

Lydia Fincher tries out the
of CAB Spring Fling. Other inflat-
such as slides and a rock
were also featured at Spring

Callie Stephens

People



w

hat makes Ouachita special is the people who inhabit it each year. Each new year brings a personality of students who change the face of campus.

Katelyn Cash reached out to the elderly in Arkadelphia. Christian Ichter utilized his musical talents through leading worship, and Michael Krikorian pitched in on a Shakespearean movie set in New York City.

Professors like Dr. Barbara Pemberton and Dr. Johnny Wink continued to be inspirations to all, while Nancy Christner and Katie Strickland ventured to Ireland. Mark Sumrall was a disciple to the lost in India, and TJ Connell and Belford Williams displayed true character.

It was students like these who gave Ouachita's own community a **facelift**, while making it a year to remember for those there to witness it.

“

I didn't have a passion for the lost people and I wanted to renew that passion in my life. So I decide to go on this mission trip.”

-Emily Jackson

Emily Adams • Erfurt, MO
 Victorio Adams • Hot Springs
 Reid Adkins • Mountain Home
 Megan Antley • Fulton
 Alana Armstrong • Arkadelphia
 David Armstrong • Malsburg-
 Marzell
 Felicia Arnold • Keller, TX
 Alden Ashley • Booneville



Richard Atkinson • Arkadelphia
 Heather Baker • Cleburne, TX
 Lindsey Baker • Benton
 Patricia Baker • Longview, TX
 William Baldwin • Forrest City
 Abby Bankhead • Boise, ID
 Kyle Barnard • The Woodlands, TX
 Elizabeth Barnett • Stuttgart



Haley Barran • Flower Mound, TX
 Brooke Belcher • Alma
 Sarah Berry • Little Rock
 Mallory Bierig • Fayette
 Celeste Bird • Ashdown
 Phillip Bridges • Clarksville
 Bethany Briscoe • Plano, TX
 Carrie Brown • Knoxville



Jessica Bruchan • Lucas, TX
 Amanda Bryson • Hot Springs
 Amelio Buckmaster • Chillicothe
 Jordan Burnett • McKinney, TX
 Kiley Burnett • Wildwood, MO
 Ashley Busby • Forrest City
 Mallory Bussey • Bossier, LA
 Mark Cain • Pine Bluff



Lindsey Compbell • Houston, TX
 Katelyn Cash • Southlake, TX
 Grant Caskey • Houston, TX
 Jennifer Caudle • Bossier City, LA
 Hannah Chapman • Forney, TX
 Nancy Christner • Celina, TX
 Danielle Cody • Midlothian, TX
 Jonathan Collier • North Little Rock



Changing Lives

Emily Jackson

by: Brittany Vick



Imagine a bright colorful city filled with 16 million people, where you walk down a street filled with shacks next to the nicest skyscraper business buildings. A city that is filled with extreme poverty, with homeless people and many parts overrun with marks of the prostitution industry. There are taxis of every color of the rainbow, except for the normal yellow. The traffic is so bad that it is dangerous to cross the street. And street vendors line the sidewalk, selling foods such as fried grasshoppers, squid, chocolate covered croques and every variety of noodles imaginable. This is Thailand, a country where the people are 95 percent Buddhist and less than 1 percent Christian, a country desperately needing to step out of the darkness and into the light. Now imagine a 21-year-old girl who has never crossed the Mason Dixon line, much less has left the country, who finds herself after taking a huge leap of faith in the busy city of Bangkok, Thailand. This is the story of Emily Jackson, who felt God's call to leave everything she knew to go and reach out to the lost people of Thailand. Jackson went on a two-month mission trip, June 5-Aug. 1, to Bangkok, sponsored by the International Mission Board (the IBM) with the BCM ministries from Arkansas universities.



photo by: Sarah Henley

Before she went she felt unrest in her spirit. "On the outside I was doing many good things, but I felt unrest despite all my good works because I didn't have a passion for lost people," she said. Really, she didn't even know how bad her problem was until she went to Thailand and saw how many people there were who had never even heard the name of Jesus. She went with a team of seven people, whose purpose was to teach English classes every day at a university so that they could build relationships with the students in hopes that they would be able to share the truth of God with them. Jackson went because she was feeling a burden. "I didn't have a passion for the lost people and I wanted to renew that passion in my life so I decided to go on this mission trip," said Jackson. "Even though I didn't know anything about Thailand I just felt like it would be a great opportunity to serve God."

Two weeks into her trip, Jackson experienced a big shock. Without her knowledge, her two leaders had plans of leaving Thailand to go back home and they asked Jackson to step up and lead the trip when they left. "They told me that they had seen the way I had interacted with the Thai people and my ability to stay well organized as well as my ability to communicate to the Thai leaders," she said. This was unexpected to Jackson but very rewarding. "I didn't know my team members at all before I went on the trip," Jackson said. "So at first it was intimidating to lead people that I had known only for a few weeks in a country that I didn't know much about. But it taught me to depend on God for the wisdom to guide the group. It also humbled me in many ways, because I didn't know what I was doing but God continued to use me," Jackson said. Even with feelings of apprehension Jackson gained so much from an experience she never saw coming.

The climatic point didn't come until September when Jackson received a phone call from a Thai Christian saying that Cheereen had decided to accept Christ. "It was incredible to see someone who came from such a devout religion change her entire life for the one true God," said Jackson. This was what Jackson's trip was about: building relationships and planting that seed of an eternal salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ in hopes of one day seeing a positive response from the relationships built. Jackson has a picture of Cheereen hanging on her wall, a relationship that I suspect will last for a long time, and now even into eternity.

The way this trip affected Jackson is only by the mighty power of God. She had never been out of the country before so this trip gave her a better worldview. But more than that, Jackson says, "God taught me to love people who had nothing in common with me except for the fact that they were made by the same creator. God completely broke my heart to see such servant-minded people and such loving spirits and big smiles on people who did not know the first thing about the God of the universe." Jackson's passion illuminates in her life after returning to the states. Her passion to seek and to help the lost has been renewed with intensity. "I just came back with a greater understanding of what my purpose is in life, which echoes Jesus' words, 'The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few,'" Jackson said. "My heart echoes the promise in Matthew that says in his name the nations will put their hope."

A Unique Blessing

Michael Krikorian

by: Jon Malcom

Being a freelance prop artisan for the Public Theater in New York City and working for world renowned set designers like John Lee Beatty may seem out of reach for some, but senior musical theatre major Michael Krikorian spent his summer doing just that.

"I worked on all the props for all the shows that I was there for," Krikorian said. Krikorian worked on shows like "Idiot Savant" and Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" that showed at the Shakespearean Central Park in New York City. "The experience alone is priceless," Krikorian said, "being able to work in New York at a theater that has the best of the best working there." During his three month stay in New York, Krikorian was able to meet many famous actors like Anne Hathaway, and Tony award winning set designers and playwrights. Krikorian was able to get the job through a friend he had worked with. "It was an incredible blessing," Krikorian said. "Technically I shouldn't have even been able to do that because I had no real prior experience, but somebody vouched for me so I got to do it."

Krikorian even found a way to let his love for Christ show even in an environment that Krikorian calls a "non-Christian atmosphere." Although it was hard for him to directly influence others, Krikorian found that he could "love people—be in the world but not of it," Krikorian said. Being basically alone in a big city helped Krikorian learn just how much his faith meant to him.

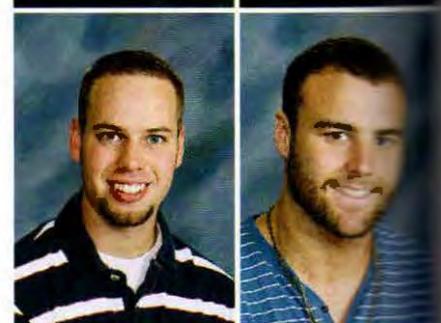
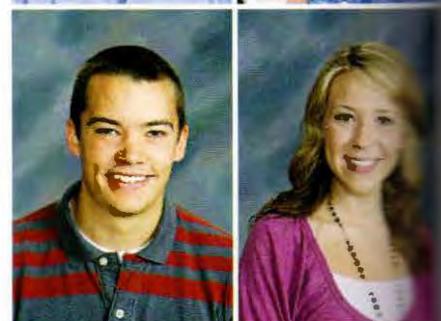
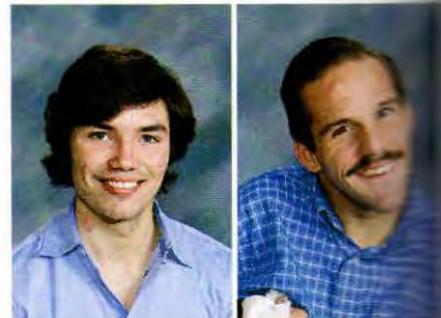
Krikorian has always tried to get as much knowledge about theater as he could. "I really broaden myself, I don't just pigeonhole myself to just acting or singing. I do a lot of electrician work and lighting work," Krikorian said. He hopes that this will help him get a job one day.

The education Krikorian has received these past years he feels has given him an edge in the theater. "Our theater faculty is really good. If we're interested in something they'll help us along with that and they care about what they do," Krikorian said. This has allowed Krikorian to gain skills in many different areas of theater, not just acting. His education has also helped him in the way he deals with people. "I think Ouochito being a liberal arts college has really helped me [have] a well-rounded view of the world," Krikorian said, "and that really is a good thing, because it helps you be able to talk to people." This varied worldview and people skills Krikorian has attained, he believes, will help him greatly in the future both in the theater and elsewhere.

Even in today's bad economy and with the inherent difficulties of an acting career, Krikorian is hopeful for the future. "It's kind of scary but I have faith that God is going to take care of me as long as I work hard and don't sit on my hands."



photo by: Adam Wheat



"I think Ouachita being a liberal arts college has really helped me [have] a well-rounded view of the world.

-Michael Krikorian



Rance Collins • Hillsboro, TX
 Thomas Connell • Hope
 Breandon Conyers • Ward
 Eli Cranor • Russellville
 Katie Crow • Arkadelphia
 Tara Davidson • Mountain Home
 Jarrett Davis • Henderson, TX
 Jennifer Dawson • White Hall

Nicholas Dawson • Collierville, TN
 Emily Dennis • Lakeland, FL
 John Dicus • Clarksville
 Doniel Dubach • Marvell
 Jennifer Duffel • Manila
 Emily Duncan • Marion
 Bethany Elliff • Maumelle
 Mathew Engelking • Nacogdoches, TX

Mary English • Hot Springs
 Adi Mere Fa • Suva, Fiji
 Megan Fida • Plano, TX
 Michael Ford • Arkadelphia
 Randi Ford • Bealard
 Lindsey Farga • Glenwood
 Samantha Frank • Sunnyvale, TX
 Ronald Franklin • Baton Rouge, LA

Megan Gentry • Little Rock
 Brandi George • Malvern
 Samantha George • White Hall
 Laura Goode • Titusville, FL
 Leonard Goodnight • White Hall
 Daniel Graham • Richardson, TX
 Eric Gravitt • Roland
 Kelsey Hack • Owasso, TX

Austin Hall • Marshall
 Alexander Hargis • Camden
 Jeffery Harmon • El Darado
 Lisa Harper • North Little Rock
 Audrey Harrell • Russellville
 Kelly Harris • Little Rock
 Amy Hazelrigg • Batesville
 Jordan Henry • Greenbrier

Jessico Hensarling • Allen, TX
 Steven Hilburn • Harrison
 Corey Hiscocks • Plano, TX
 Allison Hodges • Garland, TX
 Lindsay Hollingsworth • Mountain Home
 Hannah Holmes • Fort Smith
 Sarah Horton • Rockwall, TX
 Joseph Howard • Nacogdoches, TX



It doesn't give you a bad feeling...it just makes you feel like you are a part of some crazy, detective mission in a real mystery novel."

-Nancy Christner

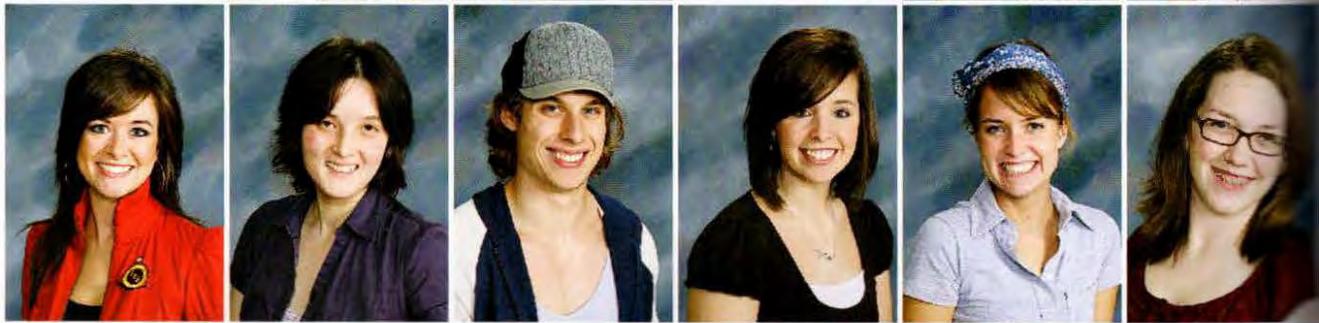
Mitsuko Humble • Susano, Japan
Charles Hunter • Arkadelphia
Emily Jackson • Mesquite, TX
Marc Johnson • Curitiba, Brazil
Molly Johnson • Gillett
Camille Jones • Mansfield
Leah Jones • Burkburnett, TX
Umid Khasonov • Tashkent



Brady King • Dallas, TX
Laura Kirby • Mesquite, TX
Ashley Knight • Arkadelphia
Kennon Knobloch • Monticello
Holly Koder • Garland, TX
Krysteena Kainer • Azle, TX
Michael Krikorian • Rockwall, TX
Amber Lee • Highlands Ranch, KY



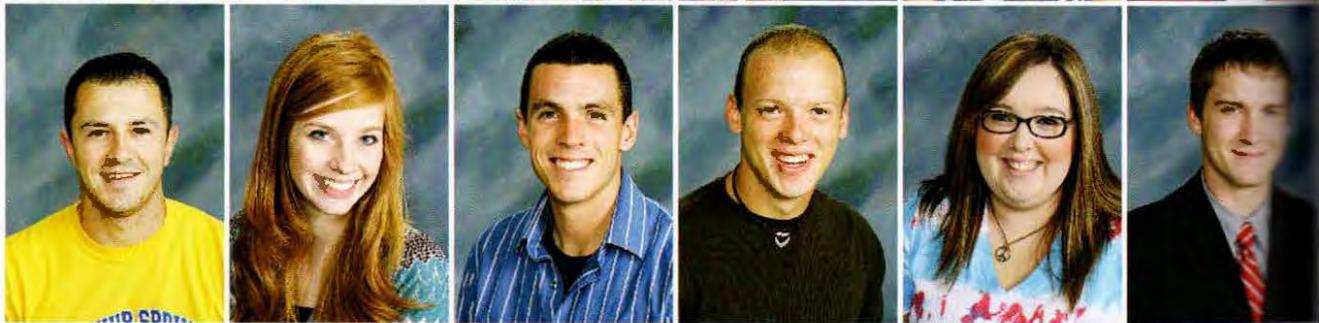
Megan Lindsey • Comden
Kristi Lochala • Almoty
Joshua Lord • Rockwall, TX
Brittany Luper • Monticello
Molly Magee • Conway
Kimberly Matthews • Universal City, TX
Barry McCaskill • Arkadelphia
Stanley McCoy • El Dorado



Kathryn Merrill • Keller, TX
Summer Morris • Flint, TX
Desarae Nelson • Arkadelphia
Lauren Nelson • Russellville
Catherine Newman • Monticello
Andrea Newton • Hampton
Luis Nguimbi • Angola
Hayley Nolan • Sherwood



Seth Northcutt • Sulphur Springs, TX
Ashley O'Sullivan • Longview, TX
Neal Ozmun • Arkadelphia
Jesse Parker • Little Rock
Samantha Parrish • Forney, TX
Gregory Peterson • Stuttgart
Holland Powell • Nashville
Kendra Pruitt • Newport



Emily Quick • Dalton, GA
Kaycee Rabb • Monticello
Jahn Ragland • Hot Springs



The Luck of the Irish

Nancy Christner and Katie Strickland

by: Amy Wentz

The sweet smell of rain walking home through the fields, the occasional honk from an angry Irish man on his way to the local pub. These were just a couple things Nancy Christner and Katie Strickland experienced during their summer abroad in Ireland.

Senior Katie Strickland, from Alma, and senior Nancy Christner, from Denton, Texas, decided to spend summer of 2009 traveling abroad. "Katie mentioned that she wanted to do something new and different and that she would love to travel abroad because she had never had the opportunity. Of course I was right on board," Christner said. Christner had the opportunity to spend a semester studying abroad in Austria the previous school year. "I just fell in love with cultures, traveling, and experiencing people from other nations. So, I knew immediately after coming home that I would be more than ecstatic to go back to somewhere new," Christner said.

Christner and Strickland had the chance to experience many different cultures during their summer, outside of the Irish culture. "We ventured downtown in our village the first Sunday we were there and found Carrigaline Open Door Christian Fellowship Church. It changed our time in Ireland completely. The first Sunday we realized the church represented people from Nigeria, South Africa, England, Germany, and so many more places," Strickland said. They helped them throughout their time there with distributing "leaflets," Irish word for "telegram," to the community and telling them about the good news.

They also experienced the beauty of Scotland and Christner's "second home," Austria, as well. "Arriving in Edinburgh was like escaping into a Harry Potter book. It was so eerie and the buildings were ancient. What is so awesome is that it doesn't give you a bad feeling...it just makes you feel like you are a part of some crazy, detective mission in a real mystery novel," Christner said.

"We spent just about every moment with each other and have learned a lot about loving each other when we are tired, hoppy or just 'chill.' It was hard at times, but overall the Lord has strengthened our

relationship and we have grown so close as sisters in Christ. These memories will always stick with us," both Christner and Strickland agreed.

Whether their experience was educational or "just-for-fun," to say Christner and Strickland made memories would be an understatement. But isn't that what college is for?

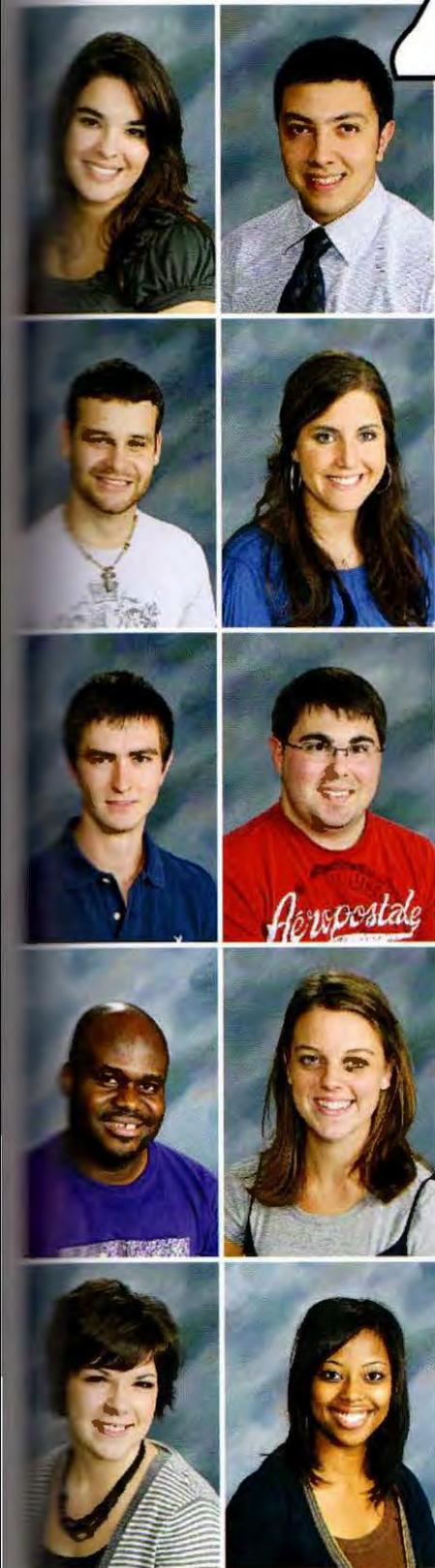


photo by: Callie Stephens

Miss OBU

Bethany Briscoe

by: Abbey Jamieson

As she nervously waited and watched her pledge sister Kotie Strickland, a senior business major from Alma, win first runner up for Miss OBU, she stood in excitement for a dear friend, then soon heard her own name followed with the title. She could hardly believe this moment was happening. "The first thought that ran through my head was... 'Wait did they really just say my name?'" said Bethany Briscoe, a senior graphic design and mass communications major from Plano, Texas. She was the new reigning Miss OBU.

Not having any history in pageants as a sophomore, Briscoe decided to sign up for her first pageant, Miss OBU. After that moment, she was officially hooked. "Having the opportunity to sing on a stage was actually the drive behind me even signing up for my first pageant," said Briscoe. "All I wanted to do was sing on a stage, but it wasn't until after that first Miss OBU pageant that I realized that pageants and getting my platform on self-esteem would soon become one of my number one passions."

After her sophomore year of competing in Miss OBU, Briscoe signed up again in 2009 and won Overall Interview Award and First Runner-Up. After her first big win, she then went on to compete in the Miss Southwest Arkansas pageant and won the talent and evening gown portions, and the crown as well. Feeling ready to compete again, she went on to 2009 Miss Arkansas pageant. But before sign-ups approached for Miss OBU 2010, Briscoe was not so sure of continuing in her pageant aspirations.

"After the summer I was having doubts about even doing another pageant," said Briscoe. "I think being a senior and feeling the pressure of finding a job and making some money hit me and I wasn't sure if pageants were my thing anymore. It wasn't until I spent a day with Sarah Slocum, the current Miss Arkansas, that I realized that I didn't need to give up on doing something I loved and something I was passionate about."

Briscoe's family also played a key role over the past years in pushing her to chase her goals in the pageant world. "My family and friends were such a supporting block and foundation for me these past couple of years since I got involved in the pageant system," said Briscoe. "My parents always encouraged me to stretch and push myself with the goals I had in life." Although life seemed to be full of other obligations after sign ups, Briscoe knew that Miss OBU was something she wanted to try again. With her drive for the next pageant, friends also played the role of an encouraging support system in the busy process.

"The weeks leading up to the pageant were jammed packed with things to do and things to get done such as Rush Week and then Pledge Week," said Briscoe. "I felt the pressure of not being as prepared as normal but with the help of people such as Mac Sisson and Tommy Lyons, I kicked it into full gear the week before the pageant."

Briscoe was a member of the EEE women's social club, served as a publicity chairman, pledge mistress, intramural sports, and a Tiger Tunes hostess her junior year. She was also involved in Tiger Serve Day and Student Senate. After graduation, Briscoe plans to move back to her home in Plano, Texas and pursue a career in graphic design and mass communications. After the Miss Arkansas pageant in July, she intended to start applying for jobs and hoped to be settled in at a job by August. Briscoe also can't wait to fulfill her awarded position of Miss OBU 2010.

"I think the most exciting thing is just simply representing this amazing University everywhere I go," said Briscoe. "I loved this school long before I was even a student here, and to go to Miss Arkansas and other areas around the community and represent this school with everything that it stands for is such an honor. There is something special about representing not only your school, but your home as well."

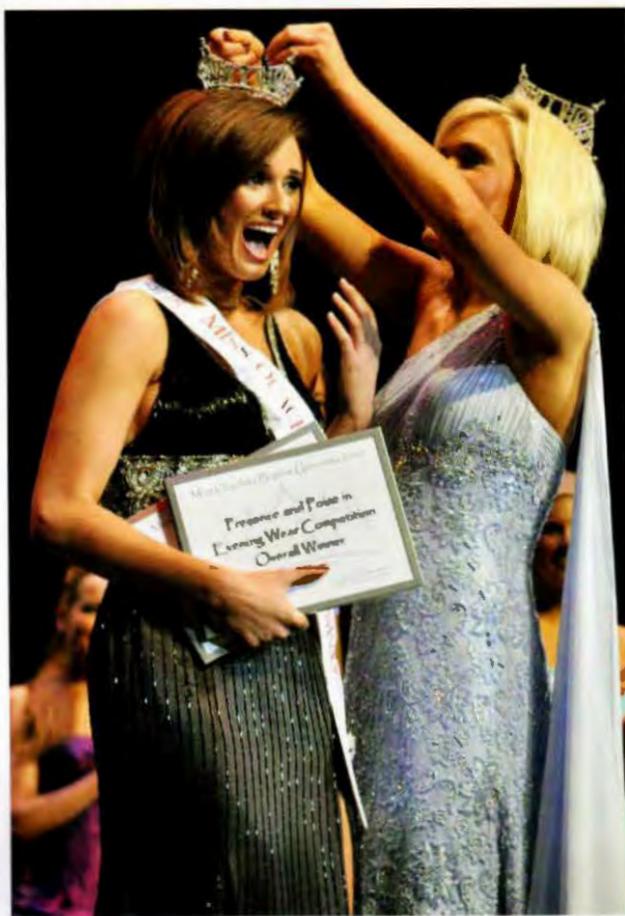


photo by: Collie Stephens



“There is something special about representing not only your school, but your home as well.

-Bethany Briscoe



Michael Raine • Little Rock
David Reeves • Hot Springs
William Renfro • Van Buren
Kathleen Reynolds • Alexandria
Cassandra Rice • Arlington, TX
Gabrielle Sanders • Broken Arrow, OK
Heidi Sanders • Monticello
Greg Schwartz • Texarkana, TX



Rebecca Seago • Worland
Warren Seals • Ashdown
Mary Shell • Batesville
Stephen Shepard • Bismarck
Lindsay Shatzman • Fort Smith
Jacob Sligh • Camden
Allison Smith • Annana, TX
Christen Smith • Longview



Emma Smith • Paran
Kariee Smith • Spring, TX
David Spradlin • Cordova, TN
Kayla Statton • Benton
Amy Steeger • Colorado Springs, CO
Rebecca Stone • Rison
Joseph Stout • White Hall
Kathryn Strickland • Alma



Rachel Swayne • Montgomery
Jared Tohlen • Roymare, MO
John Tohlen • Grapevine, TX
Megan Tucker • Benton
Leah Turner • Carrollton, TX
Eric Varner • Vilonia
Brittany Vick • Conway
Brooke Vincent • Goddard, KS



Jillian Vire • Burleson, TX
Berman Wade • New Boston, TX
Austin Walker • Benton
Devin Waters • Frisco, TX
Jason Wells • Gurdon
Amy Wentz • White Hall
J.L. West • Bolivar, MO
Adam Wheat • Ruston, LA



Grace Whitaker • Victoria, TX
London White • Benton
Cody Willard • Collierville, TN
Belford Williams • Horn Lake
Philip Williamson • Batesville
Kotelind Wingfield • Little Rock
Sarah Wood • Dallas, TX
Thokozile Zulu • Great Beno

WHO'S WHO

38 students were selected for inclusion in the 2009 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. The students were chosen for Who's Who by the faculty, staff and senior class based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.



mass communications and political science double major
 • Student Senate • EEE Beau
 • Signal staff • member of the 4th floor • intramural sports
 • IABC member • radio announcer for OBU football and basketball • relief trip to New Orleans • Tiger Serve Day • Community Emergency Response Team • member of First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia • plans to pursue a career in public relations

RICHARD ATKINSON

HEATHER BAKER



musical theatre major • director of Rough Draft ministry team • Theta Alpha Phi (chaplain) • resident director and resident assistant • Ouachita Singers • Honor's Program • Backyard Bible Club • Big Sister program
 • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career in theatre

math and secondary education double major • EEE women's social club (spirit leader) • Campus Ministries • ministry leader of Big Sister program • Panhellenic Council • Judicial Council • K-Group at Fellowship Church • Dean's List
 • Math and Computer Science Award • 2nd runner-up Homecoming royalty 2007 • TranServe • Tiger Serve Day
 • intramural sports • plans to pursue a career as a high school math teacher



BROOKE BELCHER

PHILLIP BRIDGES

business finance and marketing double major • Kappa Chi men's social club (vice president and Tiger Tunes director) • Tri Chi beau • Student Senate (junior and senior class vice president) • OSF Student Ambassador • CAB • IABC • Beach Reach Spring Break missions • Dean's List • Tiger Serve Day
 • plans to pursue a career in real estate





MARK CAIN

kinesiology and secondary education double major • Rho Sigma men's social club (vice president and treasurer) • EEE beau • SAAC • IFC • OBU baseball • OBU football • voted Crowd Favorite in Mr. Tiger • YMCA counselor • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career as a high school coach and teacher

dietetics and nutrition major • EEE women's social club (chaplain) • co-president of Dietetics Club • Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team • K-Group at Fellowship Church • OSF • Dean's List • over 160 TranServe hours • Big Sister program • plans to pursue a career in missions and nutrition education



NANCY CHRISTNER

English and political science double major • Judicial Council member • OBU Football Team (quarterback and three year letterman) • creator of OBU Disc Golf Course • Tiger Serve Day • relief trip to New Orleans • plans to pursue a career as a lawyer and English teacher



ELI CRANOR

KATELYN CASH

Christian studies and speech communications double major • Campus Ministries chaplain • Refuge speaker • Campus Ministries Tiger Tunes director 2008 • Theta Alpha Kappa • intramural sports • O.C. Bailey resident director • Eta Alpha Omega sweetheart • Tiger Traks • K-Group at Fellowship Church • Homecoming Queen 2008 • TAK • resident assistant • tutor • Tiger Serve Day • ElderServe • Manna Mistry • Big Sister program • plans to pursue a career in church mediation and international missions



RANCE COLLINS

mass communications major • student editor of the video dept. • EEE Beau • columnist for the Signal • OSF (history and traditions co-chair) • student director of Motion Picture Production class • Young Democrats • Sigma Tau Delta • WOW leader • intramural basketball • The Film Society • Carl Gadsden's Honors Program • co-executive producer of student internet program "Live @ 9" • yearbook contributor • 10-minute and One Act plays • IABC • Outstanding Mass Comm. Sophomore and Senior • Dean's List • President's List • plans to pursue a career in film





speech pathology major •
 EEE women's social club •
 National Student Speech
 Language Hearing Assoc.
 (social chair) • New
 Student Retreat leader •
 European Study Tour 2009
 • Dietetics Club • member
 of Second Baptist Church
 • Dean's List • Tiger Serve
 Day • TranServe • plans to
 start a speech clinic

KATIE CROW

LAUREN ENGLISH

mass communications major •
 EEE women's social club (pres-
 ident and social choir) • IABC •
 Ouachita Sounds • OSF • Big
 Sister program • news reporter
 for "This Week at Ouachita" •
 intramural sports • Miss OBU
 2008 • 1st runner-up to Miss
 Arkansas 2008 • Alpha Chi •
 OBU Homecoming Court 2009
 • 2nd runner-up to Ouachitanian
 Beauty 2007 • President's List
 • Dean's List • founder and
 creator of "Matters of the Heart"
 • plans to pursue a career in
 broadcast journalism



business administration major
 • Campus Ministries leader
 for three years • International
 Club (historian and secretary)
 • Big Sister program • Interna-
 tional Food Festival co-director
 • intramural sports • K-Group
 at Fellowship Church • KSEG
 recipient • ESL certification
 • Tiger Serve Day • plans
 to pursue a career in human
 resources and
 international business



SAMANTHA GEORGE



SAMANTHA FRANK

speech pathology major • EEE
 women's social club (spirit leader
 and intramural director) • Ouachita
 Singers • Concert Choir • National
 Student Speech Language Hearing
 Assoc. (secretary) • youth leader and
 praise band singer for The Church at
 Rock Creek • Dean's List • Edna Linn
 scholar • resident assistant in Frances
 Crawford and O.C. Bailey • mentor
 for TRIO'S Upward Bound program •
 apartment manager for Pine Square
 apartments • Tiger Serve Day • D-
 Naw group leader • Relay for Life •
 plans to pursue a master's degree in
 speech-language pathology



biblical studies and mass
 communications double
 major • co-editor of the
 Signal On-line • IABC •
 youth intern at First Baptist
 Church in Arkadelphia •
 intern youth pastor at FBCA
 • Dean's List • President's
 List • Theta Alpha Kappa •
 plans to pursue a career in
 ministry

JEFFERY HARMON



AUDREYANNA HARRELL

communication sciences and disorders major • Tri Chi women's social club (pledge class secretary) • WOW Steering Committee • Campus Ministries • Christian Focus Week leader • National Student Speech Language Hearing Assoc. (treasurer) • President Harne's Student Planning team • Alpha Chi • Crossroads • Kenya missions • mission trip to New Mexico • Dean's List • President's List • runner-up to Miss OBU • two-time intramural champion • Tiger Serve Day • plans to attend grad school to become a speech therapist

SKY HOWARD

church music major • men's discipleship leader • CAB • Refuge Band • EEE Beau • 2008 Tiger Tunes host • Miss OBU Court of Honor • New Student Retreat leader • youth/college intern for First Baptist Church in Hat Springs and First Southern Baptist Church in Bryant • Dean's List • guitar instructor • plans to pursue a career as a musician/singer-songwriter



STEPHEN JOHNSON



EMILY JACKSON

English major • Sigma Tau Delta • women's soccer team • International Club member • intramural sports • FBC Arkadelphia co-intern youth director • college international Sunday School teacher • Dean's List • President's List • Tiger Serve Day • Arms Around Arkadelphia • plans to teach English for international students



accounting and business administration double major • Kappa Chi men's social club (treasurer, historian and chaplain) • EEE Beau • Student Senate (president, internal vice president, and sophomore class president) • OSF • Freshman Family Group director • Dean's List • Tiger Serve Day • Beach Reach • Big Brother program • Compassion Center of Little Rock • plans to pursue a career in business

CAMI JONES

early childhood education and Spanish double major • Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team • Kappa Delta Pi • CM Tiger Tunes • Marching Band and Concert Band • Tiger Jam • WOW leader • NSR leader • Tiger Traks • intramural softball • International Food Festival • TranServe • D-Now leader • Dean's List • Habitat for Humanity • Misson Waco • plans to pursue a master's of arts in global leadership from Dallas Baptist University



LAURA KIRBY



speech communications major • OSF (co-president) • WOW Student Planning Team • Ham-caming Committee • intramural sports (Freshman 15) • Crossroads at Second Baptist Church • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career as a professional speaker

MEGAN LINDSEY



mass communications major • EEE women's social club (social chair and keeper of the beans) • Kappa Chi little sis • Ouachitonia Beauty 2009 • Editor of the Ouachitonia • Assistant Editor of the Ouachitonia for two years • 3rd runner-up to Homcoming Queen 2009 • European Study Tour 2009 • Dean's List • IABC • writer for OBU News Bureau • Tiger Serve Day • Relay for Life • WOW leader • New Student Retreat leader • plans to get a master's degree in journalism and pursue a career in print and editorial work

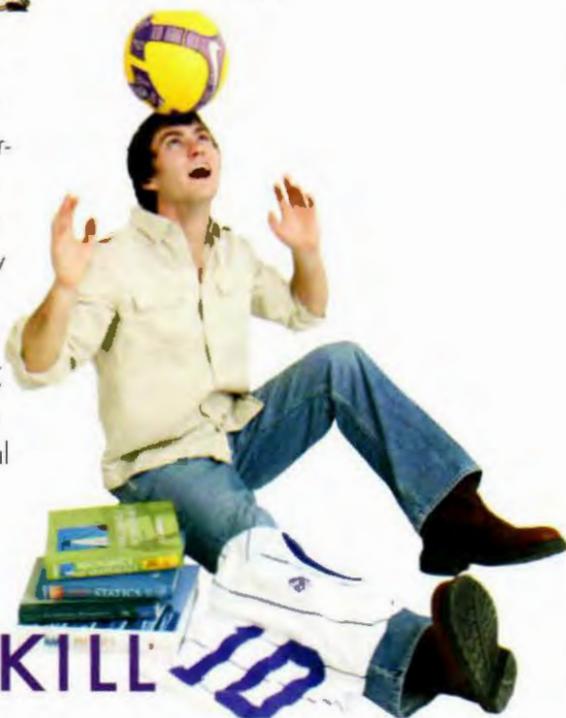
MOLLY MAGEE



mass communications and Spanish double major • Chi women's social club • Alpha Chi • Theta Alpha Kappa • IABC • Student Senate (sophomore, junior and senior class secretary) • OSF • CAB • Tri Chi women's social club (spirit officer, historian and class secretary) • Panhellenic Council (president and secretary) • Freshman Family Group leader • intramural sports (Freshman 15) • President's List • Homcoming Queen 2007 • plans to attend law school

physics major • men's soccer team • Tiger Serve Day leadership team • Beta Beta men's social club (chaplain) • New Orleans mission trips • D-Now leader • President's List • Alpha Chi • Sidney Rowland scholarship for physics • GSC All-American team • plans to pursue a career in geotechnical engineering

BARRY McCASKILL



biology major • Tri Chi women's social club (pledge class pres., asst. pledge mistress, social chair and head pledge mistress) • CAB (vice pres. of public relations) • intramural sports (Freshman 15) • WOW leader • Crassroads • Dean's List • President's List • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career in optometry

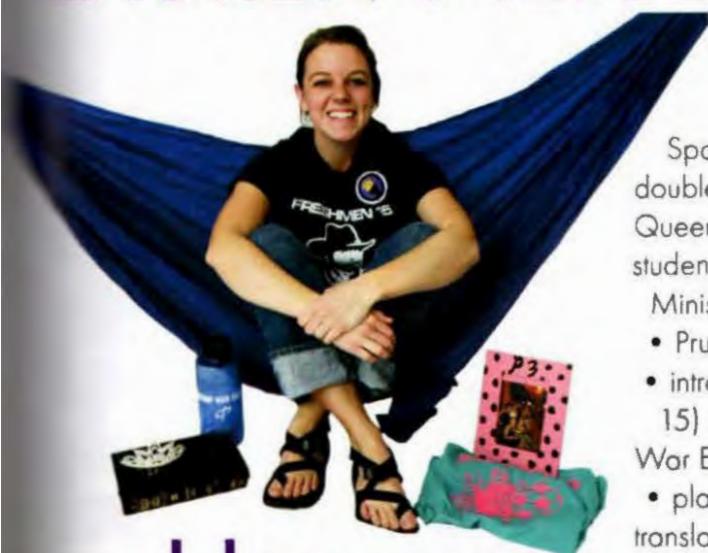


TRINKA NEWMAN

biblical studies and graphic design double major • intramural sports • CFW ministry leader • special events coordinator for campus ministries • Pruet Sisterhood • D-Now leader • President's List • Zimbabwe, Africa mission trip • plans to pursue a career in graphic design



LAUREN NELSON



Spanish and psychology double major • Homecoming Queen 2009 • OSF (chair of student recruitment) • Campus Ministries • Student Senate • Pruet Sisterhood • Psi Chi • intramural sports (Freshman 15) • Dean's List • Camp War Eagle • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career in translating or teaching Spanish

ASHLEY O'SULLIVAN

HAYLEY NOLAN

mass communications major • OBU soccer captain • Dean's List • OBU Defensive Player of the Year 2008 • GSC Player of the Week 2009 • Camp War Eagle • referee for high school soccer matches • Tiger Serve Day • Arms Around Arkadelphia



NEAL OZMUN

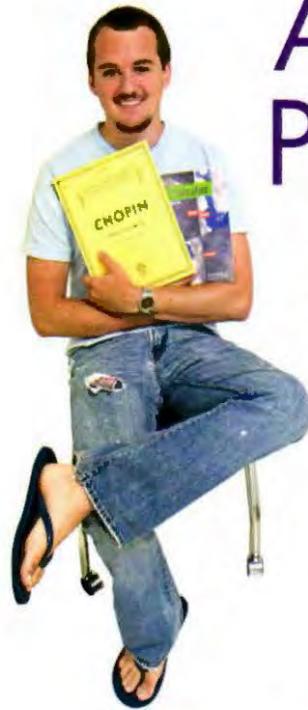
Christian studies and sociology double major • RA in Frances Crawford Hall • cheerleader • Tri Chi women's social club (pledge class and club chaplain) • Campus Ministries (missions leader) • D-Now leader • 1st runner-up for Homecoming Queen • Beach Reach • Race for the Cure • plans to get a master's degree in social work, then pursue a career in social justice





athletic training and biology double major • EEE women's social club (secretary) • Iota Tau Alpha (secretary) • OBU competitive cheerleading squad • Crossroads • Second Baptist Church college ministry programs • President's List • Dean's List • cheer and gymnastics coach • Race for the Cure • Tiger Serve Day • plans to attend nursing school

BLAIR PHELPS



AUSTIN PHILLIPS

mathematics major • member of First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia and substitute pipe organist • Board of Trustees scholarship recipient • Honor Program • private tutor in college algebra, trigonometry and calculus • Arms Around Arkadelphia • Habitat for Humanity • plans to become professor of mathematics

psychology major • Tri Chi women's social club • Campus Ministries prison ministry • Eta Alpha Omega little sis • Tiger Serve Day leadership team • intramural sports • President's List • Dean's List • Elder Serve • plans to get a master's degree in counseling



GABRI SANDERS



GREG SCHWARTZ

theatre arts and mass communications double major • Kappa Chi men's social club (president, pledge master and song leader) • EEE Beau • Theta Alpha Psi • Student Senate • OSF • IABC • two Ryan nominations for Theatre Regional Festival • studio/film production • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career in acting



business/marketing major • WOW steering committee member • Tiger Tunes director for the Men of Fourth Floor • EEE Beau • advertising manager for the Signal • intramural sports • IABC • Refuge Band • Tiger Serve Day • Freshman Family Group leader • plans to pursue a career in public relations and advertising

JAKE SLIGH

AUSTIN PHILLIPS

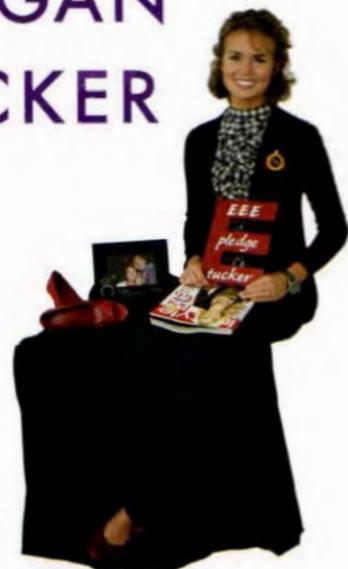
mathematics major • member of First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia and substitute pipe organist • Board of Trustees scholarship recipient • Honors Program • private tutor in college algebra, trigonometry and calculus • Arms Around Arkadelphia • Habitat for Humanity • plans to become a professor of mathematics

speech communications major • OBU soccer (captain) • Eta Alpha Omega men's social club (president, vice president, social director, secretary and treasurer) • Chi Beu • Outstanding Offensive Player for soccer • Outstanding Men's Soccer Athlete of the Year 2007-2008 • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career in mission ministry



JAROD TOWNSEND

MEGAN TUCKER



accounting major • EEE women's social club • Hickingbotham School of Business Advisory Board • Crossroads • Dean's List • Tiger Serve Day • Relay for Life • Race for the Cure • plans to pursue a career in accounting



GREG SCHWARTZ

theatre arts and mass communications double major • Kappa Chi men's social club (president, pledge master and song leader) • EEE Beu • Theta Alpha Psi • Student Senate • OSF • IABC • two Irene Ryan nominations for Theatre Regional Festival • studio/film production • Tiger Serve Day • plans to pursue a career in acting



mass communications major • intramural sports • Big Brother program • Freshman Family Group leader • Tiger Serve Day • America Reads • Tiger Troks • Deon's List • Honors Program • OBU video department • New Orleans rebuilding trip • plans to attend medical school and become a physician

J.L. WEST

philosophy and political science double major • Chi Iota Sigma men's social club (president) • Alpha Chi (president) • chairman of College Republicans • OSF • Theta Alpha Kappa • Campus Ministries leader • Tiger Serve Day leadership team • OBU Debate Team • Student Senate sophomore class vice pres. and senior class pres.) • President's List • Carl Goodson Honors Program • Ben Erod Scholar • TranServe • plans to pursue a career in public service and become President of the United States in 2036



PHILLIP WILLIAMSON

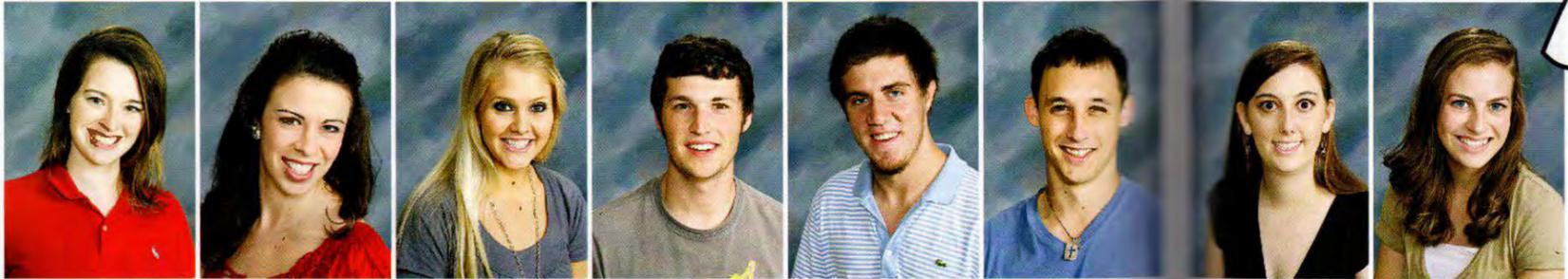
ADAM WHEAT



mass communications major • CAB (vice pres. for membership) • OSF (graphic design and PR specialist) • Theta Alpha Chi • Ouachita Art Society • Student Planning Team • opera theatre productions • One Act Plays • 10 Minute Plays (writer) • student representative for the School of Fine Arts Student/Faculty Council • Carl Goodson Scholar • sports editor for Ouachitonian 2007 • Clark County Humane Society • plans to pursue a career in ministry

“ I am comfortable enough with myself to know that I don't know everything. Being patient enough with myself to seek the right sources, I will learn.”
 -Belford Willams, Jr.

Alano Adams • Monticello
 Christina Albee • Hannibal, MO
 Claire Anderson • Shreveport, LA
 Daniel Anderson • Spring, TX
 Joseph Anderson • Hot Spring
 Mark Bartels • Henderson, TX
 Ananda Boardman • Geronimo, TX
 Anne Bradford • Edmond, OK



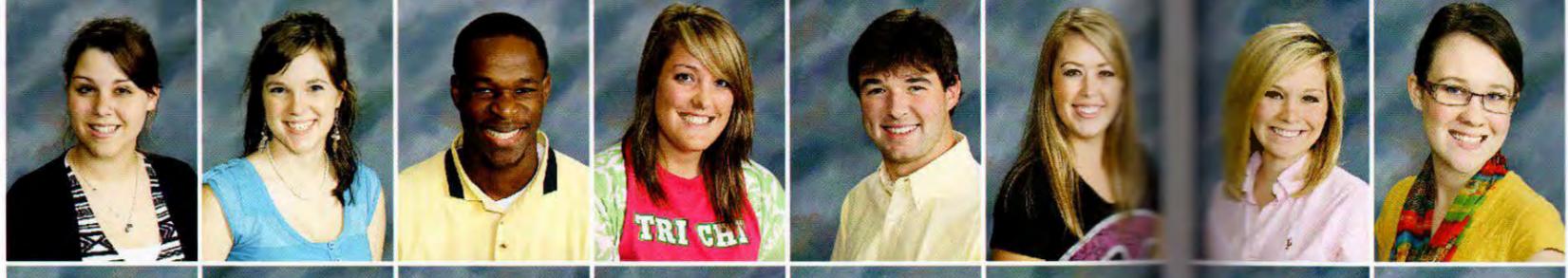
Karen Brown • Greenville, TX
 Molly Brown • Rowlett, TX
 Korrie Browning • Cypress, TX
 Ruth Bryan • Wimberley, TX
 Notolie Corroll • Harare, Zimbabwe
 Reuben Cash • Springfield
 Sorah Cearley • Gaborone, AL
 Caitlin Chapman • Van Buren



Stephen Chapman • Van Buren
 Bryan Church • Warren
 Katelyn Cresswell • Shreveport, LA
 Whitney Crews • Janesboro
 Sherri Cushmon • Van Buren
 Elizabeth Davis • Ashdown
 Sean Dickard • Kijabe
 Hannah Dreyer • Siloam Springs



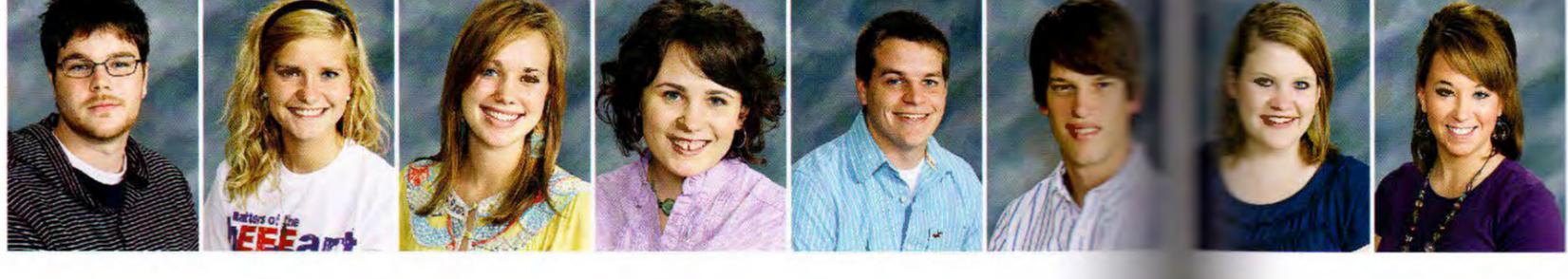
Katherine Edenfield • Cypress, TX
 Sharon Emerson • Pine Bluff
 Tady Engulu • Fort Worth, TX
 Morgan Fitzgerald • Coppell, TX
 Clayton Fitzhugh • Stamps
 Anna Fruchey • Little Rock
 Emilie Gill • DeRidder, LA
 Angela Gillis • Keller, TX



Kristen Glover • Stuttgart
 Ryan Gorman • Plano, TX
 Christa Gorz • EL Dorado
 Megan Gosser • Coppell, TX
 Aspen Grams • Elkins
 Sarah Greeson • Hot Springs
 Natalie Gregory • Jonesboro
 Rachel Griffith • Greenwood



Joshua Groves • Bryant
 Julia Hagar • Mansfield, TX
 Sora Hanson • Tyler, TX
 Jessica Hardy • Ozark
 Drew Harper • White Hall
 Keaton Horper • Hope
 Catherine Harrell • Springhill
 Amy Harrington • Benton



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True Character

Belford Williams Jr.

by: Tanner Huffman

What makes a great athlete? Some would say skill, others determination. Yet still some believe an athlete's success in any sport is mental. But can a person's greatness in a sport be measured simply by how high they can jump, how well they shoot, and how many games they win? Perhaps statistically the answer is yes. However, greatness goes for deeper than just numbers. Greatness gets down deep to what could be called "the heart of the issue" or in this case, "the heart of the player", and reveals that thing about athletes that truly matters most: character. This character is the very thing that is most admirable about Ouachita's own Belford Williams, Jr.

Being a part of a military family, Williams was well-accustomed to moving long distances and moving frequently. Due to this military background, he has lived in Mississippi, Texas, Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia, Utah, and even Germany. "I remember at a very young age watching basketball games on television with my father," Williams recalled. Those memories of his father is what Williams now clings to. Belford Williams Sr. passed away the fall of his son's freshman year at the College of Eastern Utah. (Williams was red-shirted his freshman year, 03-04, and played his sophomore year, 04-05). Just the previous year, while Belford Jr. was beginning his senior year of high school basketball at Layton Christian Academy in Layton, Utah, Belford Senior was diagnosed with lung cancer. Little did anyone know, except for Belford Sr., Jennifer, his wife, would soon follow him.



Jennifer died of breast cancer the spring semester of Belford's sophomore semester at Eastern Utah, less than two years after her beloved husband's death. Because the only remaining family member to care for his sister Manica was a distant aunt, Belford assumed full custody of her so she could stay in Horn Lake. Belford wanted his sister to have as normal of a life as possible. In order to do so, Belford gave up his to allow Manica to live hers.

Due to his diligence and hard work, Belford was able to provide Manica the type of high school experience he wanted her to have. Though Belford had put basketball on the backburner for the time being, he had kept all his recruitment letters from various colleges and universities he received while in high school and junior college. Amongst these were those he received from Ouachita Baptist's head coach of the time, Charlie Schaefer. Belford said, "My sister does not watch basketball. She is the only human being I know who plays

photo by: Callie Stephens

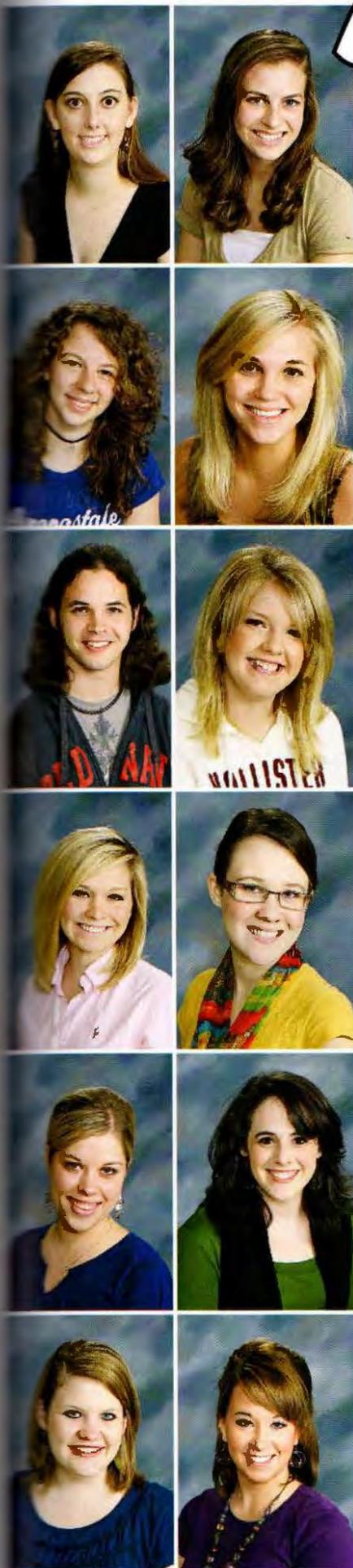
the game but does not watch it." Belford recalls teaching Manica a lot of what she knows about basketball. "Any of the moves she knows she learned either from her coaches or from me, so yes, I'll take credit for that," Belford said jokingly. Watching Manica's success in basketball gave Belford the desire to begin playing again. After Manica signed a basketball scholarship with the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, Belford was now able to focus on his own life. Because he had no reason to keep working in Horn Lake, he re-opened those old recruitment letters. After a few phone calls, meetings, and revisiting his God-given talent, Belford ended up at Ouachita Baptist, in Arkadelphia.

But what got Belford Williams through those hard years following both parent's deaths? Williams said, "Being able to learn from my mistakes and the ability to be quiet and just listen," had a lot to do with it. He went on to say, "I am comfortable enough with myself to know that I don't know everything. Being patient enough with myself to seek the right sources, I will learn."

As a forward, Williams played in 26 out of the 27 Ouachita Tigers' games the 08-09 season. During that season, he averaged four points and three rebounds per game. This season, he played every game, averaging 9.4 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. Williams also shot with an average of 60.7 percent this season. Williams recalled that his greatest memory of his basketball career was senior night. He said, "My sister [Manica] come down. That's what I love about sports. I love, love, love family coming to support one another." Williams continued by pointing out, "That [the family aspect] had a lot to do with me actually picking up a ball for the first time." His faith is evident in all aspects of his life. He recalled something his mother used to tell Manica and him every morning, "Rise and shine. Give God the glory."

There is something that sets Williams apart above all others. This thing is not his skill. This thing is not even (no matter how great it may be) his love for basketball. This thing is his character. His character is what has gotten him to where he is today, and is what will carry him to where he wishes to travel tomorrow.

William's favorite quote states, "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, nor a lack of knowledge, but rather the lack of will." Belford Williams is not lacking this will. He has it...every single bit of it.



No Ordinary Girl

Katelyn Cash

by: Allison Cornell

Katelyn Cash was no ordinary girl. Beautiful, yes. Talented, yes. But her involvement during school went far beyond mere extracurricular activities - it reached outside of herself and into the community.

Since her freshman year, Katelyn has been involved in numerous ministries and services that benefit and serve the community. Elder Serve was one of the first ministries in which she was involved. According to Judy Duvall, Elder Serve director, she was enthusiastic about making the lives of senior adults better. "At one nursing home visit, Katelyn dressed up in a clown suit and painted her face," Duvall said. "She rehearsed some jokes and that night she went room to room entertaining people and making them laugh."

Her love for the elderly transpired to the stage when Katelyn directed the Campus Ministries Tiger Tunes show during her junior year, using the theme of Ouachita Alumni coming back for their 50-year reunion. Cash also spent significant time ministering to and serving an Arkadelphia family who was in need.

"The family consisted of a single dad who is disabled, his mom who has Alzheimer's and his elementary-aged daughter," Duvall said. "Katelyn brings this little girl to church and spends time with her during the week. She has prepared many meals for this family and has showed them God's love in tangible ways."

Katelyn was passionate about furthering the kingdom of God at home and abroad. Katelyn served as a speaker for Refuge during her senior year and she spent the summer before her senior

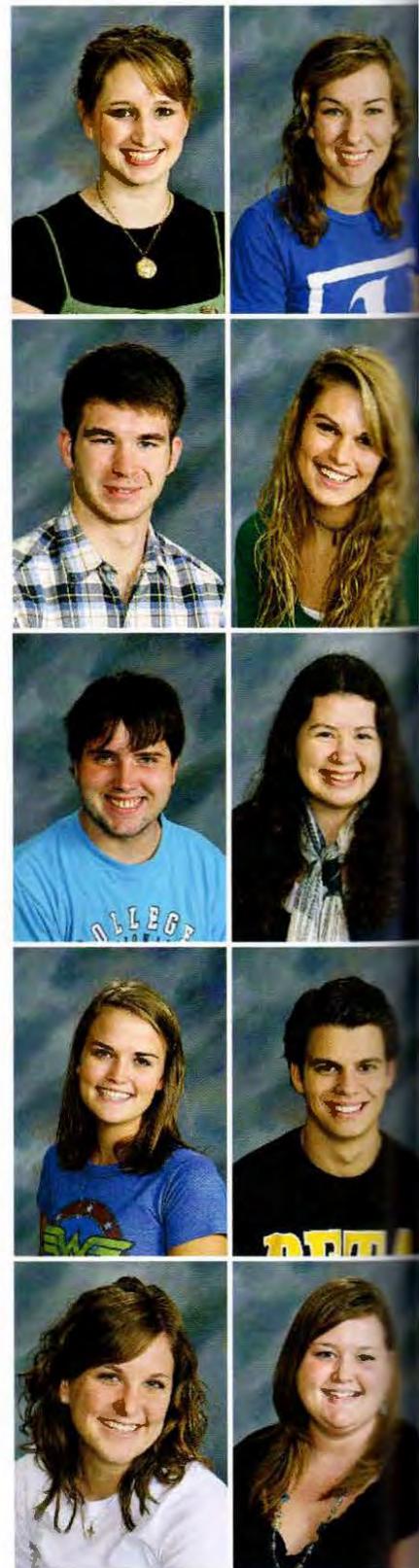
year in France doing mission work for the International Mission Board (IMB). "I volunteered with the IMB to research and help plan a new outreach ministry to prostitutes," Cash said. "Eventually I want to go into international church planting and church mediation."

While serving the local community and the world abroad, Katelyn was also able to form her own community with her close friends. "She makes everyone laugh," said roommate and friend, Gabrielle Sanders, a senior psychology major. "I love Ouachita and I would never trade what I've learned about community here," Cash said. "I would never trade having professors that care about me and my life. When I look back on my years here I feel really blessed and proud of my friends and where we've come in the last three years. I feel blessed to see how much we've all grown."

Katelyn's life during college echoed with a theme of love and service to the people around her. "People are naturally drawn to her because she is so much fun and full of life," Duvall said. "I feel confident that whatever Katelyn does in life it will involve serving and making the lives of others better."

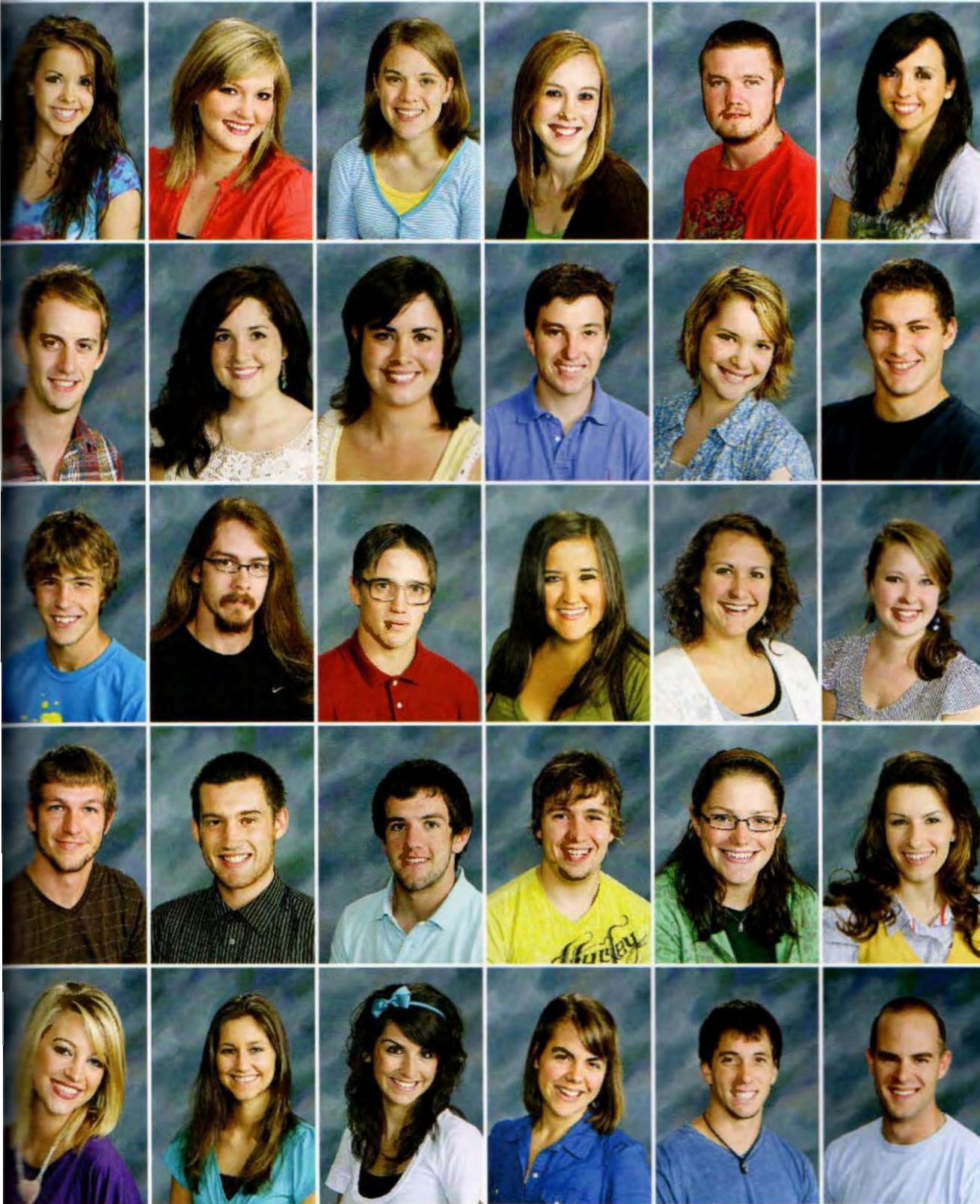


photo by: Sarah Henley



“I love Ouachita and I would never trade what I’ve learned about community here.

-Katelyn Cash



Rachel Harris • Springdale
 Sarah Henley • El Dorado
 Anna Leigh Herrin • BonWier, TX
 Lori Hilburn • Monticello
 Alissa Hill • Bella Vista
 Laura Hogue • Arlington, TX
 Theodore Hone • Harare, Zimbabwe
 Whitley Happe • Montgomery, TX

Paul Huenefeld • Heber Springs
 Hannah Hurn • Hensley
 Wesley Hymer • El Dorado
 Leslyn Ichter • Conway
 Bethany Ivie • Red Oak, TX
 David Jacks • Fountain Hill
 Grace Johnson • Tyler, TX
 Daniel Karkoska • Bryan, TX

Jeffrey King • Judsonia
 Jo'Ann King • Del City, OK
 Jason Kirk • Harare, Zimbabwe
 Brandon Knight • Searcy
 Beau Landers • Allen, TX
 Lauren Lefler • Conway
 Jordan Lentz • Waterproof, LA
 Kathleen Luff • Colorado Springs, CO

Kelly Magee • Conway
 Justin Magness • Texarkana
 Matthew Marsh • Benton
 James Martin • Plano, TX
 Colman Massey • McGehee
 Wade Matheny • Denton, TX
 Leasha May • Spring, TX
 Cassandra McKinley • Missouri City, TX

Sarah Meyerdirk • Denton, TX
 Callie Miller • De Queen
 Hannah Moon • Heath, TX
 Whitney Moore • Sheridan
 Bethany Moss • Mesquite, TX
 Cosie Neal • Gilbert, TX
 Scott Nelson • Dallas, TX
 Christopher Nissen • Frisco, TX

“

I'm not the most prepared, but I like the adaptability and surprise that brings.”

-Jesse Pruitt

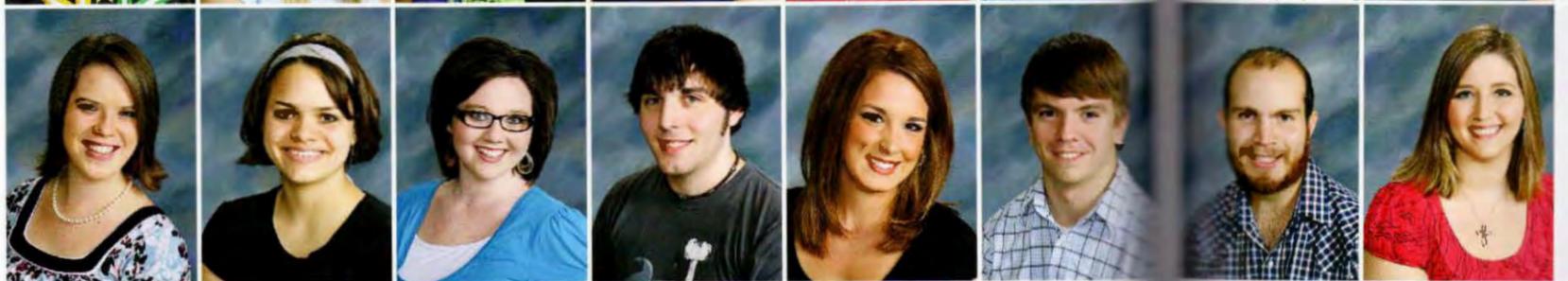
Madison O'Connor • Louisville, CO
 Katherine Osment • Jonesboro
 Sarah Partida • Whitehouse, TX
 Nathan Peace • Bedford,
 Robyn Pearson • Conway
 Kristin Penn • Hensley
 Callie Phelps • Conway
 Juliana Ragsdale • Cabot



Alexander Ray • North Little Rock
 Elizabeth Richardson • Sheridan
 Ramsi Richey • Benton
 Kristen Riggsbe • Frisco, TX
 Caitlin Room • Pittsburg, MO
 William Roberson • Conway
 Jessica Schleiff • Benton
 Haley Scott • Hot Springs



Elizabeth Shrader • Litchfield, IL
 Heidi Siner • Grandville, MI
 Lauren Smith • Kennett, MO
 Michael South • Little Rock
 Sarah Sparks • Texarkana, TX
 Timothy Statton • Bryant
 Robert Steed • Dumfries, VA
 Hillary Stillwell • DeSoto, TX



Randall Stillwell • DeSoto, TX
 Mark Sumrall • Tomball, TX
 Margaret Taylor • Russellville
 Jasmine Thomas • Little Rock
 Oliver Thomas • Searcy
 Nicholas Tinnesz • Meno
 Callie Travis • El Dorado
 Tanner Treadway • New Boston, TX



Julie Tucker • Hot Springs
 Ashley Turner • White Hall
 Mary Turner • Sherwood
 Auren Uhrich • Cabot
 Caitlyn Wamble • Pine Bluff
 Stephanie Warren • Spring, TX
 Rebecca Watts • Smackover
 Nolan West • Bolivar, MO



Josiah Wheeler • Jacksonville
 Jennifer White • Stuttgart
 Bethany Whitfield • Bryant
 Kathryn Willhite • Rowlett, TX
 Rachel Willhaite • Carmel, IN
 Amy Wood • Carrollton, TX
 Andrew Yates • Mesquite, TX
 Quincee York • Hope



A Call Answered

Jesse Pruitt

by: Whitney Crews



"Eh! Eh! Eh! Eh!" Any situation can suddenly cause déjà vu or bring a certain memory to recollection. For Jesse Pruitt, a simple song among friends one fall night brought back memories of his tenth visit to Mexico.

Since seventh grade, Pruitt, a sophomore Christian Studies major from Harrison, has been making trips across our country's southern border to share the gospel and try to understand a little of how missionaries live from day to day. During most of July and August, Pruitt distributed Bibles within some 16 major boroughs of Mexico City, Mexico, and worked as a counselor at a youth camp on the outskirts of the city. "I knew I wanted to do missions for a summer while at Ouachita," Pruitt said. "I had gone with my dad and my pastor just to gather information and my pastor encouraged me to go. Then everything fell together really quickly. It was literally three months of planning for a two month trip."



photo by: Zach Killian

Even though Pruitt might seem like the seasoned traveler to Mexico, this was his first time to visit Mexico City and he revealed that he is no preparation expert. "I'm not the most prepared, but I like the adaptability and surprise that brings," Pruitt said. And his trip proved eventful.

Even though he lived with a missionary family outside the city, Pruitt and other volunteers worked with inner city distribution for three weeks. "Something that impacted me was our survival in the ghetto," Pruitt said. "There's a lot of crime and a cult that warships death there. We were passing out gospels walking down the street when a guy pulled out a knife and took a backpack and phone to scare us off [from witnessing]. But, of course, we came back."

After three weeks of working inside the city, Pruitt, with his group, traveled to a nearby camp where, for \$4, children could stay for three days and two nights learning about the gospel and having fun. While working with children and youth at the camp facilities outside the city, Pruitt contracted a bacterial throat infection that kept him constantly at a loss for strength. Hot, dehydrated and tired he continued to work with over 800 children; sharing the gospel and giving the kids a safe place to enjoy being kids. Besides the physical

challenges presented during his trip, Pruitt also faced spiritual and cultural hardships as well. Differences such as language, cultural taboos, public transit and religion were not completely new, but still posed a challenge for a two-month stay in a foreign country.

The metropolitan area of Mexico City has a population of more than 19 million people and even though most people would consider themselves very religious, Christian conversion can be misleading between cultures. "The city is so massive you can't see the other side from the highest point," Pruitt said. "There is so much need. This was definitely not a wasted trip."

"I was put in a lot of difficult situations and was definitely stretched. Going into a culture not your own definitely makes you rely on God - relying on God to provide strength and time for commitments," he stated. "Lives were changed and we were meeting a need and getting the gospel out there."



...we are free in Christ in a free country—start exemplifying Christ and make an impact.”

-Mark Sumrall

Sarah Anderson • Denton, TX
 Rod Arnold • Wake Village, TX
 Taylor Austin • Canton, TX
 Nicole Bain • Texarkana, TX
 Dustyn Barnette • Dermott
 Sarah Barteaux • Jones, OK
 Taylor Bartel • Lucas, TX
 Brooke Basinger • Carrollton, TX



Kelsey Bates • Marion
 Stephanie Batsel • Mansfield, TX
 Vikki Bennett • Jonesboro
 Jessica Bowling • Chile
 Elizabeth Burke • Hot Springs
 Melissa Butters • Denison, TX
 Jennifer Callaway • Conway
 Kendall Calvert • Mansfield, TX



Kimberly Carlton • Laffayette, MO
 Jennifer Carney • Van Buren
 Kinsey Carpenter • Memphis, TN
 William Caudle • Parker, TX
 Rachel Chapman • Rowlett, TX
 Julia Conrad • Rayse City, TX
 Audrey Craven • Rockwall, TX
 Jenna Cummings • Jacksonville



Britany Dearing • Maypearl, TX
 Jana Deen • Wills Point, TX
 Hoyt Denton • North Little Rock
 Brittney Dickerson • Arkadelphia
 Heather Ederington • El Dorado
 Aubrey Elliott • Bentonville
 Candace Eudy • Sherwood
 Kelsi Ferguson • Louisville, KY



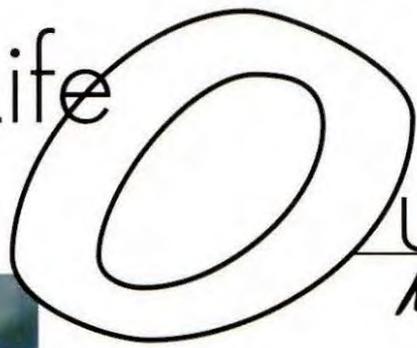
Nicole Fillinger • Morrilton
 Lydia Fincher • Hot Springs
 Cheyenne Flemister • Monticello
 Erin Flippin • Denison, TX
 Charissa Fortenberry • Clinton
 Terah Freel • Nashville
 Leah Garavelli • Olive Branch, TN
 Stephen Geurin • Little Rock



Rachel Glover • Cabot
 Brittany Green • Frisco, TX
 Allison Grigsby • Cabot
 Elisee Habimana • Rwanda
 Lindsey Hackett • Texarkana, TX
 Justin Hall • Wills Point, TX
 Andrea Hare • Hope
 Amy Harrington • Prattville



Life



Out of the Bubble

Mark Sumrall

by: *Bethany Moss*

Imagine walking down a crowded street in 115 degree weather, car horns blasting, children from the slums running by and women with newborn babies in their arms sitting on the other side of the road. This is what Mark Sumrall saw nearly every day for most of his summer.

Sumrall, a junior Christian Studies major from Houston, Texas, spent 50 days in Ahmedabad, India, a city ravaged with religious and economic strife. "I wanted to go somewhere that would challenge me," Sumrall said on why he chose to go to India. This was Sumrall's first mission trip, let alone his first trip out of the country, and he decided to go big. He found out about the opportunity through The Task, and had help from the International Mission Board.

Sumrall saw a variety of sights, from poverty to wildlife. In the same day he would see children from the slums scraping for food, devout Muslims going to the mosques to pray or camels and donkeys trampling down the dirt road. "We would see monkeys out our room window," Sumrall said of the day-to-day wildlife. Out of the different things he saw, what stuck out most was the poverty. "You'll want to look over them," Sumrall said of the beggars on the streets.

"But then you remember that truly is a person."

Although the atmosphere was nothing less than chaotic, Sumrall was able to stay at a decent hotel with air conditioning. There was one week, however, when Sumrall and his travel partner Sam Lynch, a student at Liberty University from Atlanta, Ga., stayed at a hotel with no air conditioning, by choice. "We would wake up dehydrated and soaking in sweat," Sumrall said of the week's experience.

During these 50 days in India, Sumrall's typical day was quite an interesting one. From 10 p.m.-2 a.m. he and Lynch would walk the streets of Ahmedabad and talk to the Muslim men. Sumrall and Lynch would talk to the men about politics, society, religion and life in general. Their main target was to talk to these Muslim men about each other's religions and introduce them to the Bible. Although they did not get impressive salvation results, the Muslim men got to see what a true Christian looks like. "Not many had ever talked to a true believer," Sumrall said. "They assume all Americans are Christians. They see what's on MTV and think that's all included in the religion and acceptable."

One prominent thing that Sumrall learned from ministering in India was that the Bible can speak for itself. Because of the major communication barrier, Sumrall and Lynch had to simply give the Muslims a

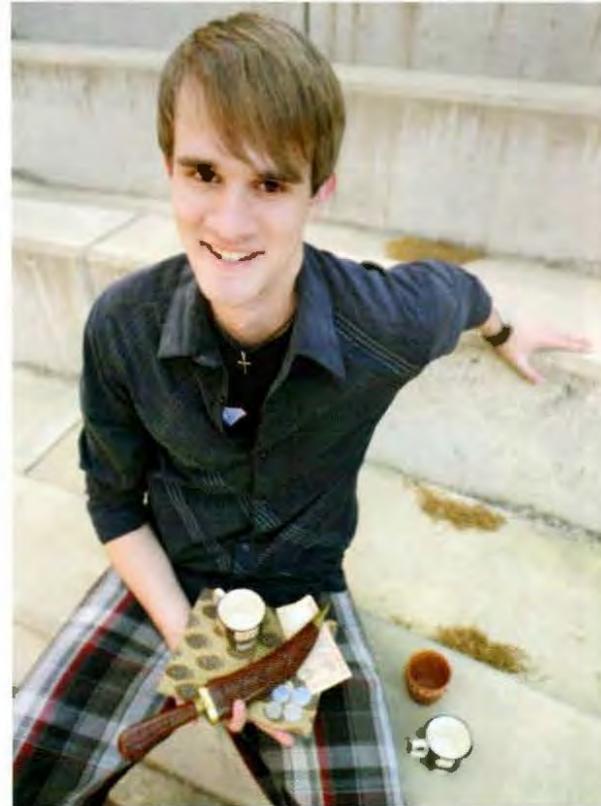


photo by: Sarah Henley

Bible and trust the Holy Spirit to speak through it. "So often we get caught up in explaining [the Bible]," Sumrall said. "But the Bible is living, it's the living word of God - it can speak for itself."

Out of everything he experienced in India, Sumrall is most thankful for the opportunity to minister to the Muslim men of Ahmedabad, and learned a lot in the process. His eyes were opened to aspects of life that the majority of Americans do not think twice about. He met a former Muslim man who had converted to Christianity and felt that he would never marry because of his faith. This man, along with his family who had also converted to Christianity, was ostracized from their town. "This man and his family endure so many hardships and persecution," Sumrall said. "But when I asked if they had any regrets, they said 'absolutely not.'"

The experience showed Sumrall how little he has to work to keep up his faith and stay encouraged. "We have no excuse to fall and be discouraged," Sumrall said. "We are free in Christ in a free country - start exemplifying Christ and make an impact."



S

tar of the Show

Christina Albee

by: Shea Higginson

The half-time show at a football game is a wonderful show to watch, but when most people think "half-time show" they think about the band; the clarinets, the drum line, the trombones, but that's not all there is to enjoy. There's another talent on the field exuding preciseness, skill, athleticism, and beauty. Christina Albee doesn't play an instrument in the show, but she entertains the crowd during half-time by twirling her baton with a big smile on her face as her alter-ego "Carmelita." Christina's roommate gave her this nickname "because of this extra boost of confidence that comes with the baton, costume, hair, and make-up."

"I love that twirling pushes me to be athletic, creative, and elegant all at once. I am not aware of any other sport that integrates these qualities so well," said Christina. "I also love how when I'm twirling I really can't think about anything else." Christina has been twirling since the second grade and has been taking private lessons since the third grade. Christina tried several things before she discovered her love of twirling. She tried baseball, basketball, volleyball, swimming, gymnastics, and dance. "None of these things seemed to fit," she said. "I was either terrible at them or I just didn't enjoy it. Baton was something different to try."

When Christina moved to Hannibal, Mo., she started taking lessons from Janice Jackson Seamands, who was the teacher of her two previous teachers. "While I was considering what college to attend, Janice moved from Dallas, Texas, to Canway, and I felt that was an added confirmation that I should attend Ouachita Baptist University," said Christina. Seamands says the improvement has been fantastic since she has been able to see Christina weekly instead of only a few times a year.

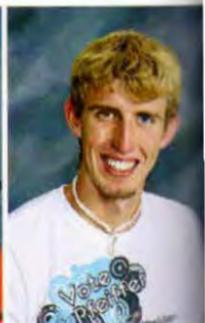
"Any serious athlete must have self discipline, make good use of their time, know their strengths and weaknesses, and understand what commitment means," said Seamands. "Christina knows just how important having goals can be and knows the joy of achieving not only a personal goal but also the sense of accomplishment from doing your best." All of Christina's hard work has paid off tremendously. Not only has she gotten the satisfaction of doing her best, but she has received recognition and awards for her twirling.

Christina won the titles of 2009 Collegen Miss Majorette of Arkansas and 2009 Collegen Miss Majorette of the South in the spring - two goals she had been striving for since she was a little girl. She also won the "most talented" senior superlative in high school. Christina won second place in her very first baton contest for which she received a plaque. Some of Christina's favorite baton memories are from twirling her first parade at the age of 7 and twirling on the St. Louis Rams' field with her high school band.

Seamands believes that Christina's experiences in twirling will "help [her] in all areas of life by contributing to her self confidence, the ability to present herself for interviews and auditions, developing her leadership skills, understanding how to relate to people and communicate, poise and grace, ability to take critique and turn that information into a helpful source for improvement, expecting the best of herself in all she does and just enjoying her talents and skills and being able to give happiness to others and help those around her through use of her talents." Christina Albee has definitely provided a lot of variety to half-time entertainment at football games. Her love for twirling is visible from the stands and she always wears a big smile on her face when she performs.



photo by: Callie Stephens



“I love that twirling pushes me to be athletic,
creative, and elegant all at once.

-Christina Albee



Leah Harrington • Hot Springs
Steven Harvell • Camden
Mason Hayes • Cabot
Lexie Hegi • Fort Worth, TX
Charlene Heimsch • Stuttgart
Hannah Hilburn • Harrison
Hillary Hill • Forrest City
Leigha Hill • Bolivar, MO



Natalie Holmes • Richardson, TX
Tanner Huffman • Wynne
Destiny Hughes • Bismarck
Shannon Hunt • Longview, TX
Trevor Huxham • Plano, TX
Bereket Isayas • Tyler, TX
Grace Janzen • Tulsa, OK
Woang Kao Jeon • South Korea



Corey Jones • Smackover
Kayla Kagel • Royal
Jenelle Kaske • McKinney, TX
Chelsie Kauffman • Bourbon, IN
Brian Keen • Montgomery Village, MD
Townsend Keller • Celina, TX
Kathryn Kellogg • Sherwood
Joy Kelly • Waxahachie, TX



Brittney Kiefer • Little Rock
Austin King • Arkadelphia
Kathryn Kremer • Ballwin, MO
Katherine Krikorian • Rockwall, TX
Dayton Lavender • Grapevine, TX
Steven Lawrence • Sunset, TX
Alice Lee • Sheridan
Joseph Levy • Little Rock



Madison Lewis • Conway
Amanda Like • Sachse, TX
Jenna Lindsey • Van Buren
John Lively • Texarkana, TX
Addison McCarver • Texarkana
Cara McKinney • Hughes Springs, TX
Nichole McNair • Minot, ND
Ruth Megli • Enid, OK

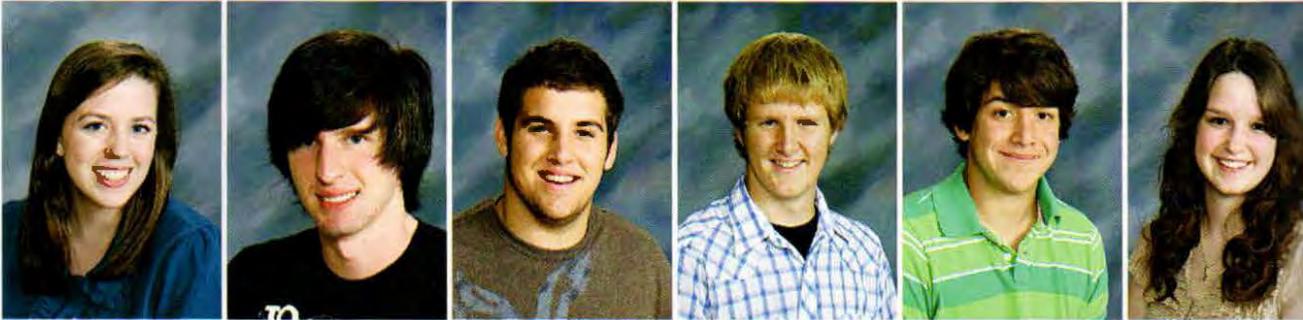


Devon Melear • Houston, TX
Libby Merritt • Conway
Emily Morgan • Mountain Home
Katelyn Mustain • Cappell, TX
Kezia Nanda • Jakarta, Indonesia
Mariah Patterson • Sheridan
Joanna Persson • Sherwood
Hannah Pierce • Fort Worth, TX

There are some people with this condition
that are 2 feet tall and break about
500 bones in their lifetime."

-Neil Wacaster

Natalie Polston • Searcy
Marshall Pope • Texarkana, TX
Jeremy Prine • Dewitt
Robert Pruet • Harrison
Philip Reeves • Bryant
Angela Rosenblatt • Grapevine, TX
Laura Sikes • Greenbrier
Andrew Simmons • Texarkana



Tyler Simon • Denton, TX
James Simpson • Rogers
James Slyby • Hot Springs
Mary Smethers • Hot Springs
Katelyn Smith • Longview, TX
Kayla Smith • Hot Springs
Rachel Spencer • Rockwall, TX
Samantha Spradling • Italy



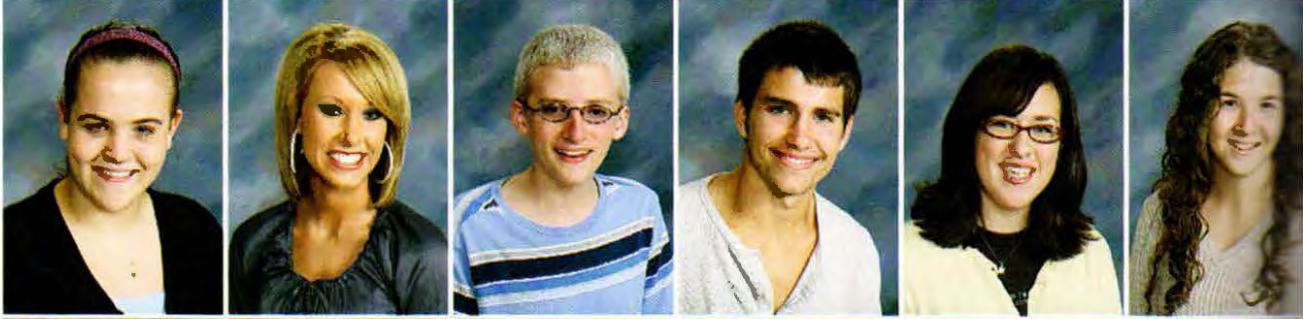
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Britta Stamps • Fort Smith
Kaitlin Steele • McKinney, TX
Brandon Stokes • Fort Smith
David Street • Cherokee Village
Kathleen Strom • Bowling Green, KY
Christopher Sumner • Needville, TX
Michael Sutton • Hot Springs



Coltan Swoyze • Hot Springs
Andrew Sweatman • Van Buren
Morgan Thornton • Bismarck
Taihlor Treat • Conway
Jahnathon Valdez • Garland, TX
Lindi Vanslyke • Wylie, TX
Danielle Varner • Denton, TX
Amy Vaughan • Grapevine, TX



Wendy Vick • Conway
Emily Vinson • Corning
Jeffery Wacaster • Hot Springs
Nathan Wade • Big Sandy, TX
Alyson Walker • Benton
Sarah Woymire • North Little
Rock
David White • Crossett
Abigail Williams • Paragould



Ethan Williams • Des Arc
John Williams • Little Rock
Melanie Williams • West
Monroe, LA
Kelli Wilson • Edna, TX
Jessica Winston • Sheridan
Christina Wood • Langview, TX
Rebecca Wright • Cordova, TN
Caroline Yeager • Tyler, TX
Erin Young • Marshall, TX



Never Discouraged

Neil Wacaster

by: Allison Cornell

Osteogenesis Imperfecta is a genetic condition that causes the bones to not produce enough collagen. This in turn causes the bones to be more like pieces of chalk rather than regular bone, which causes them to break easily and often. One in 20,000 people have Osteogenesis Imperfecta. Let me repeat, one in 20,000. Neil Wacaster, a sophomore business major at Ouachita, is that one person.

Born in Arkansas, but a resident of Van Buren, Missouri, Neil has lived with this condition his entire life. He has broken 40 bones and had 15 surgeries in his lifetime. He is only 17 years old. In all four of his leg bones he has a metal rod to make them stronger. When putting in the metal rods, the doctors had to break his legs and then put them in, even if they weren't previously broken.

Although his condition has caused pain, disability and has been anything but comfortable, Neil has still managed to live a life just like anyone else. In fact, he has probably experienced more life in his 17 years than most. "I'm actually very blessed," Neil said. "There are some people with this condition that are 2 feet tall and break about 500 bones in their lifetime."

Neil's mom and sister also have Osteogenesis Imperfecta but not as severe as him. His family is very close and they are a big support for Neil. When he was younger, he went on a cross country trip with his family in an RV and was able to see the Grand Canyon, Disney World and other places.

"We traveled around in a travel trailer all over the country for five years," he said. "My dad fixed hail damage on cars and so we'd go to wherever the storms had gone. We did that in the summer and then during the winter we just went wherever we wanted." Neil's parents own and run a camp in a

small town in Missouri called Jellystone Park. When he is home, he is the director of student activities for the camp. Neil was homeschooled and finished high school two years early. He came to Ouachita a year and a half ago as a 16 year old. For his first year and a half, he lived with his grandparents in Hot Springs instead of on campus.

In the fall Neil made his Ouachita theater debut in the production of "Goldilocks on Trial." He hopes to have more time for the theatre when he finishes graduate school. Although he would love to be able to play sports, Neil finds other hobbies to fill his time and passion. He enjoys ping pong, chess, Scrabble and Photoshop. He even challenged me to a game of Scrabble.

Neil can walk and doesn't usually use his walker when away from campus. While here, he needs it to carry his books and to get around on the slippery floors. The walker can be inconvenient at times, but Neil doesn't seem to be affected by it. "What's really fortunate is that most days it's not a big problem," he said. "One of the things I really appreciate about Ouachita is that I haven't had any experience with someone discriminating against me or making fun of me or anything like that." Neil's experience with his condition has grown him in his faith and he knows that his joy comes from God amidst everything. "I probably should rely on my faith more," he said. "But I'm still growing. I know that when I do have a break, it's much more incentive to pray. And even though I'm still growing in my Christian walk, a lot of my joy is from the Lord."

Neil plans on becoming a business professor and enjoying getting paid to study whatever he wants. At the end of the day, Neil will accomplish anything because of his motto: "Believe it and conceive it. Do the work - you can achieve it."

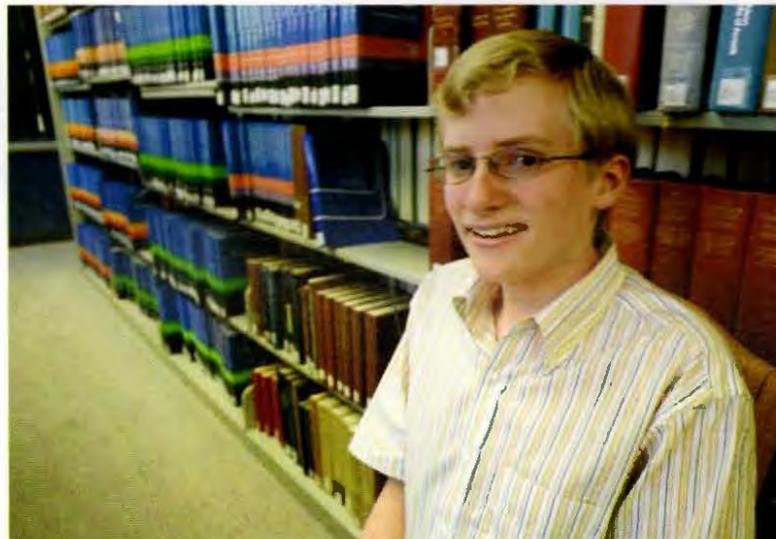


photo by: Sarah Henley





Missing a bunch of school to spend hours driving to some-
place unfamiliar, playing music all the time...

Does it get much better?"

-Christian Ichter

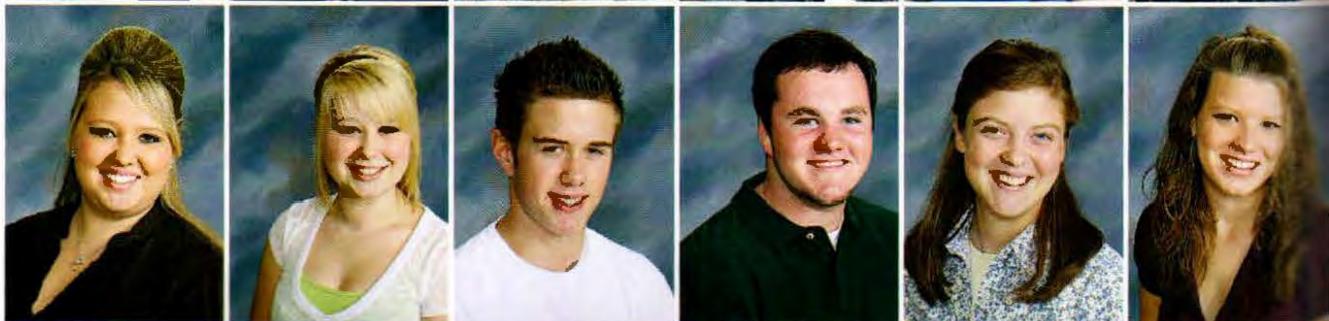
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Kristen Ashburn • Sachse, TX
Rebecca Atkinson • Arkadelphia
Kurt Bannert • Hamilton, Serbia
Michele Beach • Trophy Club
Emily Beaudain • Keller, TX
Stacy Beck • Sheridan
Katelyn Bell • Des Arc



Catherine Bennett • Nixa, MO
Wendy Berry • Little Rock
Hannah Bishop • Conway
Elizabeth Blankenship • Casscoe
Whitney Bollen • Mena
Shelby Briley • Siloam Springs
Judith Brizuela • Cortes
Lacey Brooks • Benton



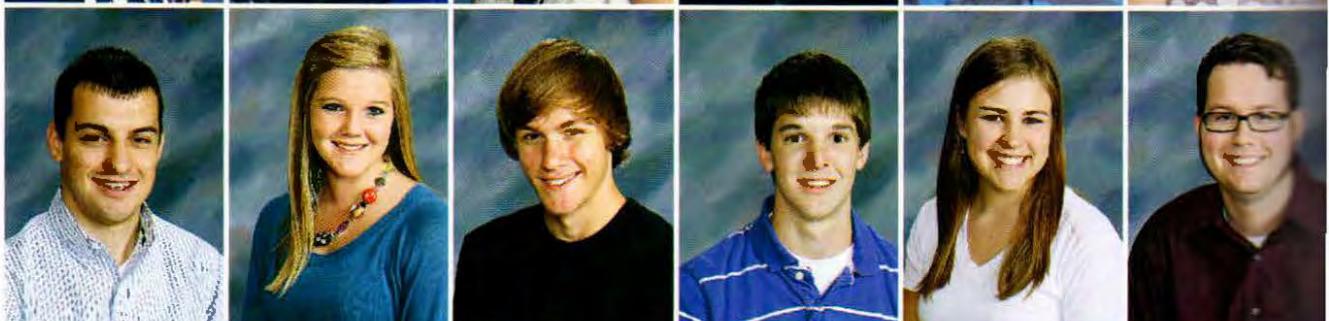
Emilie Brown • Ashdown
Macy Buchanan • Hallsville, TX
Chad Bullington • Hot Springs
Marshall Butler • Cabot
Deborah Caldwell • Siloam
Springs
Jenny Campbell • Little Rock
Clayton Case • Santiago, Chile
Jeremy Casebolt • Rockwall, TX



Hannah Champlin • Conway
Samantha Chidister • DeValls
Bluff
Annaliese Clark • St. Charles, MS
Shelby Cobb • White Hall
Joel Coleman • Hot Springs
Whitney Collier • North Little Rock
Duncan Collins • Texarkona
David Connell • Little Rock



James Cook • Glenwood
Haley Crabtree • Simms, TX
Theodore Cross • Hot Springs
Nicholas Crump • Camden
Samantha Cummins • Rogers
Ethan Day • Garland, TX
Stephanie Deen • Jonesboro
Mark Dewbre • Siloam Springs



Making the Band

Christian Ichter

by: Abbey Jamieson

"When I was in eighth grade, my grandpa gave my sister (senior Leslyn Ichter) his first guitar that was twice as big as me (I was a small 14 year-old)," said freshman Christian Ichter, a music major from Conway. "Eventually, I picked it up and started to teach myself chords. From then on, I was hooked."

Although Ichter's talents in music began to grow as he became older, his parents never pushed him to pursue music as a career choice. "They were very supportive of my decision and proud of my progress," said Ichter. "I'm glad they didn't make me take lessons as a kid, because I would have lost interest in music and quit." The summer before going into his eighth grade year, and before he even became involved with music at his church, Ichter felt the call to go into ministry.

"I started helping lead worship my eighth grade year by singing," said Ichter. "And when I became a sophomore in high school I started picking up more leadership roles in my worship band."

While leading worship as a junior in high school, Ichter was presented an opportunity to play in a Christian band that would later travel and play at various venues with numerous artists in the Christian industry. "I was the guitarist of a band (Tyler Bass Band) during my senior year of high school and had some neat opportunities to play shows," said Ichter. "Basically, those shows all worked out through good connections."

Along with leading worship with American Idol Kris Allen in Conway's New Life Church worship band, Ichter had the opportunity to open for several artists such as Switchfoot, David Crowder band, Jars Of Clay, Building 429, Natalie Grant, Shawn McDonald, Addison Road, Superchick and Jimmy Needham.

"I made some great memories on the road with some of my best friends and met some great people," said Ichter. "Missing a bunch of school to spend hours driving to someplace unfamiliar, playing music all the time... Does it get much better?"

Ichter plans to some day be a worship leader and also assist in studios, helping record music for artists. In order to prepare himself, he leads worship in Central Arkansas at New Life Church on the weekends. As his freshman year began, Ichter

also started to help out in small ways around campus by playing guitar and singing. "I have made many friends here," said Ichter. "I have learned things that are very relevant in preparing me for my career, and it has been a lot of fun."

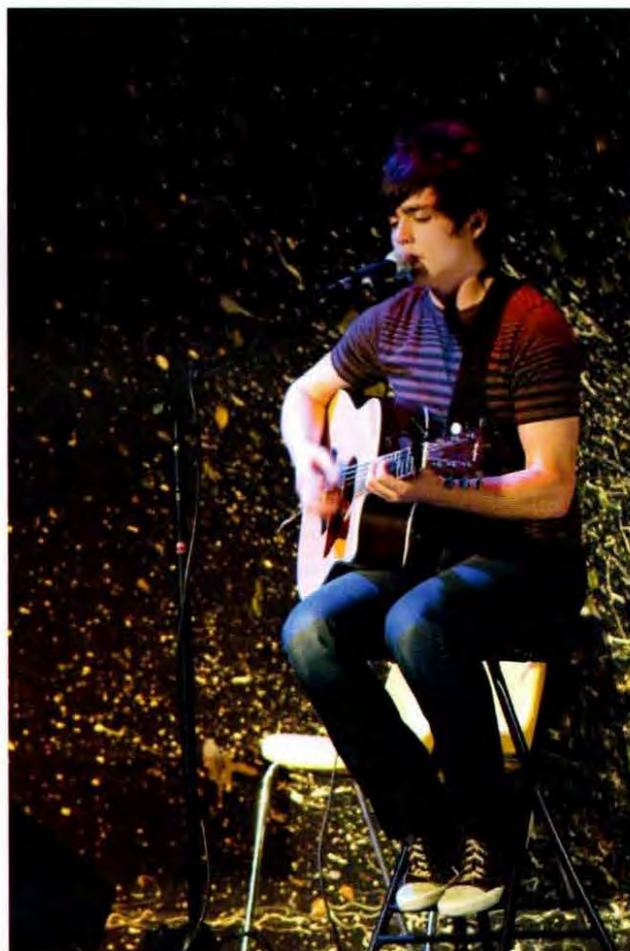
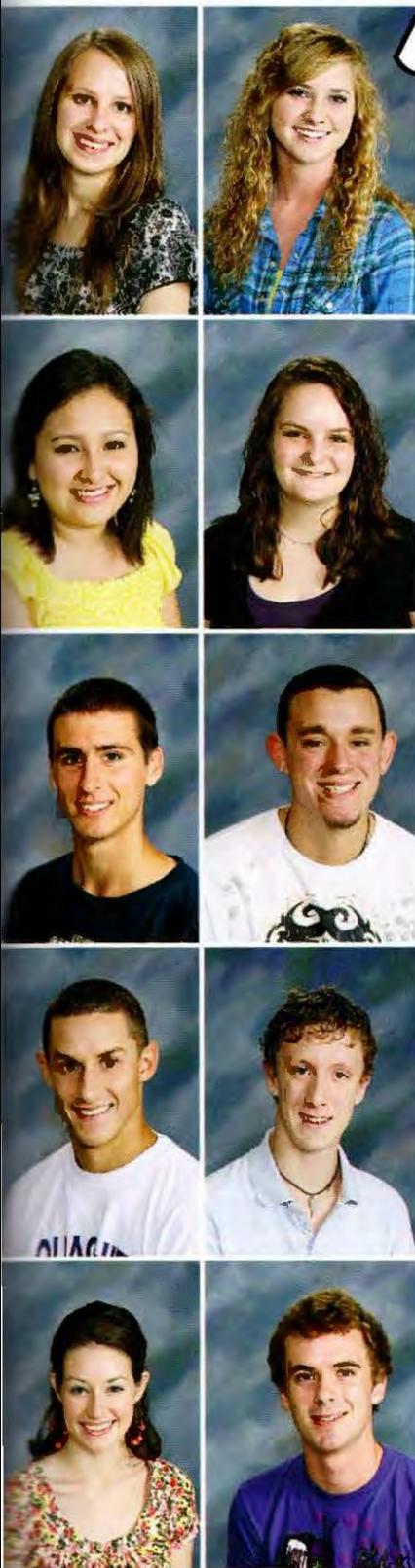


photo by: Mallory George

An Unforgettable Day

Nelson Silva

by: Brea Conyers

Nelson Silva, a junior kinesiology and fitness major from Sao Paulo, Brazil, holds five individual school records, two pool records, and one national relay record. Before coming to OBU, Silva was swimming in Brazil, and he wasn't very happy with the results he was getting. "And then I had a friend over in Virginia who convinced me to go to the U.S., and so I said OK I should try. I don't wanna take a step back, I want to go forward, so I decided to come," said Silva. After about six months of swimming in Virginia, Silva's coach convinced him to go to college. "I was already too old to go to Division 1,"—Silva was almost 20 at the time—"and Ouachita offered me a full ride, so that's how I ended up here," said Silva.

In November, Silva got the opportunity to compete in his first international meet, the World Cup, in Sweden. He swam on Brazil's eight-man team. "I knew the eight fastest people would get qualified to go. They were analyzing whoever had the best underwater time—the best stroke rate for the short course—so they would take the best team to go to the world cup, which is in short course meters," said Silva.

There were many great swimmers there, but none bigger than the golden Michael Phelps, who would be swimming Silva's best event—the 100-meter backstroke. "I knew he was in the meet, and I thought maybe if I were to swim real good and he had a bad swim, since this wasn't his best event, the 100 backstroke, I could have a shot at beating him. But, I just wanted to go and get my best time," said Silva. He swam his heat then he saw the times. Silva's time was decent—53.37. "I was pretty happy with it," said Silva.



photo by: Will Wood

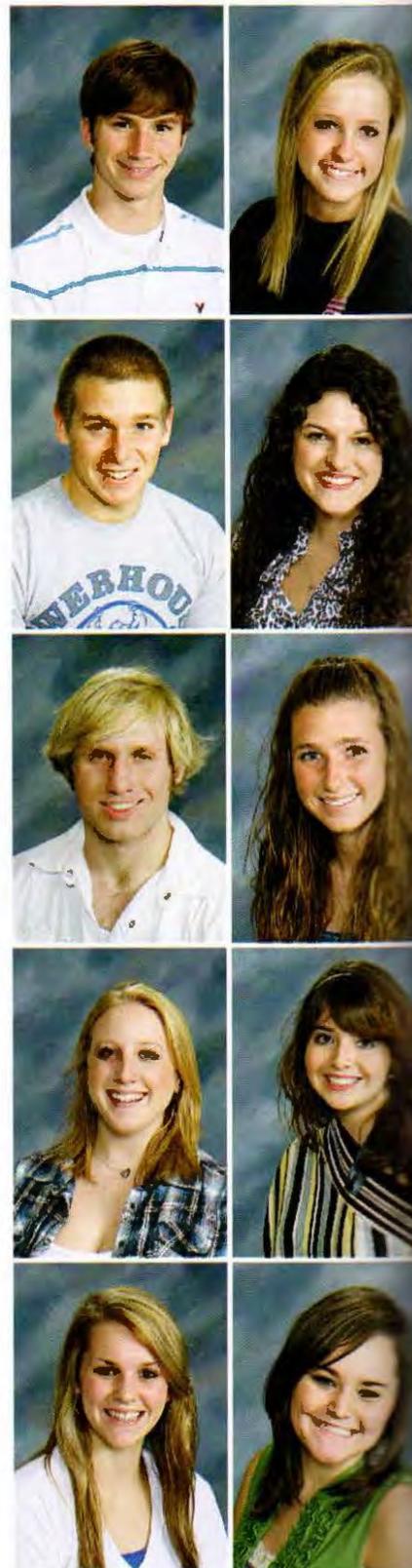
Phelps swam in the next heat. Silva watched as Phelps's first 50 meters was exactly like his. "I felt like saying, dude, just die," said Silva. Phelps sped to the wall, and Silva looked up at the times. 53.57. He beat the Olympic champion by two one-hundredths of a second.

While enjoying the fact that he beat the world's best swimmer, Silva was still modest about the experience. "Phelps, I mean he doesn't swim that much in short course meters. He only swims in long course. He's known for being a long course swimmer. But it was really exciting," said Silva. In truth, Phelps wasn't in his best shape, and he was trying many races that he had never competed in before. But, even so, Silva will never forget that day.

At Ouachita, Silva has had many races to be proud of as well. He was a part of the relay team that won a national record last year, he holds school records in the 1000, the 200-meter backstroke, the 200 fly, the 220 IM, and the 400 IM, and in November he broke two pool records.

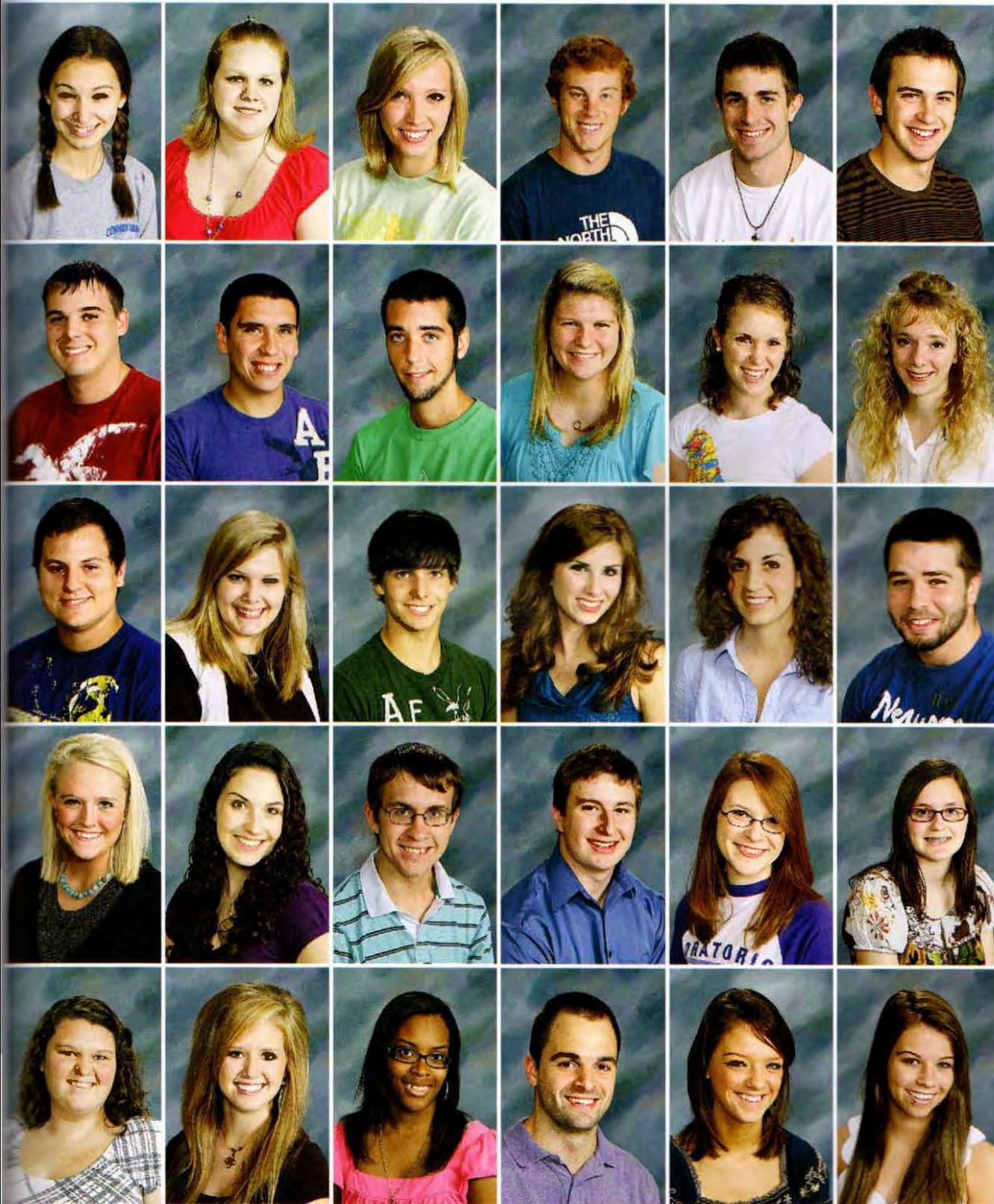
In the fast pace of college, Silva was starting to think about his future. "After this world cup thing, I kinda wanna go pro, but as I said before, I never wanna take a step back, I only want to move forward," said Silva. So, if Silva isn't able to turn pro, he says he'll start looking for a job. "If I won't be able to go pro, I'll just stop, because I just wanna get faster, I don't want to be the same," said Silva. Something else that helped him was the opportunity to swim with the University of Texas team over Christmas breaks.

"Right now swimming is fun. I've worked really hard since I was 12 years old, but I'm just now getting there. Just now, I'm withdrawing the money that I put in the bank," said Silva.



“If I won't be able to go pro, I'll just stop, because I just want get faster. I don't want to be the same.

-Nelson Silva



Thomas Diaz • West Monroe, LA
Keena Dickey • Crossett
Kathryn Dodge • Conway
Lindsey Ederington • Russellville
Erin Edge • Southaven, MS
Jacob Edwards • North Little Rock
Anthony Emerson • Fresno, TX
Justin Epps • Wynne

Austin Evans • Little Rock
Kelly Ferguson • Benton
Joshua Fink • Forney, TX
Jason Fowler • Mesquite, TX
Reece Franklin • Arkadelphia
Allison Frizzell • McKinney, TX
Aubree Fry • Green Forest
Kiley Gamble • McKinney, TX

Trent Gardner • Dallas, TX
Doris Gay • Little Rock
Addison George • El Dorado
Breanne Goodrum • Fort Smith
Bobby Gossler • North Little Rock
Rebecca Gray • Paron
Amberly Green • Batesville
John Guerra • Mount Ida

Stephanie Hampton • Perryville
Katie Harris • Little Rock
Skylar Hearron • Monticello
Katelyn Helton • Grand Prairie, TX
Paul Hill • San Marcos
Michael Hirsch • Karnack, TX
Breanna Holder • El Dorado
Raley Haward • El Dorado

Kristyn Howk • Rowlett, TX
Katherine Hunt • Alexander
Hannah Hunter • Bryant
Lauren Jackson • Arkadelphia
Kristen James • Missouri City, TX
Ryan James • Benton
Abbey Jamieson • NaSachse, TX
Jillian Jeffcoat • Frisco, TX

“

I was really nervous because everyone kept telling me that it was a bad idea to go to a country ruled by a man who has been compared to Hitler.”

-Alyssa Eskelsen

Cameron Johnson • Rancho Mirage, CA
 Joyce Johnson • Arkadelphia
 Laura Johnson • Shreveport, LA
 Alyssa Jones • Redfield
 Gillis Jones • Andalusia, AL
 Nikki Kambanis • Jonesboro
 Lauren Keefer • Saginaw, TX
 Sunhye Kim • Little Rock



Travis King • Dallas, TX
 Casey Knight • Arkadelphia
 John Knight • Arkadelphia
 Kelly Knobloch • Monticello
 Hitomi Kunii • Wakayama, Japan
 Michelle Lackey • Decatur, TX
 Xavier Lagunas • Arlington, TX
 Michelle Lanza • Allen, TX



Gregory Lawrence • Sunset, TX
 Daniel Lee • Atlanta, GA
 Kelley Lester • Bismarck
 Carrie Lieblang • Austin, TX
 Peyton Lumley • Tyler, TX
 Devan Malane • Benton
 Kaitlin Moyfield • Atlanta, GA
 Jena McCarty • Pottsville



Daniel McFarlin • Dallas, TX
 Elizabeth McGowan • Little Rock
 Dawn McNulty • Katy, TX
 Morie McPhate • Conway
 Samuel Meador • Wolfe City, TX
 Audrey Melson • Batesville
 Shannon Michael • Grapevine, TX
 Hannah Midkiff • Grandview, TX



Jill Mitchell • Texarkana, TX
 Sarah Moore • Garland, TX
 Stephanie Morse • Benton
 David Nedbalek • Tyler, TX
 Natasha Ngwenyo • Bulowaya
 Carol Nichols • Little Rock
 Valerie Nickl • Richardson, TX
 Fumika Nishiyama • Na, Japan



Reaching Out

Alyssa Eskelsen

by: Breanne Goodrum

It was a volunteer trip; one that could have risked a life. It was a trip to a third world country in the middle of the summer. The trip was filled with complications, terrifying images, and oddly enough, beauty. This was Alyssa Eskelsen's summer vacation.

Eskelsen had volunteered to go to Africa for two weeks with a group of recently graduated seniors and other volunteers. It was here where she discovered what life was really about. It was here where, although her life was at risk, a new way of life was discovered.

"I was really nervous because everyone kept telling me that it was a bad idea to go to a country ruled by a man who has been compared to Hitler. I went with a team of eight. A lot happened there. The people are beautiful and so nice, but the economy is horrible," said Eskelsen, a freshman music performance major from College Station, Texas.

The life change took place in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. This is where groups of children ran to her. She embraced a new culture and found life's simple pleasures in the authenticity of human life. The trip was focused on Christ and unlike Americans, the Africans took on an accepting glow. They were not focused on the thoughts or cares of what others would think, they were focused on what they thought.

I felt the work of God the entire time I was in Zimbabwe. There wasn't a moment when I was scared or unsure about what was going on. I just knew in my heart that a revival is coming and very soon," Eskelsen said.

The group led worship and held church services but also tried to benefit the community. Seniors provided a workshop for "True Love Waits" for high school girls in that area. The program was designed to bring awareness to sexually transmitted diseases and stop the spread of AIDS.

"The girls in the True Love Waits group had to wear skirts and tights and it was so cold that morning. It was cold, but the kids who were all in high school seemed to really enjoy the presentation. Afterwards, they invited us to their field hockey game later. That was really fun because we got to talk one on one with the kids," Eskelsen said.

To finish up the week Eskelsen and her teammates spent time with a local family, discovering the true African spirit, but also the true Christian spirit. The family's story inspired the team to continue their ministry past the short trip. The family met through God's guidance, inspiring the team to trust in God for all things.

The culture of the trip will always be a part of Eskelsen. The diversity and beauty witnessed influences her life daily. Tears shed an account of the pure joy and simplicity of life blessed the team. The faces of the needy and the reciprocation received inspire all to embark on mission trips. This is what Alyssa experienced. This is what changed her life and her idea of life.

"I will always remember this trip. It had such an astounding effect on me. To watch people in that environment, where Christianity is the minority, open their eyes and see the truth and praise The One is so humbling," Eskelsen said.



photo courtesy of Alyssa Eskelsen

Two of a Kind

The Simon Twins

by: Tanner Huffman

They're best friends and roommates. They're classmates and study buddies. They share the same advisor, major, minor, career goal and wardrobe. Twenty years ago, they even shared the same egg cell. They're the Simon twins, and they're both members of the OBU golf team.

Tanner and Tyler Simon, sophomore chemistry majors from Denton, Texas, began playing golf when they were 12 years old. They attribute their love for the game to their father, who began playing the sport when they were young boys.

"[Dad] might not be the world's greatest golfer, but he has a lot of fun with it," Tyler said. "His passion for the game rubbed off on both of us."

In high school, the Simons lettered in golf all four years, and were given the opportunity to participate in the Starburst Tournament in Waco, Texas. This tournament, known all around the world, featured many mainstream golfers, and the twins considered the experience "unmatchable."

Being twins who both golfed, they had an interesting technique when playing the game. They always viewed the game not only as a competition with other players, but also, and perhaps even more importantly, between themselves.

"We would sometimes have high-stake bets when we played in matches," Tyler said. "Things like mowing the lawn would be on the line and the loser would have to do the chore. It put a lot more pressure on the rounds. It was fun." The twins added that their competitive attitudes go much further than the greens of a golf course.

"Even when we have a test or a homework assignment we always compare our grades, and for those few weeks until the next test or assignment, the one with the higher grade has the bragging rights," Tanner said. "I don't know if all twins are as competitive as me and Tyler, but let me tell you: we definitely are!"

As for choosing a major, they owe their decision to their dad, just as they do for golf. In 2000, their father fell at work, causing a concussion and a coding (medical death). He was revived, and his body went into a coma for two weeks. After recovering, he had a similar incident a few years later, leading to his diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease at the young age of 41.

"We were devastated as a family," said Tanner. "At that moment, I knew I wanted to try and prevent any other kid from experiencing the feelings I felt, as did Tyler." As for their future, they look forward to their next, and last, two years of golf at OBU with high hopes.

In a perfect world, the Simons would find twin, golfing females, marry them, and grow old playing the game they have come to love. Until that day comes, however, they will live out their lives as they have planned: seeking jobs in the medical field and, as always, playing the game.

"Golf will always be with me and I will always enjoy being on the course," Tyler said. "And besides, isn't it required that everyone in the medical field play golf...and have bad handwriting?"

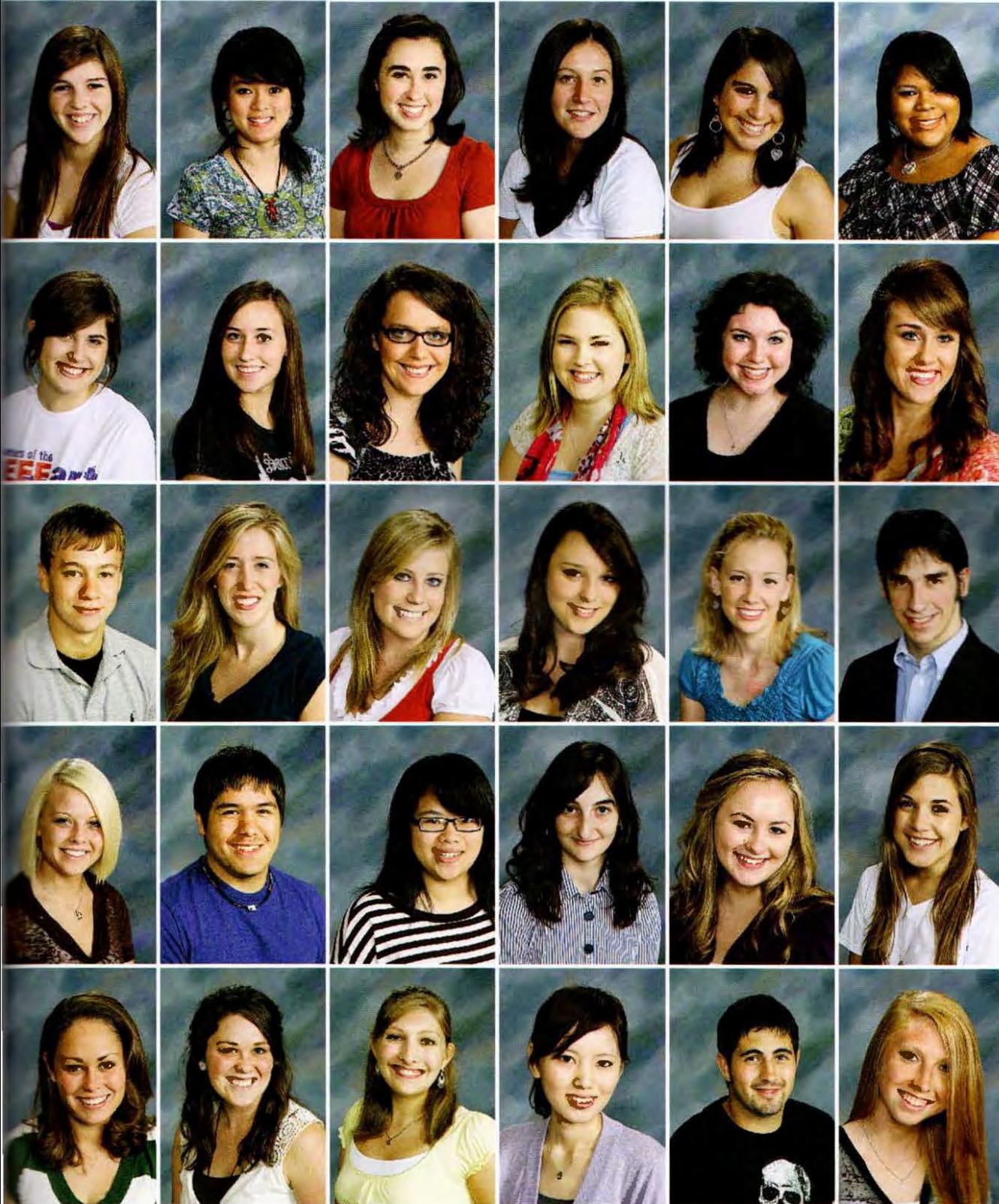


photo courtesy of Tyler Simon



“And besides, isn't it required that everyone in the medical field
play golf...and have bad handwriting?”

-Tyler Simon



Daniela Novotna • Texarkana
Elliot O'Connor • Louisville, KY
Lara Overman • Longview, TX
Ribka Oyong • Jakarta, Indonesia
Alexis Pace • Sugar Land, TX
Hannah Padgett • Ethei
Emily Parker • Shreveport, LA
Bernita Pearson • Little Rock

William Peckat • Cabot
David Pennington • Sparkman
Hannah Pfeiffer • Benton
Kayla Pinkham • Rockwall, TX
Whitley Poole • Batesville
Rebekah Paynor • Aubrey, TX
Courtney Puddephatt • Little Rock
Krystal Qualls • Texarkana

Elizabeth Quick • Colonia, Uruguay
Chase Rackley • Little Rock
Stephen Raines • Camden
Hannah Ramsey • Naperville, IL
Kayleigh Ratliff • Conway
Ashley Rau • Frisco, TX
Britney Reynolds • Benton
Andrew Roberts • Plano, TX

Brian Sain • Hurst, TX
Ryleigh Salmon • Henderson, TX
Bailey Sanders • Joshua, TX
Christopher Santiago • Little Rock
Nina Sari • Jakarta, Indonesia
Janice Satterlee • El Dorado
Meghan Savage • Frisco, TX
Jessica Scaggins • Bedford, TX

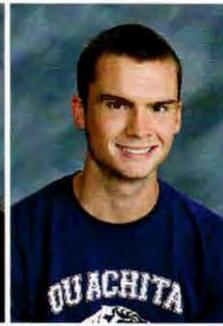
Madison Scott • Little Rock
Kenneth See • Mesquite, TX
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They taught me values and beliefs, respect, and to have fun. They push me to go farther."

-TJ Connell

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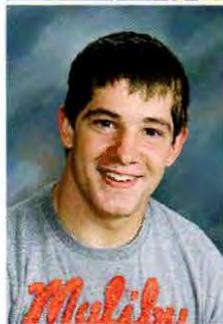
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Pushing the Limit

TJ Connell

by: Jeffery Harmon

I'll never forget the first time I saw TJ Connell. It was the first day of class in my second semester, and I was just one of the many familiar faces in the room strategically positioning myself for the perfect semester seat. There was fresh excitement in the air as we welcomed the new challenges and memories the upcoming semester would bring. I settled into my seat as class was about to start when, at the last minute, the heavy wooden door flung open. It was TJ.

He smoothly navigated his electric wheelchair to the front of the classroom, dodging the other students' puzzled stares with his unmistakable smile. His grandmother followed close behind, clutching a pen and notebook tightly. I knew at that point that there was something very special about TJ Connell.

As the professor took attendance, he stopped and, with a smile on his face, introduced the class to TJ. As he bragged on TJ's tremendous character, he was interrupted by a burst of one of TJ's guttural laughs that would become common throughout the semester. At that time I remember feeling many different emotions. Feelings of confusion struck me as I couldn't help but stare at his tiny frame surrounded by his huge electronic machine. I also felt skeptical because he was enrolled in such a difficult class. "Is there any way that he can succeed in this class?" I thought to myself. Of all the mixed emotions, I remember feeling inspired the most. I wondered how, despite his physical condition, he could still have that big smile on his face. I needed to know more.

TJ was born 24 years ago just down the road in Hope. Due to a lack of oxygen to his brain, he was born with a spastic form of cerebral palsy that continues to affect him in every moment of every day. Because of this condition, TJ cannot walk or even speak. His communication is limited to a machine known as "The Pathfinder." With this machine, TJ is able to string sentences together through an electronic keyboard. Every activity - even the smallest of tasks - is a huge struggle for TJ, requiring constant care and attention.

Fortunately for TJ, he has been blessed with a set of grandparents who provide this care and attention. Every day they help him perform the tasks that most people don't even think about. They feed him breakfast, shave him, shower him, dress him, drive him to and from school, sit and take notes for him in class, cook and feed him dinner, and put him in bed. They do it every single day. "My husband and I just kind of tag team him," said his grandmother cheerfully. His grandmother is an amazing figure herself. Known as "Mrs. Faye" to the Christian studies students, she can be seen sitting beside TJ, taking diligent notes in all his classes on a daily basis. There's no denying her love for her grandson. "They took me in as one of their own children," Connell said. "They taught me values and beliefs, respect, and to have fun. They push me to go farther."

Ever since TJ accepted Christ at the age of 10, he has wanted to impact people through evangelism and motivational speaking. His passion for evangelism brought him to OBU as a junior transfer student from a nearby community college. "I want to preach and teach God's Word without compromise," Connell said. This mentality of "without compromise" has been with him throughout his entire life. Being originally placed in resource classes, his teachers soon moved him to the regular classroom, where he eventually graduated with honors. He is now taking on more difficult concepts through classes such as Spiritual Formation, Revelation and Biblical Greek. "I have to go through the chapters over and over," Connell said. "I have to do that for all of my classes."

Dr. Scott Duvall, a Christian studies professor who has taught him in several classes, has been thoroughly impressed with TJ. "Most other students have not had to deal with anything that comes close to TJ's circumstances," Duvall said. "He can't speak or walk, yet he loves the Lord and enjoys serving him in so many ways. Everyone is amazed at his ability to love life, laugh hysterically, and rejoice in the Lord."

On top of applying himself academically, TJ practices his love of speaking by preaching sermons for different events. Because of his communication barrier, he not only has to do all of the normal work that goes into sermon preparation, but he also has to type it out and put it into his computer. TJ has continued to inspire people as he has received multiple opportunities to speak to others who are physically disabled. "He really impacts other handicapped people when they see what he's doing," Faye said. "They think to themselves, 'if he can do that, then I can do something like that.'"

TJ will always continue to work harder and push the limits further in everything he does. "Go farther and achieve your dreams," he said. "Nothing can stop you." It's this attitude that will continue to inspire me and continue to make me proud to call TJ my friend.

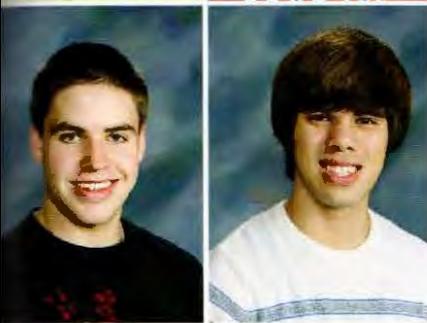


photo by: Callie Stephens



My understanding of Islam is incredibly enhanced; it's not just from another book— I know these people."

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A True *W*orld Traveler

Dr. Barbara Pemberton

by: Bethany Moss



Not many students were aware of the small, single office at the end of the dark hallway behind Berry Chapel. It was the office of Dr. Barbara Pemberton, associate professor of Christian Missions, and it was surely a sight to behold. There were loads of books, pictures, trinkets and rare artifacts from countries far away. My personal favorite was the Muslim Barbie dressed in a long black burko and a matching hijab to cover her head.

Pemberton did not attain these artifacts through online sales, family members, or a one-time trip to the Middle East. She has lived in Saudi Arabia during every Christmas break and summer season for the past eight years.

Her husband, Jim, took a job as a chemical engineer for Saudi Aramco, a fully integrated international petroleum company with the world's largest oil reserves. When they found out he would have to live in Saudi, they decided to have Barbara stay in the United States to teach world religions. That way, she could learn about Islam first hand a few months out of the year, then come back and pour that rare and valuable knowledge into her students.

Over the years, she has established many close relationships with the Muslim people. She further expanded these relationships, along with her own knowledge, last spring semester when she decided to take her sabbatical in Saudi Arabia.



"The purpose was to refresh and grow in as many aspects of my life as I could," Pemberton said. She was able to experience many things such as taking golf lessons, camping in the desert and studying at two radically different universities. She had to adhere to the strict rules of the Prince Muhammad Bin Fahd University, where men and women were completely separated. There was even a glass barrier in the classroom if a male professor had to teach a female class.

While partaking in these events, Pemberton had many interesting conversations about religions with people from an array of backgrounds. "It was a great witnessing opportunity," Pemberton said. "Everyone is curious about religions; it was a tremendous blessing to talk about Islam and other religions."

The opportunity to witness presented itself in many ways. Her driver was Hindu, she played golf with Muslims, and she participated in a Bible study with women from different Christian backgrounds.

Being able to consistently travel and learn about Islam has given Pemberton an interesting angle on teaching world religions. "My understanding of Islam is incredibly enhanced; it's not just from another book - I know these people," Pemberton said. "There is so much depth, and I have so many stories from knowing and learning about people from many different religions."

photo by: Koro Humble

In today's world, the understanding of other religions has become necessary to even understand our nightly news broadcast. Pemberton said that as Christians, it is important for us to know about other religions. "We are called to love others, so how can we love them without understanding them," Pemberton said.

If we took the time to venture out and learn about other religions, we would not only understand theirs, but also learn more about our own. Digging deep into another religion helps a person realize how different they are. It not only helps them love another group of people, but also helps appreciate their own.

Pemberton is stronger in her faith after living and learning about the Muslim people of Saudi Arabia. "We are so free in Christ compared with what other religions have to offer," Pemberton said.

Although her and Jim's life together is in Saudi Arabia, Pemberton gets full joy out of spreading her knowledge to her students here in the U.S. Ever since he moved overseas, they knew it was God's plan for her to stay in America and teach, but they still work together. Jim helps her make connections with people in Saudi Arabia, allowing her to learn and explore the religion more than she would otherwise.

Doing what she's called to do while living apart from her husband makes Pemberton's life a great example of putting God's will first in your life. Although there are some lonely nights, Pemberton lives an incredible life of knowledge, love and learning. She said, "It's an exciting part of our lives, and it is our ministry."

Mentor & friend

Mac Sisson

by: Deborah Root
Ouachitonian Adviser

When Mac Sisson died suddenly on March 8 at the age of 62, I lost a colleague, mentor and most of all, a dear friend. Mac served for almost three decades as assistant director of public relations at Ouachita. Other roles included sports information director, director of the Miss OBU Pageant and director of Tiger Tunes.

I first met Mac when I was a high school student in 1975. I was on the yearbook staff at McClellan High School in Little Rock and Mrs. Beverly Billingsley faithfully brought her staff to the Summer Journalism Workshop hosted by Ouachita, directed by Dr. Bill Downs and assisted by Mac. Two years later I would enter Ouachita as a freshman mass communications major, and thus began a 30-plus year friendship with Mac.

As a student I most remember his pen. He would pull it out of his blue shirt pocket and begin to edit most anything we wrote, whether it was for *The Signal* or the *Ouachitonian*. He loved to proofread. If you asked him to do so, be prepared. There were always changes to be made. What we learned from Mac was to strive for perfection, whether it was the number of quotes in a story or the use of AP style. And, yes, he would always leave little reminders that we needed to clean up our offices, and he taught us how to light the gas furnaces in Flenniken so we wouldn't freeze in the winter.

It was in my senior year when I was editor of the *Ouachitonian* that I met and fell in love with *The Signal* editor, Jeff Root. On August 7, 1982, we married at First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia. Our ring bearer was Mac and Donna's son, Alan. It was a beautiful wedding, but we learned not to let the ring bearer drink too much ROOTbeer before the ceremony. Thirteen years later when our daughter Abby was born, the Sisson's daughter Stephanie was Abby's first babysitter, and a few years later, Abby would be a flower girl in Stephanie's wedding.

I also spent many years with Mac in the press box for both Ouachita and Arkadelphia High School football games. In the early years, Mac taught me how to type a play-by-play on a Selectric typewriter. While he was announcing a play on the PA, I was typing in the play and tabbing over to type in the tackle. I learned how to calculate TOP (time of possession) and whole lot more about football. His sports knowledge was invaluable as I served as sports editor of *The Daily Siftings Herald*, and later took his place during a two-year stint as sports information director. I truly learned from the king of SIDs.

When Jeff and I returned to Ouachita in 1991 after graduate school, it was like reuniting the family. We worked in the mass communications and public relations areas and were once again side-by-side with Mac. And, we once again joined him in the press box, Jeff broadcasting the Ouachita and AHS games, and me spotting for Mac on the PA. My fellow spatter, Steve Patterson, and I formed the first unofficial NCAA spatters union, mainly to defend ourselves when we called out the wrong player number, and to yearly request a bathroom in the OBU press box. I always valued those Friday nights and Saturday afternoons with Mac, especially after his retirement. We would catch up on the week's events and attempt to solve all the world's problems. I'm going to miss his traditional announcement, as the clock would wind down, "Look around the place where you are seated and make sure you have all your personal possessions." It signaled it was time to go home. Our job was done until the next game.

The Friday before Mac died, he sent me an article from the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* about the notion of Facebook replacing college yearbooks. Although we never got to discuss the article, I think he knew I was ready for a fight. I'm defensive when it comes to yearbooks as an important part of a university's historical record, and I like to think Mac would agree. His influence is evident in three decades of *Ouachitonian* yearbooks, but most of all in the lives of the students who had the privilege of working with and learning from a true journalist and friend.



“His influence is evident in three decades of
Ouachitonian yearbooks...”

-Deborah Root



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...I thought to myself, 'I'm a 44-year-old man, and I better grow up and put a couple of diplomas and paintings on the walls. Well, quite obviously I had second thoughts.'

-Dr. Johnny Wink

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A Home Away from Home

The Office of Dr. Johnny Wink

by: Hannah Clayton

Even before you reach the office door, you'll encounter a myriad of photos and illustrations inundating the otherwise bland walls with color and life. The large, wooden door is covered with the same sort of eclectic mosaic. The thin, black nameplate on the door is peculiar—Dr. Thunderlizard—and the office of Dr. Thunderlizard is no less strange.

Like the walls outside of his office, the four walls inside are a pleasant and curiosity-striking attack of visual and mental stimuli. There are small, plastic dinosaurs lined up along the windowsill. On the desk, a large chunk of sturdy glass sits, adorned with stickers peeled from bananas and apples. On the shelves of his bookcase—a place where any other erudite professor piles their collection of texts—photo frames and other objects of memorabilia sit comfortably, overpowering the books. Even the ceiling of his office is adorned with a few tacked-up photos and illustrations.

This is the office of Dr. Johnny Wink (but still also affectionately known as Dr. Thunderlizard to past students and several mistaken mailmen). And although to any new visitor this office may appear to be a random disorder, to Dr. Wink, it's a carefully constructed,



photo by: Kara Humble

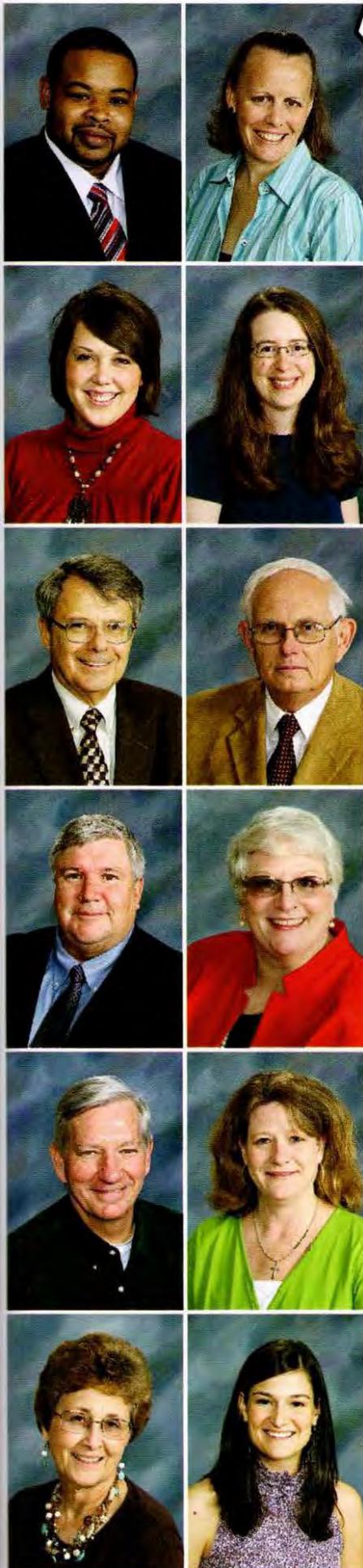
personal, heart-stirring collage of his life, his loves and some of his most cherished memories. "As soon as I moved to this office in '88, I thought to myself, 'I'm a 44-year-old man, and I better grow up and put a couple of diplomas and paintings on the walls. Well, quite obviously I had second thoughts,'" Dr. Wink said, smiling to himself. "I'd like to think of myself as an interior decorator, and I call it a little busy."

Wink, professor of English at Ouachita Baptist University for 36 years, has been the occupant of office #203 in Lile Hall for 21 years. But he is not always the sole occupant. Besides the hundreds of photos and memorabilia occupying the walls and shelves, several students stop in to sit in the burnt-orange velvet chair of the late Everett Slavens to talk with Dr. Wink. Upon entrance, Dr. Wink opens not only his office, but his life to students. "Any time a student or friend or whoever comes in, they're allowed to ask about a photo or something here," Wink said. Much of the time, however, Wink must inadvertently share several photos' stories within a single sitting. He'll then lead you across his office to a completely different wall with a completely different photo to explain the intricate weaving of each—the lives and colorful stories of many often connected by a single man.

"One word that you couldn't possibly use to describe this kind of office—the word is professional," Wink said. "This does not look like the working habitat of a professional. I guess what allows me to get by without people frowning upon it is because English teachers have reputations as eccentrics." Not all of Wink's décor is playful or humorous, however. Some of the things most dear to him in his office have at once beautiful and moving stories behind them. When I asked him what were the most precious items in his office, he immediately took off of his shelf a medium-size white bunny made entirely out of small conch shells. The bunny was given to him from his good friend, the late Tom Greer, a colleague of Wink's at Ouachita. "This fellow Tom Greer—I nicknamed him the 'White Rabbit' back in the 80s because he was so nervous, he had white hair, he always had a million little different projects going on and he was always late, late for a very important date," Wink said, grinning. After Greer had spent a summer in China, he brought back this white conch shell bunny to Wink. "When he died, I decided I would put it by the clock because of his being late, late for a very important date. And now, there that bunny sits."

On his office, Wink says, "It's mainly a memory. I have a very regulated schedule—almost all of the grading, making quizzes, etc. is done here. But this drudgery is no drudgery," Wink said. "This office is a place where I do my work, but since I love the work that I do, it's a place of joy. The walls are filled with people who have come into my life because of the work I've done here. It's like the walls themselves, they speak about what I do in the office—they're intimate and special to me, yet they've got so much to do with my professional life," Wink explained. "You could genuinely use the old cliché 'o home away from home.'"

It's become apparent after spending more and more time in Wink's office, while perusing through the goulash of hundreds of photos of mostly former students or family which give his walls a certain warmth and vibrant life, that his office is a rich and colorful testament of how not only Wink has played an integral and unforgettable role in countless lives, but other people touch his life equally as strong. Because of his office, Wink may seem like just a strange eccentric to some. But for one man to have so much joy and fond memories and love in one place is rare, and it's a blessing. If this special place to him truly is his home away from home, I can only imagine just how special to him his home is.



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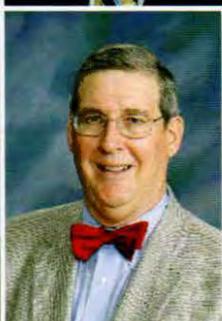
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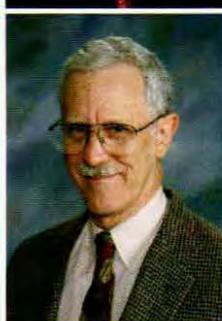
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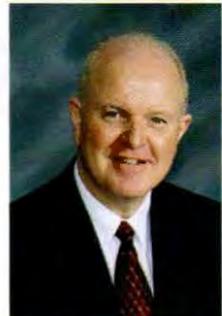
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