Student Life

Sports

Academics

Continuing one of Ouachita's longstanding traditions, senior Trey Boldwin leads new and old Ouachitans around campus for Tiger and Rosette Prayer circles. The Tiger was the last anything began the walk around campus.

Photo by Callie Stephens
While Ouachita continued to be a place where students made life-long relationships, served their community, challenged their minds and made significant strides in discovering their true selves, it was the people and places that defined the university and made each year unique. And it was a year full of changes that provided a facelift to the Ouachita experience.

The horizon of campus was transformed with the construction of the Student Village and new sophomore dorms, which in effect, caused a transformation in the notion of living arrangements and the sense of community among students.

The bridge connecting north and main campus proved symbolic and a metaphor for Ouachita’s renewal. Its appearance was altered and reconstructed into something more than a means to cross campus. The bridge’s ability to “connect” students with campus, was congruent with its ability to provide new ways for students to connect with one another and venture to the new additions to campus, in a more pleasing and innovative way.

continued on page 5
Changes were also evident in the classroom and campus life. Tiger Tunes raised a record amount of scholarship money, while OcTiger Fest provided a new way for alumni to gather during Homecoming and reminisce about their days at Ouachita. The once non-existent open dorm policy was reworked and another Battle of the Ravine was won. Ouachita was ranked the No. 1 Baccalaureate College in the South for the third consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report and student organizations such as SIFE made their mark in state and national competitions.

It was a time of change for everything and everyone. A time of moving forward while still remembering where we’ve been and what got us here.

It was a new beginning for some, a stepping stone for most and for the graduating class, an end to an unforgettable journey. A journey that changed the face of Ouachita.
he spirit of the student body was felt, the bustling activity was heard, and the results of the facelift of campus life was certainly seen by all.

Rush and Pledge Weeks welcomed new members of sisterhoods and brotherhoods, along with changes to long-held policies and rules.

Students, faculty, staff and members of the Arkadelphia community gathered to commemorate one of America’s greatest heroes, Martin Luther King, Jr., in a panel discussion.

The tradition of Tigers and Torches continued as students passed their torch to freshman students during Battle of the Ravine Week, and a newly-renovated Tiger began to take form in the center of campus, complete with its very own tail.
Sophomore Rachel Chapman and senior Matt Davis lead Refuge outside in the center of the Student Village. Students were invited to bring blankets and pillows to sit on the grass and participate in the service.

Photo by: Kara Humble

Students, faculty and alumni form a prayer circle on the sidewalk of the Student Village. The dedication ceremony was held Aug 20.

Photo by: Collie Stephens
In the fall of 2006, an architect stepped onto campus equipped with something we needed. A fresh perspective. His job was to determine what facilities were in the most need of improvement. It came as no surprise to the university that there was a critical need to improve residence halls. Construction plans were made immediately. Four years later, nearly one-third of all residence halls were being replaced with state-of-the-art dormitories. Like most big changes, mixed emotions came. Surprise, gratitude and nostalgia were felt in the hearts and minds of alumni and students as campus experienced a major facelift.

The last time new dorms were added was the mid-1990s, which consisted of the upper-classmen dorms Anthony and Maddox. That left the other 40-60 year old dorms, consisting of O.C. Bailey, Frances Crawford, Flippin-Peeten, Daniel, Conger, and Ernest Bailey still standing. With the building of the new Student Village came the tearing down of the main freshman men’s dorm, Daniel, along with the beloved “Daniel Lawn.” The large parking lot in front of SPEC was also removed to allow for the village to be located in its place. The village had the capacity to house 360 people. The actual construction process ended just in time for the 2009-2010 school year, allowing freshmen that first heard of the possibility of new dorms an opportunity to live in them their senior year. “It was nice to experience having my own room far once while continuing to live with my friends and be close to campus,” said senior speech pathology major Alden Ashley from Booneville.

“...the beauty and quality of the village says something about how we view Ouachita.”
President Rex Horne

“A primary goal of the creation of a brand new living situation for students was to give them an opportunity to build community, whatever that may mean to each individual living there. This goal was woven into the actual design process. Students were asked about what they would want to see in a new residence hall, and the suggestions and comments made proved helpful in deciding some of the elements of the Student Village. There was a multitude of thoughts about the word community. Some students couldn’t imagine life without a roommate, others viewed having private space of their own as a top priority. The varied opinions shared by future inhabitants explained why some of the new suites in the Village were made to have private bedrooms while others had two-person bedrooms. Other opportunities for students to experience community with others were the spacious lobbies complete with four comfortable lounge areas, as well as a television for each one. The terraces, study rooms, theater rooms and game rooms are also examples of places where students could gather in groups while still being in the dorm.

Quality was an important aspect of the new halls. Everyone involved with the project wanted students to have a place they would be proud to call home. The unique walls, stained concrete walls, brand new furniture and modern exterior were designed with that idea in mind. “The Student Village is important because it places our housing on a much higher level than before. I think the beauty and quality of the village says something about how we view Ouachita,” President Rex Horne said. “It is important personally because my desire for the student, family or one-time visitor passing through to see from our facilities that this is one special university.”

continued on page 10

Students watch a movie in Gosser Hall’s theatre room. The room was available by reservation to all residents to enjoy a movie, while still feeling as though they were in a movie theatre.
photo by: Callie Stephens
The building of the Student Village strengthened the university’s emphasis on environmental stewardship. Several features were incorporated into its design to reduce energy consumption throughout the life of each building making up the Village. Highly efficient heating and cooling systems, glass with the ability to block heat generated by sunlight, hot water systems that use much less energy and eliminating fluorescent light bulbs were all included in the make-up of the buildings. Vice President for Administrative Services Brett Powell described the elements of the Village as the best of the best. “With the quality and amenities going into these buildings, it’s a huge step forward. It’s as high quality as you’re going to find on any campus,” said Powell.

Two weeks after its dedication, and just as students were getting settled into new homes in the Student Village, university administrators began planning the next phase of construction on the other side of campus. Starting November 1, the foundation for another set of dorms was laid and with the promise of being finished before the 2010-2011 school year began. They were built next to Maddox Hall and Flippin-Perrin Hall, completing a kind of “circle” that the four dorms shaped. Making sure to once again cater to the varying housing preferences of the students, the dorms were designed differently than the private suite-style rooms of the Student Village.

“Future students will benefit from the sense of community that is found in living in these beautiful dorms,” said junior Mark Bartels, a church music major from Henderson, Texas. “They will also benefit Ouachita by attracting students who might not have considered the school.” Rather than putting a living space in each suite, they were made to have one living space per floor. This created a “dorm-like” atmosphere. A large number of students requested a living arrangement where they could have 20 or 30 people live on a floor together and build community, resulting in why the dorms were created. Another reason why they were built was to give freshmen another option if they were not ready yet ready to move into the Village for their sophomore year.

“The way each of the floors was arranged in the two buildings was individual suites around the outside of a big living area,” stated Powell. “There will be a suite with four students in it that is just bedrooms and bathrooms. And there are six of those suites that surround a big living room. So, you have lots of seating area and TV, and you’ve got 24 people on that floor that can build a community among themselves.”

“I think the housing places us in a much stronger position recruiting future students,” Horne said. “This is a different era and when we can match anyone on housing and exceed most on education, we should remain strong for years to come.” The face of Ouachita changed dramatically. But most importantly, it changed for the better. Despite the sadness that came with the tearing down of some of the university’s most beloved structures, a bright future with endless possibilities came, also. “This is a completion,” Horne said of the multi million dollar construction project, “but more than that, this is a great beginning.”
President Rex Horne leads the official dedication of the Student Village on Aug. 20. A crowd of approximately 200 students, faculty, staff, donors and honorees gathered along the sidewalks of the circular courtyard ringed by the new facilities.

photo by: Callie Stephens

Future dorms undergo the construction process next to Maddox Hall and Flippen-Perrin Hall. They were set to be completed before the 2010-2011 school year began.

photo by: Callie Stephens

A computer generated image shows what the newest dorm project will look like once completed. The dorms were built in order to provide another opportunity for students to gain a sense of community.

photo courtesy of the News Bureau

Student Village residents seniors J.L. West and Landon White, along with juniors Sarah Pantida and Danielle Duhan, do homework together in the lobby of Gosser Hall. The lobbies were a popular place for students to study, watch TV and hang out.

photo by: Kara Humble
Junior Sara Hanson looks out over the mountains of Chile. Hiking was one of the activities she participated in with the people of the community.
Photo Courtesy of Sarah Hanson

Freshman Karis Crosby is covered in watermelon after falling during a food fight chase. Crosby worked at Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp and enjoyed a summer that included outdoor games with kids.
Photo Courtesy of Karis Crosby
As spring 2009 semester came to a close, students began packing up their dorms and heading home for the long-awaited summer vacation. While some were planning for a long rest, other students started preparing for a busy summer.

"I worked for Toms Shoes this past summer for a month designing my own pair," said freshman Harper Davison, a sociology major from Katy, Texas. "I won Best In State for photos I had taken, and a Toms representative was there and he asked me if I wanted to come and work there for a month to design a pair of Toms."

Davison was asked to base her pair she designed off of her own photography. A team looked at fabrics with her, researched what pairs would sell, and looked at idea boards that could help her develop her design. "Working for Toms was something really fun for me," Davison said. "But it is not something that I would want to do for the rest of my life. It was still cool to work with the people and be in a real world work atmosphere."

Students also had the opportunity to work at local church camps and build relationships with younger students through recreation and fellowship.

"I went to Rockin' C Ranch in Red Springs, Texas and worked as a camp counselor," said Richard Adams, a Christian studies major from Benton, said. "It was a Christian camp and the main focus was letting kids know about Christ. I got to share my faith with kids who wanted to know about Christ. It was like camp with a purpose."

Freshman Karis Crosby, a Christian studies major from Columbia, Missouri, also had the opportunity of working with kids at a church camp. This was Crosby's eighth year to attend, and fourth year to work at Turkey Hill Ranch Bible camp in Vienna, Missouri. "I loved counseling the younger little girls," Crosby said. "We did this thing called 'star tripping', we watched one star, then twirled around fell down in the grass. We also loved doing horse-back rides."

While some worked at camps and held internships, others had the opportunity to share their faith across cultural boundaries on mission trips on their summer vacation. Junior Sara Hanson, dietetics major from Tyler, Texas, traveled to Chile, South America, for three weeks. She did an activity called GPS hiking and did a VBS-type trip where she hung out with the kids and the university students from the area.

Hanson prepared for this trip by learning about the culture and country as well as planning out lessons for the kids and connecting Bible stories to the activities they did. The students also were able to do activities such as water rafting and hiking in the Andes Mountains. "The last few days we were there we took a huge hike up a mountain, and it turned out to be a big success," said Hanson. "We didn't expect that many people to show up, and it was cool because those people that showed up were staying in Chile and they could make connections with the people living there."

"It was cool to work with the people and be in a real work atmosphere." Harper Davison

Junior Richard Adams demonstrates how to use a bow and arrow to a child at Rockin' C Ranch. Adams worked as a counselor at the camp.

Photo courtesy of Richard Adams
Freshmen boys high five at Chi Rho Phi's luau. Luau was held on Friday of T.W.I.R.P. week.
Photo by: Sarah Hanley

A freshman couple have a laugh after playing a game at 50's Night. 50's Night was hosted by the Women of EEE.
Photo by: Callie Stephens
As the beginning of fall semester approached, girls began building their courage and scouting out their possible dates for the long awaited T.W.I.R.P. week. Social clubs, Campus Ministries, and CAB all started planning their separate nights to put on a memorable and eventful evening, and guys got to take a break for a week and wait anxiously for their special invites.

"I got to go to every T.W.I.R.P. night," said freshman Gillis Jones, an athletic training major from Andalusia, Alabama. "It was weird not having to pay for the dates and kind of awkward, but it was nice not having the pressure of asking the girls an dates. But still, very weird."

The women of Tri Chi put on the annual 80s night, and the incoming pledge class performed an 80s-themed dance along with the rest of their social club sisters. "I was more excited than I was nervous about the performance we had," said junior Stephanie Warren, a Christian studies major from Spring, Texas. "It was good having friends there supporting us, and we practiced really hard for that dance."

At the annual 50s night sponsored by the EEEs, couples played games involving Twizzlers, peanut butter and wax paper. There also was a dance competition for couples. "We didn’t even know there was going to be a dance competition," said Timothy Squires, a math education and Spanish major from Sherwood. "My date and I taught a swing dancing class, but if you count dancing for a whole semester preparing, I guess we were pretty prepared then."

Hosted by Chi Delta, Harvest Moon was also a well-attended night of the week. Girls had the privilege of whipping out their semi-formal gowns, and guys pulled out their slacks and button-ups. "My date was a Chi Delta beau and we danced the whole night," said sophomore Chelsea Lewis, a speech pathology major from Benton. "I loved to get dressed up and put on heels and a dress. Harvest Moon was fun for me because I was also in the Chi Delta pledge class."

Barn Bash was sponsored by Campus Ministries was held in SPEC due to rain. Students square danced the night away and flaunted their country-western ensembles. "I loved Barn Bash because it was a combo of my two favorite things: barbecue and square dancing," said sophomore Natalie Polston, a Biblical studies and psychology major from Searcy. "It was fun and like a sauna in there. It was humid and there was no air conditioning."

While students began putting away their grass skirts and cowboy boots, another week of T.W.I.R.P. wrapped up and girls could barely wait for the upcoming year.

"It was weird not having to pay for the dates and kind of awkward."

Gillis Jones
In "The Bubble," Ouachita has its unique culture and WOW (or Welcome to Ouachita's World) was the first step to making new students feel like part of the community. "The purpose of WOW is to welcome the students, bring them into the fold and show them how things work and where they might fit here at Ouachita as well as to let them see what we're about," Tim Harrell, director of campus activities, said.

"I think the purpose of WOW is connection," said Austin Walker, a junior Christian studies major from Benton and member of the WOW steering committee. "You instantly connect with tons of people, mostly people in your class but also upper-classmen and faculty," he added.

WOW began with upperclassmen helping new students settle in. "I love move-in because it's always a lot of fun. There's people running all over the place, but it's organized chaos," Horrell said. "It was really helpful that the people came up to the car as soon as you got there and helped you unload and put your stuff in your room. It was a really easy process to get moved in," said Samantha Street, a freshman accounting major from Duncan, Okla.

For many students the highlight of the week was Tigers & Torches. "It was one of the coolest things I've ever seen. There's a handful of stops where they talk about things like the mission statement, vision, integrity and service, and how big of a deal it is," said Harrell.

"Tigers & Torches was a huge thing this year. It's something that started my first year on the WOW steering committee and so it's been cool to watch it evolve and grow," said Jake Sligh, a senior business major from Camden and member of the WOW steering committee. "This year I feel like was the most inline with the original plan of Tigers & Torches."

Along the route students were given a Ouachita beanie, a tradition which ended many years ago but was brought back this year. "I remember Tigers and Torches really well because we got those cool beanies. I still have mine hanging up by my bed," said Street.

Another memorable moment from the WOW sessions was a rap about campus safety put together by Sligh and Wes Hymer, a senior business major from El Dorado. "Wes Hymer and I were deemed the task of educating incoming students on Campus Safety," said Sligh.

Harrell did not hesitate to credit the success of WOW to the WOW steering committee, a group of students who were in charge of planning the weekend. "They handle anything from planning out sessions to move in," said Harrell, adding "there was some guidance but really it's a chance to let the students do it because they're very passionate about bringing new students into the fold."
Sophomore Danielle Varner helps freshmen girls move into their dorms by carrying their belongings from the car to the room. Upper-classmen volunteered their time to be WOW leaders and to help with freshman move-in activities.

Photo by: Collie Stephens

Senior Greg Schwartz offers his help by carrying in a heavy box to Francis Crawford. WOW leaders came back to school early to prepare for the weekend's festivities.

Photo by: Collie Stephens
Senior Lindsey Forgo films "The Telephone Hour" scene for the film. Forgo played the nameless "trash girl," who was transformed from an ugly duckling to a movie starlet in the first "Movie Musical."

Photo by: Hannah Beth Mokiff

The cast and crew of "Another Movie Musical" pose for the film's final shot. Almost 50 individuals were involved with the production.

Photo by: Becca Watts
A fresh and funny story idea plus singing, dancing, and acting, were compiled to make "Another Movie Musical." After succeeding with an independent student project, "A Movie Musical," Rance Collins, a senior mass communications major from Hillsboro, Texas, decided to work on the sequel. Around 450 people came to watch the premiere on Oct. 24 in Jones Performing Arts Center.

"Two years ago Grace Whitaker and I were on a trip to California," said Collins, who co-wrote, co-produced, edited, directed and even played the character Rance Collins in both movies. "We watched 'Hairspray' and started thinking, why don't we make a movie musical." After the first movie proved popular, they went ahead with a second film. "Things were bigger in the second one," Collins said. "There were more people, more complex songs. We had a lot of solos in the first movie musical, but in the second one we had more group songs, which was harder."

Besides playing a character and writing the script, Grace Whitaker, a senior biology major from Victoria, Texas, was in charge of choreography in many of the songs such as: "Footloose," "Dancing Queen," "That's How You Know" and "You Can't Stop the Beat." "I would say the first one was really great, but 'Another Movie Musical' was so much better," said Whitaker. "We kind of knew what we were doing, so we knew what we needed to get done and how much time we had. We knew which direction we wanted to take. I think the whole process was pretty amazing."

Roughly 50 people were involved in this movie. "The hardest thing was to work around everybody's schedule," Collins said. "Leading a group of your peers wasn't easy, because I had to work the line between friend and authority figure."

"It helped me build relationships, and it's just a really good experience," said Trey Baldwin, a senior political science and speech communication major from Forrest City. "Recording was one of the biggest challenges for me. Sometimes it was just hard being on pitch or knowing the lyrics, but we worked through that."

This movie was shown for free, but DVDs were provided for a donation to the Ouachita Student Foundation (OSF). J.L West helped shoot the movie and Matthew Landers was in charge of the music recording.

"I learned new things while helping with the music and recording because I've never done that before," said Lynley Vire, a junior musical theater major from Searcy, who helped with the music direction.

Lindsey Farga, a senior musical theater major from Glenwood, who played nameless 'the trash girl,' said, "It was fun because I felt the quality was becoming much better, especially with the music and recording."

The movie could not have happened successfully without support and help from faculty members, particularly the Root family, Mary Handboe and Brett Powell. "I found that the people of the university were very supportive in helping it all come together," Collins said.

All the challenges and hard work paid off when they saw the reaction of the audience. "More than just wanting the experience in movie making, I wanted to make people happy, laugh and enjoy the entertainment," Collins said. "I think it was worth making this movie musical."
Status updates, wall-to-wall posts, photos, group pages, fan pages. Any college student identified these terms with Facebook. What exactly is Facebook? Although some did not participate, it's safe to say that most college students used the Web as a social media.

"You truly are not a college student without Facebook," Kara Humble, a junior mass communications major from Brinkley, said. Students often got on Facebook intending to be online for just a second and two hours later, homework was not done and the laundry had been forgotten. This social network became one of the largest forms of procrastination for students. However, many students considered Facebook an interesting way to keep up with all high school and even elementary school friends.

Once students thought that they could connect with each other, a new and interesting network arrived by the name of Twitter. How exactly did this keep us connected? Some students voiced that Twitter was silly, updated statuses that meant nothing. However, Twitter was actually a very fascinating way to keep up with celebrities, politicians, or even our very own OBU page. "Personally, I do enjoy Twitter more than Facebook. I check Twitter many times each day. I only check Facebook once or twice a day or less," Jake Sligh, a senior business administration/marketing major from Camden, said.

Many students continued to use both Facebook and Twitter to keep in touch. Twitter was for quick shout-outs or simple messages that were on students' minds. "I think it's fun to just write the random and funny things that come to my head. I love reading other people's tweets, especially if they're funny," Humble said. Despite the growing popularity of Twitter, not everyone jumped on the bandwagon. "I do not have a Twitter account," Abbey Janieson, a freshman Christian studies major from Sachse, Texas, said. "I even think Facebook can be too much sometimes, so I definitely don't have the time to update something like Twitter every five seconds to let people know what I'm doing or thinking."

Why did we feel the need to add one more virtual site to check each day when we were already checking emails, Facebook, bank accounts and blogs? "I enjoy Twitter for my pursuit of a career in public relations and advertising is what drove me to catch the Twitter craze early, but since then a lot of my friends began tweeting," Sligh said. The new network became a social network for all kinds of people. Often musicians were seen tweeting before a big concert or promoting new albums and preachers made comments about sermons they just preached. It was an easy way to get a quick message out to update its followers.

Facebook and Twitter were two very useful social networks that will continue to bring people closer together and to keep us all updated.
Richard Atkinson uses his phone to check for Twitter updates. Many students used their phones to search the Web, check email and look at their Twitter or Facebook accounts.

Photo by: Megan Fido

Twitter and Facebook are the means of communication for many students. It was not uncommon to hear the words Twitter or Facebook in casual conversation among students and some professors.

Photo by: Sarah Henley
It was the most wonderful time of year for most at Ouachita; Homecoming week. The Homecoming festivities included many new events to take part in, along with the traditional Homecoming activities, in an effort to bring the Ouachita community together for this spirited week.

Through the efforts of the Ouachita Student Foundation and the Ouachita Alumni Office, special events throughout the week such as Tiger Tunes, reunion dinners, dorm decorating contests and OtTiger Fest - now in its second successful year - were planned to bring students and alumni together to celebrate the spirit of Ouachita in a ‘Totally Tigers’ Homecoming.

“We really wanted to bring the campus out together into community,” said Chris Bobb, development officer and external alumni director for Ouachita. “It’s important for the alumni to see that although the Ouachita campus has visually changed, the tradition and core education in a Christian environment has been a constant.”

Spirits were high as the pre-game ceremonies began at A.U. Williams Field on Saturday before the Tigers took to the field against the Harding Bisons. During pre-game ceremonies, Haley Nolan was crowned Homecoming queen. “My initial feeling was that I could not believe it,” said Nolan, a senior Spanish and psychology major from North Little Rock, who represented OBU Campus Ministries. “I thought about what a huge honor it was to represent OBU in such a cool way.” Nolan was accompanied in the Homecoming court by Sam Parish, Lauro Kirby, Megan Lindsey and Nancy Christner.

Although the Tigers fought a tough battle against the Bisons, the game ended with the Tigers falling short. Students did not let the game’s loss deter the celebration. Tiger Tunes’ final show was a sold-out affair with the men and women of Campus Ministries taking home the coveted overall win with their comical Southern Baptist theme.

On into the night, the men of Eta Alpha Omega hosted their 12th annual Muggin’ at the Gazebo event. Students gathered in the plaza, due to flooding at their usual location, and enjoyed free IBC root beer, music and fellowship after a fun and exciting Homecoming week on campus.

Perhaps the greatest joy for most during Homecoming week was seeing the Ouachita community come together in spirit, celebration and tradition. Laura Kirby, co-president of the Ouachita Student Foundation, worked very closely with Tiger Tunes, GROW-the program for prospective students, to feel the spirit and day-to-day life of Ouachita, and the alumni office. “It’s wonderful for the alumni to reconnect with each other and the different clubs and events they were involved in during their time here,” Kirby said. “Everything has been a huge success this year and we hope that it continues to grow in years to come.”
Senior Jarod Townsend opens a bottle of IBC root beer during Muggin. The event was hosted for all students by the men of the Alpha Omega. 
Photo by: Callie Stephens

Photo by: Callie Stephens
LETTHE MUSCPLAY

It was the event that took participants 12 hours a week to prepare for. It was the weekend when students could see horse jockeys, wild village natives, medieval knights and security guards walking around campus. It was when Jones Performing Arts Center was filled with 1500 excited students, faculty, alumni and guests. It was Tiger Tunes 2009.

"I was really anxious to finally see all the performances I had been hearing so much about," said Jacob Lively, a sophomore biology major from Hooks, Texas. "I know each group put in many hours of hard work. It was great to see their efforts pay off, and it turned out to be a great show."

Tiger Tunes, hosted by the Ouachita Student Foundation, was held October 8-10 and featured eight student groups, each bringing their own unique flair to the stage. For the first year, an unofficial student group was allowed to participate in the event. The men of the fourth floor of the new student village put together a show at the last minute and graced the stage as campus security officers. Although the group was not eligible for competitive awards, it did receive the People's Choice award.

"Nobody has ever put together a Tiger Tunes show in a five-week span," said Jake Sligh, a senior business administration major from Camden. "And I don't recommend anyone doing it."

Continued on page 27
The women of EEE form human totem poles during the "native" portion of their show, which was an element of surprise featured in the performance. The EEEs won second place overall.

Photo by: Callie Stephens

With their smiles gleaming, the women of Tri Chi perform as soccer moms. Their beaus played the role of the soccer players.

Photo by: Callie Stephens

Being very careful not to wake him, the men of Kappa Chi sneak past their sleeping dragon during their performance in Tiger Tunes. The Kappas were awarded Best Costume twice and won third place overall.

Photo by: Callie Stephens
The men of Rho Sigma "praise the Lord" as monks. The show featured a red light show at the beginning and the sweethearts acting as nuns.
Photo by: Callie Stephens

Saying "hello" to the audience, the men of Fourth Floor sing as campus safety officers. They made history as the first group of students not in an organized club to perform in Tiger Tunes.
Photo by: Callie Stephens
Along with the group performances, eight students were chosen to perform as the hosts and hostesses for the show. These included: Nikki Anderson, a sophomore music education major from Heber Springs; Mark Bartels, a freshman church music major from Henderson, Texas; Leslyn Lichter, a senior music education major from Conway; David Jacks, a junior accounting major from Fountain Hill; Emily Morgan, a junior accounting major from Mountain Home; Alex Ray, a junior political science major from Jacksonville; Maggie Taylor, a junior music education major from Russellville; and Jacob Watson, a sophomore musical theatre major from Wynne.

“I loved getting to know everyone involved—not only other hosts and hostesses, but also several OSF members, the technical crew and even members of some of the clubs,” Taylor said. “Obviously I love dancing and singing, but this group of people really made the dancing and singing so much more enjoyable.”

The groups each entertained the audiences with their hard work and talent. The men and women of Campus Ministries portrayed southern Baptists at their best; the women of EEE were passengers on an airplane landing on an unmarked island; the men of Kappa Chi were knights rescuing a princess; the women of Tri Chi were soccer moms cheering on their boys; the men of Rho Sigma told of their lives as monks; the women of Chi Delta showed their wild sides as jungle people; the men of Beta Beta rode in as horse jockeys; and the men of Fourth Floor were campus security guards. Tiger Blast performed a hip-hop set during intermission, including the hit song “Gangsta’s Paradise.”

Each night, a new panel of judges critiqued and awarded category winners for costume, musicality, theme and lyric, and choreography. After the last performance on Saturday night, the overall winners were announced. First place was awarded to Campus Ministries, second to the women of EEE and third to the men of Kappa Chi.

The 2009 performances marked the 31st anniversary of the event, and allowed for over $60,000 to be raised for student scholarships.
The men of Rho Sigma promote school spirit and energize the student body during the bonfire. The bonfire was a tradition held the Thursday before the Battle of the Raven.

Photo by: Callie Stephens

Members of the Tiger defense tackle a Henderson Reddix on game day. The Tigers won the battle, 35-28.

Photo by: Callie Stephens
Every fall semester students got excited about one week. Over 100 years had passed since the beginning of this electrifying clash—the Tigers versus the Henderson Reddies. Although the weeklong festivities of the Battle of the Ravine were somewhat new, the rivalry between the two universities was an old tradition.

Not only was the game between the two schools a major part of the week, but other traditions that had been adopted by the university also became a big part of the week. These newly-mode traditions were started by the men of Rho Sigma. "The bonfire and the bell ringing have been the most stable traditions for the last 40 to 50 years," said Kyle Barnard, a Rho Sigma and senior kinesiology major from The Woodlands, Texas. "As a club, it's really an idea we created three years ago and we really liked it. We really wanted to raise awareness on the campus as far as school spirit."

The Rho Sigmas took pride in the events they planned during the week. The night of the bonfire pep rally, students took torches supplied by Rho Sigma and carried them down to the intramural fields where they threw them into a massive bonfire. Other social clubs got involved during the week, too. The women of Tri Chi gave out hot chocolate and s'mores for the students and the women of EEE put on a cookie decorating event. The women of Chi Delta hosted a karaoke event. The Rho Sigmas also had another tradition—guarding the Tiger statue in the middle of campus. They set up a tent by the Tiger and each night would take turns guarding it, preventing the Reddies from doing anything to the statue. However, the Redshirts let their guard down for a few seconds as the Reddies were able to spray ketchup on the Tiger. "Someone came running full sprint from the road and sprayed ketchup on the Tiger," said Barnard. "No one saw it coming."

The rivalry football game was the culmination of the week's activities. "It's not all about the game," said Chris Babb, external director of alumni and development officer at the university. "The game is an important part of the week, but when you get down to it, it's basically all of the students coming together uniting the school. Coming together for one common theme—it brings out school pride." Babb, along with Dr. Wesley Kluck, university physician and vice president for university advancement, worked together to make sure that the students were aware of what events were taking place during the week.

For the first time, a Battle of the Ravine blood drive was hosted by the Red Cross in which any student from the two universities could partake. Ouachita won the contest with 223 student donors making up 15 percent of the population on campus.

The week ended with Ouachita hosting the football game. Going into the game, the historic battle was tied with each team ready to win. The Tigers broke that tie with a 35-28 victory. "That was, in essence, our championship game. For seniors especially, we got a sense of closure to our career," said Brady King, a senior mass communications major from Plano, Texas. "The battles in 2008 and 2009 will forever be etched into my memory."
Students banned together on the side of the fields and courts intent on watching their team play, intent on seeing every possible point gained. This was O-Zone and they were the student moss seen on the sidelines creating support for their team. Some had faces painted, some crazy outfits, but all were joined by the enthusiasm of school spirit.

While many college campuses may have had a group dedicated to creating school spirit and team support, the O-Zone differed. O-Zone was created to include all students and not be led. It was designed for community and fellowship as well as team support.

"I think the O-Zone gives the people of Ouachita an opportunity to express themselves in an environment where nobody is going to make fun of them for having something on their face or anything like that," said sophomore Jonathan Valdez, a speech communication major from Garland, Texas.

O-Zone provided students an opportunity to connect and see all of their friends while enjoying and supporting their team. It was a group where all students, no matter what the involvement, could go and support their school and be within their group of surrounding friends.

"The atmosphere is one of enthusiasm and just pure joy at times because everyone is together and cheering on the Tigers," said freshman Devan Malone, a business administration major from Benton.

"I think this would draw in more of the outside crowd, such as the alumni, when they see this one unified spirit and everyone wants to be a part of it. It is the chance to unite and bond, no matter who you are or where you're from, because there everyone is an Ouachitonian."

Purple was the main color seen from the football field, catching the eye of the players at halftime who need support, but during basketball season, O-Zone showed many different colors. Since pledging occurred during basketball season, many new members were encouraged to wear club colors while supporting the team.

"For basketball games, I have attended them as a Tri Chi, which is a totally different experience than going as an independent. Tri Chi has its own set of cheers and the basketball games are a completely different atmosphere. I have enjoyed them a lot though, and loved the atmosphere OBU creates," Malone said.

While it could be thought that different colors and the segregating cheers of the clubs could cause a distraction from unity, it caused many to notice the bonds more. Clubs did not put a boundary on the cheers and excitement sent out throughout the night. Friends connected and socialized like any other game; O-Zone remained the same.

"I know that I honestly was worried about going to some of the games when I first joined a social club because of the segregation aspect, but after I joined and went to my first one it really was not that bad," said senior Tri Chi BethAnne Shroder, a church music major from Litchfield, Ill. "You do have to stand with your club for most of the game, but you can still go and say hi to your other friends and cheer on the team like normal. It's like going to the football games with your group of friends."
The O-Zone cheers on the Tigers against the Henderson Reddies during the Battle of the Ravine. The group of students showed enthusiasm by coming up with unique O-Zone cheers.

photo by Collie Stephens

Sophomore Jessica Hill paints the back of freshman Patrick Krauss. Many students painted their faces and bodies to show school spirit.

photo by Sarah Henley
Students regularly saw construction trucks in the ravine. Preparations for the new bridge were made during the fall semester with completion in late spring.

Photo by: Callie Stephens

As students cross the old bridge, they are able to see the progress being made on the new bridge. Construction workers worked throughout the year on the new bridge.

Photo by: Whitney Crews
Bridging the Gap

There was a major change in the Battle of the Ravine. No - not that one. I’m talking about the struggle of students, faculty and staff to cross the wide, shrubby gap separating North and main campus.

The bridge that connected these two sides of campus had become old and instead of spending money to fix the problems with the old bridge, the university decided to invest in a new bridge. There were also plans to build a plaza in connection to the bridge.

The new plaza and bridge were being built thanks to a donation by the Heflin family in memory of former Ouachita Board of Trustees Chairman Johnny Heflin and in honor of his wife Sharon and their family, Joy and Andrea Heflin and Marc and Billie Heflin.

“The whole area is going to be called Heflin Plaza when they get done,” said Dr. Brett Powell, vice president for administrative services. “The actual plaza is what’s going to be on the North side of the bridge where Ernest-Bailey is now.”

A dirt roadway was cleared below the bridge to move materials and machinery. However, when the project was completed, that area was expected to look like it did before construction started.

As part of the building plans, traffic on Campus Drive in front of Walker Conference Center was rerouted for a time to allow for safe building of the South side of the bridge.

Some students were less concerned with the traffic changes and more anxious about losing a structure that was associated with so many traditions and legends, including throwing pumpkins off of the old bridge at Halloween and rappelling off the bridge to the ravine floor.

“Freshman year a group of guys had a bunch of mountaineering equipment and so they set up rappelling on the bridge,” said Brandi George, a senior from Malvern. “I’m afraid of heights, but I went over there and decided to rappel and it took me about 20 minutes to get up the nerve.”

George said her memories of the old bridge made her sad to see it go.

“It’s [the old bridge] just been kind of a reference point for me and my friends,” George said. “We used to meet at the end of the bridge to have big group discussions and we would just hang out at the end of the bridge. And now Daniel is gone and a lot of people don’t know that it’s a Daniel bridge anymore. It’s just going to be another one of those things that’s disappeared from my freshman year.”

However, she remained optimistic that she could make more memories with the new bridge.

“I definitely want to find some way to attach myself emotionally to the new bridge so I don’t feel like I’ve really lost anything, just gained something different,” George said.

“I went over and decided to repel...it took 20 minutes to get up the nerve.”

Brandi George
One passage and one focus geared the week: a week where students gathered as friends. Students could lend support to one another while learning about their faith. In a world where Bible studies, social clubs, friends and family shaped lives and defined character, a week of change was welcome. That is where Christian Focus Week came into play. During the week of Feb. 8-12 students were given the opportunity to refocus their attention, not on the things of this world making up who they are, but the things of Christ and of the Spirit.

Students were called to forget the things that defined who they are and focus on others. The theme of “Found” continued this message. Based upon Philippians 4:3-9, the week encouraged participants to not establish righteousness in the things done but in the righteousness of Christ.

“Our heart’s desire for this week is that we as believers would find our identity in Christ. A lot of times, we find ourselves in the good things that we do, organizations we are a part of, the major that we are, the church we go to and Phil 3:7-9 says that those identities are not how Christ wants us to define ourselves,” said sophomore Nathan Wade, a business administration major from Big Sandy, Texas.

To start the week, Minister Rodney Woo from Wilcrest Baptist Church in Houston spoke of his church and his ministry. With his church being a racially-accepting church and open to those of all ethnicities, his testimony and views were helpful to the focus of the week. Woo opened up the theme of “Found” by speaking on how color and ethnicity does not define the character of a person.

“This benefits a Christian campus because it really gives students a time to reflect on their relationship with God. Many times, students get really centered on themselves and forget who they are in Christ. It is a good week to reconnect and refocus,” said senior Tyler Burleson, a church music major from Camden.

Activities such as panel debates, art shows and dinner parties were held throughout the week to keep the theme and the message going. Students were also given an opportunity to take a break from the seriousness of the lectures and learning by attending a concert. Campus Activities Board hosted the Jake Smith concert during the middle of the week to add a shift to the next section of the week.

“The week was just a way to learn and see something new. It was a lesson on us and how we could grow and change to become more like Christ. Then the concert, that was a time to just forget it all, put the lessons we had learned into perspective and just worship our Lord,” said freshman Alexis Pace, a vocal performance major from Sugarland, Texas.

After the concert, students were invited back the next day to experience the next shift on the message, a shift on serving and accepting others. Ben Stuart from Breakaway Ministries at Texas A&M led the rest of the week.
Sophomore Rachel Chapman and junior Kara Humble lead worship during Christian Focus Week. Worship services were a daily part of the week's activities.

Photo by Callie Stephens

Freshman Kirstie Tallett works on a project for Worshipping Through Art. Students had the opportunity to channel their creative side during the week.

Photo by Callie Stephens
Junior Jacob Watson does strength training as part of a weekly exercise routine. Many students make exercising a priority to keep themselves healthy.

photo by: Kara Humble
Trends in fashion, weddings, movies and cars come and go but there was one trend that hopefully became a lifestyle change that hit campus — being active. It was hard to take a walk across campus without finding someone who was participating in this new trend.

"Physical health is extremely important but, so often, we take it for granted until our health starts to decline. Regular exercise is a wonderful way to stay healthy and I would encourage it for all of our students," said Dr. Brett Powell, vice president for administrative services.

"By starting the day with an early morning workout, I have the energy and stamina required to pay attention in class and I have the focus I need to be productive throughout my day," said Megan Tucker, a senior accounting major from Benton.

"For me it is absolutely essential to be active because I think it balances the stress from classes to homework," said Beau Landers, a junior Christian Studies major from Allen, Texas.

The administration supported this new trend on campus with the addition of fitness facilities around campus, sidewalks for students to use for running or walking and bike racks. They worked with the local health clubs to make it easier for students to use their facilities, and through the outdoor recreation program, the university offered more hiking and mountain biking activities for students.

In addition, Human Resources "has a wellness emphasis for faculty and staff to encourage us to be active and eat healthy," said Powell.

There were only two main concerns about this new trend. One was the potential for students to take this trend to an extreme and create an unhealthy lifestyle.

"Some students can slip into eating and exercise disorders without really being totally aware the process is occurring. Unfortunately the treatment of such problems is very difficult and time consuming," said Dr. Wesley Kluck, vice president for institutional advancement and university physician.

The other concern was, "whether the university can keep up with student needs in this area. We need to be sure we provide the facilities and support needed to encourage students to be active," said Powell.

Through the Wellness course and avenues for exercise, the University hoped students would continue a healthy lifestyle after college. "I believe exercise is very important for my personal growth-physically, emotionally and spiritually. The key to living a healthy and wholesome life is exercise and physical activity. Exercise is the healthy habit that essentially leads to the development of other healthy habits," said Tucker.

"I think people exercise because there is something about playing a sport, running, and working out that just makes you feel better. To quote "Legally blonde", "Exercise gives you endorphins. Endorphins make you happy," said Landers.
MTV is commonly found on students' televisions. MTV was one of the new channels Ouachita allowed students to have with their cable.

Photo by: Sarah Henley

The fall semester ushered in many new and exciting changes. There was a whole new freshman class, brand new dorms were opened for upper-classmen and a new bridge was being built to connect the new dorms with the rest of campus. All of these changes were obvious and exciting for the campus community. However, there was one change that was not obvious until students were in their dorm rooms, flipping through the TV channels, trying to find something to watch in their spare time. In doing this, many upper-classmen noticed that some of the most popular channels like MTV, VH1 and Comedy Central were now available for them to enjoy in their dorms.

In previous years, students would arrive and after getting settled in, they would turn the TV on to the guide channel, look for their favorite network, punch in the numbers for that network on the remote and quite possibly find nothing but static on the screen. Until the fall semester, Ouachita had limited access to some channels.

"I watch a lot of Bravo, A&E, USA, MTV, MTV 2, VH1 and E!," junior Aspen Grons, a mass communications major from Elkton, said. "Until this year, I wasn't able to watch many shows because we couldn't get the channels on campus."

Although some students were not bothered by the lack of popular channels, many felt the same way Elisa Modesto felt about the change. Modesto, a senior mass communications major from Red Oak, Texas, said, "I appreciate the fact that they opened up the TV options to us because it makes me feel like an adult and it makes me feel like they respect us enough to let us make our own choices in what we watch."

"It makes me feel like they respect us to let us make our own choices."

Elisa Modesto

Students could be found enjoying fellowship with one another as they gathered in the dorm lobbies on the night of the MTV Video Music Awards. "I was just excited to get to watch the music awards because I was never able to since we never had MTV on campus," senior Megan Lindsey, a senior mass communications major from Comden, said.

Whether or not people watched the added TV options, most everyone was appreciative of the amount of respect given to them by the administration for the trust they had displayed in allowing students to make their own choices in what to watch in their dorm rooms during spare time. Whether it be music, reality television, comedic relief, action or investigative programming, all students had the option of watching their favorite television genre.
Students frequently sip coffee and stare through the TV channels to find something to watch. New channels like MTV, Comedy Central and VH1 were now available to students.

Photo by: Sarah Henley
New Parents Michael and Terese Cox play with their son Nathaniel. Michael was the hall director of Flippen-Perrin where the family lived. Photo by Sarah Henley

KIDS ON CAMPUS

Raising a child on a college campus wasn’t the dream of most married couples. Void of playgrounds and swarming with students, it’s probably not every kid’s dream either. However, raising a child in Ouachita’s “bubble” came with both hardships and blessings.

For Alex and Britto Stomps, juggling classes with work and potty training a 2-year-old was hard work. Sophomores Alex and Britto live in Ouachita apartments with their energetic daughter, Brooklyn. Alex, a political science and business double major, managed taking 18 hours, worked 25 hours a week and took care of little Brooklyn. Britto, a Henderson business major, was in the National Guard and volunteered as a soccer coach for Arkadelphia High. For these two, the hardest thing about being in college and raising a child was “just not getting to always spend the time that we want to with Brooklyn because of having to work,” Britto said.

Raising their daughter in the bubble wasn’t all bad, though. “There’s lots of babysitters,” said Britto. Brooklyn had even been to class with Britto, which was something unique to Ouachita, that a professor would allow a 2-year-old to visit his class. “He told me to cover her ears a few times,” Britto said, laughing.

Being surrounded by couples their age was also something good about “the bubble.” “Right now it seems like I have a lot of pregnant friends, so it’ll be exciting when they have their babies in a few months to have kids her age.” The Stomps’ scholarships also paid for their apartment, which was a huge perk of raising Brooklyn on a college campus.

The Stomps were not the only couple raising a child at Ouachita. Michael and Terese Cox were dorm parents in Flippen/Perrin, and were raising baby Nathaniel. Hearing a crying baby in a freshman boys’ dorm wasn’t what you’d expect, but at Ouachita, Nathaniel was a welcomed resident. Michael and Terese had a passion for college students, and knew that despite having to raise a baby on a college campus, they were right where they belonged.

When Nathaniel was born, students wrote notes to him and left them outside the door. “He was born into an environment with lots of people, and those are things he will cherish when he’s older,” Terese said. For this family, raising Nathaniel in the bubble was a huge plus. “It’s definitely fun for him to be around students. I don’t know if he loves the bright lights or the people more, but he loves going to the cafeteria.”

Terese and Michael are thankful to raise their child in such a close-knit community, “I would probably feel a lot more uneasy if we were at a bigger school.” Terese Cox

“I would probably feel a lot more uneasy if we were at a bigger school.”

Terese Cox

Of course, raising Nathaniel on a college campus is hard. With Michael as hall director and the director of residence life, and Terese as assistant director of campus ministries, finding time to spend together as a family was challenging. Despite the difficulties though, both the Coxs and the Stomps were thankful to be at Ouachita, raising their children in such a safe and positive environment.
Brooklyn Stamps shows her silly side during a photoshoot with her parents, Alex and Brita. Alex and Brita had to balance school, working and parenthood, while still finding time for each other. Photo by Kara Humble

Henry Harrell is comforted by his dad, Tim Harrell, after tripping outside. Tim was the director of campus activities and lived in Gossen Hall with his wife, Nancy, who was the hall director. Photo by Mallory George
Coach Houston Nutt signs a cap after speaking in Chapel. Nutt, once the head coach for the University of Arkansas, was the head coach for Ole Miss and a highly-anticipated Chapel guest.

photo by: Callie Stephens

Dr. Guy Grimes speaks to students about dating during Chapel. Grimes was the guest speaker during Dating, Engagement and Marriage Week.

photo by: Kara Humble
Learning back in the booth, he watched hundreds of students find their seats. It was a busy Tuesday morning, and Chapel was getting ready to begin. The lights were on and the musicians were settled. The students were greeting their neighbors, adjusting their bags, and the occasional laptop. He saw it all. Dr. Rob Hewell, chair of the department of church music and associate professor, opened and lead the student body in song.

The lyrics appeared on the screen hanging in the middle of the stage. No one thought or wondered from where the lyrics appeared. They just did. Speakers had power point or video clips. It all happened seamlessly. The speakers were seen and heard. It was just normal. We never thought about all the work that goes on before or what it takes for the service to run smoothly.

Joey Licklider was the man behind it all. He’s the man we never see. He has been in charge of the technical side of chapel since 1998. Licklider said, “Ian sends information about the speaker and what their needs are, like power point, and I work with Dr. Hewell and the musician needs every week.”

Licklider was in charge of all of the technical aspects and the stage on Tuesday mornings during Chapel. “I usually run sound,” said Licklider. “A student runs sound sometimes and ... presentation and lyrics. But, I haven’t seen anything really crazy for Chapel. Sometimes it’s a power point or a couple of video clips that need to be done.” Dennis Jernigan, a songwriter and vocalist, used power point with pictures to tell his life story, and how God moved and changed his life.

It can be difficult to get everything together because Licklider only has two hours to get everything done. “Everything [has to be done] on Tuesday morning because typically there’s a rehearsal on Monday night,” Licklider laughed. “Especially in Tiger Tunes, I don’t have time to do anything but Tiger Tunes.” But, some speakers don’t use power point, like Dr. John Walton, professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College. Dr. Walton gave insight on the book of Job.

On the inside, Licklider gets a preview of the music and the speaker. “I know what’s going on a couple of days ahead,” Licklider said. Speakers come from all over with all different types of messages. Robert Pinkston, the missionary in residence from Canada, spoke on John 10:10. Mr. Ian Cosh, assistant to the president for community development, introduced people from all around the world who came to speak at Chapel from faculty, alumni, pastors and guests, such as Coach Houston Nutt. But, Licklider sits in the booth and ensures that everything will run smoothly; He was the man behind it all.
Money was no longer an object for students wishing to attend productions on campus. For the first time, students had the opportunity to attend most any theatrical play, opera or musical free of cost by presenting their I.D. card to the ticket box office before the show.

Dean of Fine Arts Dr. Scott Holsclaw was the one who initially proposed to arrange this opportunity. "I believe as an educational institution we should provide the resources to students," Holsclaw said. "[Fine Arts productions] should be a part of their education."

Another reason behind Holsclaw's proposal was the issue of money for students taking Fine Arts Theatre classes to fulfill CORE requirements. The class required students to attend productions and write reviews and having to pay for each show was a growing concern.

Junior English major Jessica Schleiff, a student of the CORE Fine Arts Theatre class, had nothing but good things to say about the free admission to productions. "It's really nice because I don't have to shell out 20 bucks for tickets to plays for a class for which I'm already paying for books," Schleiff said.

But if students aren't paying for tickets, where does the school of arts receive its profits? Holsclaw explained that the "activity fee" included in students' tuition pays for most of the ticket cost.

Junior music education major Jessica Hardy only saw good for the arrangement. "Some of my friends wouldn't usually come to our productions because of money, so this allows them to come no matter what their bank account says and I don't think revenue will be an issue," Hardy said.

The spirit of gratitude was apparent from all sides of the campus. Students in the productions weren't worried about losing money. Sophomore musical theatre major Moriah Patterson appreciated the wider variety and larger size of the audience. "It has really opened up our audience base to our peers, people we really care about," Patterson said. "Before, college students who aren't as familiar with the arts couldn't justify spending $6 or $8 on a theatre ticket when they could easily spend it on McDonald's or Wal-Mart. Now, I feel like we've exposed more students to our love of theatre and hopefully they understand why we're always locked in Verser!"

Although there were a few glitches, like students not knowing the protocol on behavior, Holsclaw was very happy with the much larger crowds and positive feedback. Whether this opportunity will continue with the years to come was still unknown. Jessica Schleiff said it best when explaining why this opportunity has been ideal for everyone. "It can only be positive," Schleiff said, "it encourages students to participate and appreciate the fine arts, enhancing their liberal arts education."
Students wait at the box office window to get their tickets to "Seussical the Musical." The musical was the major spring musical theatre production. Photo by Callie Stephens.
The talent of the students has always been something to look forward to, and the musical productions were a testament to it. Throughout the school year, the students had a lineup of musicals that were a joy for everyone to watch. The students and faculty involved in making the performances happen put time and effort into making it a showcase of talent.

Opera Theater presented Gianni Puccini’s “Gianni Schicchi” Nov. 19-21 in the Jones Performing Arts Center during the fall semester. The story involved a recently deceased Cousin Buoso Donati who had left his beloved family members out of his last will and testament in favor of the friars of the local parish. The one-act comedic opera was produced by Dr. Glenda Secrest, OBU associate professor of music and co-directed by Joey Licklider, director of the Jones Performing Arts Center. The opera was performed in Italian with English subtitles that appeared onscreen. “We felt in this time and place that Gianni Schicchi was an excellent opera to introduce our students to singing in the original language,” Secrest said. Set designs and costumes were all made by the students and the orchestra was composed of Ouachita students and members from the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, and conducted by Marc-Andre Baugie, with R. Andrew Clark as orchestra manager. The tale of family deceit and love made for a story full of laughter, along with amazing vocals by the student cast.

Festival of Christmas was another production enjoyed during the holiday season. The cast included the Concert Choir, Ouachita Sounds, Ouachita Singers, Women’s Chorus, Tiger Blast, and the Festival of Christmas Pit Band. “Being part of the cast for Festival of Christmas is one of the best experiences I have had. It really has gotten me into the Christmas spirit and I have gotten to meet so many new people,” said Rayleigh Salmon, a freshman member of the Concert Choir. The lineup of songs included Christmas classics like “Carol of the Bells,” “Mary Did You Know?,” “O Holy Night,” “Breath of Heaven,” and many more. The Festival of Christmas was a tradition of the School of Fine Arts and was something that people of all ages loved to see.

The spring musical was “Suessical,” based on different stories by Dr. Seuss. It ran from April 15-18 in Jones Performing Arts Center. The show’s musical director was Dr. Jon Secrest, professor of music, and the stage director was Daniel Inouye, assistant professor of theatre arts. The cast included over 30 students who also served as the technical crew. The production was based on the original play that debuted in 2000 with lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty and book by Ahrens and Flaherty. It included Dr. Seuss classics like “Cat in the Hat,” “Horton Hears a Who,” and the Grinch all tied together into one story. The cast and crew started rehearsal and production in January. “We actually only had less time than usual on stage for rehearsal,” said Rudy Jones, a sophomore theatre arts major from Smackover, who was part of the chorus in “Suessical.”

The productions that students performed gave them the experience needed in both music and theatre. All musicals were done by students, including the lighting, props, costumes, makeup, and set designs. Students were able to become involved and become part of something that was creative and special.

“Being part of the cast for Festival of Christmas was one of the best experiences I have had.”

Ryleigh Salmon
Playing the role of Horton, junior Jacob Watson, along with senior Rachel Street playing Gertrude, figure out how to save the people of Whoville in "Seussical the Musical." Gertrude's character was in love with Horton and tried desperately to get his attention throughout the musical.

photo by: Callie Stephens

Sophomore Andrew Miller acts out a scene in the opera "Gianni Schicchi." The story was one of love, deceit and family bickering.

photo by: Callie Stephens
Senior Jeffrey Stokes and junior Lauren Casteel rehearse for "Goldilocks on Trial." The play was performed during the fall semester.
photo by: Callie Stephens

Senior Kyle Huey and sophomore Xavier Lagunas act for "The Doctor in Spite of Himself." The play was the major theatre production during the spring semester.
photo by: Sarah Henley
As soon as they stepped foot into the theatre, the actors, crewmen, and directors pushed any thought of their lives to the back of their minds. The lives of the students of the theatre department revolved around putting on a great show while still balancing school, work, and relationships.

The fall production "Six Characters in Search of an Author," directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Doniellnouye, brought a darker side of theater to the Verser stage. "We wanted to take the theatrical conventions that are mostly accepted and kind of turn them on their head," Inouye said. "We wanted to give the audience a different opportunity to experience theater in that way." "Six Characters in Search of an Author" was all about breaking down the expectations of the audience.

Because of the show's dark nature it was tough for some actors to portray their characters. "It was difficult to go to those places that we had to every night. To try and honestly present people who were suffering, and hurting, and in general people we would rather not relate to," said Jody Lee, a senior theatre major from Arlington, Texas. "It showed me a new aspect of theatre that I fully enjoyed." Greg Schwartz

The spring production, "The Doctor In Spite of Himself," shed wit and laughter on the theater's stage. The play was directed by Associate Professor of Theater Arts Mary Handihoe. "The actors had to make the lines seem honest but still vibrant enough for the audience to catch everything," said Handihoe, "I felt like they all did a great job with that."

The annual student-directed one act play festival was produced in December. This gave the upperclassman theatre students a taste of directing their own play with the help of their peers as cast members. The students got to experience first-hand what it was like to create a show from the ground up. "I loved being able to work behind the scenes rather than on the stage," said Greg Schwartz, a senior theatre and mass communications double major from Texarkana, Texas. "It showed me a new aspect of theatre that I fully enjoyed and am hoping to pursue in the future."

The ten minute plays followed in March. Students from any major were encouraged to participate. This was a three-day event in which the students auditioned on Thursday, got cast on Friday along with an all-night practice, and then performed their play on Saturday.

Although the actors, crewmen, and directors hardly had time for relaxation, they wouldn't trade their time on the stage for anything. Their passion for what they do kept them going. For Schwartz, perseverance will carry him far after graduation. "It's difficult to pull off these shows with our busy and hectic lifestyles," said Schwartz, "but those of us in this line of business know that strong dedication to our craft will pay off for us in the long run."

"It showed me a new aspect of theatre that I fully enjoyed." Greg Schwartz

Sophomore Taylor Ross recites a line during dress rehearsal for the One Act Plays. Students who were not theatre majors were given the opportunity to act in and direct the One Act Plays.

photo by: Sarah Henley

by: Sarah Sparks

Showing Dedication
Once the leaves fell from their branches and the crisp air of winter began to set in, the "bubble" became more like a snow globe. There was an obvious transformation of campus into a place that was full of the Christmas spirit.

If a student was bored around Christmas time, it meant they simply were not looking in the right places for something to do. Between the Festival of Christmas, the CAB Christmas party, Lessons and Carols and all the various other activities around campus, there was never a time when the campus was quiet.

The Festival of Christmas, affectionately known as "FOC" among students, was once again the center of many students' attention. "FOC week is really insane," said Sam Spradling, a junior theatre major from Texas, who played the role of Mary. "It's amazing that they put everything together on stage in just one week. It was so much fun to be a part of something as great as Festival of Christmas," she said. "For all the work they do, I think [Festival of Christmas] should have a longer run. People love it, and everyone puts so much work into it."

Another memorable event that took place was the CAB Christmas party. Sophomore Nikki McNair, an early childhood education major from Minot, North Dakota, has been a part of the planning team for two years. The team put together one of the biggest Christmas parties on campus. "We have crafts and games. Santa is there, and you can get pictures with him," McNair said. "There's a cake walk, lots of prizes, Gingerbread houses and cookies. Oh, and there's the ugly sweater contest." Annette Whitehead, a senior graphic design major from Malvern, said, "[The party] definitely puts me in the Christmas spirit."

"For all the work they do, I think it should have a longer run. People love it, and everyone puts so much work into it."

Sam Spradling

Even the various social clubs had their own Christmas traditions. Kelsi Ferguson, a sophomore psychology major from Louisville, Kentucky, and member of Chi Rho Phi, described some of her fondest memories with her club sisters. "We do an ornament exchange. Every year, we can either make the ornaments or buy them, and then we give them to one another," said Ferguson. "We also have a winter formal. Basically, we all just get dressed up and go out to eat."

Among the other traditions of the social clubs, one of the biggest was the popular window decorating contest. "It's my favorite thing," Spradling said. The women of Chi Delta took first place in the contest.

Even if a student wasn't a member of a social club, or didn't attend one of the many Christmas-themed performances around campus, there was more than enough to do. While walking down the halls in any of the dorms, one would find colorfully-lit decorations and tinsel lining the hallways and doors. Behind those doors, students took part in all sorts of traditions held between them and their friends.

"For all the work they do, I think it should have a longer run. People love it, and everyone puts so much work into it."

Sam Spradling

Stephen Raines. Jake Edwards and Demarcus Thornton attempt to build a gingerbread house at the CAB Christmas party. Students were provided the opportunity to decorate ornaments, build gingerbread houses, compete in a tacky sweater contest and have their picture taken with Santa.

Photo by: Callie Stephens

Sophomore Christina wood lights President Horn's candle during the candlelight service. The service was one of many Christmas events.

Photo by: Callie Stephens
The Concert Choir, along with the dancers, help bring the Christmas spirit to Owachita by performing a song during Festival of Christmas. The Festival of Christmas was an annual event held the first weekend of December.

Photo by: Callie Stephens

Sophomore Charlene Heimisch paints a window in the student Center for the women of Chi Rho Phi. CAB sponsored the window painting contest.

Photo by: Callie Stephens
Tiger Treks is a great way for all students on campus to get together and have a fun weekend of games and competition. It really builds community and is a weekend of fun before the end of the semester," said senior Jessica Bruchan, an accounting major from Lucas, Texas.

Tiger Treks was an exciting and crazy weekend held in the spring of every year. 30 teams participated and each team competed in nine events. The events were games such as raft racing, mud volleyball, mud tug-o-war and a basketball relay. The teams in the top three places won cash prizes. The prizes started at $100 for each member of the winning team.

Beau Landers, a junior Christian and Biblical studies major from Allen, Texas, was on the winning Tiger Treks team, Tater Tot Casserole. To hype themselves up before an event Landers and his other team mates would chant, "Tater tater tater tater tater tater TOT! Let me see that casserole!" Landers has participated in Tiger Treks for the last three years. He loved participating in Treks and said, "You have one life to live, why not spend it eating sardines and playing in the mud."

Senior Lauren Nelson, a biology major from Russellville, had participated in Tiger Treks for two years. Her team did not come in first place, nor did they enter with the intention of winning. She said they entered as an all girls team not with the intention to win, but to have fun. Lauren’s favorite event was the raft race. "I had been training beforehand by swimming laps and because I got to wear my swim cap and goggles," said Nelson.

Tiger Treks was not only a fun way to spend the weekend, it also served as fundraising for scholarships. OSF, Ouachita Student Foundation, has a motto of "students helping students." Bruchan was the co-chair of Special Events for OSF. "This year through the team registration fees and the generous sponsorship by the Board of Trustees, Tiger Treks was able to help students by adding to the scholarship fund," said Bruchan. Tiger Treks was an excellent way to plug in on campus. "I love participating in Treks because it's not only a great time to have fun with my friends, but I also know that I'm making a difference in students' lives through the money it raises for student scholarships," said Nelson.
Senior Jeffrey Harmon jumps from the mud pit to save the volleyball from going out of bounds. Harmon's team won the award for best costume.

photo by: Callie Stephens

The Tiger Tracks team, "Totally Radical", uses their feet to fish for marbles during the ice fishing event. Ice fishing required teams to fish for marbles in pools of ice and water using only their feet.

photo by: Callie Stephens
On Sept. 26, music filled the air as the Ouachita jazz band welcomed students to the Elrod Center lawn for the fall Tiger Serve Day. A record 694 student volunteers formed 62 teams to complete 80 projects during the day, which was dedicated to ministering to the needs of Arkadelphia residents. Free t-shirts and donuts were provided by the Elrod Center and lunch was provided by Summit Bank.

The spring Tiger Serve Day was held on April 10, and 648 volunteers once again came out to serve the community. Students participated with groups like sports teams, freshmen family groups, social clubs, organizations, residence halls or simply groups of friends. Service projects ranged from cleaning up trash on walking trails to washing cars and doing yard work for the elderly.

Tiger Serve Days were organized by a group of 22 students called the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team. The staff coordinator was Judy Duvall, and together they planned, advertised and organized both Tiger Serve Days for the year. "Some of their tasks included designing the media, volunteer recruitment, visiting and getting information about the projects and getting the tools ready for the day," Duvall said. "It takes a lot of work and much of it is done by this leadership team. They are strong servant leaders who have hearts for service and want others to experience it also."

According to Duvall, Tiger Serve Days were a way for the Ouachita community to share their faith with the city of Arkadelphia. "As Christians we are called to imitate Christ and be His hands and feet," Duvall said. "The people that are served in this community are able to see our students and faculty/staff put their faith into action."

"As Christians we are called to imitate Christ and be His hands and feet." Judy Duvall

Comi Jones, a senior early childhood education and Spanish double major from Mansfield, Texas, was a member of the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team. "Tiger Serve Day was an opportunity for Ouachita to get outside the bubble," Jones said. "This was a great chance for Ouachita students to connect with the people of Arkadelphia and serve them."

Stephen Johnson, a senior accounting and business finance double major from Brazil, said that Tiger Serve Days have impacted him in a personal way. "I love having the opportunity to get together with some friends or even total strangers and go out into the community, both as representatives of Ouachita and as fellow Christian students, and serve the needs of our community in a practical, tangible way."

The fall and spring Tiger Serve Days impacted other students in a positive way as well. Kate Shell, an early childhood education major from Batesville, has participated in every Tiger Serve Day since her freshman year. "The best thing is that if you go into it with a servant's heart, then everyone involved will be blessed," Shell said. "It has really taught me the importance of being Christ-like. Serve Day reminds me that nothing is about me. It's about showing Christ's love in action through serving others."

Tiger Serve Days were not only beneficial to the community, but also for Ouachita students themselves. "I always am happiest when I am serving someone else rather than being served," Nathan Wade said, a sophomore business major from Gilmer, Texas. "Tiger Serve Day is great way to invest in the community of Arkadelphia. It is so easy to just get caught up in the Ouachita bubble, and Tiger Serve Day is a good reminder that there is a whole city outside of Ouachita that we can serve."

Freshman Ryleigh Salmon bags a pile of pine straw after raking. Many service projects were outdoors, cleaning yards to prepare for mowing season. photo by Callie Stephens

Junior Jake Stanley and senior Clayton Chopin gather supplies for their team to do yard work. Teams were provided with rakes, gloves, water and sunscreen for the day. photo by Callie Stephens
Sophomore Jessica Fleeman learns how to use a weed eater during the spring Tiger Serve Day. Fleeman was part of a team with the women of EEE who did lawn care.

Senior Cami Jones instructs team leaders where to go after signing in their team. Jones’s watch documented that it was 8:33 a.m., but students were still eager to serve.

photo by Collie Stephens

photo by Collie Stephens
An international student from Japan, Ayako Shigito, works on a project in Publication Design. Ayako was one of two international students taking the course.

Yui Tagawa and Ayaka Shigito enjoy studying for English as a Second Language together. The course enabled students to write and speak English more fluently.

Photo by Callie Stephens
They were not any different from us. They dressed the same, experienced the same events, and many times acted the same as we did, the only difference was where they were from. They filled our campus and created diversity. They were international students.

While there was an International Club devoted to the students, where they could feel at home and help the club by contributing to a learning environment for students wanting to expand their knowledge of the world, many still found themselves at a loss when they experienced America.

"When I first came to America, I thought I knew everything about it from watching the movies made here and T.V. shows and listening to the music," said freshman John Tneoh, a vocal performance major from Penang, Malaysia. "I realized when I arrived on campus it was completely different from what I had expected it to be. America was fast paced and demanding."

For some, going to college was their first time to experience American culture. Some came because it was where their parents gained their degree and others came for the opportunities offered. While there were many different reasons for moving to America for a college experience, many felt the same about the changes they experienced.

"Everyone here is so nice. It’s not like this where I am from," said freshman Sam Park, a vocal performance major from Seoul, South Korea. "You can go up to anyone and say hi and you can ask someone to talk and they will. It’s really different. I like it here better, actually."

While some were amazed with the differences and the acceptance America had, others were appalled by the morals the country held. From standards on monetary value to sexual displays in advertisements many international students were shocked by the values they were shown.

"Here everything is bold and out. Back home it is all kept a secret, so I find it very odd," said freshman Lilia Sokolova, a business administration major from Yashkar-Ola Ola, Russia. "It is probably because of the weather where I am from. Since it is always cold we are covered up and things are kept covered. Here it is not like that."

The expansion of knowledge was crucial to be marketable for jobs in society. Many chose to come to America for its quality education and its foreign job knowledge.

"I know that back in Namibia, they really encouraged us to either go to America and get an education or go to South Africa, because they have a great school also," said freshman Chad Bullington, a business marketing/accounting major from Windhoek, Namibia. "My parents are missionaries and for me the states seemed the perfect option because of surrounding family, but now that I am here, I realize that America offers great education."

While the culture shock scored some at first, the benefits reaped from education, friendships and learning experiences were invaluable to international students.
President Rex Horne welcomes those in attendance at the commencement ceremony. The ceremony was held outside on the lawn in front of Cone-Bottoms.

photo by: Collie Stephens

Senior Kyle Ferguson watches his fellow classmates receive their diplomas. The students, as well as family, friends and faculty, were allowed to stand and honor the graduates as they walked across the stage.

photo by: Collie Stephens

It was a day that few thought would ever come. A day that symbolized what the class of 2010 had accomplished in their lives over the last four years. But ultimately, it was a day that stood for who they had become. Graduation marked the start of a brand new chapter in the lives of 288 students, who were suddenly finding themselves embarking on the path that they had been carving.

The sunny Saturday morning service on May 10, held on the front lawn of the historic Cone-Bottoms Hall, was soon filled with thousands of family members, friends, and members of the faculty and staff. President Rex Horne described the class of 2010 as difference makers, and it was plainly evident. The graduating class featured more than 120 honor students, including 24 who graduated summa cum laude with a grade point average of 3.95 or higher, 43 who graduated magna cum laude and 58 who graduated cum laude. Eleven graduates were recognized for completing Ouachita's Carl Goodson Honors Program, as well as 32 members of the Alpha Chi national honor society.

"But I've got a question: Where are you going? That matters more than where you are today."

Dr. David Uth

"Graduating was bittersweet," said Allison Smith, a psychology major from Anna, Texas. "It was like leaving a place that felt like home and a group of amazing friends, but it was good because I was moving on to pursue and achieve more goals in my life." While it was a special day for the graduates, it was also an important day for Dr. David Uth, a member of the class of 1979, who received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of his contribution to the field of Christian ministry. The Ouachita Board of Trustees voted unanimously to confer the degree. As he addressed the graduating seniors, Dr. Uth said, "It's a great honor to graduate. It's a great thing to be able to sit here and receive a degree. But I've got a question: Where are you going? That matters more than where you are today. It's my prayer that you will set your sights high."

Dr. Horne, who had served as president since 2006, also welcomed and addressed the graduating class, whom he had special place for in his heart. As the ceremony came to a close and the tassels had all been turned, he said, "We started this journey together, most of us, four years ago. Because of that, I will always look upon you as a very special class...You are men and women of character, of passion, of devotion, of great ability. You are indeed difference makers and we will look forward to seeing what is going to take place in the years ahead."
Seniors Allison Smith and Jake Sligh walk to the commencement ceremony. The graduates were greeted by all the professors as they made their way to their seats at the ceremony.

photo by: Callie Stephens
Aug. 20 • Ouachita is ranked the No. 1 Baccalaureate College in the South for the third consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report

Aug. 28 • "King of Pop" Michael Jackson’s June 25 death is ruled a homicide by drug overdose

Aug. 26 • Fall classes begin highlighted by the opening of the Student Village

Oct. 9 • President Obama wins the Nobel Peace Prize for his "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples"

Oct. 10 • Campus Ministries wins Tiger Tunes with the theme "Southern Baptists" and Hayley Nolan is named Homecoming Queen

Oct. 24 • President Obama declares H1N1 Flu a national emergency

Dec. 1 • President Obama announces that the U.S. military will be sending an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan

Dec. 4-5 • The School of Fine Arts presents Festival of Christmas

Dec. 18 • "Avatar" is released and surpasses "Titanic" as the highest grossing movie of all time (adjusted for inflation)

Sept. 8-14 • TWIRP Week includes events sponsored by clubs and organizations where "The Woman Is Required To Pay"

Sept. 24 • For the first time, scientists created a vaccine that seems to reduce the risk of contracting the AIDS virus

Sept. 30 • A 7.6-magnitude earthquake hits the island of Sumatra, leaving more than 700 people dead and thousands trapped under collapsed buildings

Nov. 4 • The New York Yankees win their 27th World Series title, and their first since 2000, against the Philadelphia Phillies

Nov. 5 • A gunman opens fire at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, killing 13 and wounding 30 others

Nov. 13 • Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the self-professed organizer of the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S., stood trial in criminal court

Nov. 7 • Ouachita defeats Henderson in the Battle of the Ravine 35-28

Nov. 20
Feb. 3 • Toyota recalls 9 million vehicles for brakes temporarily failing at low speeds and gas pedals that stick, due to floor mats

Feb. 7 • New Orleans Saints beat the Indianapolis Colts 31-17 in Super Bowl XLIV

Feb. 8-12 • Christian Focus Week features speakers Dr. Rodney Woo and Ben Stuart and a concert by Jake Smith

March 8 • Kathryn Bigelow wins Best Director Oscar. “The Hurt Locker” wins Best Picture. Sandra Bullock wins Best Actress and Jeff Bridges takes the Best Actor prize at the Oscars

Mar. 23 • President Obama signs the Affordable Health Care Act into law

Mar. 22-26 • 28 students traveled to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity during Spring Break

April 3 • Apple launches the iPad tablet computer

April 5 • 29 mine workers are killed in West Virginia

Apr. 10 • 673 faculty, staff and students participate in Tiger Serve Day

April 20 • BP’s offshore oil rig “Deepwater Horizon” explodes off the Gulf of Mexico killing 11 workers and causing a major economic and environmental disaster

Jan. 3 • Stricter screening requirements were announced for passengers traveling by air to the U.S. from all countries

Jan. 12 • The beleaguered country of Haiti is dealt a catastrophic blow when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake strikes 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, the country’s capital

Jan. 18-23 • Rush Week is held, followed by Pledge Week

May 2 • Police find car bomb in Times Square

May 10 • Ouachita confers 291 degrees in ceremony on the lawn of Cone-Bottem

May 26 • Apple passes Microsoft as Most Valuable Technology Company