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Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita Alumni

Winter 2022

The Ouachita Circle Winter 2022

Ouachita Baptist University

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OUACHITA CIRCLE

Winter 2022



MOMENTUM



Momentum appreciation

When I think of momentum, my first thought is the idiom “on a roll” and related examples. I think of physically rolling objects, like a ball rolling down a hill, the cheesy inspirational poster of a rollerblader that was in my childhood bedroom, the infamous *Indiana Jones* boulder chase. But you also can be metaphorically “on a roll” with various successes in life, big or small. Is there a better feeling than hitting every shot on the basketball court?

Two of our resident experts, Drs. Angela and Matt Douglass, helped me reach a deeper understanding of this common concept in their article on page 8. Momentum is not always easy in this imperfect world. Gravity, bumps in the road and their metaphorical counterparts plague us all. Forward motion must often be attended to, *earned*. It can require effort and persistence, but the results are classified as momentum all the same.

The Douglass’ reflections, tying together the physical and metaphorical meanings of our theme, helped me feel better about often *not* feeling like that rollerblader zipping down the hill with the wind in her hair, complete with a killer pink and purple ’90s windsuit. A more appropriate image might be a child playing at the old hoop and stick game, encouraging that primitive shape along the ground with frequent nudges.

At Ouachita, we’ve been blessed to come through the last two years with a sense of momentum despite many challenges. Yes, there have been some downhill moments, by the grace of God, but there also has been a dedicated team of Ouachitonians doing their part to nudge the hoop along. Not only faculty and staff but also students, parents, alumni and other supporters all have played a part.

You can read about some of these successes in our Campus News Update section on pages 2-7, which includes news briefs on record enrollment, new academic programs, numerous achievements by the Department of Nursing and more. On pages 10 and 14, see momentum in the Pruet School and Office of Student Development through naming alums Dr. Jeremy Greer and Dr. Rickey Rogers as dean and VP, respectively. For the first time in decades, new apartments are being constructed on campus (p. 12), and a Master of Education degree program is underway (p. 14). Our alumni, faculty and staff continue to exemplify Ouachita’s values in their lives of meaningful work, and we see several of their stories throughout the magazine, as well (p. 18-25, 29, 32).

As both an employee and an alumna of the university, I’m excited to see the momentum at work—and grateful for the work being done to *create* the momentum. If you haven’t joined us on the journey yet—or lately—consider this your invitation. It’s still an imperfect world, but we are *on a roll*.

Brooke Zimny

Assistant to the President for Communications & Marketing

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Casting a vision for a race run well: Convocation address

"From the Ouachitonian": yearbook people profiles

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Our City



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Students walk by the new mural of campus in Evans Student Center. It was hand painted in the summer of 2021 by alumni Treslyn Shipley ('16) and Katie (Hopmann '14) Simpson.

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Ouachita broke ground on new housing to support residential life and beautify campus.

16 FIRST COHORT IN M.ED. PROGRAM BEGINS



New online grad program emphasizes teaching as a calling alongside skill development.

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Alumni from the classes of 1970, '71, '80, '81, '90, '91, '00, '01, '10 & '11 were honored this fall.

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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



OUACHITA PREPARING TO LAUNCH NEW UNDERGRAD ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Ouachita is preparing to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering as early as Fall 2022, pending approval from the university's institutional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The new 4-year program is being designed to meet standards set by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) and will be housed in the J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences at Ouachita.

The university is seeking approval of the proposed engineering curriculum from its faculty and Board of Trustees, approval of the degree program from HLC and approval for candidacy status from ABET. On-campus preparations for launching Ouachita's engineering degree program include creating a 4,400-square-foot engineering lab, hiring additional faculty members and developing the curriculum.

The university's goal is to complete the necessary preparations and approvals in time for the program to begin in the Fall 2022 semester.

Formal application for accreditation can be made to ABET when Ouachita's first engineering students graduate. Once granted, accreditation applies to all graduates who have completed the engineering curriculum within two years of ABET approval. Assuming a Fall 2022 launch, the first cohort of students in the program will finish in Spring 2026.

UPDATE

LATINA ROBINSON AWARDED NATIONAL DIETETICS SCHOLARSHIP

Latina Robinson of North Little Rock, Ark., a Dietetic Internship graduate student at Ouachita, is one of two recipients of a \$25,000 Advancing Diversity in Dietetics Scholarship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) Foundation.



photo by Abby Blankenship

The scholarship was established to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the field of dietetics. The \$25,000 scholarship is for the 2021-2022 academic year to support students as they pursue dietetic careers.

Robinson said she hopes to continue pursuing her master's degree in nutrition and dietetics from Ouachita and become a registered dietitian to provide resources and care for minority communities, where the prevalence of diabetes has a severe impact.

"My vision is to provide the public with the right tools and resources to prevent the disease within minority groups," Robinson said, adding that she wants to "inspire and motivate minorities in the nation into defeating this dreadful disease."



photo by Levi Dade

TIGER SERVE DAY TOPS 100,000 HOURS OF SERVICE, UNITES FOR FALL EVENT

Ouachita's Elrod Center for Family and Community's premier community service event, Tiger Serve Day, returned to more typical patterns this fall under the theme "United," following a year of adjustments in light of COVID-19. However, even during the challenging year, the event reached a major milestone in 2021, topping 100,000 cumulative hours of service since the event's inception in 1997.

The Fall 2021 event was held Saturday, Sept. 25. One hundred projects in and around Arkadelphia were completed by 831 Ouachita volunteers who also resumed traditional Tiger Serve Day activities such as visiting the homes of senior adults, yard work and assisting local nonprofit organizations like LightHouse Ministries and the Percy and Donna Malone Child Safety Center.

"Coming through a hard season of COVID, the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team wanted this day of service to be a day for Ouachita to come together as a campus community united for the good of our community," said Judy Duvall, director of the Elrod Center. "From what we have seen, our community was greatly encouraged from the practical help given by the care of our volunteers, and the volunteers had a great time working together and experiencing the joy of service."

OUACHITA DEPARTMENT OF NURSING RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S QUALITY AWARD

Gov. Asa Hutchinson presented Ouachita's Department of Nursing with the 2021 Governor's Quality Award in September during a banquet hosted by the Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence (AIPE), award sponsors, in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in Little Rock.

According to its website, the AIPE works in partnership with the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce to offer training and assessment for all industries throughout the state in order to encourage excellence in performance, as well as economic growth. The Governor's Quality Award honors outstanding progress in areas including strategic planning, leadership, workforce, knowledge management, operations and accomplishing results.

One of 12 organizations from across Arkansas to be honored this year, the Ouachita Department of Nursing is the only nursing program that received the Governor's Quality Award independent of its governing organization. Dr. Brenda Trigg, director of nursing at Ouachita, accepted the award from Hutchinson on behalf of the department.



photo courtesy of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce

OUACHITA RECEIVES INITIAL APPROVAL FOR 4-YEAR BSN PROGRAM IN ARKADELPHIA

Ouachita received initial approval in January from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to establish a 4-year, residential pre-licensure program offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The board previously granted prerequisite approval to the program in September.

“It is an historic time for Ouachita and our nursing students,” said Dr. Brenda Trigg, director of nursing in Ouachita’s Patterson School of Natural Sciences. “Offering a 4-year residential BSN program will allow students to experience Ouachita’s student-focused culture, study with experienced, qualified faculty and prepare for a career that will serve patients in the state, region and beyond.”

The pre-licensure program will give students a third option when choosing a degree track to obtain a BSN at Ouachita. In Fall 2018, Ouachita launched its nursing program with a distinctive 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 for students who already have a valid registered nurse license.

The 4-year program will be up and running for Fall 2022. In addition to benefiting new students, currently enrolled freshmen and sophomore nursing majors have the option of continuing in the on-campus program without delaying their graduations.



OUACHITA EXPANDS CAMPUS POLICE FORCE

Ouachita’s Office of Campus Safety & Emergency Management has expanded its police force with additional part-time officers. The expansion includes several members of the Ouachita community committed to building positive relationships with students and serving in a manner consistent with the Christ-centered principles of the university.

The new officers are graduates of Ouachita’s law enforcement training course, developed by Jeff Crow, director of safety and emergency management at Ouachita, and certified by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

“We hope that we can enhance our campus through good community policing by developing relationships and partnerships to help everyone thrive,” said Quantel Williams, a graduate of the program who also serves as resident director of O.C. Bailey Hall. “We want to interact positively with all community members and leave a lasting impression. I genuinely believe that is how we build relationships and cultivate trust amongst our students.”

LEWIS SHEPHERD NAMED VP FOR COMMUNITY AND INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Lewis A. Shepherd, Jr. has been named vice president for community and intercultural engagement at Ouachita.

Since August 2020, Shepherd has served on Ouachita’s executive leadership team as special assistant to the president. In his new role, Shepherd’s responsibilities include leadership of Campus Ministries, the Elrod Center for Family and Community, the Grant Center for International Education, Multicultural Student Programs and TRIO Programs. Shepherd follows Ouachita’s former Vice President for Community and International Engagement Ian Cosh, who retired in August.

“I’m pleased to continue the good work that Mr. Cosh established over his many decades of service at Ouachita through Campus Ministries, the Elrod Center and the Grant Center,” Shepherd said, “while also broadening Ouachita’s approach to community and intercultural engagement, both on and off campus, through Multicultural Student Programs and TRIO Programs.”

A native of Magnolia, Ark., Shepherd earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in Education degrees from Ouachita in 1980 and ’82, respectively, and a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1997. Earlier in his career, he served at Ouachita as assistant to the dean of students, director of student support services, director of TRIO programs and assistant to the president for special programs and compliance officer.



NURSING RECEIVES \$131K GRANT FOR SIMULATION EQUIPMENT IN NURSING EDUCATION CENTER

Ouachita's Department of Nursing is among 41 recipients of a grant from the Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas. Totalling \$3,360,327, the grant will fund health initiatives in 71 of Arkansas' 75 counties.

Ouachita's nursing program received \$131,000 to purchase simulation equipment for its new state-of-the-art Nursing Education Center. The \$2.2 million, 6,600-square-foot simulation and teaching center will include a clinical skills lab, five simulated hospital patient rooms and a pharmacy. Use of high-fidelity simulation mannequins will replicate real-life scenarios, allowing nursing students to practice assessment, clinical and communication skills without risk of harm to patients.

"We're really pleased that the Blue & You Foundation affirmed our plans for Ouachita's nursing program by providing this grant funding," said Dr. Tim Knight, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences at Ouachita. "This gift confirms the need for nursing graduates, as well as our plans to help meet that need by providing more highly-skilled nursing graduates in the region."



OUACHITA RECEIVES PART OF \$6.1 MILLION GRANT ESTABLISHING INSTITUTE FOCUSED ON VIRUS RESEARCH

Ouachita is one of five partner institutions benefiting from a \$6.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to fund the study of viruses and viral ecology. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville leads the effort.

The grant will establish a Host-Virus Evolutionary Dynamics Institute (HVEDI) at UA with an HVEDI hub site at Ouachita. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology, serves as a co-principal investigator on the primary award and as the lead on the sub-award to Ouachita. Ruth Plymale, associate professor of biology and holder of the J.D. Patterson Chair of Biology at Ouachita, serves as campus lead investigator.

By investigating distinct virus systems across all three domains of life, HVEDI scientists hope to establish "rules of life"—biological laws or principles describing an organism's characteristics or patterns of behavior—that apply to all viruses.

During the next five years, the NSF grant will provide Ouachita with \$500,000 to support the research of students working with Reyna and Plymale to examine bacteriophages—viruses that infect bacteria—and how they interact with hosts.

OUACHITA STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN ARKANSAS CINEMA SOCIETY'S FILMMAKING LAB

Sarah Critton, a freshman communications and media major from Little Rock, Ark., participated in the Arkansas Cinema Society's Filmmaking Lab for Teen Girls from July 7-Aug. 6 in Little Rock.

The lab is held annually for high school girls who hope to follow in the footsteps of prominent women in directing, cinematography, costume designing, editing and screenwriting. Over the span of a month, Critton and eight other contributors chose a storyline, wrote a script, cast characters and shot a five minute short film, *Drop It*, which is available on the Arkansas Cinema Society's YouTube page.

Critton said the lab introduced her to aspects of filmmaking that she had never experienced before and solidified her passion for the industry. It also enabled Critton to meet Golden Globe Award-winning actress and producer Jessica Chastain and see a premier screening of her movie *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*.



SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS WELCOMES PUBLIC BACK TO CAMPUS FOR FALL PERFORMANCES

Students and faculty from Ouachita's School of Fine Arts welcomed external audiences back to campus during the Fall 2021 semester for a slate of full-capacity live performances and events. During the previous academic year, performances were limited both in number and scope due to COVID-19, with off-campus guests participating only virtually.

"At its core, music is a form of communication, and so to not have live audiences sharing the art-making experience with us was heartbreaking, frankly, and felt like a one-sided conversation," said Dr. Ryan Lewis, associate professor of percussion at Ouachita. "But to have live audiences again has been a joyful, connecting, renewing experience, and helped us all remember what a blessing it is to be musicians and artists and to share artistic experiences with others."

Visual artist Treslyn Shipley, a 2016 Ouachita graduate, kicked off the Guest Artist Series by bringing her exhibit titled "Crowded Spaces" to Adams Gallery in Moses-Provine Hall. The Guest Artist Series also featured concerts by cellist Christopher Adkins and percussion soloist and marimbist Dr. Thomas Burrirt, who performed with the Ouachita Percussion Ensemble.

Jones Performing Arts Center opened to the public for a collaboration between Ouachita's Division of Music and Department of Theatre Arts: a 4-day run of "H.M.S. Pinafore" by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, with a student cast and crew of 60.

The Department of Theatre Arts brought the public back to Verser Theatre for George Brant's "Into the Breeches!", as well as its One Act Play Festival, which featured six plays directed by seniors in the department's play directing course. In addition to many solo student recitals and exhibits, student groups featured in concert included the Women's Chorus and Ouachita Singers, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Chamber Winds, Steel Band and the Ouachita Concert Band.

The School of Fine Arts closed its Fall 2021 season with two performances of its annual holiday program, "A Festival of Christmas."

Main stage productions for the spring semester include "Tanglewood," this year's selected Muse Project; "Godspell," the musical by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak; and another selection of student-directed one act plays. Visit obu.edu/boxoffice to purchase tickets, and see obu.edu/calendar/finearts for the full and current calendar of fine arts events on campus.



NEW UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO LAUNCH FALL 2022

Ouachita has established a residential undergraduate degree program in criminal justice, to be offered beginning in Fall 2022.

The innovative program is designed to equip graduates for careers in the criminal justice system at every level. The Bachelor of Arts degree track will offer a multidimensional approach that includes classes exploring the intersection of criminal justice, sociology, political science and psychology.

"We are delighted to debut a criminal justice degree that seamlessly integrates Ouachita's Christian identity and mission, interdisciplinary social science scholarship and the expertise of working criminal justice professionals," said Dr. Kevin C. Motl,

acting dean of the W.H. Sutton School of Social Sciences at Ouachita. "This program will not only deliver a rich, hands-on experience unique to Ouachita, but also respond to ongoing changes in both the practices and philosophy of law enforcement in the United States."

The program will feature instructors such as local law enforcement officers, judges and other legal professionals and will provide students opportunities for field experience through internship partnerships with local law enforcement agencies. Students also will have the opportunity to earn certification for part-time law enforcement.

FALL 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

OUACHITA POSTS HIGHEST ENROLLMENT IN 55 YEARS AND OTHER RECORDS

Ouachita set several enrollment records for the Fall 2021 semester, including the school's highest total enrollment in 55 years as well as the largest freshman class, best freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and highest four-year graduation rate on record.

"Students are coming to, staying at and graduating from Ouachita in record numbers—all in the midst of a pandemic," said Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president. "This reflects the great care that our faculty and staff take to create a transformational college experience, the unique campus culture students help create and the generous support of alumni, friends and churches."

Welcoming 486 first-time freshmen to campus this fall, Ouachita marks not only its largest class on record but also a 25 percent gain over the previous year's class. This year's freshman class also is distinctive in its diversity and academic strength. Thirty-eight percent earned a 4.0 or higher high school grade point average (GPA), 25 percent are the first in their families to pursue higher education and 26 freshmen are Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholars. Twenty percent of the class are students of color, making it the most diverse cohort in the university's history.

Last year's freshmen returned to Ouachita as sophomores in record numbers, as well. More than 84 percent returned, the highest freshman-to-sophomore retention rate on record for the university.

The record freshman class and record retention rate resulted in total undergraduate residential student enrollment of 1,547. Total enrollment for the university is 1,764, which includes residential, online and graduate students, as well as high school students taking Ouachita courses for concurrent credit. The previous high was 1,881 in 1966.

Additionally, the graduating class of 2021 posted a 63.5 percent four-year graduation rate, another university record and positive indicator for student satisfaction and success. By comparison, the average four-year graduation rate among all colleges and universities in Arkansas was 32 percent for the most recent data available from the National Center for Education Statistics.

"These enrollment records coupled with record giving and a record endowment illustrate our multi-year institutional momentum," Sells said. "They reflect the increasing value families place on Ouachita's distinctive approach to Christian higher education."

"While we celebrate record results, we know that every student has a name and a story," he added, "and we at Ouachita have the privilege to help each become the person God intends."

HIGHEST ENROLLMENT IN 55 YEARS
1,764

RECORD FRESHMAN-TO-SOPHOMORE RETENTION RATE
84.3%

RECORD 4-YEAR GRADUATION RATE
63.5%
vs. state avg. 32%

RECORD FRESHMAN CLASS
486

38% 4.0 HIGH SCHOOL GPA

25% FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

26 ARK. GOVERNOR'S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

20% STUDENTS OF COLOR



photo by Levi Dade

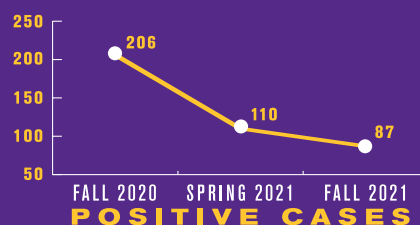
COVID-19 UPDATE



92% BENEFITS-ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES VACCINATED



67% RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS VACCINATED



484 ANTIGEN TESTS
801 PCR TESTS
CONDUCTED FALL 2021

PUSHING FORWARD: BUILDING MOMENTUM TAKES EFFORT

By Angela & Matt Douglass

Around August, we (Angela and Matt) decided that we should start running every day. We had always talked about doing it, but it was always easy to think of excuses. Eventually, though, we decided that if we just woke up 15 minutes earlier each day, we could roll out of bed, run a mile and be back home by our usual wake-up time.

Honestly, it was miserable at first. Every slight incline feels like a mountain when you're out of shape. And, lately, it has been dark and cold. Even so, running has become easier over time. It is now less of a hassle, less of a task that we dread. A friend of ours claims that we'll actually start to *like* running, but we're not to that point yet. For now, at least, we have generated some positive momentum. We're doing something that keeps us healthy, and the more we do it, the easier it becomes.

Momentum in Physics

The concept of *momentum* is borrowed from classical physics, where it is defined as the product of an object's mass (how much matter it contains) and velocity (its speed and direction). A large object, like a horse, may have a lot of momentum even if it's moving slowly; meanwhile, a duck, though much smaller, may have just as much momentum if it is moving very fast.

A fundamental principle of physics is the Law of Conservation of Momentum, which states that the total momentum of an object will remain constant, unless some outside force acts on it. Intuitively, we can think of momentum as *how difficult it is to stop a moving object or to push it off course*. Thought of in this way, to say that a horse and a duck have the same momentum would be to say that it would require the same amount of force to bring them to a stop.

In ideal circumstances like the deep void of space, an object would maintain its momentum indefinitely, continuing on its path forever. However, here on Earth there are always external forces. Obstacles, friction and air resistance constantly steal momentum and slow things to a halt. As a result, it always takes extra effort to keep things moving.

Personal Momentum

The same principles apply to our own lives. Momentum tends to be conserved in our values, emotions and choices—in a word, our *character*. Vices like greed, laziness and cowardice come naturally to us, because they satisfy our immediate, selfish desires. When we submit to these desires, destructive habits are quickly formed. Falling into temptation once makes it easier to fall again and again. Virtues like integrity, charity and humility, meanwhile, are often difficult to cultivate; their benefits can often feel paltry and remote.

In theory, acting virtuously builds momentum. Doing the right thing once makes it easier the next time and the next until, eventually, goodness becomes habitual, almost effortless. And through this process, by consistently and consciously choosing to do what is right, our values and motivations are transformed. To paraphrase the Stoics, *virtue becomes its own reward*—we value goodness and find pleasure in it, and our selfish desires fade. Of course, in real life things are not that easy. We face resistance of all sorts—from frustrations, temptations or threats to our comfort and security. The process of character formation is, at least in this life, a constant effort.

“WHEN CHALLENGES ARISE,
A COMMUNITY MUST WORK
EVEN HARDER TO SUSTAIN
AND BUILD ITS MOMENTUM.”

Momentum at Ouachita

Communities like Ouachita develop their own momentum through shared culture—the ways that the members treat each other, their shared values and common goals. Once a culture is established, it tends to reinforce itself, even as members come and go. In times of good fortune, maintaining a thriving community can seem effortless. But when challenges arise, as they always do, a community must work even harder to sustain and build its momentum.

These last two years have been difficult for everyone, and the Spring 2022 semester is providing yet more uncertainty and disruption thanks to COVID-19. At the beginning of the pandemic, the Ouachita community came together, taking precautions and making sacrifices that allowed us to continue in-person classes and campus life. This required huge effort from everyone on campus—a feat that wouldn't be possible without the love everyone showed for each other.

Despite these challenges, Ouachita is actually *gaining* momentum in many areas, with the largest freshman class in decades, growing online and graduate programs, facility renovations and construction and the development of new academic programs.

Angela has seen this process first-hand at the departmental level. For several years, Ouachita has wanted to transform the current engineering physics degree into an ABET-accredited engineering program. The task seemed impossible at first, since it would require new faculty, workspace, investment and lots of paperwork. However, with positive feedback from an external reviewer and some follow-up research, the pieces began falling into place quickly. Before we knew it, we were designing new curriculum, converting an empty building near campus to our new engineering lab and posting an opening for a new engineering faculty member. Similar stories could be told all over Ouachita.

But momentum doesn't come easily; in this life, we will never be in ideal circumstances. We will always face new challenges and hardships that threaten to slow us down, so we must constantly push forward to maintain and build momentum—whether that is resisting the urge to hit the snooze button on your run in the morning or rising to the challenge of something as far-reaching and complex as a pandemic. We are thankful for the community of students, faculty and staff who have pressed forward to make Ouachita what it is today. And we know that by God's grace and continued effort, Ouachita will continue to thrive.



Dr. Angela Douglass, associate professor of physics, has served at Ouachita since 2012. Dr. Matt Douglass has served at Ouachita since 2015 and currently is

assistant professor of philosophy, institutional research analyst and assistant to the vice president of academic affairs. They both earned their B.A. degrees from Southwestern College and Ph.D. degrees at Baylor University, with Matt earning his M.A. degree from Asbury Theological Seminary and Angela earning her M.S. degree from the University of Kentucky.

DR. JEREMY GREER RETURNS TO OUACHITA

AS THE NEXT DEAN OF THE PRUET SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

By Brooke Zimny, assistant to the president for communications & marketing

Dr. Jeremy Greer, a 1998 Ouachita graduate and second generation pastor, has completed his first semester as the new dean of Ouachita's Pruet School of Christian Studies. Greer has long ties to the university as well as Arkansas Baptists in addition to higher education experience through teaching and administrative roles.

"My overarching feeling is gratitude," Greer said. "I am grateful to once again be an Arkansas Baptist. I am grateful to serve an institution for which I have such deep affections and appreciation. I am grateful to serve alongside faithful men and women whom God has used to transform me and countless others.

"As we look into the future," he added, "we can know that God will continue to work and will continue to call young men and women into service. I trust that he will continue to use the Pruet School to train these called ones and send them out. This is our task, and we will be faithful to it."

Ouachita's Pruet School seeks to combine exceptional scholarship and effective teaching with a vital focus on preparing graduates for practical ministry. A national search began in November 2020 for the key role of dean following the retirement announcement of Dr. Danny Hays, who served as dean since 2007.

"Dr. Greer shares essential convictions about scripture, the local church and missions that define and unite Arkansas Baptists and Ouachita Baptist University in our 135-year relationship," said Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president.

"Also, because the Pruet School teaches Bible courses required for all Ouachita undergraduates," Sells added, "he's dedicated to equipping our students for a Christian witness in a variety of careers."

The Pruet School, over its 22-year history as one of Ouachita's academic schools, has achieved significant growth, developed innovative programs and benefited from a major renovation and expansion of its academic facilities. The faculty excel as

God will continue to work and will continue to call young men and women into service. I trust that he will continue to use the Pruet School to train these called ones and send them out.

– DR. JEREMY GREER



effective classroom teachers, passionate ministers and respected academicians. Their nearly 50 published books are used by thousands of college students, ministers and lay people across the nation and internationally.

“As a student, Jeremy was outstanding, and he has grown to become a very gifted scholar, teacher and leader,” said Dr. Terry Carter, associate dean of the Pruet School. Carter has served at Ouachita for 30 years. “In addition, he is a committed believer who will model Pruet’s vision of preparing the next generation of Christian ministers and missionaries for the church.”

Greer earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in biblical studies from Ouachita in 1998, followed by a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2002 and Ph.D. from B.H. Carroll Theological Institute in 2014. He has served in various teaching, committee and course development roles at Ouachita, B.H. Carroll and East Texas Baptist University since 2007. He most recently served at ETBU as associate professor of Christian ministry, director of ministry guidance and director of church relations. Greer also has served in ministry roles at several churches in Arkansas and Texas.

“Dr. Greer’s varied experiences have prepared him well for the multi-faceted dean’s role,” said Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs. “His academic work as a New Testament scholar and outstanding teaching skills and administrative experience in higher education have prepared him to lead the Pruet School in a new era, while his ministry experience has given him a deep understanding of the local church’s needs and opportunities.”

Other members of the search committee affirmed the appointment, as well.

“Dr. Greer will bring scholarship, humble leadership, pastoral care and vision to the role of dean,” said Anna Rosenthal, a 2015 Pruet School graduate. Rosenthal went on to seminary and has served as assistant director of campus ministries and adjunct instructor of Christian studies at Ouachita.

“Dr. Greer is dedicated to helping college students grow into the men and women that God is calling them to be,” said Ouachita Resident Director Quantel Williams. Williams was Greer’s student at ETBU for both undergrad and graduate studies. “Dr. Greer helped me to find my voice as the only African American student in the class. I admired his ability to create a sense of belonging amongst social groups while encouraging diversity of thought. He cultivated a positive atmosphere in class where students could thrive and flourish academically.”

Jeremy’s wife, Merrilee Shoemaker Greer, also a Ouachita alum, serves in Ouachita’s Office of Campus Ministries. They returned to Arkadelphia with their four children, Raegan, Graham, Sydney and Cole.

“To borrow from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians,” Dr. Greer said, “God has provided blessing to me and my family ‘immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.’ Thanks be to God who has once again lived up to his word!”

MEET DR. GREER

HOMETOWN:

Conway, Ark.

FAVORITE TIME OF DAY:

There is something special about a quiet house in the early morning hours. The pre-dawn and dawn hours when the world starts to wake up are a delight to experience.

WHAT’S CHANGED THE MOST AT OUACHITA SINCE MY STUDENT DAYS:

The obvious changes are the new buildings. It would be hard to play the old frisbee golf course I enjoyed way too many times as a student.

WHAT’S CHANGED THE LEAST:

To me, the atmosphere, or culture, or environment—whatever word best describes it—still remains. Here at Ouachita, you are known and valued. I felt that as a student. I feel it now.

FAVORITE TEAM (OTHER THAN THE TIGERS):

Green Bay Packers

BEST ADVICE I EVER RECEIVED:

When I was 16 and was about to go to work on my first day of my first job, my dad pointed me to Colossians 3:23-24. He said, “Son, remember that you are not working for the boss or even the paycheck. You are working for the Lord.” This notion that sweeping a warehouse floor with excellence could be an act of worship has never left my mind.

FAVORITE BOARD GAME:

My current favorite is Splendor: Marvel, but I am ready to play Settlers of Catan or King of Tokyo anytime.

SOMETHING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT ME:

I never considered myself to be very emotional, but I guess having children enlarged my heart or something. All that to say, I have become a bit of cry-baby, especially watching certain movies.

RIGHT NOW, I’M READING:

A Burning in My Bones: The Authorized Biography of Eugene Peterson by Winn Collier; *Answering Jihad: A Better Way Forward* by Nabeel Qureshi; *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren; *The State of New Testament Studies*, edited by Scot McKnight and Nijay Gupta

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE ME BEST:

idealistic, loyal, goober (my children would concur)

Construction in progress for 144-BED STUDENT APARTMENT COMPLEX

By Brooke Zimny, assistant to the president for communications & marketing

Ouachita broke ground on a 144-bed, \$12.6 million student apartment complex in August, with plans for it to be open for the Fall 2022 semester.

The apartments are phase two of Project Foresight, an initiative the university launched three years ago. Project Foresight encompasses eight acres and 30 properties on the southwest edge of campus, including many that were vacant or seriously deteriorated.

Phase one of Project Foresight included leasing land to alumni-owned Pediatrics Plus, a children's specialty healthcare clinic. The company built an \$8 million facility adjacent to Ouachita's campus that opened in January 2021. It provides

services to families with special needs, extends learning opportunities for Ouachita's undergraduate students and serves as a clinical placement site for the university's new Master of Science degree in applied behavior analysis, a leading therapy for autism.

"Three years ago, we began dreaming and planning to transform our campus," said Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president. "Ouachita is and will continue to be a place where each student lives, learns, worships and serves in community to uniquely become the person God intends in order to serve his purposes in their generation."

Ouachita is a highly residential campus, with 97% of students living in residence halls and apartments. The new



apartment complex caps 15 years of improvements to on-campus housing. Ouachita's iconic Student Village, which includes Gosser and Tollett Halls, was built in 2009; Georgia Hickingbotham and Susie Everett Halls were built in 2010; Kluck Hillside Apartments were renovated in 2018; and Pine Square Apartments, renamed Tatman Corner, were renovated in 2021. Ongoing improvements

We're excited about this major addition to our residence life facilities and to extend our institutional momentum.

- Dr. Keldon Henley

also have been made to the university's three freshman residence halls.

"There's always more to do with a campus of 1.3 million square feet," said Dr. Keldon Henley, chief of staff and vice president for institutional advancement. "We're excited about this major addition to our residence life facilities and to extend our institutional momentum for the sake of the students we're called to serve."

Ouachita's Board of Trustees appointed a subcommittee in 2020 to work with university staff and architects John McMorran and Ryne Pruitt of Lewis Architects Engineers to design the apartments. General contractor and construction management firm CDI was chosen for the project. The Board of Trustees formally approved going forward in July of 2021.

Incorporating ideas gathered through an alumni survey, which elicited nearly 800 responses, the new apartment complex will feature two buildings divided into six houses. Each three-

story house includes six apartments with two double-occupancy bedrooms, two bathrooms, a laundry room, kitchen and dining area open to the living area. The units will be fully furnished for students' convenience.

"These new apartments will provide another opportunity for our students to build community while they live together on campus, elevating and enriching the student experience," said Rickey Rogers, dean of students and director of housing. "They will support the university's continued growth, improve safety and alleviate parking issues."

The projected cost of the apartments is \$12.6 million, and 60% of the funding has been identified. Gifts are needed for the remaining \$5 million.

"So much is happening at Ouachita that isn't happening elsewhere with our enrollment growth, high graduation rate, record giving and new undergraduate and graduate programs," Sells added. "It's happening because of Ouachita's adherence to its Christian mission and a long history of investment in students by trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, churches and friends. We are ready and capable of rising to this next great moment to strengthen our Christ-centered learning community."



BE PART OF THE PROGRESS

There are several ways you can contribute to this project, including:

- **one-time gift**—check, transfer of stock, IRA distribution;
- **pledge**—paid over three to five years;
- **planned gift**—through trusts or annuities.

If you would like to discuss how you can be a part of this important project, please contact Terry Peeples, vice president for development at Ouachita, at 501.804.7006 or peeplest@obu.edu.





Dr. Rickey Rogers named Ouachita's vice president for student development

By Felley Lawson, editorial coordinator

Before he was Dr. Rogers, Ouachita's dean of students, Rickey Rogers was an assistant football coach at Ouachita calling signals for the Tigers who played offensive skill positions.

Quarterback. Running back. Wide receiver. Tight end.

The players who spend the most time handling the ball, figuring out how to move it down the field *together* to score—despite whatever obstacles or distractions might present themselves. The players who arguably get the most credit for wins and catch the most heat for losses.

And during Rogers' coaching tenure, these guys looked to him.

When Rogers became Ouachita's dean of students and director of residence life in 2017, among the many strengths he brought to his new position were a deep appreciation for teamwork, a respect for the value of education and an understanding of how to keep the ball moving down the field in pursuit of a goal.

In other words, Rogers understands momentum.

"Our main task is to ensure that within our department, we're doing what we can to help students grow mentally, spiritually and physically," said Rogers, who takes a team approach to leadership; he's promoted a climate in the dean's and residence life offices where everyone knows they play a part in helping students succeed.

In fact, Rogers believes that every department on campus can impact student success.

"Whatever we're doing to carry out Ouachita's mission is important," he said. "And whether or not we work together can make the difference between a first down and a touchdown."

On June 1, he'll put his team-focused leadership style to work in a broader capacity when he succeeds Dr. Wesley Kluck as vice president for student development at Ouachita. Kluck, while stepping down from the role, will continue as university physician.

"In our search for the next chief student development officer, Dr. Rogers distinguished himself from other candidates," said Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president. "He has strong support from Ouachita colleagues and students, and high recommendations from student development leaders in Christian higher education.

"Because he's a Ouachita graduate and because he and his family lived in a residence hall for eight years," Sells added, "and now that he's the parent of two Ouachita students, he understands the role student development plays in making Ouachita, Ouachita."

As vice president, Rogers will lead several key areas of the university, including Residence Life, Campus Housing, Student Life, Student Conduct, Counseling and Disability Services, Health Services, Recreational Life, Summer Camps and Campus Safety & Emergency Management.

Basically, his main objective will be leading the university's efforts to provide support to students as they work toward earning their degree. This is especially important to Rogers, whose doctoral dissertation explores ways for Christian universities to build what Rogers calls a "culture of retention." After completing his B.A. degree in physical education from Ouachita, he earned an M.S. degree in clinical mental health counseling from Henderson State University and an Ed.D. degree in higher education leadership and management from Regent University.

“Programs come and go with the person leading them,” he explained. “Developing a culture of retention leads to more permanent growth and stability. The key to that is building a team, where everyone understands their piece of the puzzle. Everyone plays a part in helping students grow and getting them from admission to graduation.”

As dean of students, working with his colleagues in student development, Rogers has drawn on his research to come up with new strategies including a summer work program for resident assistants to begin building relationships earlier with incoming students and help smooth their transition to college; opening new channels for res life staff to know and intervene when students are struggling; and creating a questionnaire designed to provide insights as to why students withdraw before completing a degree plan. He’s also part of the team developing a program to better retain and support first-generation college students.

Everyone plays a part in helping students grow and getting them from admission to graduation.

– Dr. Rickey Rogers

Rogers recognized Ouachita’s commitment to academic excellence on his first visit to campus, when he was recruited as a high school student by legendary coach Jimmy “Red” Parker to become a Tiger football player. On visits to every other school where Rogers was being recruited, he was only shown the athletic facilities. At Ouachita, he visited classes, met students and professors and, at the very end of the day, got a tour of the athletic complex.

“That stood out to me—and to my parents,” he recalled. “My mom was very big on making sure I was focused on academics in college, not just the athletic part.”

Rogers met Lydia Gutierrez while both were student athletes at Ouachita. They married in the spring of 2002; Lydia now serves in Tiger athletics as senior woman administrator and director of athletic compliance. The couple’s children Rickey Jr. and Reyna attend Ouachita; youngest son Ryan is a freshman at Arkadelphia High School. The Rogers are active members of First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia.

Lots of things have changed on campus since Rogers’ own student days. But, he said, “Ouachita has the best interest of students at heart. That’s remained the same.”

Which is an important factor in building a team where everyone understands the role they play in helping students succeed.

As leader of that team, he said his focus will be on “how we can build on what we’re already doing, and push ahead of where we are now. When even more people are invested in students, it makes a big difference.”

MEET DR. ROGERS

HOMETOWN:

Lake, Miss.

I START MY DAY...

Taking my dogs for an early morning walk, then coffee and life discussions with my wife, Lydia. Devotional reading before starting work in my office.

GO-TO KARAOKE SONG:

I can’t sing, but if I had to, I would probably go with “I Feel Good” by James Brown.

SECRET TALENT:

At 5 ft. 8 in., I won a dunk contest during Midnight Madness at Ouachita my freshman year. I also play guitar (not very well).

LYDIA AND I ARE CURRENTLY BINGE-WATCHING:

This is Us

RIGHT NOW, I'M READING:

Christ-Enlivened Student Affairs: A Guide to Christian Thinking and Practice in the Field by Glanzer, Cockle, Jeong & Graber. I am re-reading/skimming *Relationship-Rich Education: How Human Connections Drive Success in College* by Felten and Lambert.

THE BIBLE PASSAGE THAT MEANS THE MOST TO ME:

Psalm 23. I preached this passage at my father’s funeral. He and I often discussed this passage during his battle with cancer.

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING WITH OUACHITA STUDENTS:

Living in a freshman residence hall for eight years, Lydia and I consider it a complete joy to get to see students mature and grow from freshman year to graduation.

FAVORITE STARBUCKS ORDER:

I didn’t even like Starbucks as a student, but Lydia worked at our on-campus shop. I ordered coffee to get to talk to her.

IF I COULD CHOOSE ONE SUPERPOWER, IT WOULD BE:

The ability to detect lying.

THE ADVICE I'D GIVE MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF:

Be patient; God has a plan for your life and the perfect person to walk through life with you, including the difficult times.

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE ME BEST:

loyal, trustworthy, committed



NEW MASTER OF EDUCATION DEGREE IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION EMPHASIZES **“TEACHING AS A CALLING”**

By Kiki Schleiff Cherry, marketing manager for graduate and online education

Ouachita’s new Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction program launched this semester as the latest post-baccalaureate offering in the university’s growing graduate studies menu. The 12-month program, designed to help teachers enhance skills and increase earning potential, prepares educators to become curriculum specialists and instructional coordinators as well as grow their skills in the classroom.

“This program is for every teacher with a heart for students and a heart for Christ,” explained Dr. Gail Hughes, director of graduate studies in education. “In addition to designing effective curriculum for diverse students, we’ll look at current issues in culture, discuss how to approach them in the classroom and reflect on how faith guides our work as teachers. We will use data to plan strategies that will close achievement gaps and determine the best technology tools to engage students.”

Hughes said she has adopted a motto for the program that embodies all she hopes the degree is about: “Live for God, love others and teach all students.”

The fully online program offers classes asynchronously so that students can complete course work on a schedule that best works

for them. There is even an optional weekly Zoom session that will allow students to engage more deeply with the program director and connect with one another.

The courses are designed without prerequisites so students may enter the program at any of five terms throughout the year and work through the 10-course rotation without interruptions. Full-time students, who complete two courses per term, will be able to graduate in one year.

The pandemic has created unique challenges for teachers, especially those just starting out in their careers, Hughes noted. Many confess feeling overwhelmed by the pressure to juggle both online and in-person instruction while tailoring lessons to meet individual needs. Some are so discouraged that they are choosing to leave the profession completely.

According to the Learning Policy Institute, beginning teachers who feel inadequately prepared are “two and a half times more likely to leave the classroom after one year compared to their well-prepared peers.” Hughes said she hopes Ouachita’s new program will provide teachers with that critical support.

“It’s an important degree for any teacher, especially new teachers,” observed Dr. Jeff Root, dean of Ouachita’s Huckabee

School of Education and School of Humanities. He explained that the program will equip teachers with strategies to improve classroom instruction and give graduates the qualifications for promotion within the academic structure of a school system.

Root said, “I am particularly excited that our ‘Teaching as a Calling’ course will focus on the reason we chose to teach in the first place—as a ministry and service to future generations. It’s very challenging to be a teacher in today’s world, and it’s important to be reminded of the eternal importance of the work.”

Curriculum and instruction is a rapidly growing discipline. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “employment of instructional coordinators is expected to grow 6 percent” over the next eight years, which is faster than the average for all occupations.

“Adding the Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction is a natural extension of the legacy of our undergraduate teacher training program,” explained Monica Hardin, associate vice president for graduate and online education. Hardin expressed gratitude for Dr. Hughes and her vision for the program, adding that under Hughes’ leadership, “we will meet the needs of teachers who seek to view their calling as teachers through the lens of faith.”

Hughes, an award-winning professor and early adopter of online instruction, joined Ouachita’s faculty in 2021 to lead the

new program. As a licensed teacher with an emphasis in secondary mathematics, Hughes has worked with undergraduate and graduate students in remedial mathematics through doctoral courses, across the disciplines of research, statistics and education. Hughes has more than 100 scholarly contributions to her name and serves

as a site visitor for the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs (CAEP).

The Master of Education program builds on Ouachita’s strong undergraduate foundation in education.

“We have seen unprecedented growth in our undergraduate teacher education program in recent years,” Root said. “Our students are highly motivated and ready to devote

their working lives to the betterment of students. We believe like-minded teachers will show the same enthusiasm for our graduate program, and we believe they will complete the degree with a stronger base of knowledge and mindset to make a difference in the lives of their students.”

For more information or to apply, visit obu.edu/curriculum-instruction.

This program is for every teacher with a heart for students and a heart for Christ.

– Dr. Gail Hughes

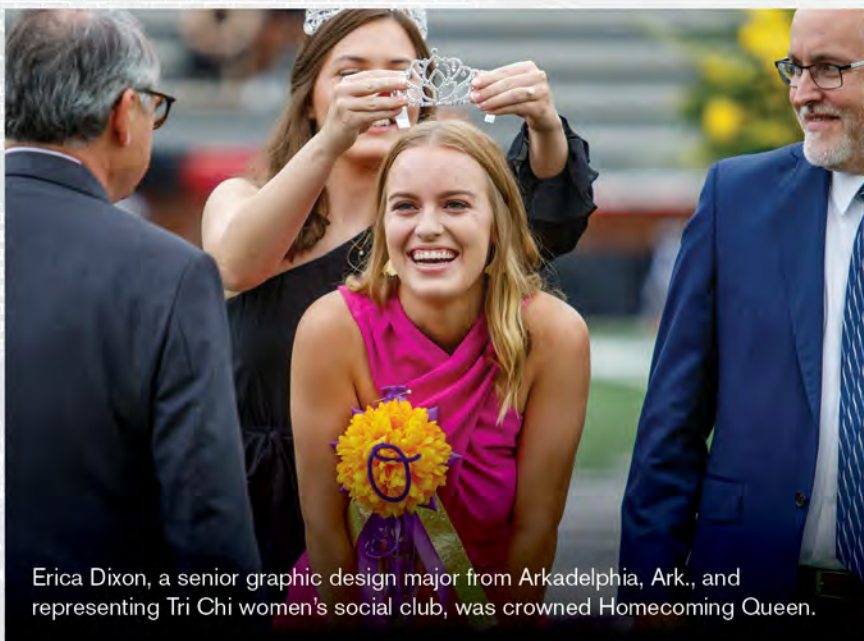
COMING SUMMER 2022 CALLED TO TEACH CONFERENCE

Join educators and administrators from all grade levels for this new annual event on Ouachita’s campus to learn best practices, grow in our calling as Christian educators and network with colleagues from across the region.

For more information, contact Gail Hughes at hughesg@obu.edu.

Homecoming festivities

RETURNED TO CAMPUS OCT. 2, 2021



Erica Dixon, a senior graphic design major from Arkadelphia, Ark., and representing Tri Chi women's social club, was crowned Homecoming Queen.



The Homecoming Court included (from left): third runner-up Anna Roussel, a senior mass communications and political science double major from Searcy, Ark., representing the Ouachita Student Foundation; second runner-up Emily McMaster, a senior communication sciences and disorders major from Texarkana, Ark., representing EEE women's social club; queen Erica Dixon; 2020 queen Holly Shipp; first runner-up Jazmyn Parker, a senior elementary education major from White Hall, Ark., representing Kappa Delta Pi honor society for education; and Jael Winterholder, a senior Christian studies major from Fort Wayne, Ind., representing the Pruet Sisterhood.

photos by Levi Dade



The Tigers defeated the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Rangers 64-17 during the Homecoming football game at Cliff Harris Stadium.

photo by Levi Dade



photo by Hannah Adamson



photo by Abby Blankenship



photo by Levi Dade



photo by Abby Blankenship

EEE women's social club won 1st place in Tiger Tunes, with Campus Ministries taking 2nd place, Beta Beta men's social club winning 3rd place and Student Life winning 4th place. The Shelby Seabaugh Award was given to Harry Jeffery, director of the Eta Alpha Omega men's social club show. Chi Delta women's social club won the People's Choice Award, and Beta Beta men's social club won the OSF Award.

OUACHITA HONORS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI DURING HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

By Felley Lawson, editorial coordinator

Ten Ouachita alumni received the university's Alumni Milestone Award in conjunction with Ouachita's Homecoming celebration Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Based on their professional achievements, community service and dedication to their alma mater, they were chosen by a committee of Ouachita faculty and staff and Ouachita President Ben Sells.

"Every year, several exemplary graduates are nominated for the Alumni Milestone Award," Sells said. "They're all worthy recipients, so we aspire to select a group of inductees that each year and over time live lives of service and best represent the generations of extraordinary students who are the heart of Ouachita."

The 2021 Milestone Award recipients were presented Saturday, Oct. 2, during halftime festivities at Cliff Harris Stadium, where the Ouachita Tigers defeated the Northwestern Oklahoma State Rangers.

Amber Wilson Bagley of Little Rock, Ark., class of 2001, launched her legal career as a law clerk for Arkansas Supreme Court Justices Annabelle Clinton Imber Tuck and Tom Glaze after graduating from the William R. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Named the 2021 VOCALS Attorney of the Year for her pro bono work, Bagley is managing director of the Little Rock law firm Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon & Galchus.



"Ouachita prepared me academically for law school through its emphasis on critical thinking, research and writing," Bagley said. "It also prepared me by connecting me with the most amazing group of friends who are more like my family. Because of Ouachita, I have the most special group of friends that pray for me, support me and never miss a chance to say they love me. I can't think of any better preparation for life."



Mitch Bettis of Little Rock, Ark., class of 1990, began his media career before he even graduated from Ouachita; he launched an advertising agency with his friend and roommate Jeff Noble out of their Daniel South dorm room. Bettis now is president of Arkansas Business Publishing Group, which he owns with his wife Meg.

"The Ouachita network of staff and former students has been a meaningful part of my life in the past 30 years," Bettis said. "At Ouachita, I saw from my professors that it's possible to demand high expectations of yourself and high expectations of others while also walking in faith and living out Galatians 5:13—in love, serve one another."



Dr. Cari Cordell of Hot Springs, Ark., class of 2000, is a graduate of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where she completed a residency in orthopedic surgery. Cordell is the only female orthopedic surgeon in Arkansas who is fellowship-trained in both hand and shoulder. She practices with CHI St. Vincent Orthopedic Clinic in Hot Springs.

"Ouachita provided the education necessary to help me excel on testing, and it prepared me for medical school," she said. "I love my career and am confident I would not be here if I had not attended Ouachita."



Suzanne Ferrell of White Hall, Ark., class of 1991, was recruited to play basketball at Ouachita. She and her husband, David, own Hunter's Refuge, a sporting goods store in White Hall that's also managed by their son, Chandler, a 2019 Ouachita graduate.

"Through the relationships I had with my professors and fellow students, Ouachita instilled in me the importance of integrity and Christian values," Ferrell said. "This is an asset in both my personal and business world."



Ronald Greenwich of Manaus, Brazil, class of 1970, has dedicated his life to church planting and social ministries. He earned a Master of Religious Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and a master's degree from the Graduate School of Social Work

at the University of Houston. After a 33-year career with the International Mission Board, Greenwich and his wife, Alana, came out of retirement in 2020 to serve as mentors and language coaches for missionaries serving in Manaus.

Greenwich said, "The Christian atmosphere at Ouachita allowed me to grow spiritually and to consider God's call on my life. My double major in sociology and psychology paved the way for what was to become my lifelong career."



Edwin Payne of Woodbridge, Va., class of 1981, holds a master's degree in strategic studies from the United States Army War College. He served a combined 46 years in uniform and as a Department of Defense federal senior civilian, where his contributions included management of a \$7 billion

information technology budget for the Army as well as command positions within the DOD for the Army and the United States Air Force. Payne retired with the rank of U.S. Army colonel.

Payne said, "The instruction I received from Ouachita enabled me to hone in on and optimize essential on-the-job abilities such as time management, leadership and communication skills. Ouachita contributed to fine-tuning my preparation phase in life for the road map to success."



Lyn Pruitt of Little Rock, Ark., and Dallas, Texas, class of 1980, served as an admissions counselor at Ouachita before enrolling in UALR's William H. Bowen School of Law. Her legal career began with an Arkansas Supreme Court clerkship, after which she joined the Little Rock-based law firm Mitchell,

Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, where she was recognized locally, regionally and nationally for her work as a trial lawyer.

"Ouachita taught me about being a leader and how to lead, that hard work in my studies would be necessary to be successful in a career," Pruitt said. "It taught me to hold fast to my values. I learned about getting along with others and remembering the importance of connecting with people no matter where you work or live."

Pruitt recently joined the international law firm DLA Piper, where she practices in the areas of products liability defense and toxic tort litigation.



Tommy Thomason of Fort Worth, Texas, class of 1971, said he chose to attend Ouachita in part based on his impression of what was at that time known as the university's Department of Communications.

"Ouachita gave me a great background in journalism," said Thomason, "but more importantly, Ouachita was where I learned to think critically."

After graduation, Thomason worked in journalism and public relations in Arkansas, Texas and Virginia before joining the faculty at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. He is the founding director of TCU's Bob Schieffer College of Communication, where he's now professor emeritus. He was named to the Texas Newspaper Hall of Fame in June by the Texas Press Association.



Abby Turner of Rogers, Ark., class of 2011, is a third-generation Ouachitonian. After graduation, she earned a master's degree in sports marketing from the Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

She worked in college athletics before relocating to Northwest Arkansas, where she serves as an associate director with Walmart. She's also a blogger and author; Turner's first book, *The Living Table*, was published in 2021.

"Ouachita was a great stepping stone into life," Turner said. "It connected work with faith, bridging the gap between adolescence and adulthood. This foundation has been paramount in Christ being the center of everything I've done and continues to be the light to the path ahead."



Philip Williamson of Cincinnati, Ohio, class of 2010, is the son of two Ouachita alumni, Gus and Pearlette Williamson of Batesville, Ark. Following graduation from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Williamson served as a law clerk for federal Judges Lavenski Smith, Amul

Thapar and Ray Kethledge. He is a partner with the Taft Stettinius & Hollister law firm in Cincinnati.

"Ouachita delivered exactly what a liberal arts education is supposed to," Williamson said. "It taught me to love God, love people, think critically, communicate clearly and appreciate beauty."

Terry DeWitt ('88)

Chair, Department of Kinesiology, and Professor of Kinesiology

By Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations

As a high school senior in Gravette, Ark., Dr. Terry DeWitt didn't have college on his radar until just before graduation. A first-generation college student, DeWitt enrolled as a freshman at the University of Central Arkansas. But he transferred after just one semester when his aunt, Nancy Hardman, encouraged him to consider Ouachita and Coach Buddy Benson offered him a work-study job as an athletic trainer.

"I knew I needed to make a change, and Ouachita was the place for me," DeWitt said. "I also knew I needed to grow in my Christian faith and my walk, which at the time was a crawl. I began to see I was in the right place, with the right people, doing the right things at the right time."

DeWitt graduated from Ouachita in 1988 with a degree in health/physical education. He went on to gain two years of experience as an NCAA Division I athletic trainer and graduate assistant while earning a master's degree at Nicholls State University. With their infant twins in tow, DeWitt and his wife Charlotte then moved to Arkadelphia.

After a seven-year stint teaching across the ravine, and during the first semester of his Ph.D. coursework, DeWitt returned to his alma mater to start an athletic training program. He finished his doctorate at the University of Arkansas in 2003 while working at Ouachita and has been here ever since.

DeWitt serves as chair of the Department of Kinesiology, where there's been a shift in emphasis over the years from recreation, leisure and outdoor activities to biomechanics and exercise science. Ouachita now offers pre-professional programs to prepare students for graduate studies in physical and occupational therapy, physician assistant, chiropractic and athletic training.

And now, DeWitt is developing a master's degree program at Ouachita in exercise science with the goal of having the program fully accredited to meet changing requirements for students taking the exercise physiology certification exam.

"Terry DeWitt is a forward-thinker," said Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the Huckabee School of Education. "He devotes time every day to imagining what tomorrow might look like for the various fields and sub-fields of kinesiology and how Ouachita can be ready for the opportunities and challenges to come. His belief in always moving forward is a great trait for a leader."

In addition to DeWitt's service in the classroom, he has had an extensive and decorated military career. DeWitt joined ROTC as a student at Ouachita and graduated having been commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. During his 32 years in the Army Reserve, he served two deployments to Iraq, received two Bronze Stars and was awarded the Legion of Merit. He retired in 2017 with the rank of colonel and volunteers as Arkansas Ambassador for the Army Reserve.

"My service all led back to Ouachita," DeWitt said. "My late twin brother was in the Navy, and I knew he had so many opportunities from serving with the military. I have been able to travel the world, meet all kinds of interesting people, work in the Pentagon. It was phenomenal—and an exciting way to serve my country."

The DeWitts are members of Second Baptist Church in Arkadelphia. Their children, Clinton and Lauren, are 2012 Ouachita graduates; the DeWitts have six grandchildren.

"I was in the right place, with the right people, doing the right things at the right time."





Jason Tolbert ('97)

Chief Financial Officer

By Jon Merryman, director of alumni relations

As soon as Jason Tolbert started his college search as a high school student in Wynne, Ark., he knew if he could afford to go to Ouachita, he would. It's not hard to believe that, even then, making the numbers work was a top priority for Tolbert, who now serves as Ouachita's chief financial officer (CFO).

Tolbert grew up visiting Ouachita each summer for Arkansas Baptist camps like Super Summer and Music Arkansas (now Praise Works). He'd continue visiting campus more as his sister, Jennifer (Tolbert '97) Byrd became a student; soon, Ouachita felt like home.

Tolbert graduated from Ouachita in 1998 as a history major and initially planned to teach at the high school or college level. While student teaching, however, he discovered that teaching was not his calling or passion. Tolbert said his good experience in Eddie Ary's Macroeconomics course led him to pursue his MBA from the University of Arkansas Little Rock and become a CPA. After a career serving with the Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council, PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, he returned to his alma mater as CFO in 2015.

Tolbert's positive effect on the university has been clear. He recently was recognized as a finalist for the 2021 *Arkansas Business* Higher Education CFO of the Year for his work at Ouachita, which includes overseeing business services, student financial services and human resources as well as working with partners who provide food and retail services. During his tenure, he has made such strides as refinancing the university's long-term debt, saving a million dollars a year in interest, and the university endowment growing from \$78 million to \$145 million.

"It was an honor to be recognized for my work here. The thing I love the most in my work as CFO is pulling together data in a way that allows university leadership to make good decisions for Ouachita," Tolbert said. "It's been an honor to be a part of the process to make Ouachita more stable and more sustainable and grow enrollment."

"Because of recent enrollment growth, increased giving and budget stewardship—helped by Jason's leadership—Ouachita is stronger financially than any time in the past two decades," said Ouachita President Ben Sells.

Beyond his administrative role, Tolbert said one of his favorite parts of serving at Ouachita has been teaching a Personal Finance class each year.

"I love working with students, and the subject is something I really believe in," he noted. "The course really helps students become good stewards, and helping them grasp these concepts is very rewarding.

"Ouachita is a place I believe in and love," Tolbert added. "My sister and my wife both went to Ouachita, and hopefully my two boys will be there soon. I care a lot about Ouachita and love being a part of what God is doing here."

Tolbert has two sons, Luke (17) and John (12). He and his wife, Gina (Daulton '97) Tolbert, currently live in Benton, Ark., and are active in their local church. They are building a house in Arkadelphia and hope to move later this year.

"It's been an honor to be a part of the process to make Ouachita more stable and more sustainable and grow enrollment."

John Barber ('99) & Becky Ellis ('08)

HELPING THOSE IMPACTED BY DISABILITY

By Kiki Schleiff Cherry, marketing manager for graduate and online education



Alumni John Barber and Becky Ellis will tell you that life can lead to unexpected places. They both work for Joni and Friends, an international ministry founded by Joni Eareckson Tada, seeking to communicate the gospel and mobilize the global church to evangelize, disciple and serve people living with disabilities.

“I consider it an honor to work with the exceptional men and women who serve special-needs families through Joni and Friends, but I enjoy a special delight in laboring alongside John Barber and Becky Ellis,” Tada noted. “I love their passion for what they do! Both have quickly risen to places of great influence and leadership in their positions as area directors in their states.

“Gracious, talented and possessing a true zeal for the gospel,” Tada added, “it’s obvious that Ouachita Baptist University went the extra mile in shaping their solid characters.”

For Ellis, what started as a middle school volunteer opportunity turned into a lifelong calling.

“My mom’s best friend had a son with Down syndrome,” Ellis said. “We grew up together.”

When they were invited to accompany their friends to a Joni and Friends family retreat to serve as volunteers for those living with disabilities, they did not hesitate.

“Our lives were changed,” Ellis said. They have returned as volunteers every summer for the past 22 years.

In 2012, Joni and Friends approached Ellis with a job opportunity. Ellis, who was a sociology major at Ouachita, prayed

long and hard before accepting the position. She is now the senior director at Joni and Friends Texas.

Barber’s journey took a more winding path. After working in corporate, nonprofit and church positions for two decades, he joined Joni and Friends just over a year ago as the area director for Tennessee.

“We have a son with autism,” said Barber, who wasn’t aware of the Joni and Friends ministry when his son was growing up. “That was my big connection with Joni and Friends. I’m able to see what we missed out on, advantages we didn’t have.”

He said he wished he had known about things like family retreat and marriage getaway, which offers parents of children with disabilities an opportunity to get away for a weekend to be alone and relax.

One of his favorite moments in the ministry so far came this past year at family retreat.

“There is a guy named Bruce who is in his mid-40s and has severe cerebral palsy,” Barber recalled. “Someone held the mic up for him, and he led us in this incredible time of worship. In that moment, the overwhelming feeling in the room was, ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like.’”

Ellis said that there have been so many special moments with Joni and Friends that it’s hard to choose one favorite.

“You learn things about God and about yourself and how He created us all unique,” Ellis said. “And how the body of Christ is not complete until those living with disabilities are also serving within the church and within community.”

TO HEAR MORE OF JOHN'S AND BECKY'S STORIES,
CHECK OUT THE TIGER FOR LIFE PODCAST AT
obu.edu/tigerforlifepodcast.



Haylee Cook ('21)

FIRST MASTER'S COHORT IN ABA DIGS IN WITH FAMILIES

By Felley Lawson, editorial coordinator

A couple years out of college, Haylee Cook knew her calling. She just didn't know what it was called.

After Cook graduated from Henderson State University, she and her husband Matthew, a 2014 Ouachita graduate, relocated so that he could pursue family ministry in Alabama. On Sundays, the Cooks served together teaching children at their church.

"I met a little boy who would come with his grandparents. He needed support transitionally, behaviorally, socially; he didn't know how to engage appropriately in his environment," Cook recalled. "I kept wondering, from a church standpoint, 'What can we do to help this little guy?'"

To find resources, Cook started with a Google search.

"The first thing that popped up was applied behavior analysis therapy," she said. "I didn't know what it was." Matthew had heard that Ouachita was starting a master's program in ABA; "That's when the wheels started turning."

Cook called Dr. Sheila Barnes, director of Ouachita's ABA program at the time, to learn more. She was drawn to Ouachita's faith-based approach and on-the-job learning through clinical partners like alumni-owned Pediatrics Plus in Arkadelphia. Cook also discovered that the program would launch in May 2020—giving her time to join the first cohort.

She said she found professors in the ABA program to be "top notch," each committed to being accessible, engaging and encouraging. "I think that's just the Ouachita way."

The program is now led by Dr. Julyse Migan-Gandonou Horr; Barnes continues to teach as an interim step toward retirement. Dr. Steven Gonzales, visiting assistant professor, rounds out the faculty.

Students in Cook's classes also quickly became close.

"We're still connected," she said. "Coming out on the other side of this program with friends for life who are in the same profession—that's huge."

Cook completed the Master of Science degree in ABA in July 2021 and on her first attempt passed the Board Certified Behavior Analyst exam, a test with only a 66% national pass rate. She transitioned in November from student to full-time staff at Peds Plus. The clinic is a short walk from the Cooks' apartment in Ouachita's Flippin-Perrin Hall, where Matthew is resident director; he also serves as assistant director of recreational life.

As she enters this new phase of professional life, Cook says she seeks to emulate Jesus by helping people in need. Even when his disciples tried to hurry him along, he always stopped to help hurting people.

"That's what I try to do, too, following Jesus' example," Cook said. "I don't want to just keep walking and ignore a person who needs help."

"I love what I do," she added. "I feel like God put this in my life, and I was made to do it."



photo by Tyler Rosenthal

READ AN EXPANDED VERSION OF HAYLEE'S STORY AT
obu.edu/stories/Haylee.



photo by Levi Dade



photo by Wesley Kluck



photo by Wesley Kluck

CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR TIGER FOOTBALL

By Brian Ramsey, assistant athletic director for communications

Ouachita football posted its 13th consecutive winning season in the fall of 2021, finishing 9-2. It was just the seventh nine-plus win season in program history, five of those coming since 2014.

Helping the Tigers accomplish the feat were a school-record 19 All-Great American Conference selections, three of whom went on to earn All-America honors.

Junior running back TJ Cole earned first team All-America honors from the American Football Coaches Association and second team honors from D2Football.com. This past season, the Texarkana, Texas, native broke the GAC single-season rushing record and finished fifth in the nation with 1,530 yards on 236 carries. That total ranks third on the Ouachita single-season charts behind William Miller (1,668 in 1978) and Johnny Baker (1,614 in 1970). Cole had nine games of at least 100 yards and was responsible for 18 touchdowns, 17 rushing and one passing.

Junior offensive lineman Peyton Stafford earned second team All-America honors from the D2 Conference Commissioners Association. The Amarillo, Texas, native was Ouachita's top lineman this year, grading out at 90 percent for the season. He averaged 11 domination

blocks per game and did not allow a sack all year. He helped the Tigers lead the GAC and rank fourth in the nation in rushing yards.

Senior cornerback Gregory Junior earned second team All-America honors from D2Football.com. The Crossett native was one of the best cover cornerbacks in the nation this season and helped Ouachita finish the year as the top pass defense in the conference. Junior was selected for the Reese's Senior Bowl and the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl, where he earned the opportunity to showcase his skills for NFL coaches and executives in hopes of playing professional football.

Another highlight of the 2021 football season was Ouachita's fifth consecutive Battle of the Ravine victory over rival Henderson State. The Tigers beat the Reddies 31-28 at Cliff Harris Stadium with a game-winning 53-yard field goal with 57 seconds remaining by Arkadelphia native Gabe Goodman.

Ouachita was ranked nationally from start to finish this past season, earning the No. 23 spot in the final AFCA Top 25 Poll. The future looks bright for the Tigers with 36 of the 46 names listed on the two-deep depth chart set to return for the 2022 season.



CLIFF HARRIS, the namesake of Ouachita's state-of-the-art football stadium, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame this past June. The 1970 Ouachita graduate starred for the Tigers in the late 1960s and then signed as an undrafted free agent with the NFL's Dallas Cowboys. He played professionally for a decade and was a part of five Super Bowls and two championships with the Cowboys. Since his induction, Harris has been recognized at AT&T Stadium, the home of the Cowboys, and multiple times at Ouachita games as a frequent supporter of the Tigers.

Photo courtesy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

JAYMEE DOTSON ON PACE FOR EXTENDED REIGN

By Brian Ramsey, assistant athletic director for communications

When Jaymee Dotson takes the field in the fall of 2022 for Ouachita women's soccer, she has a chance to accomplish a feat that no one else has.

The Princeton, Texas, native has been the best midfielder in the Great American Conference since her freshman season, a claim supported by the league's head coaches with four consecutive first team all-conference selections. This past season, she was a unanimous first team selection and was the unanimous pick for the league's midfielder of the year award. She also earned all-region honors from a pair of organizations, and was selected to the GAC's all-tournament team.

What a way to go out. But, wait ...

Because of COVID-19, the NCAA has allowed all student-athletes whose careers were affected by the pandemic to have an extra year of eligibility.

For Dotson and many others across the country, that's good news. The special exception means that countless young men and women can continue to play the sports they love at a competitive level, at least for another year.

I NEVER REALIZED HOW RARE IT WAS TO BE A FIRST TEAM HONOREE FOUR TIMES, MUCH LESS FIVE. – JAYMEE DOTSON

Specifically, for Dotson, it means she has a chance of becoming the first-ever five-time, first team All-GAC selection in any sport.

"I never realized how rare it was to be a first team honoree four times, much less five," Dotson said. "It means a lot, and [the honors] have been amazing. But, I've never liked recognition that much. It's more about the team for me."

Dotson credits her long and decorated career at Ouachita to the closeness of the team, and specifically the freshman group she was a part of in 2018. She and her roommate, Jamie Fowler, have stuck it out through the good—such as winning the GAC tournament championship in the spring of 2021—and the not so good, like having the 2020 season postponed.

The extra year has also adjusted Dotson's planning for the future. She says the extra time has allowed the decision-making process to slow down.

Dotson is on pace to graduate following her fifth season in the fall of 2022 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She then plans on attending graduate school for occupational therapy, physical therapy or athletic training.

"I'm still unsure on which way I'm leaning," she said. "I also still have thoughts of playing overseas if that's possible, but right now I'm just going with the flow and taking advantage of as much

time playing competitively."

For someone who has dominated as a midfielder for the past four years, it would be a fair assumption to make that Dotson has always played the position. However, that would be wrong.

"I actually started out in goal when I was young," Dotson said. "By my sophomore year in high school, I stuck with midfield."

Good choice.

After winning a state championship in high school, Dotson enrolled at Ouachita, and the honors list isn't finalized.

Not only has she been a first team all-conference pick each season, she was named the GAC freshman of the year in 2018, has been selected to the GAC all-tournament team three times, was named the GAC tournament most valuable player in the spring of 2021 and is a three-time academic all-conference selection. She has also earned all-region honors in each of her four seasons.

Dotson has played in 64 games throughout her Ouachita career, logging 20 goals, eight game-winning goals and 14 assists.

The rarity of having that kind of experience coming back to your roster for another season does not go unnoticed from Ouachita Head Coach Kevin Wright.

"She brings a lot of quality, but the experience and commitment she brings will be really important for us," Wright said. "She has had a wonderful career, but I think she and I both will tell you there are some team and individual goals we are happy to get another run at."



Jaymee Dotson was presented her fourth consecutive first team all-conference award this past November at the Great American Conference women's soccer championship tournament. Photo courtesy of the GAC.

CLASS NOTES

connecting the circle

1960s

David and Nancy (Elledge) Smith ('64) celebrated 57 years of marriage in June. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Bob and Cheryl (Peterson) Russell ('69) celebrated 50 years of marriage in August 2020.

1970s

Fran (Jackson '70) Farias retired and celebrated 31 years as a State Farm agent in Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. Fran and her husband, Phil, have traveled to more than 100 countries and look forward to many RV trips across the U.S. and Canada. During retirement, they plan to visit family and friends, play golf and continue choir and volunteering commitments at the Big Canoe Chapel and in their community.



Ron ('70) and Alana (Ichter '72) Greenwich are serving a three-year term with the International Mission Board as lead mentors and language coaches for all new missionaries arriving in Brazil during their first year of language learning and cultural acquisition. Ron and Alana served as IMB missionaries for 32 years in Florianopolis, South Brazil.



Lavana (Jones '78) Kindle received her licensed associate counseling license from the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling in June 2020. Lavana retired in Oct. 2020 from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark., after 13 years of employment. She is now practicing in private Christian counseling and also is a part-time therapist at South Arkansas Regional Health Center. Lavana and her husband, Lee, celebrated 43 years of marriage in August.

Bob ('78) and Carole (McKenzie '77) Parsley retired and relocated to Washington state from the Maryland suburbs of D.C. Carole retired in June from Annapolis Area Christian School and Bob retired as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Crofton, Md., in September.

Denise (Moffatt '79) White retired in May after 41 years of teaching elementary music in Arkansas. She taught 33 years at Howard Perrin Elementary in Benton, Ark.

Terry Toler ('79) has written 17 nonfiction books and 13 novels. His book *The Longest Day: Inspirational Science Fiction and Fantasy* received the 2020 Best Book Award for Religious Fiction.



Cindy (Hubby '83) Klatt was promoted from chief operating officer to president of Kemmons Wilson Insurance Group.



Mark Williams ('89) was named CEO and Sales Leader of MRW Associates at Keller Williams Realty based in Conway, Ark.

1990s

Bruce ('93) and Dana (Hubbard '98) Guthrie moved from Arkansas to Atlanta, Ga., where Bruce was promoted to managing editor of *The Times-Georgian*, *The Gateway Beacon*, *The Villa Rican*, *The West Georgia Weekly* and *West Georgia Living* magazine. Dana accepted a position as a researcher for Jupiter Entertainment where she is working for the show *Snapped*, which airs on the Oxygen Network.

Leslie (Proctor '96) Cauble received her flight instructor certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration in May. Leslie and her husband, **John ('95)**, own the Fly Maui flight school in Kahului, Hawaii, and they host a tourism podcast called "The Aloha 360."

Karen Kay (Cowling '96) Smith published her first book, *Nearsighted: Choosing to See Eating Disorders Differently*, in May; it is available on Amazon.com.

Nathan Nipper ('99) released his first novel, *Life on Christmas Eve*, in November, published by Post Hill Press.

1980s

Retha (Herring '81) Sawyer retired after 32 years as a history and economics teacher at Woodlawn High School in Rison, Ark.

..... 2000s

Kathryn Sohne ('00) earned a doctor of philosophy degree in family studies from Texas Woman's University in May.

Jonathan Watson ('00) released his first book, *In the Name of Our Lord: Four Models of the Relationship between Baptism, Catechesis, and Communion*, in July, published by Lexham Academic. Jonathan is chair and associate professor of Christian studies at Charleston Southern University in Charleston, S.C. Jonathan and his wife, **Karen (Moore '00)**, and their four children—Emma, Abby, Nathan and Jude—live in Summerville, S.C.



Dustin Slaton ('03) completed his doctor of philosophy degree in church vitalization from Southwestern Seminary in May and became the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Round Rock, Texas, in February 2021.

Shealyn Sowers ('03) was appointed director of communications for the Arkansas Governor's Office in June. Shealyn was previously an executive producer at KARK and FOX16. She won an Emmy for Best Newcast for the station's coverage of the 2014 tornado that struck Mayflower and Vilonia, and also won an Emmy for Best Producer in 2018.

Chris ('05) and Keisha (Pittman '04) McKinney moved to Springdale, Ark. Chris is working for George's, Inc. as the plant manager at the Kansas Street processing plant. Keisha will stay home with their son, Joshua, and continue freelance writing and social media consulting through her company McKinney Media Solutions.

DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE TO SHARE?

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

Sierra (Hagen '08) Laddusaw was awarded the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University 2021 Distinguished Achievement Award:



College Level, which recognizes a library faculty member for contributions to the university through outstanding accomplishment and dedication to serve all students by enhancing the education experience. She serves as assistant professor at the Texas A&M University Libraries, where she is curator of digital scholarship and maps and co-curator of the Chapman Texas & Borderlands Collection.

Ben Sears ('08) graduated in June with the rank of major from the Army Command and General College with a master's degree in operational studies.

Jason Smith ('08) was named director of strategic gifts for *Sojourners*, a magazine and advocacy group.

Laura Cox ('09) married Devin Bates on Nov. 21 at Petit Jean Mountain.



..... 2010s

Liz (Richardson '11) Duke completed her doctor of philosophy degree in English literature at Southern Methodist University.

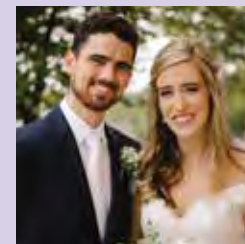
Ashley (Turner '11) Thompson was awarded Elementary Teacher of the Year in White Hall School District for the 2020-2021 school year.



Ashley previously taught in Sheridan for 8 years and is now in her second year of teaching in White Hall. Ashley is an art educator at Taylor Elementary School and Hardin Elementary School.

Mikki (Gaines '12) Curtis was selected for *Four States Living* magazine's "Fabulous 40 Under 40." Mikki is the dean of secondary programs at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana, where she supervises the Hope Collegiate Academy, the Arkansas High School Collegiate Academy and the Secondary Career and Technical Education Center. Mikki currently is pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in higher education and administration.

Hannah Ramsey ('13) married James Cuénod on Oct. 10 at Wellspring Alliance Church in Wheaton, Ill. They live in Carol Stream, Ill., where Hannah teaches English as a second language at two elementary schools in Wheaton and James is a doctoral student at Wheaton College.



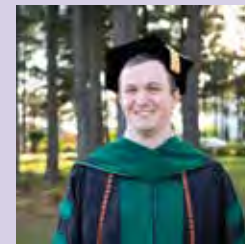
Shelby Pierceall ('14) married Brandon Roberson on Nov. 14, 2020, at Hillbrook Farms in Twin Groves, Ark. Shelby is working as a registered dietician and certified diabetes educator for ARcare Family Practice and Brandon is a co-owner of Pro-Source Builders.



Rebecca Rutherford ('14) married Daniel Chace on Oct. 10 in Hot Springs, Ark. They live in North Providence, R.I.



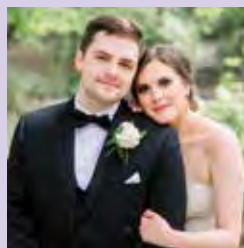
John Givler ('16) earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Smith, Ark., on May 15. In July, John began working as an internal medicine resident at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Tyler, Texas.



Will Wallace ('16) married Hallie Clark on Aug. 7 at Berry Chapel. Hallie is an instructor of kinesiology and leisure studies at Ouachita.



Karen Wray ('16) married Kaleb Fisher on July 31, 2021.



Ian Craft ('17) was named director of communications for the Arlington and Ellis Hill Board of Realtors.

Jordan Sharp ('16) graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Ark. Jordan and his wife, **Jessica**



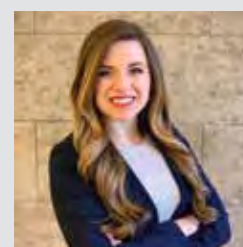
(Shell '19), moved to Gainesville, Fla., where Jordan is pursuing his Master of Laws in Taxation degree in the University of Florida School of Law. After graduation, they will return to Arkansas, where Jordan will serve at Friday Eldredge & Clark, LLP as an associate attorney and a part of the trust and estate planning group. Jessica continues to work for Reynolds Consumer Products.

Cooper Wade ('17) was named by *Arkansas Business* as a "20 in Their 20s" honoree. Cooper is vice president of project management for Seal Solar in North Little Rock, Ark. After graduating from Ouachita, he earned an MBA in social entrepreneurship and is pursuing a doctorate in energy engineering. Previously, Cooper worked for General Electric Co. developing wind turbines and served as the director of business development for Scenic Hill; he joined Solar Seal in February 2020.

Mattison Griffin ('18) now serves as park interpreter at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.



Hannah Hines ('18) graduated as salutatorian in her class from the University of Arkansas School of Law in May.



FACULTY & STAFF NEWS UPDATE

JERUSA CARVAJAL PRESENTS AT THE PARK SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE

Dr. Jerusa Carvajal, assistant professor of Spanish, was an invited scholar to The Park School of Baltimore as part of the institution's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration last October. Dr. Carvajal taught a master class on Latin American literature written by women. She also visited several Spanish classes where she gave cultural presentations on Ecuador.

DONNIE COPELAND PRESENTS EXHIBIT AT EACC FINE ART CENTER

Donnie Copeland, chair of the Adams Department of Art & Design and professor of art and design, presented his work in a show titled "Discordant, Clashing, and Found: Painted Collage" at East Arkansas Community College Fine Art Center in November. Copeland is a 2000 Ouachita graduate.

NATHAN REYNA RECEIVES NATIONAL INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AWARD

Dr. Nathan Reyna, associate professor of biology, won the first Innovation in Education Award from the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) for his work as principal investigator of two programs at Ouachita funded by the National Science Foundation. He also has led the Arkansas Course-embedded Undergraduate Research Experience (AR-CURE) project and the Cell Biology Education Consortium.

NATILAN CRUTCHER RELEASES ALBUM, "AWAKENING"

Dr. Natilan Crutcher, visiting assistant professor of music, released her second album, "Awakening," which features original instrumental compositions. It is available to stream on most streaming platforms, including Spotify, Amazon Music and Apple Music.

JULYSE HORR NAMED APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS DIRECTOR

Dr. Julyse Migan-Gandonou Horr (pronounced HAW) has been named director of Ouachita's master's degree program in applied behavior analysis, effective January 2022. She is a doctoral-level Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Behavior Analyst. She has worked in the field for more than 10 years as a clinician, educator and researcher and is the owner and founder of ABA Clinical & Training Solutions consulting agency.

HOUSER SELECTED FOR BAPTIST INT'L. SCHOLARS ROUNDTABLE

Dr. Myra Houser, associate professor of history at Ouachita, presented her paper, "Baptists and Social Concern," during the Baptist International Scholars Roundtable in August 2021. The paper reviewed Baptist responses to apartheid in the 1970s and 1980s. Houser is a 2007 Ouachita graduate.

Ben O'Brien ('18) married **Jessica McCauley ('18)** on Dec. 11 at The Venue at Stonebrook Meadows in Bauxite, Ark. They live in Sherwood, Ark., where Ben works for Tyson and Jessica is an occupational therapist at Arkansas Lymphedema & Therapy Providers.



Elise Nelson ('20) married Derek Healy on Aug. 21 at the Hillside Estate in Cross Roads, Texas.



Abigail Sanders ('21) married Evan Woodfin on June 4 in Bauxite, Ark. They live in Conway, Ark., where Abigail is marketing and event specialist for Rhea Lana's Inc. and Evan is pursuing a degree in computer science from the University of Central Arkansas.



Allisha Bates ('19) married Matthew Murr on March 20, 2019.



Bret Pierce ('20) married **Teresa Workman ('20)** on Dec. 20, 2020.



Johnny Webb ('21) married **Ansley McDonald ('21)** on July 11 at Legacy Acres in Conway, Ark. They live in Arkadelphia, where Johnny works in Ouachita's Office of Development and Ansley is the music teacher at Perritt Primary School.



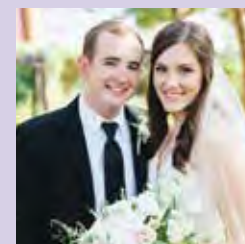
McKenna Stephens ('19) married Hunter West on Aug. 8. They moved to Wichita Falls, Texas, where Hunter is completing military technical training. Their first duty station will be in Florida, and McKenna will pursue a master's degree in business.



Fallon Carder ('21) married Chris Farley on Jan. 1, 2022, at Mountain Brook Baptist Church (MBBC) in Birmingham, Ala. They live in Birmingham, where Fallon is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Beeson Theological Seminary and works as a student intern at MBBC. Chris is a sales associate at Jim Burke Nissan, a freelance choral musician and an adjunct professor at Samford University.



Mason Woolbright ('21) married **Holly Shipp ('21)** on July 31 at First Baptist Church in Benton, Ark. They live in Benton, where Holly is ministry assistant to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention evangelism and church health team and is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mason owns M&M Productions and is the media & technology director at FBC Benton.



..... 2020s

Addy Goodman ('20) married Price Murphree on May 29 at First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia with a reception following on the lawn of Cone-Bottoms Hall. They live in Little Rock, where Addy works in the Governor's office and Price works at Arkansas Business Publishing Group.



Braylon Pilant ('21) married **Carmen Scott ('21)** on July 17 in Dallas, Texas. They live in Denver, Colo., where they both are pursuing Master of Divinity degrees from Denver Seminary.



FUTURE TIGERS

Katie Kumpuris ('20) married David Hernandez on Dec. 4 at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Ark. They live in Little Rock and both work at Fellowship Bible Church.



Mike Andrus ('21) married **Callie Rogers ('21)** on Dec. 4, 2021, at Cold Springs in Paron, Ark.



..... 2000s

Wendy (Porter '01) Darden and her husband, Jeremy, welcomed daughter Kingsley Isabella on Dec. 30, 2020.



ROBERT S. MOORE JR. GIVEN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

By Felley Lawson, editorial coordinator

Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman Robert S. Moore Jr. received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service to the State of Arkansas from Ouachita during an August luncheon held on campus in his honor.

The award was presented to Moore by Dr. Ben R. Sells, Ouachita president, and Taylor King, chair of the university's Board of Trustees.

"Robert Moore has distinguished himself and his alma mater throughout his long, remarkable history of public service to our state," Sells said. "We're appreciative of his work, along with members of the highway commission and the Department of Transportation, to secure the many investments being made to help Arkadelphia and Clark County."

Sells added, "We're excited about the completion of local projects totaling more than \$70 million, including improvements to Pine Street, two new bridges and construction of a bypass for the 200 logging trucks that daily come through Arkadelphia, which will increase safety and mobility in our area. These projects are very important to Ouachita's future."

Moore is a native of Arkansas City, Ark. He and his wife Beverly reside on their farm near Moore's hometown, where they remain active in tourism-related economic development. Moore was inducted into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame in 2019 for his years of work in this area throughout the Delta.

The trailhead for the Delta Heritage Trail State Park in Arkansas City is named in his honor.

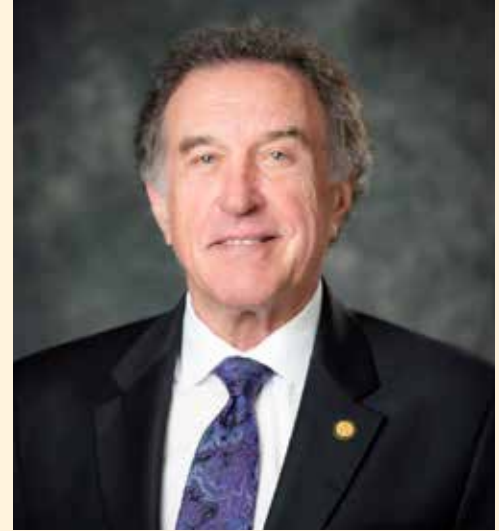
Moore's father, Robert Sr., was a student-athlete at Ouachita and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Ouachita posthumously following his death in a car accident in 1973. He had served as sheriff of Desha County.

As a member of the 1966 Arkansas high school football all-star team, Moore fielded scholarship offers from a number of colleges—including Ouachita.

"I was 'highly encouraged' by Dad that the offer from Ouachita was the only one to consider," Moore recalled. "And of course he was right, as he most often was!" adding that his father "had a very strong influence on my life at that time, and continues to have that influence with me now, well into my 70s."

After one semester at Ouachita, Moore's football scholarship became a basketball scholarship and he joined then-Coach Bill Vining's team. He also pledged Rho Sigma men's social club, which he served as president, and was a member of ROTC.

"The friendships made, the knowledge imparted by caring instructors and the fundamentals of decency and dedication instilled by Coach Vining cannot be overstated," Moore said. "Ouachita provided the essential foundation blocks of my adult life. A very large part of whatever successes



I've enjoyed are tied to the influences and experiences from my four years as a student-athlete there."

Following graduation from Ouachita, Moore was commissioned a captain in the United States Army and was a pilot during the Vietnam War. He has given more than 40 years to public service, including three terms representing District 12 in the Arkansas House of Representatives, where he was elected speaker in 2011. Securing funding for highway improvements was one of his top legislative priorities.

As a student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, Moore worked as an intern to then-Arkansas AG Jim Guy Tucker and stayed on as assistant attorney general after graduation. He served former Gov. David Pryor as chairman of the Arkansas Transportation Commission. He was later recruited out of private practice by then-Gov. Bill Clinton to become director of the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and continued to serve in that position under governors Jim Guy Tucker and Mike Huckabee.

Appointed by then-Gov. Mike Beebe to the Arkansas State Highway Commission in 2013, Moore continued to advocate for improvements to infrastructure. He has served as commission chairman since March 2020.

Lori Tudor, director of the Arkansas Department of Transportation and parent of a Ouachita graduate, called Moore a "visionary," adding that he has "left an impactful legacy. ... He's done a lot, and he's done it well."



Friends, colleagues and civic leaders gathered at Ouachita to celebrate Robert S. Moore Jr. when he received Ouachita's Distinguished Alumni Award during a luncheon held in his honor. Photo by Felley Lawson.

Heather (Tackett '01) Wardle and her husband, Brian, welcomed son Beirin "Bear" Max on Oct. 15, 2020.



Becca (Woodall '09) Owens and her husband, Chuck, welcomed daughter Gracen Leigh on April 6. She joins big sisters Annie and Mattie Gayle.



Rachel (Griffith '11) Brumley and her husband, Berrick, welcomed daughter Beatrice Jayne on Jan. 19, 2021. She joins big brother Griffith.



Blake Johnson ('03) and his wife, Rosamond, welcomed son Andrew Paul on Nov. 18, 2020. He joins older siblings William and Anna Kate.

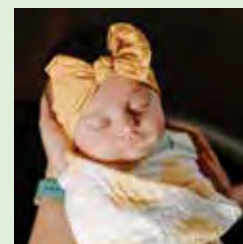


..... 2010s

Richard Atkinson ('10) and his wife, Ashley, welcomed daughter Sloane Kathryn on Aug. 5.



Tyler ('11) and Kelli (Caldwell '12) King welcomed daughter Heather Blake on March 6.



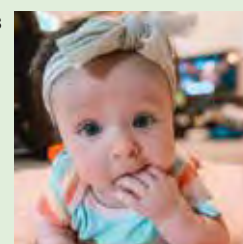
Michael Nutt ('04) and his wife, Kelsey, adopted daughter Eva Isabelle. She joins older siblings Ezra and Lily.



Audrey Anna (Harrell '10) Mortenson and her husband, Jack, welcomed daughter Kate Ryan on Dec. 7, 2020. She joins older siblings Walt (5) and Merritt (3).



Paul ('11) and Alexis (Pace '13) Nichols welcomed daughter Karis Sophia on Feb. 4, 2021.



Daniel ('08) and Cortnie (DeVore '11) Byrd welcomed daughter Charlie Mae on Oct. 19.



Amber (Lee '10) Talcott and her husband, Damion, welcomed son Fitz Robert on July 3.



Marcus Schreiner ('11) and his wife, Clayr, welcomed son Henry Marcus on Oct. 31. He joins big sister Sophie (3).



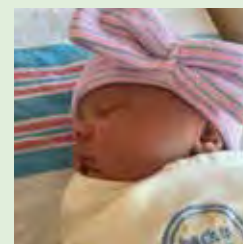
Tyler ('09) and Brooke (West '08) Butler welcomed son Elijah on Nov. 8, 2020. He joins older siblings Kenleigh (6) and Titus (3). They live in Lubbock, Texas, where Tyler is the student minister at Highland Baptist Church.



Sarah (Greeson '11) Bearden and her husband, Alex, welcomed daughter Eliana Grace on Oct. 15, 2020. She joins big sister Juniper (3).



Mark Sumrall ('11) and his wife, Amy, welcomed daughter Anna Grace on Feb. 10, 2021.



Chloe (O'Connor '09) Ford and her husband, Michael, welcomed daughter Ava Zoe on Sept. 22. They live in Rogers, Ark., where Chloe is the art director at Natural State Media, the parent company of *Northwest Arkansas Business Journal* and *Talk Business & Politics*.



Kristen (Glover '11) Belew and her husband, Barrett, welcomed son Bennett Keith on April 24. He joins big brother JT.



Paschall and Charlene (Heimsch) Leus ('12) welcomed daughter Elizabeth Jane on Oct. 7. She joins big sister Alexandra.



CLASS NOTES

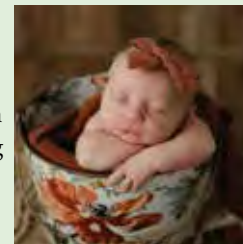
Samantha (Street '13) Akers and her husband, Caleb, welcomed twins Austin Gary and Andrew Scott on June 27.



Stephen and Lauren (Jackson) Raines ('13) welcomed Nora Grace on June 21.



Tyler ('15) and Chelsea (Ariola '14) Davis welcomed daughter Lily Beth on Nov. 22. She joins big sister Harper.



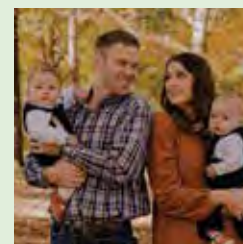
Drake ('13) and Brittany (Nolan '14) Hardy welcomed son Hollis Drake on June 26. He joins big sister Grace (2).



Andrew and Alyssa (White) Hassell ('14) welcomed son James Dwaine on June 9. He joins big sister Lily (3).



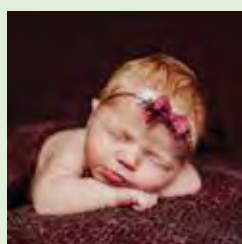
Micale (Kocke '15) Goodhart and her husband, Jeff, welcomed twins Jonah and Marin on Feb. 27, 2021.



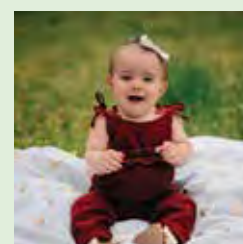
Patrick and Kristen (Ashburn) Krauss ('13) welcomed son Zane Patrick on June 13.



Clay ('14) and Emily (Harris '16) McKinney welcomed daughter Macie Lynn on Sept. 24.



Aaron ('15) and Alex (Trevino '14) McDonald welcomed daughter Adalee Teddy on Sept. 27, 2020.



Taylor and Jessica (Scoggins) Lamb ('13) welcomed son Milo Taylor on Aug. 6, 2019, and daughter Sylvia Christine on Sept. 24, 2021. They joined older sibling Everly (5). They are the grandchildren of **Tim Scoggins ('86)**.



Dawson ('14) and Griffin (Kretzer '15) Pritchard welcomed daughter Darby Jo on July 17. Dawson serves as instructor of kinesiology and leisure studies at Ouachita.



Alexander ('15) and Catarina (Gomes de Figueiredo '16) Young welcomed son Daniel Carl on Oct. 17.



Will and Laura (Strossner) Wooten ('14) welcomed daughter Olivia Jane on May 25.



Nick ('16) and Emily (Crump '15) Archer welcomed daughter Adalyn Grace on Sept. 1.



Jordan and Audrey (Melson) Neal ('13) welcomed daughter Lily Katherine on Oct. 12. She joins big brother Carson (4).



Jackson Carter ('15) and his wife, Sydney, welcomed daughter Norah Jane on Oct. 28. Jackson serves as instructor of communications at Ouachita.



Annie (McMurray '16) Beaty and her husband, Chris, welcomed daughter Saoirse Ray on April 12.

Houston ('16) and Brittany (McElroy '17) Crow welcomed daughter Emersyn Grace on Aug. 25.



Aaron ('19) and Marcy (Nelson '20) Clayton welcomed daughter Lila Kay on May 17.



Tyson ('19) and Felicia (Valdez '20) Hume welcomed son Robert Andrew on Nov. 15.



IN MEMORIAM

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

..... 1940s

- Major Ira Beynon Thomas, Jr. ('45*)** • Aug. 30, 2021
- Olita Mae (Dover) Dunchew ('46*)** • Jan. 10, 2021
- Bernadine (Glover) Brown ('48)** • July 23, 2021
- Carolyn J. (Dodd) Lowry ('48)** • Sept. 25, 2021
- Aubrey D. Park ('48)** • Oct. 26, 2021

Jean (Justice) Pilcher ('48) died October 17, 2021. She earned her bachelor's degrees in music and English at Ouachita. Pilcher ministered through music throughout



her life, including serving as music minister at several Little Rock churches, leader of First Baptist Little Rock's Living Christmas Tree productions, organist at Immanuel Baptist Church Little Rock, elementary school and junior high music teacher and youth choir mission trip leader. She was founding director of the Singing Women of Arkansas (later Master Singers Women's Chorus) and was chair of the Design/Organization Committee for the 1991 edition of *The Baptist Hymnal*. Pilcher is survived by her daughter, **Robin (Pilcher '82) Young**; son, **Rex ('84)**; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

..... 1950s

- Charles M. Lowry, Sr. ('50)** • Aug. 23, 2021
- Samuel "Sam" Jasper Talbot ('50)** • Nov. 19, 2021
- Marian Alice (Cardin) Corley ('51)** • July 17, 2021
- Wallace Franklin Corley ('51*)** • April 11, 2021
- Patsy "Pat" Lee (Duke) Lowman ('51)** • Dec. 19, 2021
- Neil P. "Bud" Moore ('51)** • Sept. 3, 2021
- Fred Bruce Murphy ('51)** • Sept. 13, 2021
- Mary Virginia (Cothran) Ramsey ('51)** • Nov. 2, 2021
- Glenn Dale Toler ('52)** • Oct. 27, 2020
- Mary Jo (Maddox) Abernathy ('53*)** • Oct. 17, 2021
- Betty L. (Baldwin) Berry ('53)** • Nov. 19, 2021

Harold Calvin Tedford ('54) died October 20, 2021. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech-theatre from Ouachita and went on to earn his master's



degree at the University of Arkansas and Ph.D. at Louisiana State University. Tedford taught at Southwest Texas State and then at Wake Forest until his retirement in 1998. He directed over 40 plays and led numerous theatre trips to New York and London. The Harold Tedford Main Stage at Wake Forest Scales Fine Arts Center was renamed in his honor in 2016. Tedford is survived by his wife, **Josie ('54)**; daughters, Vivian, Beth and Rosalind; and two grandchildren.

- Beverly Jean (Payne) Agee ('56*)** • May 31, 2021
- Gary Landon Corley ('56*)** • Nov. 7, 2021
- Jesse Dean Cowling ('56*)** • Oct. 19, 2021
- Odes Elbert Dwigginns Jr. ('56*)** • June 10, 2021
- Sylvia "Jean" Hickman (Hinson) Stevens ('56*)** • Sept. 2, 2021
- Betsy (Chenault) Gerrish ('57*)** • April 22, 2021
- Tommy Gene Robertson ('57)** • Sept. 10, 2021
- Virginia "Beth" (McClung) Williams ('57)** • Feb. 28, 2021
- A. Darlene (Condren) Johnson ('58)** • Sept. 11, 2021
- William "Bill" Houston Moffatt ('58*)** • March 24, 2021
- Sharon Amelia (Cherry) Newborn ('58*)** • Oct. 5, 2021
- Betty "Beegie" Glynn (Willson) Caroom ('59)** • May 28, 2021
- Betty Rea (Allen) Jones ('59)** • March 25, 2021

..... 1960s

- Clarence Alva “Al” Hamilton (’60) • Oct. 4, 2021
- Mathis Goodwin “Mac” Martin (’60) • Dec. 8, 2021
- Linda Maxine (Hester) Erwin (’62) • Sept. 1, 2021
- Robert Owen Kelley (’62) • July 28, 2021
- Carolyn Sue (Bishop) Koenig (’62) • July 2, 2021
- Charles Rue McGehee (’62) • June 21, 2021
- Carl J. Pearson (’62) • April 16, 2021
- Della Kay (Mason) Hall (’63) • Jan. 4, 2022
- Marsha (Connor) Mitchell (’63) • Sept. 9, 2021
- Linda Faye (Chavis) Shibley (’63) • Sept. 12, 2021
- Charles “Charlie” Thomas Hargrove (’64) • March 29, 2021
- Judith Ann Henry (’64) • July 3, 2021
- George S. Jones, Jr. (’64) • Nov. 24, 2021
- Wanda Gale Gray (’65) • May 21, 2021
- Hazel I. (Reeves) Layton (’65) • Nov. 25, 2020
- Clifford “Cliff” Charles Schaaf, Jr. (’66) • July 9, 2017
- Johanna Lee (Rotton) Schaaf (’66) • Feb. 27, 2021
- Mark Anderson Shelton III (’66) • Aug. 22, 2021
- Nola Jane (Shaddox) Smith (’66*) • April 1, 2021
- Sharon A. Smith (’66) • Dec. 29, 2021
- Harold Lloyd Johnson (’67) • Sept. 20, 2021
- Larry M. Johnson (’67) • June 18, 2021
- Betty (Corrington) Olberg (’67) • Dec. 17, 2021
- Royce Jean Sorrells (’67) • Aug. 18, 2021
- Bonita “Bonnie” Aileen (Hatfield) Estes (’68) • Nov. 15, 2021
- Rebecca Jo (Chandler) Gaither (’68) • July 2, 2021
- L. Kenneth Hall (’68) • Sept. 7, 2021
- Charles T. Hatch (’68) • April 4, 2021

- Sang-Kyu Sim (’68) • Jan. 4, 2022
- Shirley (Johnston) Wiedrich (’68) • Dec. 3, 2021
- Maxel “Max” James Briley (’69) • July 21, 2021
- Claudia O. (Johnson) Martin (’69) • May 28, 2021
- Michael H. Slack, Sr. (’69) • Sept. 15, 2021

..... 1970s

- Kent Oliver Brown, Sr. (’71) • Oct. 1, 2021
- Harold Thomas “Tom” Jones, Jr. (’71) • Dec. 2, 2020
- Judith “Judy” Eileen (Clowers) Neely (’71) • Sept. 2, 2021
- Sara “Kathleen” (Johnson) Smith (’71) • May 13, 2021
- Kaelynne (Webb) McGill (’73) • Aug. 30, 2021
- Randy Morton Rankin (’73*) • Aug. 28, 2021
- Nancy Jane (Bone) Hargrave (’74) • Aug. 28, 2021
- James Aubrey Hamm (’75*) • May 5, 2021
- Richard Riley Scifres (’75) • Aug. 7, 2021
- Michael Lavell Thrasher (’75) • April 25, 2021
- Harold K. “Butch” Davis (’76*) • Aug. 16, 2021
- Sherrell Delois Nelson (’76) • Jan. 2, 2022
- Susan Dianne Smith (’76) • June 3, 2021
- James “Jim” Robert Russell Bradshaw Sr. (’77*) • July 12, 2018
- Nathaniel “Peter” Bynum, Jr. (’77) • Nov. 22, 2020
- Jimmy D. Jennings, Sr. (’78*) • Oct. 19, 2021
- Billie Kathryn “Kay” (Smith) Price (’78) • June 30, 2021
- Larry Ray Stanley (’78) • Sept. 11, 2021
- Cynthia “Cindy” Ruth Dupslaff (’79) • June 12, 2021
- Amy Karen Nichols (’79) • Oct. 5, 2021
- Thomas Michael “Mike” Patterson (’79*) • Dec. 29, 2021

..... 1980s


- Douglas “Doug” Edwin Anderson (’80) • April 22, 2021
- Douglas “Doug” Lewis Holt (’80*) • Nov. 26, 2021
- Mark Alan Rutherford (’83) • July 26, 2021
- Dorothy Jean Burton (’84) • March 26, 2021
- Carol Ruth (Broughton) Duncan (’85) • May 17, 2021
- Doris J. McGowan (’85) • Sept. 28, 2021
- Patsy Jean (Clemons) Reece (’85) • Dec. 25, 2021
- Linda Sue Hudson (’86) • Aug. 26, 2021
- Milton Light (’86) • May 31, 2021

..... 1990s

- Kenneth “Alan” Faussett (’92*) • May 14, 2021
- Jason Renteria (’97) • Aug. 13, 2021

..... 2000s

Mark Warren Simmons (’00) died September 17, 2021. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from Ouachita. He served at numerous churches in Arkansas as pastor, worship pastor and youth pastor and most recently as pastor of Johntown Missionary Baptist Church in Johntown, Texas. He previously worked as an instructor at Clark County Christian Academy in Arkadelphia, Ark., and was chair of his local food pantry. Mark is survived by his wife, **Caroline (’01)**, and five children, Laurine Katherine, Georgia Camille, Elijah Michael, Anna Gwendolyn and Gabriel Alexander.



- Daulton D. Brewer (’03*) • Aug. 02, 2021
- Maurice Doaty (’03*) • Aug. 2, 2021

..... Faculty/Staff

Michael Edward Arrington, former vice president for academic affairs at Ouachita, died October 2, 2021. He earned B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from the University of Arkansas. Arrington served at Ouachita for 28 years and authored a centennial history of the university titled *Ouachita Baptist University: The First 100 Years*. Arrington later served at Carson-Newman College and International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities. He is survived by his wife, Pam, who taught at Ouachita; his daughter, **Ashley (Arrington '97) Garner**; and two grandchildren.



Rosemary Shufang Yang Chu, died December 9, 2021. Born as Shufang Yang on April 7, 1928, in Qingdao, China, she fled the Chinese Revolution and came to the U.S. alone as a teenager. She graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and soon after met her husband, Dr. Finley Chu. The Chus came to Ouachita for Dr. Chu to teach economics; following his death soon after they arrived, Rosemary moved into Frances Crawford Hall, where she would serve as resident director or "dorm mom" for 42 years. A house in Ouachita's Gosser Hall in the Student Village was named in her honor in 2009. She is survived by her daughter, **Jane Chu ('79)**.



Bobbie Lois Sesser Easter • Dec. 4, 2021

Alex Richard Nisbet, professor emeritus of chemistry, died June 27, 2021. He earned B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the University of Texas in Austin, and he taught at Ouachita for 46 years. He was an avid composer and musician, playing piano, organ and cello. He played with several symphonies and ensembles, including the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. He also served as an elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Arkadelphia. Nisbet is survived by his wife, **Meredith ('82)**; daughter, **Audrey ('17)**; and son, Karl.



Don Pennington • July 13, 2021

STEPPING UP FOR OUACHITA EVENT HONORS WOMEN IN HEALTHCARE



Stepping Up for Ouachita 2021 honorees included (from left): Sherrie Sharp Thomason, Dr. Jana Crain, Debbie Kluck and Tammy Young. *Photo by Alex Blankenship.*

More than 300 friends of Ouachita filled the banquet room at Chenal Country Club in Little Rock during Stepping Up for Ouachita on Friday, Nov. 12, to celebrate four women who work in healthcare and to fund scholarships for women students.

This year's luncheon honoring Dr. Jana Crain ('92), Debbie Kluck, Sherrie Sharp

Thomasson and Tammy Young ('88) raised \$101,000, the largest amount raised at Stepping Up For Ouachita since the event's first luncheon in 2010.

The Stepping Up For Ouachita luncheon will return to Chenal Country Club on Friday, Nov. 4, 2022. For more information, contact Carrie Roberson, director of development, at 870.245.4278 or robersonc@obu.edu.

HEAR THE 2021 STEPPING UP FOR OUACHITA HONOREES SHARE THEIR STORIES:

"It's time to give back to the house that built me." — *Dr. Jana Crain*

[▶ obu.edu/sufo-jana](https://obu.edu/sufo-jana)

"I just wish people could really see how their financial gift, big or small, impacts (students') lives." — *Debbie Kluck*

[▶ obu.edu/sufo-debbie](https://obu.edu/sufo-debbie)

"The thing that makes Ouachita so unique is that, honestly, once you get there, you kind of don't want to leave." — *Sherrie Sharp Thomason*

[▶ obu.edu/sufo-sherrie](https://obu.edu/sufo-sherrie)

"My education at Ouachita really helped me to develop the God-given passion of caring for people." — *Tammy Young*

[▶ obu.edu/sufo-tammy](https://obu.edu/sufo-tammy)



MOMENTUM THAT MATTERS

By almost every significant public measure, Ouachita is experiencing institutional momentum. It's important to acknowledge and worthy of giving thanks. And, there's

something we must remember. Allow me to explain.

In the fall, we recorded our largest freshman class in history and highest enrollment in 55 years—and that translated into our best spring enrollment in more than 25 years. All of this is in the context of a multi-year decline in higher education enrollment in our country and state (due largely to a decline in numbers of high school graduates).

The students who graduated in 2021, most who began in Fall 2017 and finished their senior year in a pandemic, achieved the record four-year graduation rate in our university's history. It's among the highest in the state.

Add to it our high placement rate, and our graduates have a head start on their peers.

Alumni, Arkansas Baptists and friends contributed more in the past five years than any five-year period in our history. Because of gifts, market conditions and stewardship by the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, our endowment—most of it devoted to student scholarships—also set a record, thus helping students even more.

While other universities are reducing programs, we're adding new degrees in ways that reflect our commitment to academic and Christian excellence and seek to meet the needs of our state and country.

At the undergraduate level, it's new programs in criminal justice, engineering and nursing. By the way, these three were the most asked for majors for students who previously chose not to attend Ouachita.

At the graduate level, it's the first program in the state dedicated to the leading autism therapy—an M.S. degree in applied behavior analysis. This is in addition to programs in dietetics, nutrition and education.

And several additional graduate and undergrad programs are being studied—all while preserving and strengthening our commitment to a Christian liberal arts education.

While other colleges reduced their personnel and benefits, we've been able to advance support for faculty and staff; we're grateful they are gifted and called to invest their lives in the lives of students.

Across campus, there have been multiple efforts to enhance facilities, the all-important physical context for the Ouachita education and experience. In Fall 2022, a state-of-the-art Nursing Education Center opens as well as the eagerly anticipated 144-bed student apartment complex, part of Project Foresight that's transforming the southwest corner of our campus.

In Arkadelphia, we're in the midst of a more than \$100 million investment by the state and community to improve public schools, roads, bridges and other features key to attracting students and employees.

This momentum continued despite a pandemic. And, it happened because of our enduring Christian commitments, incredible efforts by faculty and staff, the character and good will of students and generous support by alumni, friends and churches. All with oversight by our Board of Trustees.

Yet, the most important measure for Ouachita isn't our momentum *in this moment*, but our commitment and effort to help students become the person God intends so they can serve His purposes *in their generation*. That is where our momentum and mission are realized—in the lives of our students as they grow.

*Our graduates
have a head start
on their peers.*

Ben R. Sells, Ph.D.
@OuachitaPrez



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