



**the
Bubble**
2015 Ouachitonian

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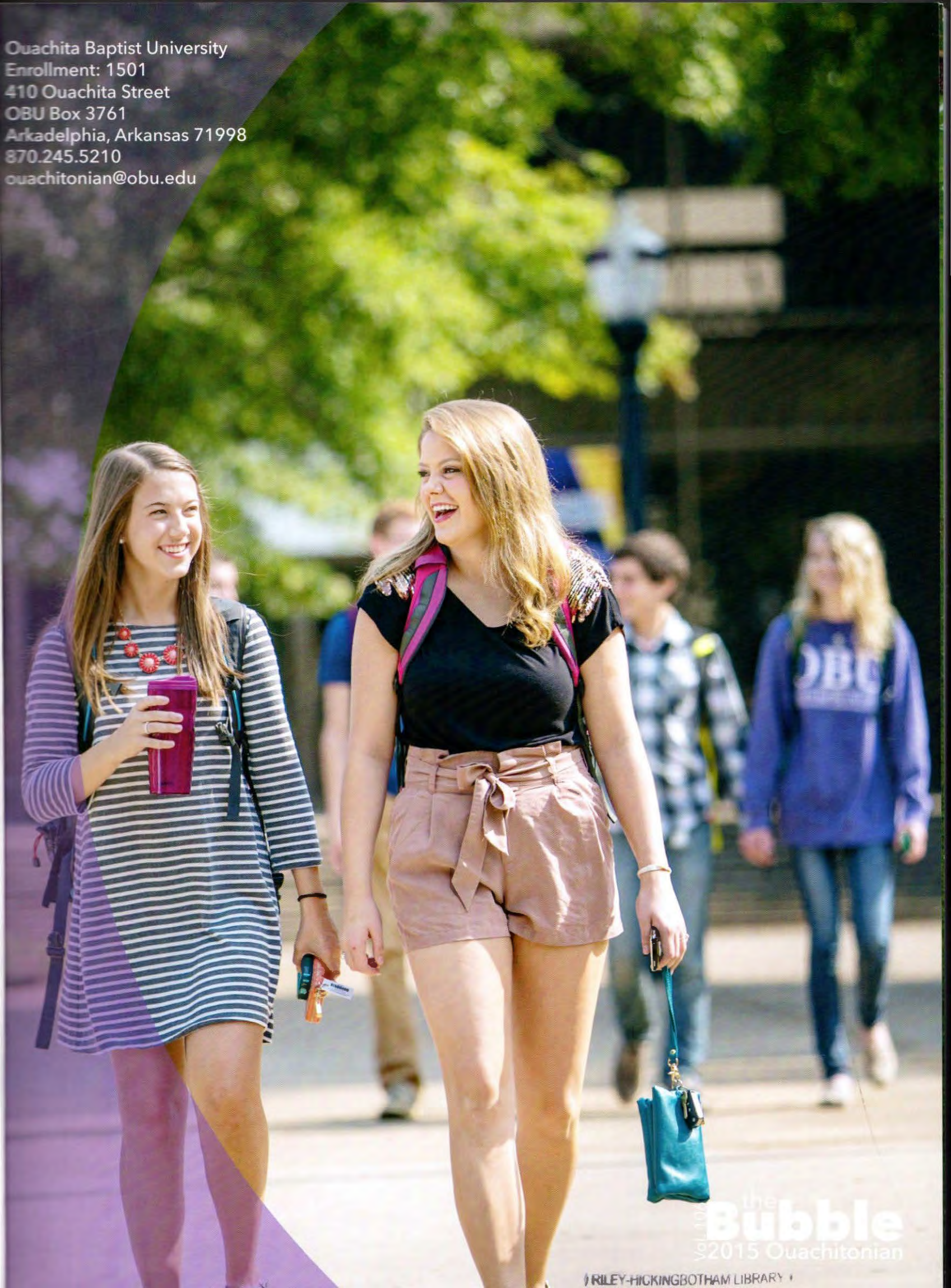
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the
Bubble
2015 Ouachitonian






Five miles from the I-30 AR-7 exit, past the local Waffle House, over the Caddo River and across the Ravine is a place generations of Ouachitonians have grown to call home. Deep in the heart of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, stands a place quite unlike anywhere else. It is a place of learning, a place of growth and a place of community. Here we earn our stripes at Ambush and become Tigers for Life during Tigers and Torches. Here we race around the Village on trikes and carry torches through campus for the oldest rivalry game in D-II football. Here memories are made, life-long bonds are formed and roots are planted. What is this place so many of us call home? It is the campus of Ouachita Baptist University, or as we like to call it, "The Bubble."





People often ask where the nickname "The Bubble" originates. Some say it is because of the circular shape of campus, but most agree it is because Ouachita is unlike any other place in the world. Here is a community that makes us cherish every moment - the moment we move into our freshman dorm room, the moment we storm JPAC at Tiger Tunes, the moment we help a community member during Tiger Serve Day and even the moment we turn our tassels at graduation. All of these moments come together to create what we all know and love as "The Bubble."



A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt, walking on a muddy, wet path. The background is blurred, showing more of the path and some greenery.

Students in "The Bubble" had a knack for bringing campus to **life**. With activities and events scheduled for almost every day of the year, it was hard to find time to be bored in "The Bubble." Campus was full of new faces as freshmen earned their stripes at the newly updated Ambush, and alumni came home to celebrate Tiger Tunes and Homecoming. The Tiger was guarded and bragging rights were claimed at the 88th Battle of the Ravine. Rain storms caused a change in plans for spring commencement, and we said goodbye to Ouachita president and friend, Dr. Rex Horne.

ROAMING 'ROUND THE GLOBE

Senior Lucas Castleberry stands with brother Evan and sister Ainsley on the Houston Astros baseball field, Minute Maid Park. Castleberry interned with the professional baseball team over the summer.



Senior Tyler Rosenthal chats with P. Allen Smith during his summer internship with Arkansas Business Publishing Group in Little Rock. Rosenthal served as photographer and social media intern for *Little Rock Family*, a magazine of ABPG.



Senior Erin Wilson interacts with a budgie bird during her summer internship at the Memphis Zoo. Wilson worked as the volunteer services intern.



"Meeting people and networking yourself is what allows you to excel at that job, because business relationships make the world go 'round."

- Lucas Castleberry, senior accounting and finance double major, Bryant



Hollan Van Horn Photo

No matter what they did or where they were, Ouachita students didn't let their summer break go to waste. Some took on career focused internships, while others crossed the Atlantic and explored new cultures and sights.

Erin Wilson, a senior business administration management and marketing double major from Hot Springs Village, served as a volunteer services intern at the Memphis Zoo and co-manager for the high school intern program.

"The highlight was definitely working with the high school students," Wilson said. "That was good management experience for me being a business major."

Reflecting on her internship as a whole, Wilson said, "It was a once in a lifetime experience. I definitely wouldn't trade the relationships I built this summer."

Lucas Castleberry, a senior accounting and finance double major from Bryant, handled stadium operations as the guest services intern for the Houston Astros.

"I got to work the Beyonce and Jay-Z concert. Watching that come together was really cool. Handling that kind of crowd was really fun for me," Castleberry said.

His goal for the internship was to leave an impression on his employers.

"Meeting people and networking yourself is what allows you to excel at that job, because relationships are what make the business world go 'round,'" Castleberry said.

While students like Wilson and Castleberry gained work experience learning about the job world, other students gained life experience by traveling around the world.

Hollan Van Horn, a junior mass communications major from Fayetteville, traveled to the Netherlands for two weeks. Her father was the general manager for the Team USA collegiate national baseball team. She and her family were able to travel alongside while the team played in the Honkbalweek Tournament in Haarlem, Holland.

During her trip, Van Horn spent her time exploring historic locations like the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and the Corrie ten Boom Museum in Haarlem, as well as various ornate Catholic cathedrals.

In addition to sightseeing, Van Horn enjoyed representing the United States. "My favorite part was the day we won. It was awesome when we got to sing our national anthem," Van Horn said.

Ouachita students ventured outside 'The Bubble' this summer, making valuable business connections and encountering new cultures in the process.

by Barrett Gay

Junior Hollan Van Horn stands with her family after the USA National Collegiate baseball team won a tournament over the summer. Her father, Coach Dave Van Horn, served as General Manager of the USA team as well as head coach of the Arkansas Razorback baseball team.

As the summer came to an end, new and current students began trickling back on campus to start the new school year. The first event to kick-off the year was the New Student Retreat, which received a reboot this year and was renamed Ambush. The weekend-long event was created to help freshmen meet their classmates, while also learning about the town they would live in for the next four years when they returned to campus for WOW.

"Ambush refers to a group of tigers roaming together, so it's a great way to highlight the new students coming together as a group and becoming Ouachita Tigers," said Morgan Brothers, a junior speech pathology major from Memphis, Tenn. "It was a decision made by admissions, but Casey Motl first used the term for Tiger Nation and admissions jumped on board."

Jamie Flowers, a freshman Christian studies major from Birmingham, Ala., enjoyed her first weekend on campus with her classmates.

"Pulling in, I thought I was going to have a panic attack I was so nervous about meeting everyone," said Flowers. "But by the time Ambush was over, I was not nervous at all. I was just excited because of the relationships I made, while my knowledge of the campus and Arkadelphia immensely improved."

Prior to Ambush, Flowers met her roommate and suitemates through the OBU class of 2018 Twitter page.

"People started connecting and messaging through the page and that is how I found my suitemates and roommate. It was completely blind, even though none of us had met. But my roommates, suitemates and I had been texting since March, so I felt like I already knew them," Flowers said.

While Flowers found comfort in new surroundings, other students who grew up in Arkansas, such as Jackson Kennedy, a Christian studies major from Stuttgart, found the transition to be easier.

"When I arrived on campus, I was helping the girls and guys that were moving me in. I had a big hand full of stuff while I was walking up the stairs in Flippen and about half way up, I tripped and fell backward and dropped everything and rolled down the stairs," Kennedy said. "It was so embarrassing. I just picked up all of my things and ran up the stairs as fast as I could."

by Blaine Surber

Students and volunteers celebrate at the annual Purple and Gold Party Aug. 8 during Ambush. Everyone was invited to dress in their craziest Ouachita attire for dinner, fun games and karaoke.



Admissions Photo

THE WOMAN IS REQUIRED TO PAY

New members of Tri Chi's 2014 pledge class perform during 80's Night Sept. 2. The women's social club hosted the first night of TWIRP in the Tiger Den with popsicles and candy.



Heather Ellis Photo

Sophomores Abby Engelkes and Katlin Dixon dance during 50's Night Sept. 3. The women of EEE hosted the night with games, refreshments and a performance from the 2014 pledge class.



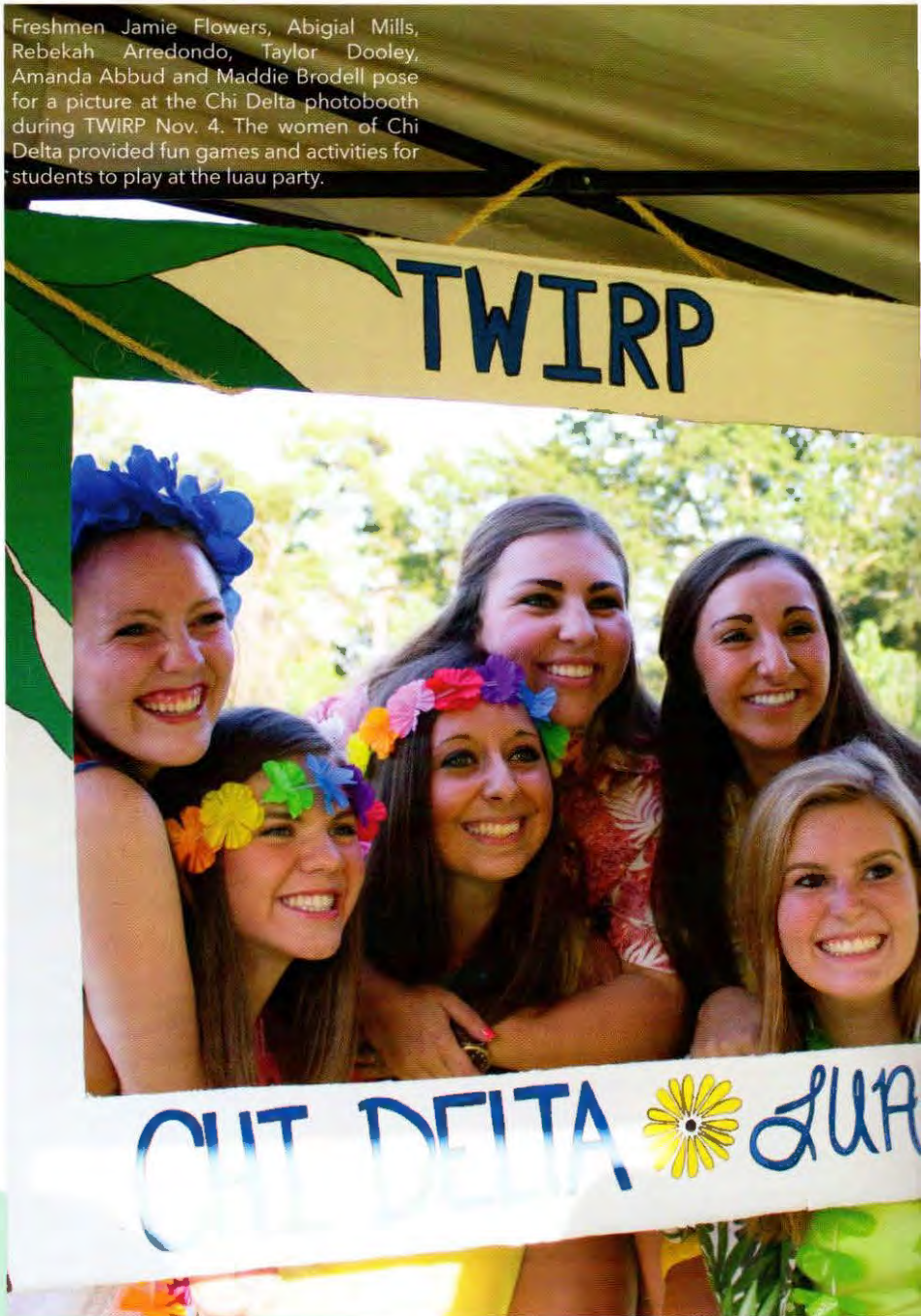
Kelsey Bond Photo

Freshmen Jacob Frears and Summer Phillips are crowned Nerd Prom King and Queen Sept. 5 during Chi Rho Phi's Nerd Prom TWIRP night. Students dressed in their best nerd gear and danced to compete for the title of king and queen.



Zay Baker Photo

Freshmen Jamie Flowers, Abigail Mills, Rebekah Arredondo, Taylor Dooley, Amanda Abbud and Maddie Brodell pose for a picture at the Chi Delta photobooth during TWIRP Nov. 4. The women of Chi Delta provided fun games and activities for students to play at the luau party.



"Being an experienced TWIRP-er, I was able to make sure that new students and freshmen felt comfortable and at home."

- Ragan Ledbetter, junior mass communications major, Little Rock



Pajamas, Pac-Man, poodle skirts, poolside fun, prom and plaid. This could only mean one thing for the women of Ouachita; it was TWIRP week. Campus Activities Board, the women of Chi Delta, Chi Rho Phi, EEE, Tri Chi and Campus Ministries sponsored various events throughout the week of Sept. 1-6.

"For me, TWIRP was a whole new experience because I had never asked a guy to anything before," said freshman Layten Moseley, an early childhood education major from Benton. "I asked completely random strangers, and now they are some of my best friends."

Sunday night, CAB showed "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." Movie night was a good transition for freshmen to get acclimated to the TWIRP atmosphere.

"At first I thought it was weird when my date came up and asked me to go, but once I got there and we just hung out, it was cool," said freshman Jackson Kennedy, a Christian studies major from Stuttgart. "It was cool once girls started asking me to all of the nights, because I was excited to see what each of the different themes was like."

For the TWIRP veterans on campus, it was a week of fun preparation and shopping to get ready for each night.

"I've done TWIRP twice now so I was really pumped about finding new outfits for each night," said junior Ragan Ledbetter, a mass communications major from Little Rock. "It was also fun to show off all of my really cool dance moves."

Each night consisted of games and fun dances with candy and drinks for everyone who came to the TWIRP event.

"It was a lot of fun asking all of the different guys because I got to get to know each of them at the different functions each night," Moseley said.

TWIRP was a time for the campus to come together and have fun while introducing freshmen to more than just the academic side of campus.

"For most freshmen it can be intimidating to walk in a room confidently while you are surrounded by upperclassmen who have experienced TWIRP week before," Ledbetter said. "Being an experienced TWIRP-er, I was able to make sure that new students and freshmen felt comfortable and at home."

Six nights of fun, food, games and dancing was just what encompassed the meaning of community on campus.

"Each night I felt so welcome and it was a ton of fun to just go crazy and hang out with friends," Moseley said. "I didn't feel like some outsider freshman doing it either."

by Amber Easterly

Freshmen Delaney Bedunah and Zach Rathbun square dance during Campus Ministries' TWIRP event, Barn Bash, Sept. 6. Students had a barbecue dinner and a night full of two-steppin' to finish off TWIRP Week.



Kappa Chi



EEE

Tiger Tunes 2014



Eta Alpha Omega



Campus Ministries



The seats of Jones Performing Arts Center were full each night as Tiger Tunes took over campus Oct. 2-4. Students, faculty, alumni and community members gathered on campus to celebrate 36 years of Tiger Tunes.

Hosts John Doss, a senior music major from Rogers; Kyle Osmon, a junior musical theatre major from Rogers; Tyler Rosenthal, a senior mass communications major from Little Rock; and Evan Wheatley, a junior music and Christian studies major from Camden and hostesses Aaryn Elliott, a senior early childhood education major from Bentonville; Maddie Martin, a senior biology major from Garland, Texas; Ashley Randels, a senior early childhood education major from Rogers; and Emily Weeden, a sophomore worship arts major from Rogers performed musical sets between shows to throwback decades of the past.

Eight social clubs, Campus Ministries and Campus Activities all participated in the three-day production. One returning group to the Tunes stage this year was the Men of Sigma Alpha Sigma.

"It has been about 10 years since we were in Tunes. None of the older members who brought us into the club had participated in a show. We were having to really feel everything out and set a standard for how we should prepare our show," said Chase Brooks, a senior graphic design major from Houston, Texas. "Our hope was to make people laugh and have a good time with a quality show that displays who we are as a brotherhood. It was definitely an awesome first-time experience."

Another new aspect to Tiger Tunes was the Spirit of Tunes Award.

"This year we decided to name the award after our former classmate, Shelby Seabaugh. We decided to give it to Aaryn (Elliott) because she embodies every aspect of Tunes," said Lauren Snow, a junior mass communications

major from Wylie, Texas, and OSF assistant Tiger Tunes director. "She has been everything from an usher with OSF, a show participant, a director of a show and a hostess, which is every possible duty you can partake in Tunes. Not to mention how well she did at every job she participated in."

Elliott was involved on campus in many different ways and encompassed the characteristics dedicated to the spirit of Tunes.

"It was tricky balancing school, hosts and hostesses practices, planning a wedding, OSF and being the president of the EEEs, but each sphere of involvement gave me a community of friends to lean on and help me through it," Elliott said. "I was totally shocked to receive the award, though. I was already tearing up when they began to talk about her legacy with Tunes. It wasn't until they said that the recipient had directed a show and was now a hostess that I made the connection that it was me. I felt so honored."

As Tunes came to a close Saturday evening, the overall awards were announced after the final show. In fourth place were the men and women of Campus Ministries as Sandwiches, and in third place were the men of Eta Alpha Omega as Janitors. The women of EEE came in second as the BEEEs and the overall winners were the men of Kappa Chi as the Egyptians.

"The experience of being in a winning show was something I never thought I would be able to experience," said Will Richey, a senior music major and Christian studies minor from Benton and co-director of the Kappa Chi Tiger Tunes show. "Being in leadership over the show required a lot of hours during the summer and into the beginning of the school year, but I'm glad that I had other guys with me to shoulder the burden. It was a blessing to end my Tunes career by winning it all."

by Amber Easterly





1

Egyptians

The Men of Kappa Chi

2

bEEEs

The Women of EEE

3

Janitors

The Men of
Eta Alpha Omega

4

Sandwiches

Campus Ministries

Kindergarten

The Women of Tri Chi





Tai Chi



Beta Beta



Sigma Alpha Sigma



Campus Activities



Chi Rho Phi



Chi Delta

Campus began buzzing with current students, prospective students and returning alumni for Homecoming week Sept. 30-Oct. 4. The theme for the week was "Traditions, Touchdowns and Tunes."

As Tiger Tunes shows received their finishing touches and Homecoming festivities began, over 300 high school juniors and seniors visited campus for GROW (Getting Ready for Ouachita's World.) GROWers attended the first night of Tiger Tunes Thursday evening. Friday morning, students visited classes they felt they might be interested in and then attended the Purple Plaza Party.

"The first Purple Plaza Party was so great, perfect weather, the booths and activities. It was fun and the Homecoming candidate presentation and pep rally was a great finale," said Jon Merryman, director of alumni. "We had prospective students tell us that they weren't sure they were choosing Ouachita until that event, and I definitely think it was a success."

The Purple Plaza Party was the first time for Lunch on the Lawn and GROW to be incorporated into one event for Homecoming. Clubs and organizations campus wide set up tables and fun activities to entertain the students, faculty and alumni Friday afternoon during lunch.

Saturday morning began with OcTiger Fest. Alumni, friends, students and faculty came together for reunions. Social clubs, organizations and academic departments hosted drop-ins across the campus lawn. Tailgates took place at the new Cliff Harris Stadium, along with crowning of Homecoming Queen. Senior Anna Sikes, a Christian studies major from Conway, took the crown.

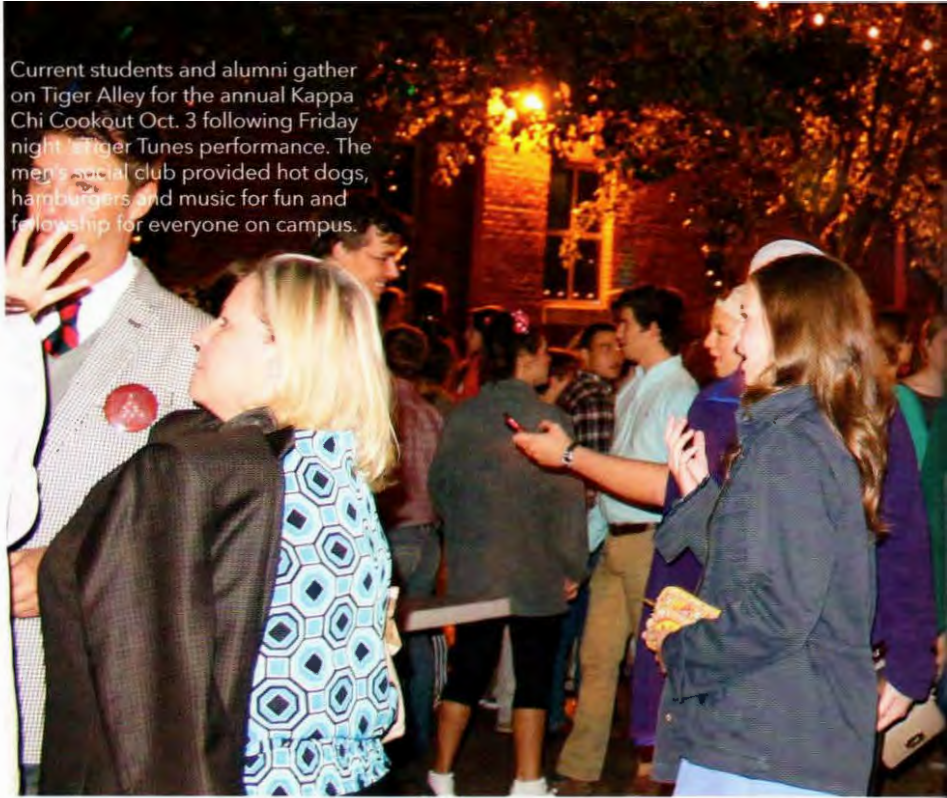
"Homecoming is very magical at Ouachita because it brings the whole campus together to celebrate the school we hold so dear," Sikes said. "It was a mixture of surprise and excitement when I was crowned."

After a 54-21 win over Southwestern Oklahoma State University, the final two Tiger Tunes shows began. After awards were given, the men of Eta Alpha Omega hosted their annual event, Muggin'.

"It's a time when everyone can come together after a super stressful and competitive week," said Tyler Davis, a senior mass communications major from Benton. "No tunes, no pressure, just a lot of root beer."

by Amber Easterly

Current students and alumni gather on Tiger Alley for the annual Kappa Chi Cookout Oct. 3 following Friday night Tiger Tunes performance. The men's social club provided hot dogs, hamburgers and music for fun and fellowship for everyone on campus.



Gary Gerber Photo

HEADED HOME



Lauren Scarborough Photo



Grace Finley Photo



Grace Finley Photo



Grace Finley Photo

1/ Senior Anna Sikes is crowned the 2014 Homecoming Queen by 2013 queen Kelsey Frink before the Homecoming football game against Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Oct. 4. Sikes represented the men of Eta Alpha Omega on the Homecoming Court.

2/ Students and the Tiger mascot dance along as the band performs during the mini pep rally held during the Purple Plaza Party on Oct. 3. The party was a new combination of Homecoming events held during the week, including Lunch on the Lawn.

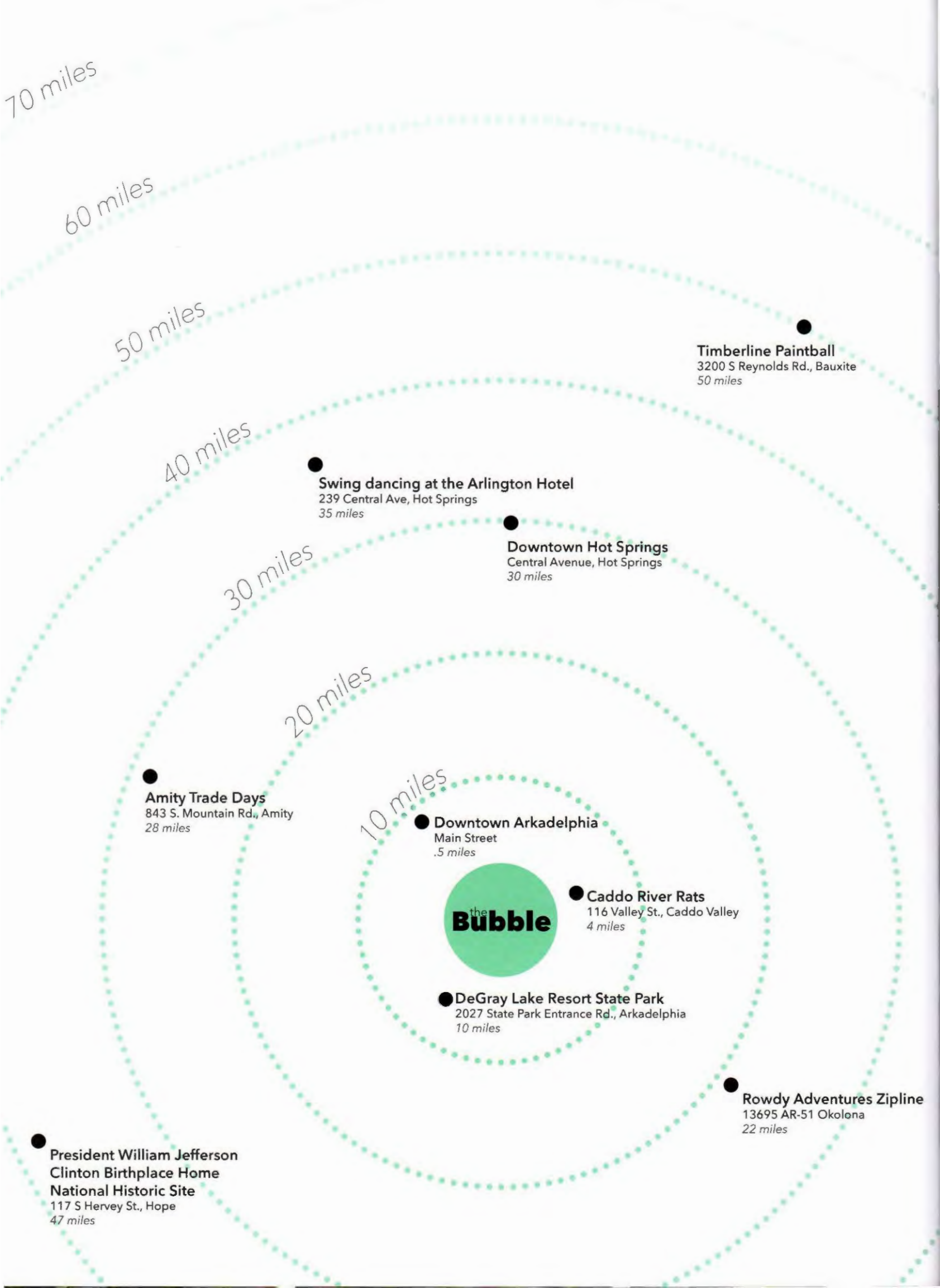
3/ Sophomores Haley Brown and Hunter Lewis compete in the tricycle race held in the middle of campus during the Purple Plaza Party Oct. 3. Campus Activities, as well as various clubs and organizations, provided entertainment and activities.

4/ Senior Jon Murry and sophomore Seth Bubbus play a game of baggo with the men of Eta Alpha Omega during Lunch on the Lawn. Social clubs provided games and activities for students to participate in as the Homecoming festivities kicked off for the weekend.

5/ Senior Austen Morgan, junior Michael Butler and sophomore Evan Wheatley, members of the men's social club Eta Alpha Omega, pass out IBC Root Beer during the club's annual event, Muggin'. The club hosts the event each year after the final performance of Tiger Tunes on Saturday night.



Kelsey Bond Photo



70 miles

60 miles

50 miles

40 miles

30 miles

20 miles

10 miles

the
Bubble

Timberline Paintball
3200 S Reynolds Rd., Bauxite
50 miles

Swing dancing at the Arlington Hotel
239 Central Ave, Hot Springs
35 miles

Downtown Hot Springs
Central Avenue, Hot Springs
30 miles

Amity Trade Days
843 S. Mountain Rd., Amity
28 miles

Downtown Arkadelphia
Main Street
.5 miles

Caddo River Rats
116 Valley St., Caddo Valley
4 miles

DeGray Lake Resort State Park
2027 State Park Entrance Rd., Arkadelphia
10 miles

Rowdy Adventures Zipline
13695 AR-51 Okolona
22 miles

**President William Jefferson
Clinton Birthplace Home
National Historic Site**
117 S Hervey St., Hope
47 miles

Beyond The Bubble

While there was almost always something to do on campus every night of the week, students had plenty of options for activities off of campus as well. In just an hour's drive or less, plenty could be found to do outside of The Bubble.

Millennium Bowl
7200 Counts Massie Rd. Maumelle
70 miles

Downtown Little Rock
President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock
48 miles

Professor Bowl
901 Towne Oaks Dr., Little Rock
65 miles

Big Rock Fun Park
1141 Baseline Rd., Little Rock
59 miles

Altitude Trampoline Park
15707 Chenal Pkwy, Little Rock
65 miles

Little Rock Zoo
1 Zoo Dr., Little Rock,
66 miles

Cinemark Tinseltown USA Theatre
11304 I-30, Benton
45 miles

Arkansas Skatium
1311 S Bowman Rd., Little Rock
63 miles

Rave Motion Pictures Theatre
18 Colonel Glenn Plaza Dr., Little Rock
60 miles

Two Rivers Biking and Hiking Trail
6900 Two Rivers Rd., Little Rock
75 miles

A PURPLE AND GOLD RAVINE

Dr. Kevin Motl rallies the student body during the Battle of the Ravine bonfire Nov. 13. The men of Rho Sigma prepared torches for the student body to carry through campus and end with the lighting of a bonfire at the intramural fields. The night concluded with a firework show sponsored by Dr. Wesley Kluck.



Heather Ellis Photo

Freshman Tanner Moss bashes in the spray painted car with a sledgehammer during the Kappa Chi Car Bash Nov. 12. The men of Kappa Chi hosted the event in the middle of campus and allowed any student to come out and abuse the car.



Grace Finley Photo

During BOTR festivities, the men of Rho Sigma hosted a Bible Bowl. Rho Sigma competed against the women of Chi Rho Phi, who won the competition.



Sydney Bratton Photo



KATV Daybreak news anchor Melinda Mayo interviews Dr. Rex Horne during the early morning Battle of the Ravine pep rally Nov. 14. Both student bodies from OBU and HSU came out to support their teams and celebrate with the Daybreak crew.

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Contemplating her Christmas wish list for Santa, junior Roxanne Easter participates in CAB's Christmas party Dec. 10. Students decorated cookies and listened to Christmas stories read by fellow students and professors.



Sydney Bratton Photo

Freshman girls decorate Christmas cookies during the annual party held in the Frances Crawford Hall lobby. Residents played games and decorated the dorm Christmas tree.



Kathryn Casey Photo

Senior drum major Elizabeth Lawson leads the marching band through the downtown streets during the Arkadelphia Christmas Parade. Various clubs and organizations from campus represented the student body in the parade.



Kacey Weisman Photo



Junior Lauren Snow reads a purposeful lesson during the 18th annual Lessons and Carols Dec. 9. The evening celebrated Advent with performances from the Ouachita Singers, Women's Chorus and Handbell Ringers.

I think it's just a really cool, personalized way to show some love to the kids."

- Hannah Shull, senior psychology major. Little Rock



December and the holiday season marked a time for traditions, generosity and remembrance. Campus celebrated this time of year in a multitude of ways, but for only one single reason, the birth of our Savior.

The communication sciences and disorders students kicked off the season with the annual Speechie Tree Lighting ceremony. Students sipped hot chocolate, mingled and took photos while waiting for the tree lighting countdown. Dr. Nancy Hardman, who provides the tree from her land, reinstated this tradition 10 years ago from her days at Ouachita.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hickingbothom hosted their second annual Christmas dinner for the girls of Georgia Hickingbothom Hall. The girls were served a three-course dinner with a different course taking place on each floor of the building.

"Mr. Hickingbotham gave this building to his wife as a gift and she loves taking care of her girls any way she can. This is one of her biggest joys," said Hillary Hill, area coordinator of Georgia Hickingbothom Hall.

The CAB Christmas party served as a low-key, relaxing study break from finals. The night included live music by students, cookie decorating and an ugly Christmas sweater contest. Santa Clause even stopped by for a visit. A new addition to the event featured professors reading classic Christmas stories to the audience. Students also had the opportunity to write letters to Santa that were delivered to Ouachita's own President Horne.

An anticipated tradition was the annual Festival of Christmas. This year's theme was Christmas Through the Ages. Best-selling author and friend of Ouachita, Ace Collins, served as narrator, telling the stories behind the songs performed by the ensembles.

"This is a big event in the community. People get their tickets months in advance," said Aaden Jones, a sophomore musical theatre major from Maumelle who performed in the show.

When the superficial aspects of Christmas become distracting, students like Hannah Shull reminded students to focus on others. Shull, a senior psychology major from Little Rock, set up a station for students to create decorative Christmas cards for each of the 50 children at the Monticello Children's home, since her ministry team could not make their December visit.

"Seeing the campus's reaction and willingness to do it, I was blown away. I think it's just a really cool, personalized way to show some love to the kids," Shull said.

by Barrett Gay

Senior Zack Turman and his little brother decorate cookies during Campus Ministries' Christmas party for the Big Brother/Big Sister program. The party, which took place Dec. 3 in the Tiger Den, featured pictures with Santa and Christmas card making.

Tiger Serve Day was Ouachita's way of offering a helping hand to the community, not as individuals, clubs or organizations, but as the university as a whole. The campus came together to reach out to all parts of the community and strove to show the love of Christ through its actions. With the types of projects varying from year to year, no two Tiger Serve Days were ever exactly alike. To the participants, this year's was especially meaningful.

"I've only done it for two years, but this year seemed a lot different," said Blake Bowen, a junior psychology and history double major from Rogers. "I was signed up for a random group last year, but this year I actually signed up with a group of friends. We wound up raking leaves, trimming bushes, stuff like that for an elderly couple who couldn't do it themselves, which was

a little different from what we did last year. It's stuff like that that can make Tiger Serve Day just a little different every time you do it."

Students said that while Tiger Serve Day projects might have seemed fairly simple, they could be fairly labor intensive. This year's participants found themselves doing what they described as time-consuming and laborious work. However, the participants agreed that at the end of the day, the hard work was worth it in the name of helping those who could not help themselves.

"We went out to rake up some pine straw for this guy who had an enormous yard," said Will Richey, a senior music major from Benton. "At the end of the day, we wound up with what was probably 60 bags of pine straw. It was a lot, but we were ecstatic to be able to help out."

For the students and faculty who brought Tiger Serve Day to fruition, that's really what the event was all about. They felt that, regardless of the individual tasks that they were assigned to complete, as a group, they made a big difference in their community.

"I think serving others should be our call and vocation," said Dr. Margarita Pintado, assistant professor of Spanish. "We are so busy and focused in our own world that we miss many opportunities to help others. I think Tiger Serve Day helps us remember how wonderful and how rewarding it is to serve."

by Noah Hutchinson

As her team serves on Tiger Serve Day, junior Anna Kumpuris helps pull apart boards. The team helped clean up a backyard and take away rotting boards from a tree house.



© Essential Photo

ONE COMMUNITY



Tyler Rosenthal Photo



Tyler Rosenthal Photo



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

1/ Broom in hand, senior Antha West sweeps leaves off of a driveway during Tiger Serve Day. West and his team raked leaves and carried limbs away that fell during the winter weather.

2/ Sophomore Anna Holcomb helps out during the science edition of Tiger Serve Day. Students volunteered to do fun experiments and projects with kids from the community in Jones Science Center.

3/ Students fuel up with breakfast before completing projects. Sodexo provided both breakfast and lunch next to the Elrod Center for students on Tiger Serve Day.

4/ Cleaning out a flower bed, junior Haylee Garland pulls weeds and picks up leaves. Garland worked at an apartment complex to plant new flowers and trim bushes.

5/ Junior Jacob Moreno and sophomore Drew Dodge clean the roof and gutters of a home for their Tiger Serve Day project. The team cleaned cars, raked leaves, trimmed trees and bushes and washed windows.



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

CITIZENS OF CAMPUS

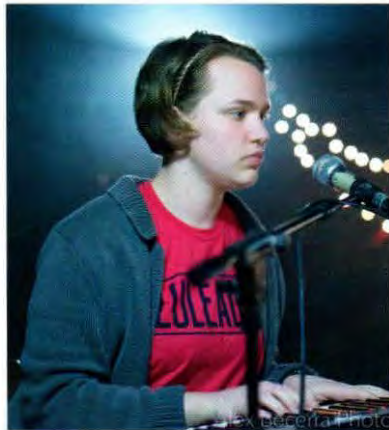
Writing out prayers, freshman Sarah Sandy participates in the Pancakes and Prayer event held Feb. 8 in Evans Student Center. The event allowed students to fellowship and pray for Christian Focus Week.

Junior Sadie Sasser performs during the Arts and Worship night held in the Tiger Den Feb. 9. Students listened to music and made art with cardboard and paint.

Sophomore Spencer Bryson serves barbecue at the Men's Dinner held in the Tiger Den Feb. 10. Student Pastor Jason Curry from The Church at Rock Creek in Little Rock spoke during the dinner and challenged the men to be leaders on campus.



Alex Becerra Photo



Alex Becerra Photo



Alex Becerra Photo



Singer and songwriter Jillian Edwards performs Feb. 8 in Jones Performing Arts Center. Edwards kicked off Christian Focus Week with a free concert for students.

"CFW taught me that we should draw closer as friends and as brothers and sisters of Christ."

- Sadie Sasser, junior Christian studies and Biblical studies double major, Crossett



Alex Becerra Photo

A cold February week brought canceled classes, but no winter weather. At some universities, this might be a peculiar phenomenon. At OBU however, it meant Christian Focus Week (CFW) was in full swing.

CFW was one of the first campus wide events of the spring semester. It was a time when various classes were cancelled and replaced by sessions that allowed students to break away from their weekly routine and study the word of God with peers.

"It says a lot about the mission the school is founded on for them to cancel class to focus on God. It's an outward sign of our beliefs for others to see," said Stephen Curry, a senior music education major from Little Rock.

"This year the theme was titled 'Citizen,'" said Curry. "The entire week was teachings about how nobody can live alone. We all need community to thrive. Being a Christian means God has given his people the Holy Spirit and he uses it to speak to others through you and vice versa."

Many students agreed this year's Christian Focus week was one of the best yet.

"Christian Focus Week was on point this year," said Lauren Hutcheson, a sophomore musical theatre and theatre education double major from Bossier City, La. "Rusty Butler, the worship leader for the week, did a spectacular job."

Hutcheson participated in the various events held throughout the week for students.

"I was really convicted and slapped in the face by the messages of what it actually means to live in a community of Christ followers," Hutcheson said. "I always saw my relationship with Christ as a two way street between He and I, no one else. But that's not the case. He's placed us around people for specific reasons, all to better and grow his kingdom. Christ has called us to live in his kingdom together, not alone."

The week centered on the student body breaking away from the usual and setting their eyes on the true goal, which is Christ.

"CFW taught me that we should draw closer as friends and as brothers and sisters of Christ," said Sadie Sasser, a junior Christian and Biblical studies major from Crossett. "The speakers stressed whether we agree or disagree with each other, being a part of a community should create an open atmosphere to draw us all closer together in Christ, not tear us apart."

by Blaine Surber

Flipping pancakes, sophomore Emma Riley helps cook for Pancakes and Prayer night Feb. 8. Students filled Evans Student Center to celebrate the beginning of Christian Focus Week.

MEMORIES MADE IN THE MUD

During the trike races held in the Village Circle, sophomores Victoria Williams and Jordan Williams switch off for the relay. Teams competed for the fastest time to get their entire team around the circle on a trike.



In the mega relay competition, sophomore Haley Brown and freshman Ben Patterson pass an orange between their necks. Teams completed tasks across the intramural field for the relay.



Senior Jon Jacks pushes through the water during the raft races held Friday night in SPEC. Teams raced up and down the swimming pool lanes for the fastest time.



Senior Mitch Bledsoe helps to anchor the back of his team in the mud during the Tug-of-War competition held Saturday, April 25. Teams also competed in the mud for oozeball, also known as volleyball.

"I think what people like about it is that it provides something to do without having to travel."

- Anna Cathryn Massey,
senior biology major, McGehee



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

At the end of the spring semester the Ouachita Student Foundation hosted its annual Tiger Traks event. This event was held at the end of the semester to serve as a chance for students to unwind before finals week. Traks is also one of the organizations largest fund raisers for scholarships.

"Traks is at the end of the spring semester to be a de-stressor for students leading up to finals," said John Merryman, director of Ouachita Alumni. "The atmosphere of competition between the teams contributes to it being an exciting weekend."

For the first time since Merryman can remember, the OSF Traks steering committee had to make some last minute changes to Friday night's schedule due to rain. Some of the indoor events originally scheduled for Saturday were moved to Friday night to avoid the rain storms.

"We had to just roll with it," said Mari Bednar, a sophomore dietetics major from Little Rock and a member of OSF's Tiger Traks steering committee. "It showed us what we have to work with and how it can still work out."

Since its beginning in 1975, as OSF's first event to hold, Tiger Traks developed into one of the spring semester's biggest events and has been tagged as Arkansas' Most Exciting College Weekend.

"Traks began with a men's bicycle race, women's trike races, and a celebrity tennis match. Sometimes a concert was added, too," Merryman said.

One of the main aspects of Traks was teamwork. Teams of eight students competed against each other in a variety of games, including a mud volleyball and tug-of-war, relay races, trike races, dodgeball and water raft races.

"I think what people like about it is that it provides something to do without having to travel," said Anna Cathryn Massey, a senior biology major from McGehee and OSF member. "I also think that people really enjoy the competitive aspect of the event."

Tiger Traks was held the same weekend as Early Registration for new students. It was an opportunity for prospective students to get a taste of what it would be like as a student on campus.

This year the winning team was Abusement Park, second place went to Come Back Kids and in third place was the Barking Spiders. First place winners were awarded \$100 each, while second place competitors won \$75 and third place won \$50. The winners were announced at the end of the weekend just before Tiger Idol, the annual singing event hosted by Student Senate held in the amphitheatre.

by Marie Lindahl

The winner of 2015 Tiger Idol, senior Brad-Hunter Heird, performs at the Rachel Fuller and Ouachita Singers Memorial Amphitheatre. Heird won the competition with "Who's Loving You" by Michael Buble.

Dr. Rex Horne

Dr. Rex M. Horne, Jr., president of Ouachita Baptist University since 2006, announced his resignation as president effective this summer in order to serve as president of Arkansas' Independent Colleges & Universities. He succeeds Ouachita alumnus Rex Nelson who has been named director of corporate communications for Simmons First National Corp.

"My nine-plus years at Ouachita have been very rewarding," Dr. Horne said. "I have been most impressed by the work performed by our faculty and staff. The sense of calling and commitment to duty has been evident on the campus. Our students are difference makers. I will treasure the time the Lord allowed me to serve here. Our prayers, continued interest and desire to help remain strong."

During his tenure as Ouachita's 15th president, Dr. Horne has led efforts to strengthen the university's financial standing, including launching the "Defining the Difference" capital campaign. Other achievements include providing leadership for several significant improvements to the physical campus, including such major projects as the Student Village residence halls dedicated in 2009 and Cliff Harris Stadium dedicated in 2014. He also presided over Ouachita's 125th anniversary celebration in 2011.

Throughout his years as president, Dr. Horne consistently challenged students, faculty and staff to be "difference makers" in their personal lives, careers and ministry opportunities. "You are difference makers," he reminded Ouachita's 2015 graduating class. "Make this your lifelong passion and pursuit."

Concerning his new role, Dr. Horne said, "I have known the presidents of our private colleges and universities as friends. I now have the opportunity to assist them personally and represent them corporately before the public and our legislature. The

schools share a foundation of faith. I pray this time will prove beneficial for these friends and their institutions."

"Rex Horne is a graduate of one of our Arkansas independent colleges and the president of another," noted Dr. Don Weatherman, chairman of the AICU executive committee and president of Lyon College. "There couldn't be a better background for the next president of Arkansas' Independent Colleges & Universities. Dr. Horne is respected throughout the state."

"I was concerned about the task of replacing Rex Nelson, who served our organization effectively and professionally," Dr. Weatherman said. "I'm delighted we were able to find an educator who is also effective, professional and respected in every region of Arkansas."

Arkansas' Independent Colleges & Universities is a consortium of 11 independent institutions of higher education throughout the state. In addition to Ouachita, member institutions include Arkansas Baptist College, Central Baptist College, Crowley's Ridge College, Harding University, Hendrix College, John Brown University, Lyon College, Philander Smith College, University of the Ozarks and Williams Baptist College. The AICU provides support for the member colleges and universities in such areas as scholarships, governmental affairs and public affairs.

Reflecting on Dr. Horne's tenure as president, Jay Heflin, chair of OBU's Board of Trustees, said, "Dr. Horne has been a beacon of hope and light for Ouachita over the last several years. His leadership and vision have not only transformed the physical appearance of Ouachita's campus, but they have strengthened the Ouachita community in very meaningful ways. He has put us into an enviable position among Christian liberal arts universities for attracting and retaining the best and brightest students."

"We are thankful for God's provision in leading Dr. Horne to Ouachita in 2006 and look forward to continuing our relationship with him as he transitions into his new role with Arkansas' Independent Colleges & Universities," Heflin added. "While we won't see him on a daily basis, we know that God has called him to a new ministry to be a pillar of support for all independent colleges and universities throughout Arkansas. We prayerfully wish him much continued success."

"I have known Rex Horne for years as a great leader and personal friend," said Dr. Sonny Tucker, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. "I watched him serve with tremendous impact as the pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock and as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention."

"As president of Ouachita, not only was he a great friend to my two children while they were students there, he has been a great friend to the pastors and churches in Arkansas and has led the school to new heights as a national leader among private Christian universities," Dr. Tucker said. "As an Arkansas Baptist and as a parent, I deeply appreciate Dr. Rex and Becky Horne."

Dr. Horne, who attended Ouachita as a student, holds degrees from Lyon College, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Becky, are the parents of four adult children and have 11 grandchildren.

Prior to serving as president of Ouachita, Dr. Horne served 16 years as senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. He previously was pastor of churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. He also has served as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and chair of the Great American Conference Council of Presidents as well as serving on several corporate and civic boards.

by Trennis Henderson



Stephen Carter Photo



Kristen Barnard Photo



Heather Ellis Photo



Stephen Carter Photo



Kristen Barnard Photo



Tyler Rosenhal Photo



Corey Kuhn Photo



Tyler Rosenhal Photo



Wayne Kuhn Photo

OUTDOORS AND OUTSIDE OF CAMPUS

Students on the backpacking day trip stop for a photo at Jamestown Crag. The class took several trips throughout the semester to different trails across the state.

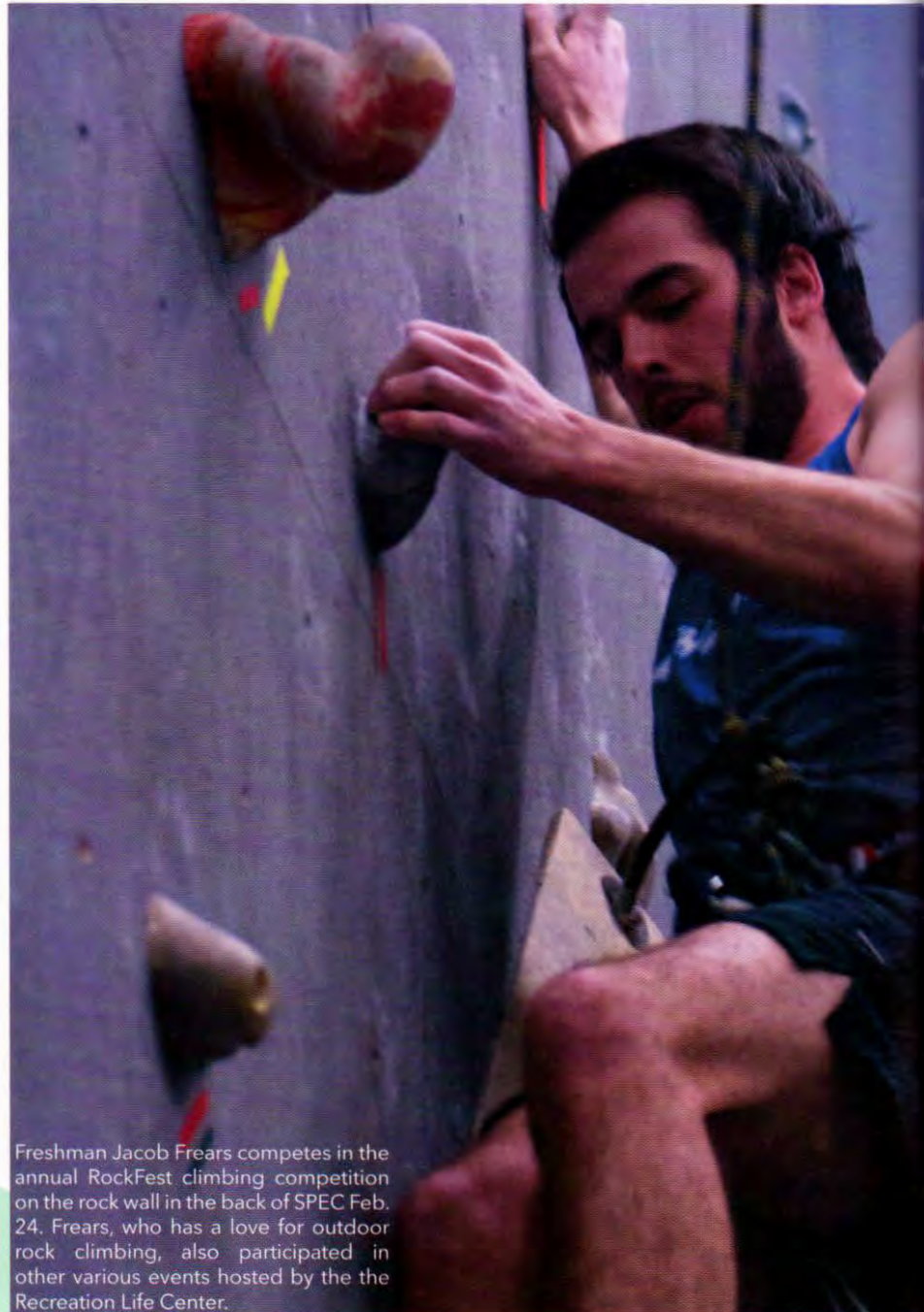


Jason Bean and students white water raft during a weekend excursion. This was one of the many opportunities students could take with the Recreation Life team.



Rec Life Photo

Ouachita graduate Ellen Eubanks belays a friend while rock climbing. The Recreation Life team visited several popular spots in Arkansas known for rock climbing.



Freshman Jacob Frears competes in the annual RockFest climbing competition on the rock wall in the back of SPEC Feb. 24. Frears, who has a love for outdoor rock climbing, also participated in other various events hosted by the Recreation Life Center.

Rec Life is a great way to help students engage and enjoy the outdoors here in Arkansas."

- Zach Matthews, senior Christian studies and business administration major, Wylie, Texas



Lauren Ferry Photo

Growing up, Zach Matthews, a senior Christian studies major from Wylie, Texas, spent his summers doing typical outdoor adventures. Once at college, he pursued his love for the outdoors with the recreation life opportunities on campus.

"I got involved with Rec Life because I led week-long backpacking, kayaking and climbing trips in Colorado," Matthews said. "It is my way to unwind and relax."

Matthews became a part of the recreation team because of his passion for the outdoors. He worked to plan and organize trips, along with managing, repairing and organizing gear, as well as fixing bikes. His job also included setting up routes at the climbing wall.

"Rec Life is a great way to help students engage and enjoy the outdoors here in Arkansas," Matthews said. "It can be something as simple as hammocking at the bluff and enjoying s'mores to rock climbing at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch."

The recreation team wanted to involve all students on campus. Its goal was to get students outdoors and learn about the opportunities they had to explore.

"We hold special events at the wall each semester like seminars on various events like outdoor cooking and climbing," said Kenzie Lionberger, a junior history and sociology double major from Temple, Texas. "We also hold the rock climbing competition each year called RockFest. It's always tons of fun and you don't have to be an experienced climber to participate."

Lionberger became involved with Recreation Life her freshman year when she was working as an intramural referee and was asked to work at the climbing wall.

"I help with the outdoor rec rental center, but I also work at the rock wall. I monitor while people are climbing to make sure they don't do anything wrong that could get them hurt," Lionberger said. "It requires a lot of supervising and safety checking, which is worth it when I see students having fun with their peers."

Recreation Life was also a place where athletes could spend time. Senior Jacob Clark, a dietetics and nutrition major from Palestine, Texas, participated in activities and worked at the recreation center.

"I played football for four years, so I never really got a chance to be active with rec other than intramural sports. I was interested in finding a work study job and came across an opening for the rock wall," Clark said. "What I enjoy most is the athletic, non-sedentary lifestyle that encourages students to be active."

The Rec Life office offered a multitude of ways for students of every area of campus to leave the Netflix in their rooms and explore the great outdoors.

by Amber Easterly

Director and coordinator of Recreation Life Jason Bean hosts an outdoor cooking class Dec. 1. Students learned quick and efficient meals for camping and hiking.

From tutoring kids at local schools, to spending time with elders in the community, students had many opportunities to get involved with the Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community. Rachel Wicker, a junior Christian studies and Christian missions double major from Benton, believed that as students, it was easy to stay in the bubble and get swept up in school life.

"Personally, when I am able to step away from my worries and fears with school and take that time to focus on someone else, those worries seem to go away as I am reminded at what a great God we serve," Wicker said.

As a work-study member at the Elrod Center, Wicker got to do a variety of different tasks in her service to the organization.

"From office work and answering the phone, to cooking and preparing for events, I love the chance to be a part of the Elrod Center life," Wicker said.

Haylee Garland, a junior Christian studies and psychology major from Cabot, had a tug on her heart to help others in a way that would be transformative.

Garland volunteered with the America Reads/America Counts program through the Elrod Center. She helped elementary school children with their reading ability, while also loving on them and shining God's light.

"We are called to serve God's people, not to get caught up in our own selfish desires and ambitions," Garland said. "Giving our time and resources to kingdom work can only benefit and grow us into mature Christians who will continue that same service after we leave Ouachita."

The Elrod Center encouraged students to step outside of their own lives and fill their hearts with the joy of selflessness, while developing meaningful relationships with others in the process.

Ian Cosh, vice president of community engagement, felt that students had a natural desire to serve others because it provided them with a cheerful spirit knowing they have made someone's life better and lifted a burden.

"As an institution, we have to demonstrate that we are not just takers, we give back," Cosh said. "The students here generate such servant's hearts and they have raised the profile of the spirit of service tremendously around campus."

by Rachel Ewart

Dr. Ben Elrod presents former State Senator Percy Malone with the 2015 Community Service Excellence Award on April 14. Malone's former house served as the home of the Elrod Center.



Elrod Center Photo



Alex Becerra Photo



Tyler Rosenthal Photo



Elrod Center Photo



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

1/ A week before the holiday break, students volunteer to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to the Arkadelphia community. The baskets were filled with items donated by students, faculty and staff, and provided an entire meal for families in need of food for Thanksgiving.

2/ Junior Bonnie Magee speaks during the Elrod Foundation Board meeting on Feb. 5. Board members heard reports about the various ministries of the center.

3/ Working with America Reads, senior Hannah Shull works with her student on her verbal reading skills. Shull volunteered weekly to improve the children's reading ability with fun children's books.

4/ Washing and sweeping a driveway, junior Grace Finley volunteers to help clean up a home on Tiger Serve Day. The Elrod Center hosted a day of service each semester of the year for students on campus to volunteer.

5/ Volunteering with America Counts, junior Lauren Snow works with her student on math skills. Snow incorporated blocks, coins and cards to explain math equations and multiplication tables.



Elrod Center Photo

"Talent was showcased through the roof," said Todd McNeel, a senior mass communications major from Grand Prairie, Texas, when asked to describe the musical productions performed this season. "The professors selected quality material that was difficult, yet showcased the talent students possess here."

The year brought two mesmerizing musical shows to Jones Performing Arts Center. The School of Fine Arts presented "The Mikado" in November, and "Shrek! The Musical" in April. "I was given the opportunity to perform the title role, the Mikado, in this year's opera," McNeel said. "It was by far the funniest part I've played in an opera."

The Mikado, a comedic opera written in the late 1880s, follows a young man named Nanki-Poo in his quest to find love outside of royalty's chains.

"I remember the first time the cast began to rehearse the music, there was always something in the score that would make us laugh," McNeel said. "That's why the rehearsal process was one of the best."

In the spring, the theatre department performed "Shrek! The Musical," an adaptation of the DreamWorks animated film "Shrek."

"The best part of the rehearsal process was getting to step into Shrek's shoes," said Will Stotts, a freshman musical theatre major from Jonesboro who played the title role of Shrek. "Playing a big smelly misunderstood ogre was so much fun."

The School of Fine Arts took every step necessary to ensure Shrek was one to top all others.

"This show required extensive rehearsals," said Ben Stidham, a senior musical theatre major from Dallas, Texas. "The plot is the same from the movie. The movie is hilarious, so the musical becomes a two-hour laugh fest for the audience."

"It's great to be a part of a department that gives students opportunities to perform quality material that will prepare us for jobs after school," Stidham said.

In addition to the musical performance, the JPAC lobby was transformed into an ogre's world. Children attending the musical were able to interact with the cast before and after the performance.

From opera to musical theatre, students gained a world of experience while entertaining crowds and showcasing their talent.

by Blaine Surber

Fairy creatures of Duloc beg for Shrek to help them return to their home. The show ran April 16-19 in Jones Performing Arts Center.



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

TALENTED TALES



Tyler Rosenthal Photo



Tyler Rosenthal Photo



Tyler Rosenthal Photo



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

1/ Senior Joshua Wayne, as the character Ko-Ko, sings a solo during "The Mikado." The opera ran Nov. 20-23 in Jones Performing Arts Center.

2/ Starring as the Mikado of Japan, senior Todd McNeel performs during the Mikado. The theme of the opera was forbidden love and deception.

3/ Seniors John Doss and Seth Russell perform as Nanki-Poo and Pish-Tush in the opera performance of "The Mikado." Doss was a music major and Russell was a vocal performance major.

4/ The fire-breathing dragon and Donkey fall in love during "Shrek! the Musical" April 16-19. Junior Kenderick Scorza played Donkey while sophomore Kayla Walker played the dragon.

5/ Donkey and Shrek deliver Princess Fiona to Lord Farquaad. Freshman Will Stotts played the lead role of Shrek and senior Cami Willis played Princess Fiona.



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

MAKE-UP, MAGIC AND MUSE

Sophomore Bret Sanders and senior Ben Stidham perform Shakespeare's comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Nov. 6-11 in Verser Theatre. Sanders and Stidham played lovers Hermia and Lysander.



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

Seniors Hunter Brown, Tyler Wisdom, freshman Hannah Hines and junior Angela Morgan act as Father, Jonas, Lily and Mother in the fall production of "The Giver." The show ran Sept. 25-30 in Verser Theatre.



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

"Medusa" is performed during the One Act Play Festival held Dec. 11 in Verser Theatre. Junior Walter Dodd played Persues and freshman Natalie Gill acted as the statue.



Victoria Williams Photo



Sophomore Abby Root and senior Blaine Surber play Wendy and Peter Pan during "The Muse Project" held Feb. 19-23 in Verser Theatre. The production was a cirque inspired exploration of Peter Pan and was student written and directed by Kaylee Nebe.

The finished product was everything I imagined it to be when I read the script."

- Cami Willis, senior musical theatre and church media production double major, Flower Mound, Texas



The Ouachita theatre department pulled out all of the stops to create an incredible line of shows during the 2014-2015 season.

"It's not every day OBU students get to experience great theatre," said Hailey Weiner, a junior musical theatre major from Little Rock. "This season was an amazing line up of shows."

The first production of the season was "The Giver," an adaptation of the novel by Lois Lowry.

"The play takes place in a futuristic utopian society where everyone is created equal and wiped clean of their memories of the past," said Cami Willis a senior musical theatre and church media/production major from Flower Mound, Texas.

This year the theatre department brought Drew Hampton onto the theatre faculty as the new assistant professor of theatre arts.

"It's been a great first year here," Hampton said. "I came in on an amazing season and was given the opportunity to direct one of my all time favorite Shakespeare pieces, 'A Midsummer Nights Dream.'"

"A Midsummer Nights Dream" was the fall show in the season line up. One of Shakespeare's most creative masterpieces, it follows four star-crossed lovers and their journey through enchanting woods to find their true love.

The next production on the list was the One Acts, directed by senior theatre majors for the academic course, Play Directing. "It was by far one of my all time favorite theatre classes I've taken," Willis said.

The Play Directing course gives senior theatre majors the opportunity to select, cast, design and direct a short play of their choosing to showcase.

"I was terrified of the class, now looking back I am so grateful for the opportunity to direct," said Willis.

Students were also given the chance to get their feet wet in play directing or writing through the Muse Project. This opportunity allowed students to submit self-written plays to be considered for a slot in the line up of the season's shows. Senior Kaylee Nebe's Peter Pan cirque adaption titled "Second Star to the Right" was chosen and was the first aerial and cirque show produced on campus.

One of the last performances the theatre department gave was the All Night Theatre 10 Minute Play Festival. Students prepared a show to perform within 24 hours. Students stayed up all night to rehearse and get everything ready.

"I was cast in a depressing show this year," said Weiner. "But the opportunity to hang out with friends all night creating theatre is an amazing experience."

This variety of shows in the theatre department's line up allowed students and audiences to experience a multitude of genres story lines that put the students hard work on display for all to see.

by Blaine Surber

Senior Sara Cat Williams and sophomore Kayla Walker perform "Void" during the Ten Minute Play Festival held March 14 in Verser Theatre. Students auditioned and produced the show in 24 hours.

SPEAKERS FAR AND WIDE

Dr. Charles Fuller, music director and conductor, leads The Centurymen during Chapel April 14. The group was an auditioned men's chorus of professional Christian musicians who were church music leaders from across the United States.



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

Tiger Tunes hosts and hostesses perform during Homecoming Chapel Sept. 30. The group sang in front of the student body for the first time in Chapel before the four Tiger Tunes performances the following weekend.



Maddie Brodell Photo

Pastor Jackie Flake of Community Bible Church in Fort Smith speaks to students in Chapel Feb. 10. Pastor Flake spoke during Christian Focus Week.



Maddie Brodell Photo



Director Dr. Craig Hamilton and the concert band share their music during Chapel held Dec. 9. It was themed a Christmas celebration for the last Chapel of the semester before winter break.

"I think the spirit of Chapel is a shared community experience."

- Dr. Rebecca Jones, assistant professor of communications

At first glance, most people would have probably agreed that Chapel seemed fairly straight forward. You sat down, sang a few songs, listened to a speaker and went about your business. However, the variety of people chosen to speak on Tuesday morning, with their different backgrounds, professions and perspectives, meant that no single year of Chapel would be exactly like the last. Guest speakers for the year included Mr. Robert Holt, founder and executive director of Living Waters Outreach Center, Mr. Jackie Flake, pastor at Community Bible Church in Fort Smith and Mrs. Kim Yada, a professional mental health counselor.

"The thing that makes Chapel unique is the quality of the speakers," said Dixon Land, a junior mass communications and Christian studies double major from Little Rock. "Chapel has been so interesting this year. Whether it's a returning alumni, an overseas missionary or just someone with an inspiring story or useful piece of knowledge, you can really feel God at work in Chapel."

This year, the array of speakers chosen to participate in Chapel was vast and varied. One thing that all of them had in common was that they considered it an honor to be asked to speak.

"I received an email invitation from Ian Cosh in January of 2014," said Dr. Rebecca Jones, assistant professor of communications. "I was immediately honored. It was a huge privilege to be chosen, but also an enormous responsibility."

The variety among the Chapel speakers meant there was a little something for everyone. No matter what someone expected coming into Chapel, in all likelihood, they'd get it eventually.

"I enjoyed Chapel this year," said Al Lashley, a sophomore philosophy major from Conway. "It's nice that it's always something different. It keeps things shaken up and keeps them from getting boring. I like the fact that they're always changing between speakers from campus or speakers brought in from somewhere else or things like The Singers. It's a nice break from the everyday."

The unique blend of Chapel helped emphasize one of its aspects that some people might have overlooked. It was a community experience. The mixing pot of perspectives brought this to the forefront by making sure that everyone in our admittedly limited demographic was represented.

"I think the spirit of Chapel is a shared community experience," said Jones. "To just come together and have this common communal experience within our fragmented society. In a world where community experience is disappearing, I respect that Ouachita has continued this tradition."

by Noah Hutchinson

Sophomore Kayla Walker and senior Christina Moon perform with the Ouachita Sounds during Chapel. The group composed of six girls and boys sang a mixture of musical genres for the student body.



RAIN OR SHINE

Sara Elizabeth Walker reads the scripture at commencement. Walker, along with Blake Kutter (left) and Sophie DeMuth (right), were the highest ranking graduates of the Pruet School of Christian Studies.



Grace Finley Photo

Dr. J.D. "Sonny" Tucker addresses the audience after receiving an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the university. Tucker serves as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



Grace Finley Photo

Katie Theriot receives her degree from President Rex Horne. Theriot, from Alexandria, La., majored in Communication Sciences and Disorders.



Wesley Kluck Photo



Antwion Patterson, Maddie Patterson, Emily Payne and Lauren Perry await their classmates during the commencement processional. The ceremony was moved to JPAC due to weather.

"Graduation is the day every senior looks forward to and starts to countdown towards the moment they step foot on campus for their last year."

- Micale Kocke, senior biology major, Cabot



Grace Finley Photo

Days and nights of more than usual rainfall proved too much for the lawn of Cone-Bottoms Hall. The 343 graduates were divided into two groups by alphabet, and two commencement ceremonies were held back-to-back in Jones Performing Arts Center. Despite having to move inside for graduation, the class of 2015 celebrated the milestone with family and friends.

Senior Class President Jamie Barker gave the invocation. Scripture was read by Pruet School of Christian Studies honor graduates Sophie DeMuth, Blake Kutter and Sara Walker.

President Rex Horne presented an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree to Dr. J.D. "Sonny" Tucker. Tucker, a 1982 graduate of Ouachita, serves as executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"From the deepest place in my heart, I want to express my appreciation for this tremendous honor," Tucker said. "To receive this recognition from a place that I love so deeply will be among my greatest honors and moments in life."

Degrees were awarded by Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs. A responsive reading was led by Dr. Danny Hays, dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies. The invocation was led by Jay Heflin, a Ouachita graduate and chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The class of 2015 had 143 honor graduates, including 21 students who graduated summa cum laude with a 3.95 or higher grade point average. Forty-six students graduated magna cum laude (3.75 GPA) and 76 graduated cum laude (3.5). Also recognized at commencement were 26 students who completed the Carl Goodson Honors Program.

Serving as commencement marshals were Dr. Ray Granade, director of library services and professor of history, and Dr. Nancy Hardman, the Edna and Freda Linn Professor of Communication Sciences and Pre-Medical Studies. Hardman served during the year as chair of the University Committee. The honorary marshal was Dr. Raouf Halaby, professor of visual arts and English, who retired after 42 years of service on the Ouachita faculty.

"Graduation is the day every senior looks forward to and starts to countdown towards the moment they step foot on campus for their last year," said Micale Kocke, a senior biology major from Cabot. "This year's commencement was nothing short of the day I had been anticipating. But because of the weather, #JPACked and the chaos of trying to find my friends for photos, graduation 2015 will be remembered as the year in which we realized Dr. Horne doesn't actually control the weather."

President Rex Horne addresses family and friends of the class of 2015 gathered in Jones Performing Arts Center. The class of 343 graduates included 143 honor graduates.

JUNE

12
JUNE

The United States Senate votes to confirm Ouachita alumae Jane Chu as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.



JULY

Average gasoline prices in Arkansas reach the highest point for 2014 at \$3.49 per gallon.

JULY

AUGUST

AUG

In the ice bucket challenge to bring awareness about ALS, participants fill up a bucket of ice and dump it on themselves, then upload the video to social media.



Ouachita is named one of Forbes top colleges in "Best National Liberal Arts Colleges" for the sixth consecutive year, and rated in the top colleges in the "US News and World Report" national rankings for the fourth consecutive year.

SEPT

9
AUG

Michael Brown, an African American teenager in Ferguson, Mo., is shot by a police officer, which leads to riots and protests.



SEPTEMBER

11
AUG

Iconic actor Robin Williams dies at the age of 63 in what is believed to be a suicide.



The new Cliff Harris Stadium dedication is held prior to the first home football game. The stadium honors the former Ouachita Tiger and Dallas Cowboy.

13
SEPT

OCTOBER

8
OCT

Thomas Eric Duncan, the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States, dies in Dallas, Texas.

NOVEMBER



The Ouachita Tigers football team beats Henderson State 41-20, finishing the regular season with an undefeated, untied 10-0 record for the first time in program history.

15
NOV

LOOKING 2014|2015 Timeline back

14
DEC

President Obama lifts sanctions against trading with Cuba after 56 years.



Minimum wage in Arkansas increases from \$7.25 to \$7.50 an hour, increasing some yearly salaries by \$520.

JAN

26
FEB

The FCC votes 3-2 to regulate Internet service as a telecommunications service.



Ouachita dedicates the new Gene and Kathy Whisenhunt Soccer Field House that featured state-of-the-art locker rooms, a team room, player's lounge and coaches office.

12
MARCH

8
APRIL

A jury finds Dzhokhar Tsarnaev guilty on all 30 charges related to the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. On May 15, he is sentenced to death in the penalty phase of the federal trial.



Former governor and Ouachita alumnus Mike Huckabee announces in Hope that he is running in the 2016 presidential election.

5
MAY



President Rex Horne announces his resignation as president of Ouachita in order to serve as president of Arkansas' Independent Colleges & Universities.

12
MAY



Triple Treat, a trio from Benton including recent OBU grads Will Richey and Tyler Davis, receive a standing ovation and four "yes" votes in the groups' audition performance on "America's Got Talent."

26
MAY

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY