gaston. In doubles, Crocker and Makeilah Turner picked up a 6-4 win, Davilus and Taylor Hansard won 6-2 and Valenzuela and Gaston cruised to a 6-1 win. Crocker improved to 5-5 on the year with her fourth straight singles victory. Valenzuela's win was her third in the previous four matches. Gaston ran her record to 3-3 on the year. Davilus picked up her first win of the season.



CLASS NOTES

connecting the circle

1960s

Rick Endsley ('69) retired after 30 years of service at the Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Control (ATC). He now works as a contractor with SAIC and as an ATC instructor at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

financial officer and vice president of finance and administration.

Dr. Corey Gilbert ('97) released his new book, *Going Beyond 'The Talk!' A Teen and Preteen's Guide Empowering You to Make Choices about Sexuality and Gender from a Biblical Sexual Ethic*, a follow-up to his 2019 book and workbook for parents, *I Can't Say That!*.



Paul Lowe ('01) was promoted by Simmons Bank as the metro division president for Little Rock, Memphis and Nashville. Paul previously led Simmons Bank's Central Arkansas Division as market president.

Ashley (Reddick '05) Eppers teaches fourth grade at Trinity School of Houston in Houston, Texas. Her husband, Sean, has served for the last 18 years as a lead pastor and church planter.



1970s

Dr. Tommy Thomason ('71) retired from Texas Christian University after 35 years of teaching. He was named professor emeritus of journalism and director emeritus of the Texas Center for Community Journalism.



Nathan and Trevlyn (Merritt) Nipper ('99) reside in North Richland Hills, Texas, with their daughter, Finley (16), and two sons, Graham (14) and Heath (11). Trevlyn is assistant choir director at Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas. Nathan is a writer and producer for the Glen Beck radio and television programs.

2010s

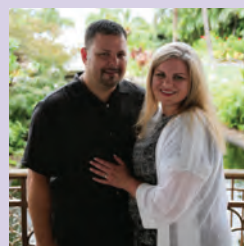
Sarah Berry ('10) married Ian Davis on March 21 in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. They reside in Little Rock.



Janet (Watson '74) and Mike Brewer ('72) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2020 with a family party and a friend drive-by.

2000s

Stephanie Allison ('00) married Michael Ferro on March 7, 2020. Stephanie is head choir director at Marshall High School in Marshall, Texas, and they reside in Longview, Texas.



Mikki (Gaines '12) Curtis was named to SWARK Today's "20 under 50" list in Arkansas' Hope and Hempstead counties. Mikki is dean of secondary programs at the University of Arkansas at Hope, where she supervises the Hope Collegiate Academy, the Arkansas High School Collegiate Academy and the Secondary Career and Technical Education Center.

1980s

Heidi (Brown '89) Helwig was awarded the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Meritorious Service award as part of its 2021 Administrator's Excellence Awards. She has worked at BPA for the past 15 years and currently serves as manager of public and community engagement. BPA is headquartered in Portland, Ore., and is a nonprofit federal power marketer.

1990s

Mark Conine ('97) was named president of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, a division of the state Department of Commerce. He previously served as chief



September 13, 2021
Chenal Country Club
OBU.EDU/FORE
benefiting student
scholarships

DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE TO SHARE?

SUBMIT TO ALUMNI@OBU.EDU OR ON THE WEBSITE AT OBU.EDU/ALUMNI/CLASSNOTES

Britta Stamps ('12) married Austin Todd on Nov. 28, 2020, in Kansas City, Mo. They reside in San Angelo, Texas, where Austin serves as a JAG officer in the United States Air Force and Britta practices law remotely with Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP.



Ally Lemos ('14) married Tyler Coday on June 20, 2020, in Tulare, Calif.



Sarah Cate ('14) married Alex Montgomery on Dec. 8, 2020. They reside in Houston, Texas, where Sarah works as a board-certified chaplain for a hospice company.

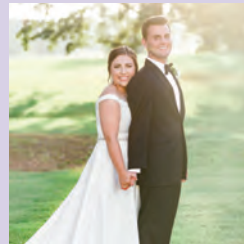
Claudia Brizuela ('16) married Guillermo Rivas on Oct. 3, 2020, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.



Kathryn King ('17) married Jeffrey Brantly on Sept. 6, 2020. They reside in Little Rock, Ark., where Kathryn is a registered nurse at Baptist Health Medical Center and Jeffrey is an account executive at James Green & Associates.



Tanner Thomas ('17) married Taylor Dooly ('17) on July 13, 2019. They reside in Little Rock, Ark., where Taylor is a second grade teacher at Sheridan Elementary and Tanner recently graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.



Hannah Bunch ('18) married Lemuel Reber on Feb. 6 at Houston's in Brookland, Ark. They reside in Bryant, Ark., where Hannah serves as deputy chief of staff and communications director for the Office of Lieutenant Governor Tim Griffin and Lemuel is a medical student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

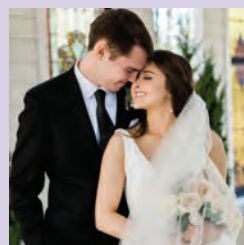


Rachel Dawson ('18) married Jonah Holden on March 21, 2020. They reside in Springdale, Ark.



..... 2020s

Trevor Craig ('20) married Grayson Hunter ('20) on Jan. 4, 2020.



..... Faculty

The late **Dr. Susan Wink**, professor emerita of English, authored *Ben Kimpel*, a biography of the longtime chairman of the English Department at the University of Arkansas. Wink was commissioned by the Porter Fund to write the biography of her former professor and mentor; the book is now available on Amazon.

FACULTY & STAFF

CHRIS BRUNE FEATURED AS EXPERT ON WALLETHUB.COM

Chris Brune, associate professor of finance and chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance, has been featured as an expert on WalletHub.com, recently providing advice on low interest credit cards. He is a 1994 Ouachita grad.

JOHAN ERIKSSON TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Johan Eriksson, a 2001 Ouachita grad, will return to the university as director of entrepreneurship in the Hickingbotham School of Business. He has 18 years of experience working organizational effectiveness, talent development and more for Walmart's corporate office, holds M.A. and M.B.A. degrees and is pursuing a doctoral degree.

CHRISTA NEAL TO SERVE AS TITLE IX COORDINATOR, COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM ADVISOR

Christa Neal, a 2008 Ouachita grad, will join the Ouachita staff as Title IX coordinator and program advisor for the Community & Family Services academic program. She'll oversee university efforts around sexual misconduct and reporting in addition to mentoring students. She has more than 10 years of experience in mental health and human services and is a licensed professional counselor and licensed family and marriage therapist.

TARA PRITCHARD NAMED SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Tara Pritchard, who has served as administrative assistant to the dean in the Sutton School of Social Sciences for 16 years, was named the 2020-2021 Support Staff Member of the Year. Dr. Randall Wight, social sciences dean, said Pritchard "exemplifies personal grace, bringing to her work clarity in what she sees, discernment in what she hears and the work ethic to frame solutions therein for the best interest of all who pass her way."

FUTURE TIGERS

1990s

Mark and Shannon (Atwood) Edds ('97) welcomed daughter Julia Diane on Jan. 19, 2020. She joins four big brothers, Jackson (17), Parker (12), Joshua (10) and Owen (3).



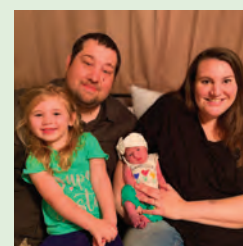
Samuel ('07) and Angela (Grossman '06) Coston welcomed son Ambrose Walter on Feb. 6, 2018. He joins big brothers Trent (8) and Moses (5). Angela is the founder and executive director of a non-profit, For the Sake of One, and Samuel is the assistant principal at New Boston Elementary School.



Kelly (Magee '11) Cates and her husband, Zach, welcomed daughter Ellery Summers on March 26.



Aaron ('11) and Kate (Storm '12) Frank welcomed daughter Amelia on Feb. 2. She joins big sister Dru.



2000s

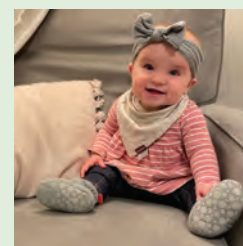
Katie (Kirkpatrick '01) Choate and her husband, David, welcomed daughter Kathryn Van on Dec. 28, 2020. She joins big brother Sutton (2).



Brooke (Harris '07) Hudson and her husband, Taylor, welcomed daughter Emma Colleen on Aug. 11, 2020. She joins big sister Caroline.



Chris ('11) and Jenna (Lindsey '12) Nissen welcomed daughter Joy Ann on May 13, 2020.



Dana (Power '03) Cochran and her husband, John, welcomed daughter Jillian Cate on Sept. 4, 2020.



Jennifer (Kluck '08) Hopkins and her husband, Seth, welcomed daughter Mackenzie Grace on Aug. 16, 2020. She joins big sister Carli.



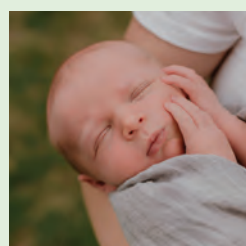
Judith Brizuela ('13) and her husband, Rigoberto Pinto, welcomed son Diego on Nov. 16, 2020.



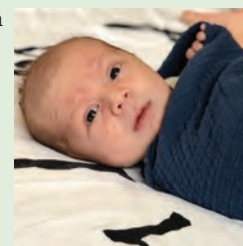
2010s

Dr. Blake Johnson ('03) and his wife, Rosamond, welcomed son Andrew Paul on Nov. 18, 2020. Andrew joins big brother William (6) and big sister Anna Kate (3).

Lindsay (Shotzman '10) Lee and her husband, Ryan, welcomed son Beckham Ryan on June 30, 2020. He joins big sister Norah Kate.



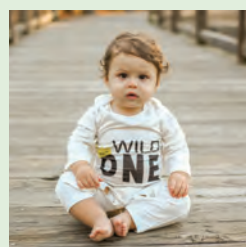
Turner and Meredith (Reeves) Roberts ('13) welcomed son Jack Lincoln on Dec. 7, 2020.



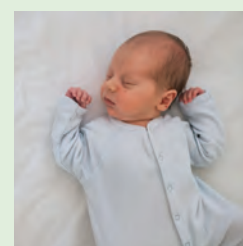
Austin and Beth (Hamilton) Reed ('03) adopted two sons from Haiti in November of 2020.



Brittany (Vick '10) Pulido and her husband, Andy, welcomed son Judah Bruce on Jan. 12, 2020. He joins big sisters Sadie (6) and Addie (3).



Rebecca (Atkinson '13) Smith and her husband, Justin, welcomed son Jude Charles on Jan. 25. He joins big brother Shepherd.



Abbi (Frakes '14) Clinton and her husband, Chris, welcomed daughter Addi Marie on Feb. 9.



Emory (Clayborn '14) Long and her husband, Nick, welcomed daughter Alden Elise on Sept. 2, 2020.



Cameron Terrell ('14) and his wife, Annette, welcomed son Israel Robert on April 28. He joins big sisters M'Liss (3) and Anja (2).



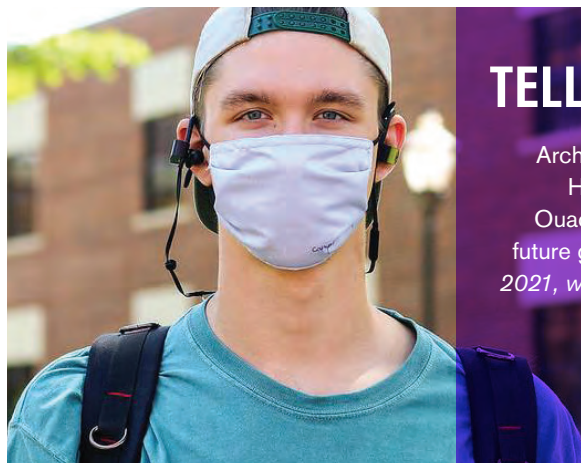
Stephen ('14) and Allie (Hegi '16) Williams welcomed daughter Jane Katherine on April 5.



Logan and Rebekah (Raine) Kuhn ('15) welcomed daughter Kinzie Jane on Sept. 3, 2020.



Beth Anne (Caery '16) Peterson and her husband, Banks, welcomed son Reed Bennett on Jan. 14.



TELL YOUR COVID-19 STORY

Archives and Special Collections in Ouachita's Riley-Hickingbotham Library is seeking to document the Ouachita community's experience with COVID-19 for future generations of researchers. *Classes of 2020 and 2021, we'd especially like to chronicle your experiences!*

Learn more and complete your submission at obu.edu/chroniclingcovid.

PATTERSON SCHOOL HOSTS ARKANSAS' FIRST WOMEN IN STEM CONFERENCE VIRTUALLY

By Abby Turner

Ouachita's Patterson School of Natural Sciences hosted the inaugural Arkansas Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference virtually on Saturday, March 20, for college students across the state. The event featured a keynote address by chemist Dr. E. Ann Nalley, seven concurrent panel discussions with 31 professional women in STEM fields and two sessions of poster presentations highlighting woman-led research and honoring notable women's contributions to STEM.

"While so much progress has been made toward workplace equity for women and men, there is still work to be done," said Dr. Sara Hubbard, associate professor of chemistry and holder of the Nell I. Mondy Chair of Chemistry, who helped organize the event along with Dr. Sharon Hamilton, associate professor of chemistry, and several students.

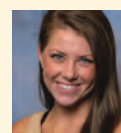
"Showing our students that there are other women out there who have dealt with the same struggles, questions and challenges is important – especially to see that these women have emerged from their experiences as talented women at the tops of their fields," Hubbard added.

More than 40 Arkansas undergraduate or graduate students and faculty members representing five universities from around the state were in attendance; several out-of-state participants also joined the conference.



Dr. Nalley was the first female faculty member of Cameron University in 1978 and has served as president of Phi Kappa Phi national honor society and the American Chemical Society (ACS). In 2015, Nalley was recognized with the ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. She holds a Ph.D. in radiation chemistry from Texas Woman's University.

"Ouachita hosting an event with a nationally recognized keynote speaker like Dr. Nalley is truly a treat," noted Hamilton. "When I think about all the panelists, speakers and volunteers we had for the conference, I am humbled that they chose to walk beside us in creating a Women in STEM conference that not only benefited students in Arkansas but across the region thanks to technology."



Abby Turner is a 2021 communications & media/strategic communications graduate from Arkadelphia, Ark.

STEPPING UP FOR OUACHITA TO HONOR WOMEN IN HEALTHCARE NOV. 12

By Rachel Gaddis, editorial coordinator

Ouachita's Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon will be held on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, in honor of four women who work in healthcare: Dr. Jana Crain, Debbie Kluck, Sherrie Sharp Thomasson and Tammy Young. The event will take place at Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Ark. Ticket and sponsorship information is available at obu.edu/steppingup.

Since its inaugural event in November 2010, Stepping Up for Ouachita has raised more than \$650,000 toward scholarships for women at Ouachita. Every year the university honors an outstanding Ouachita woman or women who have shown grace, leadership, integrity and faith over the years.

"Stepping Up for Ouachita celebrates truly exceptional women," said Donna Rippey, chair of the 2021 Stepping Up for Ouachita planning committee and a 1984 Ouachita grad. "This year's luncheon will honor four women who serve others through their professions in the healthcare industry. We know the pandemic has made us all more appreciative for those who work in healthcare, which is why we are excited to honor Jana, Debbie, Sherrie and Tammy."

The 2021 honorees originally were to be honored at the November 2020 luncheon, but the event was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's event is planned to be held in person.

"We are so excited to host Stepping Up for Ouachita in 2021 after canceling last year's luncheon due to the pandemic," said Terry Peebles, vice president for development. "This event is a way to recognize and celebrate the tremendous work of women who help others and who love Ouachita."

Dr. Jana Crain (92) serves as medical director for imaging centers in the San Francisco Bay Area and Colorado. As a member of California Advanced Imaging Medical Associates Inc., she is a consultant for collegiate and professional players and teams.

Crain received her doctor of medicine degree in 1996 from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and she later completed



Dr. Jana Crain



Debbie Kluck



Sherrie Sharp Thomasson



Tammy Young

her fellowship in MSK imaging with the National Orthopedic Imaging Associates in San Francisco. She holds medical licenses and is certified by the American Board of Radiology in 14 states, and she belongs to such professional societies as the American College of Radiology, Arkansas Medical Society and Society of Skeletal Radiology, among others.

Debbie Kluck serves as the office manager in the Arkadelphia Clinic for Children and Young Adults satellite clinic located on Ouachita's campus. She works on campus to serve students and student-athletes alongside her husband, Dr. Wesley Kluck ('77), Ouachita's vice president for student development and university physician. Debbie holds a bachelor's degree in medical technology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

Debbie and Wesley are active members of Second Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, Ark. The Klucks have led college Bible studies since 1984, ministering to both Ouachita and Henderson State students. Debbie leads a women's Bible study and enjoys serving and fellowshiping with her family.

Sherrie Sharp Thomasson serves as divisional vice president for RehabCare, recently acquired by Select Rehabilitation, overseeing therapy services in assisted and independent living facilities across the country, managing 400 sites, more than 2,500 employees and \$40 million in revenue per year. Sherrie previously served in the same role for Kindred Healthcare, which provides healthcare services in 34 states including long-term acute care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, sub-acute

units, inpatient rehabilitation units, contract rehabilitation service businesses and behavioral health services; Sherrie worked for Kindred for 22 years.

During her sophomore year at Ouachita, Sherrie met her husband Paul Sharp ('75), who played baseball and football for the Tigers. They celebrated 34 years together until his unexpected passing in 2012. Sherrie completed her degree in speech pathology from the University of Central Arkansas while Paul worked there, and she later earned a master of science degree in speech pathology from the University of Central Arkansas. Sherrie married Robert Thomasson in 2018.

Tammy Young ('88) serves as CEO and founder of Nutrition Consult Services, Inc., a dietetic consulting business. For more than 30 years, she has worked as a registered dietitian in a variety of healthcare settings, including skilled nursing facilities, neonatal ICU, home health, hospice, small rural hospitals, long-term care facilities, behavioral and psychiatric care, rehabilitation centers and outpatient diabetic management clinics.

Tammy earned a degree in dietetics from Ouachita and completed her dietetic internship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She has held various positions with the Arkansas Dietetics Association and is a member of multiple dietetics organizations. She is also on the board of directors for Encompassing Hope, a Northwest Arkansas organization that provides support for behavioral and mental illness.

She and her husband, James ('88), live in Springdale, Ark., where they have attended Cross Church for 20 years and served at its various campuses.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember the following alumni who recently passed away, listed with their class years and dates of death.

1940s

- Dorothy Meador (Lovell) Carter ('41)** • Dec. 26, 2020
- Margaret (Nichols) Loller ('41)** • Dec. 28, 2020
- Dr. Harrison Hayes Pike ('48)** • Feb. 22, 2021
- G. Faye Bailey Patterson ('48)** • Nov. 27, 2020
- Marion Tipton Miles ('49)** • Oct. 25, 2020
- Martha Jane (Means) Riley ('49)** • Dec. 17, 2020

1950s

Rev. Clarence A. Allison ('50) died Dec. 30, 2020. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and went on to earn a graduate degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his late wife, **Alta ('50)**, served as missionaries in several countries in Africa. Through his career, he served as a church planter, evangelist, pastor, radio broadcast producer and hospital administrator and was a ham radio enthusiast. He is survived by his son, **Mark ('78)**; daughter, **Kay ('82)**; and five grandchildren.



- Vivian M. (Bachman) Mosley ('50)** • April 15, 2021
- Martha Muncy Talbot ('51)** • Dec. 30, 2020
- Gloria Joan (Hink) Mayo ('51)** • June 15, 2020
- Loweader "Lou" Adline (Kemp) Ashby Perry ('53)** • April 5, 2021
- Rev. James Monroe Wilson ('54)** • April 2, 2021
- Charles B. Marley ('55)** • June 5, 2019

- Rev. Edward Powers ('55)** • Dec. 10, 2020
- Erkle K. St. John ('55)** • Dec. 14, 2020

Dotse Mae (Benson '56) Stratton died March 10, 2021. She enjoyed supporting military families during her husband, Jerry's, 30 years of military service. Following his military career, the couple served at many churches together. She is survived by her husband, **Jerry ('55)**; daughter, Laura; son, Larry; six grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.



- Dr. James Kenneth Brewer ('57)** • Nov. 5, 2020
- Shirley Ann (Carter) Henderson ('57)** • Dec. 7, 2020
- Jerry Wayne Neel, Sr. ('57)** • Dec. 24, 2020

Colonel (Ret) Freddie J. Mills, Sr. ('57) died Feb. 27, 2021. He served 38 years as a U.S. Army medivac helicopter pilot, and he served in many countries, delivering humanitarian and medical aid in times of crisis. He is preceded in death by his wife **Wanda ('55)** and survived by three children, **Donna Morgan ('73)**, Lt. Col. Freddie J. Mills, Jr., and **Robert Mills ('82)**; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

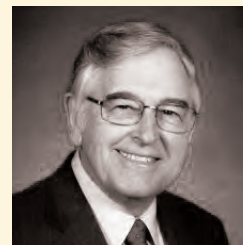


- William Houston "Bill" Moffatt ('58)** • March 24, 2021
- Rev. Glenn D. Toler ('58)** • Oct. 27, 2020
- Colonel (Ret) Eugene K. Herndon ('58)** • Sept. 20, 2016
- Anna Gay (Black) Herndon ('58)** • Oct. 12, 2020
- Rogna Elizabeth (Peterson) Hilton ('59)** • Dec. 4, 2020
- Betty Rae (Allen) Jones ('59)** • March 25, 2021

1960s

- Charles Dennis "Denny" Bray ('60)** • Feb. 9, 2021
- Nancy (Webb) Guthrie ('60)** • Nov. 12, 2018
- H. David Owen ('62)** • Aug. 11, 2020
- Rev. Charles Alan Tyson ('63)** • Jan. 13, 2021

Dr. Charles David Blase ('64) died Feb. 23, 2021. In addition to Ouachita, he attended Decatur Baptist College and Southwestern Baptist Seminary. Blase pastored churches in Arkansas, Texas and Kansas, including serving for 25 years at First Baptist Church of Nashville, Ark. He is survived by his sons, and their wives, **John David ('89)** and **Meredith ('90)** and Shawn and **Tonja ('92)**, and five grandchildren, including Ouachita alumnus **Will ('19)** and current student **Mikenzie ('23)**.



- Roy Gaylord Solomon ('66)** • Feb. 4, 2021
- Dr. George William Stevenson ('66)** • Dec. 26, 2020
- Dr. James David Busby ('66)** • Jan. 13, 2021
- Nola Jane (Shaddox) Smith ('66)** • April 1, 2021
- Dr. A. Frank Worley ('66)** • Dec. 12, 2020
- Randell Eugene Carr, Jr. ('67)** • April 13, 2021
- Benjamin Mau ('67)** • Jan. 7, 2021
- Stephen Judson Williams ('67)** • Dec. 30, 2020
- Michael Mullen Clippard ('68)** • Dec. 8, 2020
- Rev. Paul McClung ('69)** • March 14, 2021
- Lamar Scurlock James ('69)** • Jan. 10, 2021

1970s

- Mary Lou Alley ('70)** • April 6, 2021
- Charles Edward Olmstead ('70)** • Jan. 12, 2021
- Ethelyne "Blondie" (Tillbrooks) Williams ('73)** • Feb. 23, 2021

Chaplain (Colonel Ret.) James “Jack” Ryan ('73) • Jan. 6, 2021

Evelyn Kay Fish ('75) • April 26, 2021

Michael Lavell Thrasher ('75) • April 25, 2021

Richard K. Burns ('75) • Dec. 15, 2020

Thomas Wayne Russell ('75) • Jan. 12, 2021

William Richard Sutton ('75) • Jan. 22, 2021

Sharon Elizabeth (Ferguson) Wieser ('76) • Jan. 9, 2021

Billy Dean Hendrix ('77) • Dec. 26, 2020

Bobby M. Rolland ('77) • April 23, 2019

Jayne Whitmore Fullenwider ('77) • Nov. 21, 2020

Melissa Hawkins ('79) • Nov. 2, 2020

..... 1980s

William Arthur Whitmore ('81) • April 6, 2021

Melissa K. (Hawkins) Simpson ('81) • Nov. 2, 2020

Robert Earl Cornelius ('82) • April 30, 2021

Michael F. Watts ('83) • Dec. 11, 2020

Roger Christopher Lawson ('89) • April 1, 2021

..... 1990s

Michael Clayton House ('91) • Jan. 18, 2021

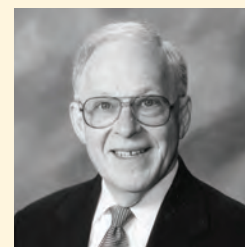
Lacy L. (Pepper) Chivers ('93) • March 26, 2021

..... Faculty/Staff

Timothy Cansler, groundskeeper, died March 25, 2021. He had served in facilities management at Ouachita since 2012 and was a member of Saginaw Missionary Baptist Church and Nolen Hill Hunting Club. He is survived by his wife, Tracie, and two daughters, **Morgan** ('18) and **Kelby** ('24).



Bill Aldon Dixon, vice president for student services emeritus, died April 18, 2021. He served at Ouachita for more than 30 years as dean of students and vice president for student services and also served with the Grant Center for International Education following his retirement, leading group missions and tourism trips. He was a member of First Baptist Church Arkadelphia, where he served as a deacon. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Betty “Snookie”** ('83); sons, **David Dixon** ('90), **Chris Dixon** ('92) and **Humoy Ravshanov** ('12); and five grandchildren, **Hannah** ('18), **Erica** ('21), **Samantha** ('22), **Olivia** ('24) and Sawyer.



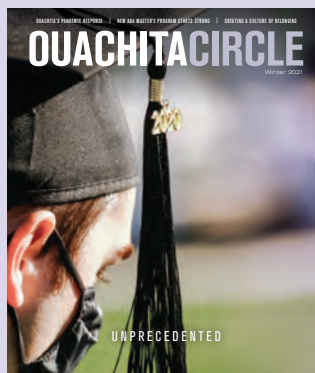
DID YOU MISS YOUR WINTER ISSUE OF THE OUACHITA CIRCLE?

This expanded issue covered the 2020 calendar year and includes reflections on Ouachita's pandemic response, the launch of the new master's program in applied behavior analysis, efforts toward creating a culture of racial belonging and more.

Check it out online at obu.edu/circle.

A limited number of print editions are available on request.

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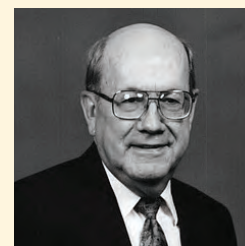
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Jack Estes, professor emeritus of modern languages, died on June 11, 2020. In his 36 years at Ouachita, he chaired the Department of Modern Languages, taught French and served as director of the exchange program with Seinan Gakuin University and as assistant dean in the School of Arts and Science. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Arkadelphia and served on the Ouachita Board of Trustees and Henderson State University Wesley Foundation Board. He is survived by his wife, **Bonita** ('68); three children, **Mark** ('79), **Rev. Pamela Jean** ('74) and **Dr. Julia Marie Carter** ('82); three grandchildren, including alumni **T.J. Carter** ('01) and **Jessica Carter** ('02); and eight great-grandchildren.



IAN COSH ENDS CAREER WITH TOP SERVICE AWARD, LEWIS SHEPHERD NAMED VICE PRESIDENT

By Rachel Gaddis, editorial coordinator

In April, the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community recognized Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement, for his more than 33 years of service to both Ouachita and the Elrod Center during its annual community service awards ceremony. Cosh, who will retire this summer, received the Community Service Excellence Award for serving as director for the Elrod Center since its founding in 1997.

"The Elrod Center has been one of my great passions since its start in 1997," Cosh said. "We set a goal to transform the culture of Ouachita to include a deep and abiding commitment to service, and I believe that we have achieved that goal.

"The joy of serving impacts every student and instills a love of serving that will last a lifetime," he added.

"Periodically, we give a Community Service Excellence Award for outstanding and faithful service to Ouachita and the community," said Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president. "Ian is uniquely identified with Ouachita's Elrod Center as a Ouachita graduate, the founding director of the center and leading the university's community service since 1997."

Dr. Lewis Shepherd, who has served since 2020 as special assistant to the president, has been appointed as vice president for community and intercultural engagement. The shift in the title's name from international to intercultural engagement indicates the intentional efforts to create a sense of belonging for multicultural students and community members. Shepherd is a 1980 (B.A.) and 1982 (M.A.) graduate of Ouachita and earned his Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"Ian has laid a solid, lasting foundation that all of us will have the privilege of continuously building," Shepherd said. "I am excited about serving in community and intercultural engagement."

Offices under his purview include the Elrod Center for Family and Community, the Grant Center for International Education, TRIO Programs, Multicultural Student Programs and Campus Ministries.

Shepherd noted looking forward to his role connecting both to students and the local community, saying, "It is fascinating and amazing to watch students' spiritual, emotional and intellectual maturation over four years."

"We have a community with an abundance of talent, resources and goodwill," he added. "Ouachita is setting the standard for the characteristics that a community should possess, and that bar is high."

Judy Duvall, previously associate director of the Elrod Center, has been appointed as director of the Elrod Center following Cosh's retirement.



Ouachita President Ben Sells, left, presents Ian Cosh with the Community Service Excellence Award at the annual Elrod Center Service Awards. photo by Levi Dade



Dr. Lewis Shepherd



Judy Duvall



Jason Greenwich

"Ian Cosh has been a great leader and mentor to me," said Duvall, who is a 1982 Ouachita graduate. "I have always appreciated the way he values people. Ian created an environment of trust and respect in the workplace, and it made us want to do our work with excellence. He is a visionary, and I appreciate the way he shaped the culture of service at Ouachita through the Elrod Center.

"I love the work of the Elrod Center. There is not a day that I am not excited about coming to work and being a part of the work of the center," she added. "Getting to connect our campus with the needs of the community is a great joy. We are looking forward to continuing to provide quality volunteer training and programming and will always look for ways to use our volunteers and resources to meet the needs of our community."

Jason Greenwich, previously director of international recruitment and retention, has been appointed as director of the Grant Center for International Education.

"It is an honor to be able to step into this role; it combines my lifelong love for Ouachita with my international experience and third culture identity," he said. Greenwich is a 1997 graduate of Ouachita and a 2005 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and previously served on the mission field. "My goal is to continue the tradition of excellence in international education that Ian Cosh has established and modeled faithfully for so many years. He has been an outstanding mentor to me and is leaving huge shoes to fill in the Grant Center!"



A STORY, ILLUSTRATING HOPE

As Lisa and I drove to campus on April 26, we wondered, maybe second-guessing ourselves: “How many would come?” and “Would it be meaningful?”

To conclude the pandemic year, we invited our Ouachita community to remember, by submitting memories and images to the university archives; to lament, with a biblical message from Old Testament Professor Doug Nykolaishen; and that evening to celebrate, with a dinner in the middle of campus for all students as well as faculty, staff and their families.

This campus, situated in a forest on a bluff overlooking a river, was filled with trees fully leafed and flowers in full bloom. The weather was ideal. We went all out for food – crab legs, crawfish, brats and more – and all out for fun, with inflatables dotting the lawns throughout the center of campus.

It was a busy week, the one before final exams, and with our progress against the pandemic, almost every campus group had scheduled a year-end, in-person social gathering. We estimated 800 would show up for dinner; we stopped counting after 1,600.

Students came and stayed, sitting in groups on the ground, eating, talking, laughing. These young adults, for this evening, became big kids – enjoying all the inflatables. They even coaxed Lisa and me to jump with them. Employees brought spouses and children, and some spent time chasing the little kids who enjoyed inflatable utopia.

With weeks of just one or two COVID cases, and none originating on campus, we felt confident about a large in-person and highly social gathering. The character of Ouachita folks and the size of our community made it possible to do the whole academic year in person – and that character was on full display that evening.

In sharing this story with you, Proverbs 13:12 comes to mind: “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” A lot of hope was deferred this academic year, challenging us in many ways. Yet, our campus’ response to a dinner together illustrated that a “longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”

For days, people kept talking about the evening and asking, “Can we do this next year?” I wish you could have been there. In a sense, you were, because your prayers and support during the past year were keenly felt. Thank you, Ouachita alumni, friends and churches; thank you, Lord.

Isn’t it interesting that hope is always about the future? Not the past or the present – though both can give us evidence to have hope. We live in an incredibly disruptive time for Christian higher education and in a polarized era. Yet, our Christ-centered mission and what we, the extended Ouachita community, did together this past year gives me great hope for our university’s future.

The character of Ouachita was on full display that evening.

Ben R. Sells, Ph.D.
@OuachitaPrez

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SAY

WELCOME HOME

We can't wait for...

cheers at Cliff Harris Stadium,
finding our seats in JPAC for Tunes,
street tacos in Tiger Alley,
reuniting with friends at Tiger Fest,
pics in front of Cone-Bottoms and the Tiger,
reunion dinners with classmates,
showing our kids our names in the Senior Walk,
introducing high schoolers to our campus
and more.

We can't wait to welcome YOU.

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celebrate
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Homecoming

October 2, 2021

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**TIGER
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