

# RESILIENCE

2021

**OUACHITONIAN**

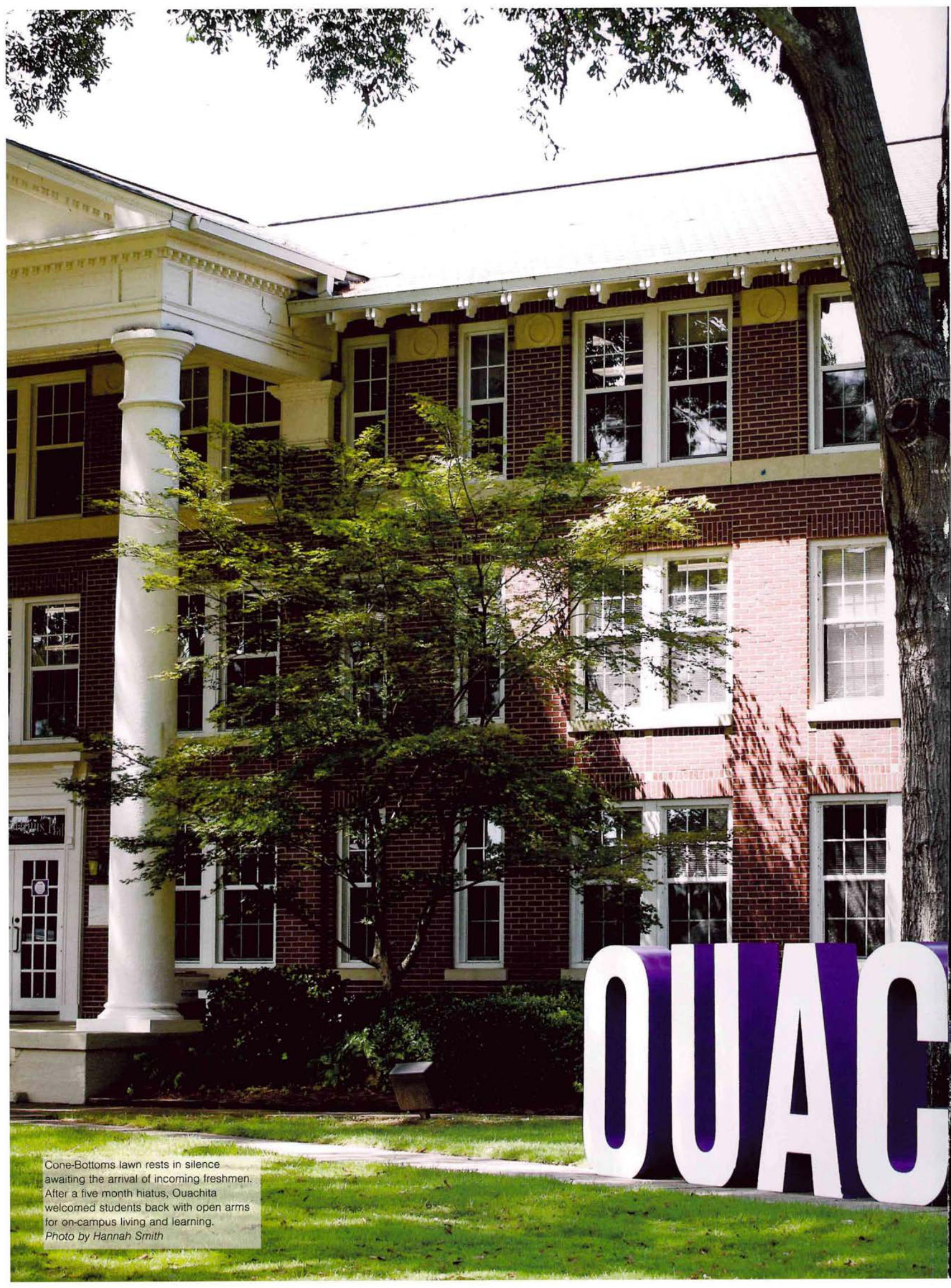
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Kendarious Smith, Jacob Street, and Leon Kalinic paint on Tiger Serve Day. Photo by Abby Blankenship



**2021 Ouachitonian**  
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# RESILIENCE



Cone-Bottoms lawn rests in silence awaiting the arrival of incoming freshmen. After a five month hiatus, Ouachita welcomed students back with open arms for on-campus living and learning.  
*Photo by Hannah Smith*




S

ilence...

Four seconds of silence is all a person needs to feel awkward amidst a social situation. Our Ouachita Baptist University campus experienced five months of deafening silence leading up to the 2020-21 school year. The spring of surprises turned into the summer of silence. Due to COVID-19, everything we knew, everything we took for granted, vanished from our grasp. For Ouachitonians, the silence, at times, seemed unending. We could not hug our friends. We could not hold our aging family members. We could only cling to the hope found in the Lord alone. The hope that every sea can be split, every storm can be subdued, and each passing second can be utilized for God's righteous scheme. One day, decades from now, each one of us will reach for this book on our shelf. It will be a time of remembrance. A time to embrace the trials. Our time, 2020 and 2021, was unlike any other. You made it through an unprecedented school year. You wavered on past the road blocks. Now, and forever, you prove the fight in the human spirit. You prove that light does shine amidst the darkness. You prove your unwavering **RESILIENCE**.



**T**he abnormalities turned the year into a fairy tale. Stories were molded, testimonies were mended, and memories were made. Stories, no matter the magnitude, make life worth living. Every story is written by the Creator of all. Written for a purpose. Purposes that echo in eternity. Every story is worth telling and every good story is worth the listen. So tune your ears, open your eyes, and remember our stories the Lord wrote throughout this unprecedented school year. Stories of snow days and GAC Tournament victories. Stories of flexible adjustment and perseverance. Stories about your brothers and sisters in Christ. Stories about life, love, and our bright shining light. Amidst the successes, though, there are always stories of sadness. Disappointments were of course woven within the year's story. Cliff Harris Stadium was not filled with fans cheering on the Tiger football team. Parents, family members, and friends could not revel at live Tiger Tunes performances. No disappointments, however, measured up to the magnified sadness that manifested throughout the world due to COVID-19 deaths. On Ouachita's campus we fought harder than we ever had to make it through a school year. We persevered and displayed extraordinary **RESILIENCE**. And as a result, let the aforementioned stories commence...



Sophomores Gary Storment and Wes Guerra sled down a snow-graced slope. February was home to a 16-inch snow onslaught increasing student morale.  
*Photo by Hannah Adamson*





Ouachita students play Spike Ball lake side. The Eubanks family has opened their property to student fun for years.  
*Photo by Hannah Adamson*

# STUDENT LIFE

Living on campus, amidst a global pandemic, proved to be a tall task. But through the victories and struggles, the hills and valleys, Ouachita students displayed ***resilience.***



## A summer that required adjustments

# UNEXPECTED

Graduations, internships, and study abroad trips were just a few of the many pursuits that were canceled due to COVID-19. In what might have been an uneasy, fearful, and anxious time to some, Julianne Weaver, a senior biology major from Alexander, focused her efforts toward summer research.

Weaver spent June and July researching glioblastoma cells, the most aggressive form of brain cancer, to find drug treatments for them.

"I got to be [at Ouachita] when many people weren't allowed, doing something I love," Weaver said.

Even though she did not have to receive a coronavirus test before beginning her research, she was required to wear a mask and had routine temperature checks before each day began.

Usually, when summer research is completed, all the students come together to float the Caddo River on inner tubes, but they were unable to do that in the hectic year of 2020.

"Honestly, I was just glad to be able to be here and carry out my research," Weaver said.

For other students, coronavirus meant isolation in a room. Maggie Jackson, a freshman education major from Little Rock, was introduced to that quarantine feeling.

On the eve of the coronavirus tipping point, Jackson's dad began to feel sick. The day before the school shutdown, March 13, her parents hosted a dinner with family friends who had just returned home from Colorado. Jackson's family quickly realized that they might have come into contact with their friends who soon after tested positive. Once Jackson learned they had tested positive, she immediately locked herself in her room. For precautions, Jackson, her parents, and her brother were all administered tests.

"I already had an uneasy feeling, so I drove by myself to get tested," Jackson said.

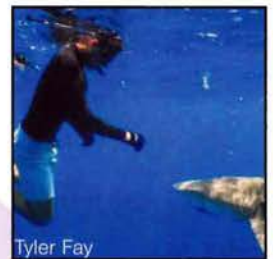
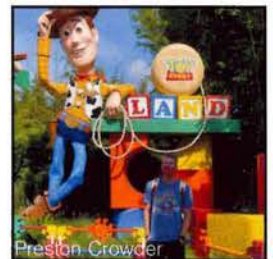
As she presumed, her parents and her brother tested positive, while Jackson's test returned negative. In the weeks to come, Jackson had friends and family bring her food while she stayed in her room.

"While in isolation, I turned 19 and was gifted a ukulele. All I did was play it," Jackson said. "After the 14-day isolation period, I was able to leave my room and my house."

Another unexpected worry because of COVID-19 was if international students would be allowed at universities for the fall semester. Fortunately, Carla Polo, a freshman finance major from Valencia, Spain, was able to come play tennis at Ouachita. Even though she is not able to go home until Thanksgiving, she says she is, "happy to have the opportunity to play tennis in the U.S."

Before leaving for Ouachita, Polo was not able to tell her grandparents goodbye because they are in the high-risk demographic, however her positive outlook did not waiver.

"I had to quarantine in Spain and had to stay away from my family because they were high risk," Polo said. "I've valued my health and time so much more now because in one moment it can all change."



Addie Woods



Blythe Epp, MacKenzie Hall, Jazmyn Parker and Austin Guymon stop at Target before a kamp day. All four worked at Kanakuk Kamps. Photo by Blythe Epp



Seniors Bailey Buettner, Ansley McDonald, Hannah Adair and Ben Adair pose in front of Yellowstone Grand Canyon. The group took a trip to Yellowstone National Park. Photo courtesy of Ansley McDonald



COVID Conduct

Many summer jobs and internships became virtual



Next to a horse and a camper, junior Maggie Pinkston takes a photo during a day at camp. Pinkston has worked at Brookhill for three summers. Photo courtesy of Maggie Pinkston

**LOOKING ACROSS** the landscape, senior Cameron Conner and junior Jacob Brown admire the scenery. The two traveled to Bear Lake at Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo courtesy of Jacob Brown



**LIFTING UP** a trophy, junior Abigail Blankenship prepares for the Women's Match Play Tournament. Blankenship interned at the Arkansas State Golf Association. Photo courtesy of Abigail Blankenship



## reporting **RESILIENCE** elizabeth steely

"The overall pageant with the Miss Lake Dardanelle, Petit Jean Valley, and Sweetheart of Arkansas took place entirely through Zoom. I did all three phases of competition in my living room. My family still watched me like a normal pageant, but they had to make sure not to get in the background of the camera. The experience was completely different than anything I ever, have or probably ever, will do again. It was a ton of fun and much less stressful than a typical pageant. Overall, my experience was awesome. It was definitely unique and something that I never expected to be a part of, but I am so thankful for the way it turned out. I always have to remind myself that God has a perfect plan for me, and I just have to have patience in seeing his timing."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*



With hats in the air, freshmen Scarlet Bates and Emilee Webb celebrate becoming Tigers for Life. The freshman ceremony took place on Benson-Williams Field. Photo by Hannah Smith

**WITH A** concentrated face, freshman Nick Yates plays volleyball with sophomore Wade Wilson. WOW included a lake day with Tacos4Life. Photo by Abby Blankenship



**SOPHOMORE** Emily Dodson shows off her Ouachita spirited glasses. Freshmen and WOW leaders celebrated the new school year with a tailgate at Cliff Harris Stadium. Photo by Abby Blankenship



# reporting **RESILIENCE** mason woolbright and holly shipp

"The changes that COVID-19 brought definitely made WOW different. Being a part of the student panel speaking to incoming freshmen allowed us experienced Ouachitonians the opportunity to give a sneak peak at what new students would have the chance to experience over their next four years." - MW // "WOW steering had to be creative in coming up with new activities for students to connect with one another and be introduced to Ouachita. COVID-19 added another component of planning, but the steering committee truly sought to ensure a fun WOW weekend." - HS  
As told to Gracen Goudy





More-In Da



Lake Day



Tigers for Life



Tacos4Life

## Incoming students still experienced Tiger heritage

# TRADITION

In a semester with many unknowns, the freshman class began their college careers in the midst of a global pandemic. Welcome to Ouachita's World, better known as WOW, offered new students the opportunity to see what their new lives as Tigers would look like. Leaders from the student body volunteered to guide these new students through the weekend.

"The coronavirus pandemic completely changed the way we live our lives but being able to still impact a freshman's life for the better is a huge success," said Cameron Collins, a senior middle school education major from Scurry, Texas.

Students returned to and entered Ouachita's world extremely excited to be out of quarantine. Everyone was grateful to come together safely to make this weekend a possibility.

"I loved being able to encourage new students to get involved and make the best of their college experience. This year created many different challenges that had to be overcome, but the attitudes of my group never wavered," said Collins.

Students gathered in socially distanced groups to worship, play games, and get to know the campus while meeting fellow classmates.

"My favorite parts of WOW were the times of worship. There is no better way of introducing people to Ouachita's world than to show us the way this community loves God and loves people," said Nick Yates, a freshman Christian Studies

major from Hope.

There were several changes this year like masks and physical distancing. Under the leadership of Student Life Director Tim Harrell, the WOW Steering Committee had to be flexible and creative to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Holly Shipp, a senior Christian Studies major from Arlington, Texas was a dynamic leader on the steering committee.

"Being on steering the past couple years has been an honor to participate in," said Shipp. "It was special to facilitate a student's initial welcome to Ouachita, a place so special to me."

The beanie ceremony, a long-standing tradition, was a special moment in which the class of 2024 all gathered together for the first time.

"My biggest worry coming into college was whether or not I would be able to make friends. Thanks to WOW, I have been able to make deep connections with my peers," said Olivia Dixon, a freshman from Arkadelphia.

Students were happily surprised and appreciative when they realized fellowship and community were still possible in a physically distanced campus.

"Being at WOW helped me know I wasn't alone in all the feelings I had about moving to college, which offered such a sweet community to me," Dixon said.

Emily Barton



Surrounded by bubbles, freshman Austin Roots enters the WOW tailgate party. Ice cream sandwiches and Chick-fil-a cookies were provided to celebrate the freshmen.

Photo by Abby Blankenship



Juniors Graycie Bohannon and Sarah Freeze greet freshmen at Frances-Crawford. Since WOW leaders could not help freshmen move in, they directed traffic and held open doors. Photo by Hannah Smith

## The crowning of the queen in unconventional manners

**H**omecoming looked different in 2020, but the one thing that remained the same was Ouachita made sure to celebrate and encourage the women nominated from their respective clubs. In a time of enough unknowns, tropical weather caused the postponement of the first attempt at the crowning ceremony, which led to the homecoming court taking place in an intimate ceremony setting inside the student center.

Kat Allen, a senior psychology and social justice double major from Texarkana, was in charge of planning the homecoming event. Allen also planned a Purple Plaza Party that would have hosted booths for social clubs, the cheerleaders, and the band, all approved by HMAT. However the party was canceled due to the inclement weather.

"We wanted to have an in-person Homecoming Queen crowning and presentation of the court. I felt that canceling the event after getting everyone's hopes up would not be respectful of the ladies on the court, nor of the efforts that everyone put into trying to make the event happen," Allen said.

The weight of the event sat on Allen's shoulders. Since the normal ceremony before the Homecoming football game was impossible due to a canceled fall season, Allen worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the event safe while still being exciting.

This year Ouachita voted for and crowned Homecoming Queen Holly Shipp, a senior Christian Studies major from Arlington, Texas.

"Of course, being crowned Homecoming Queen would make anybody's OBU career, but it was a huge encouragement to me during a strange senior year. It definitely lifted my spirits and truly reminded me of the big blessing that Ouachita is," Shipp said.

"The ceremony this year, though small, was special. Being closer to my best friends felt a lot less formal and made it a lot more comfortable and special. I felt I could celebrate with my friends and classmates right then," Shipp added.

Women earned the opportunity to represent clubs and organizations they loyally dedicate so much of their time and effort toward. Ouachita celebrated these women even amidst a pandemic. Students were enthusiastically cheering on their friends as each woman was introduced on the stage in the student center.

"I was honored, and wasn't expecting to make the court," Jorie Beaumont said, a senior nutrition and dietetics major from Lockport, Ill., who was awarded second runner up. "Overall, it was a great experience and a sense of normalcy for my senior year."

Lindsey Crowder, the first runner up, a senior psychology major from Bentonville, shared her gratitude for being included in the event, and for all the people who made the event special.

"It was an honor to be chosen to stand among an amazing group of women who all love and serve Ouachita in some way," Crowder said.

Ouachita saw the student body come together to support other students in the hectic fall semester. It was a sight that Ouachitonians were often not able to see a lot of due to the cancellation of many special events. But thanks to tireless work, Homecoming still pushed on.

In addition to Shipp, Beaumont, and Crowder, the court included third runner-up Natalie Ward, a senior accounting major from Harrison and fourth runner-up Bethany Crawley, a senior instrumental music education major from Jonesboro.

Emily Barton



H O

Photo by Abby Blankenship



ME COMING

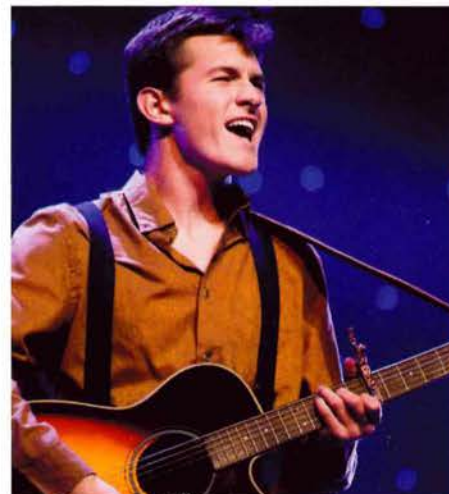
# TUNES



The Tiger Tunes hosts and hostesses perform a dance. Each song and dance was recorded then aired between each show.  
Photo by Hannah Smith

**SPEAKING TO** students, sophomore Karlee Kindy represents Tri Chi at the Tunes watch party. Clubs set up booths around campus on the night of Tunes.  
Photo by Hannah Adamson

**PLAYING HIS** guitar, sophomore Wade Wilson leads a song. The hosts and hostesses still had the same experience, except for a live audience.  
Photo by Hannah Smith



## reporting **RESILIENCE** brady barton

"We were all pretty sad when we learned there would be no way to have an in-person fall Tunes show, but we wanted to find a way to honor the legacy and spirit of Tiger Tunes for campus morale and alumni engagement. The most challenging part of planning Rewind was compiling all the old Tunes footage that we had for alumni to choose their show. The scholarly commons has Tunes shows going all the way back to the early 90's in some cases, so it was my job to watch through every show and see which ones would be viable options for voting."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*





Madeline Martin



ETA



Autumn Romines

## Take a trip back to the classics

# REWIND

When newly revealed guidelines made it clear that a normal Tiger Tunes was not an option in the fall semester, Ouachita went to work trying to find the next best thing. Jon Merryman, director of Alumni Relations and OSF sponsor, brainstormed how to have some form of Tunes when he and Lori Mott, director of Admissions, came up with the idea for Tunes Rewind.

"The main preparation came with trying to keep the hosts and hostesses safe and prepared to be really the only 'normal' part of Tunes," explained Merryman. "They had distanced rehearsals and did a great job staying safe to be able to finish the recording."

Wade Wilson, a sophomore Christian Studies major from Springdale, was one of the hosts for the newly revised Tiger Tunes. All of their performances were filmed in advance, meaning they were able to watch as the student body viewed the premier in real time.

"I was kind of nervous when I watched it at first because I was nit picking myself and thought I looked or sounded weird," said Wilson. "When the watch party started, everyone was cheering and really just having fun, so all that worry just left my mind."

One of the ways Ouachita attempted to make this modified semester feel more normal was by hosting a campus watch party. Social clubs set up booths with snacks and games, Sodexo catered dinner, and a large screen was set up on the lawn of Cone Bottoms to allow for everyone to watch the livestream together. Students from Dr. Rebecca Jones'

Event Planning class were tasked with planning the event alongside Tim Harrell, director of Student Life, and paired up with members of the Ouachita Student Foundation to see it come to completion.

The main purpose of this event, aside from building community in the midst of an odd time, was to raise funds for OSF's annual student scholarships. Instead of the normal judging coupled with a people's choice award, spectators were encouraged to make donations toward their favorite group competing that would help in determining their place in the contest. The ultimate winner of Tiger Tunes Rewind was decided by the club with the most donations at the close of the final show. The inaugural Rewind champions were the Women of EEE with their 2016 show, Toy Soldiers.

Mason Woolbright, a senior business major from Benton and the President of OSF, was overwhelmed with gratitude as he saw the donations roll in throughout the night.

"Setting our goal at \$10,000—a number we weren't sure we would meet—the Ouachita community supported us more than we could have ever expected with over \$60,000 in gifts, silent auction purchases, and merchandise," said Woolbright.

"This goodwill and spirit of Tiger Tunes allowed students to stay at Ouachita; many of whom have testified that without the OSF scholarship, their return to OBU was unlikely," Woolbright added.

Addie Woods and Anna Roussel



Seniors Maddie Bayer, Katherine Fehlman, Gracen Seabaugh and Brooke Snyder sit on a picnic blanket waiting for Tunes to begin. The Women of EEE hosted a watch party. Photo by Abby Blankenship



Senior Molly Kennedy is recorded while singing a tune. The hosts and hostesses spent two days recording songs. Photo by Hannah Smith





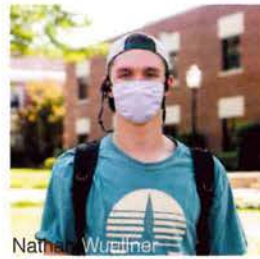
Paige Felt



Levi Dade



Claire Phillips



Nathaniel Wurmlinger



Jazmyrn Parker

## Hand in hand through a pandemic, metaphorically

# PREVENTION

In March of 2020, Ouachita students were sent home with no clear time line of when they might return to campus. It was in April that Dr. Sells, along with other university staff, made the decision to return to on-campus learning in the fall. Aided by a 600-item checklist for navigating college in a pandemic, Ouachita's faculty and staff began to prepare a safe living and learning environment for the 2020-21 academic year.

"What drove the decision to attempt in-person classes was that we believe the best way to have the traditional Ouachita undergraduate education experience is in person," Sells explained. "There were other universities who were also making that decision and we had some confidence that by learning from one another, we could do this as well."

**"We went this whole year without knowing how long we would be able to stay on campus, so we had to make the most of our time and be flexible with the circumstances put in front of us."**

**- Luke Falco**

Entering college as a freshman during the pandemic changed some expectations for Luke Falco, a freshman communications and sociology double major from Bismarck. Making friends was challenging in this context, and Falco was even quarantined at one point. Finding new ways to hang out with people by spending time outside or hosting friends in dorm rooms helped him to find those he connected with well and be more intentional in friendships as a result.

"A lesson that COVID taught me was that I have to be ready to adapt to change," Falco said. "We went this whole year without knowing how long we would be able to stay on campus, so we had to make the most of our time and be flexible with the circumstances put in front of us."

The year also presented challenges for upperclassmen who experienced Ouachita in a completely new context. With annual traditions such as Tiger Tunes and traditional rush being prevented due to the inability to gather in large groups, students, such as Jenna Whitlow, a senior studio art and history major from Jacksonville, Fla., found themselves disappointed. Without the normal social outlets available, Whitlow found new ways to make the most of her last year by focusing more on small gatherings and appreciating the time left with close friends.

"I'm so grateful for my apartment because I got to have small gatherings there with my good friend group," Whitlow explained. "My close friendships became so important this year and I learned to rely on my people to get through such stressful times."

Through improvised plans and creativity from all areas of campus life, Ouachita completed a full in-person year in the midst of a global pandemic. Out of the entire campus including students, faculty and staff, 2,755 tests were administered, resulting in only 339 total cases of COVID-19. Dr. Sells felt that the year's success was a result of the diligence of the staff to prepare and the willingness of the students to cooperate.

"When we could've panicked, we persevered," Sells said. "It would've been easy to panic, but those involved in planning knew what was likely to happen and were confident we could handle it because of all our preparation and protocols."

Anna Rousset

mar 2020

aug 2020

oct 2020

dec 2020

jan 2021

Ouachita faculty, staff, and students were all sent away from campus due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States.

Ouachita reopened for on campus living and learning. Countless guidelines and parameters were put in place in order to maintain safety.

As cases across the country began to rise, Ouachitians also felt the impact as positive cases and quarantines reached a peak.

Students left campus to return home for a long winter's break and returning to campus was certainly doubted by several.

Ouachita faculty and staff began to receive vaccines. An estimated 80-85% of faculty and staff received the shot.



Kinley Ritter



Brittney Durr



Tyson Tatum



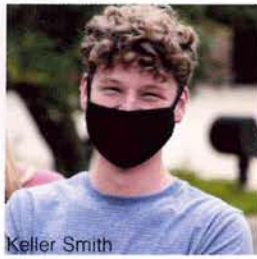
Sarah Collins



Vanessa Vives



Holly Shipp



Keller Smith



Kavia Brown



Nicholas Herrington



Isabella Wood



Photo by Wesley Kluck

# COVID TESTING CENTER

TESTS ADMINISTERED  
**2,755**

CUMULATIVE POSITIVE CASES  
**339**

TESTING CENTER POSITIVITY RATE  
**7.2%**

VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS  
**≈75%**



## reporting RESILIENCE



The Lady Tigers basketball team battled through intense COVID-19 obstacles throughout the entire season. The year began with several team members testing positive resulting in the cancellation of the team's first six contests. Two weeks later, just as the season was expected to tip off, more positive test results canceled five more games. In a span of just three weeks, beginning on Feb. 6, the Lady Tigers rattled off four wins in eight contests and captured the program's first GAC Tournament victory since 2012.

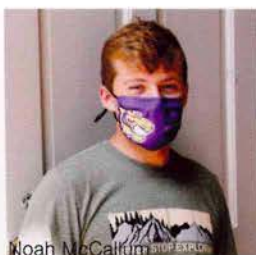
As told by Ben Swanger

**mar 2021**   **apr 2021**   **may 2021**

As vaccines became more readily available, Quachita students were able to receive the shot administered on campus. Around 50-55% of the student body were given the shot.

Clark County's COVID-19 count dropped to zero. The spread of the virus began to dwindle as more people received the vaccine.

Quachita's school year ended successfully as outdoor and maskless large group gatherings returned.



Noah McCallum



Bailey Case



Olivia Yarbrough



Dr. Ben Sells



Raegan Pyle



Deep in the mud, sophomore Karigan Clay competes in Mud Madness. Each team member had to complete the slippery course. Photo by Abby Blankenship

**HANDS GRIPPED** onto the pole, senior Keller Smith plays human foosball with his team. Human foosball was set up as a bracket system for the teams to compete. Photo by Abby Blankenship

**SORTING THROUGH** shirts, juniors Kate Vernon and Mary Madison Tolbert prepare to check in teams. Teams' first activity was Trek, which was spread across campus. Photo by Abby Blankenship



## reporting **RESILIENCE** becca janke

"My job, along with Kate Vernon and Mary Madison Tolbert, was titled Traks Spirit Squad. We were tasked with keeping energy high throughout the day of events, and encouraging Traks teams who exemplified a great Traks spirit. We rewarded team players 'general Traks hype' with stickers, which acted as a type of point system throughout the day. I loved seeing the OSF and student community come together for a fun weekend amidst the weird hurdles and guidelines set in place. It's no secret that the weather was frigid and the effort to keep things COVID-safe was tedious at times, but to see a group look beyond the issues and see the purpose behind Traks is refreshing and encouraging."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*





Pigskin Pass



Slip 'N Slide



Mud Madness



Tube Turbo

## A race to the podium

# EXHILARATING

Tiger Traks is a long-standing tradition that has been on Ouachita's campus for over 45 years. What started as a fun way to connect the student body blossomed into a weekend extravaganza. Normally the event would be held over the course of two days in the spring semester. Traks was forced to look a little different this year.

"I am the Special Events co-chair for OSF, which means I am Tiger Traks assistant director," said Maddie Bailey, a senior political science major from Bauxite. "Brady Barton is this year's director, so I get to lead and serve under her before directing next year."

Ouachita's Student Foundation did not let the restrictions weigh them down as they pushed through rigorous planning to make the experience as fun as possible.

"As a part of the spirit squad my job was to keep the energy up and motivate people throughout the day," said Kate Vernon, a Junior Elementary Education major from El Dorado, "Our job was to bring joy and make people smile. We had glitter, wigs, bows, silly string and more to keep everyone's spirits up."

It was important that OSF gave freshmen an opportunity to get more involved at Ouachita. Because of COVID-19, Traks was only one day as Ouachita wanted to minimize the amount of coronavirus exposure.

"My favorite part of Traks was probably the scavenger hunt. It was about deciding who had what strengths and

which challenge they should do. I also just enjoyed the competitiveness and teamwork involved in it," said Sloane Precure, a senior biology and psychology major from Canyon, Texas.

Tiger Traks was one tradition we could have this school year that looked close to normal. Precure was captain of her team, the Hermit Crabs, who won first place in the competition.

"My team got the spirit award and we were just focused on being encouraging and cheering all the time, for everyone," said Precure. "It was awesome to be hyped up that a group of people I only met a few days before."

COVID-19 did not shut down our campus doors in the fall, but rather pushed the student body to get more creative with safe ways to fellowship and get involved in the community.

"It was awesome to win Traks. I had no expectation to win, I was just doing it for fun, it was nice getting to know new people," said Precure.

Bringing together that many people to raise money for scholarships is something often hard to do on bigger campuses. The community at Ouachita is rarely found on larger campuses.

"Moving Traks to the fall gave students something fun to do this semester. This year has not consisted of many typical Ouachita traditions," said Vernon.

Emily Barton



Juniors Able Kusaloka and James Renshaw work the mud Traks games. OSF workers were required to get in the mud to supervise the event. Photo by Abby Blankenship



Racing around the Village Circle, freshman Madison Melcher competes in Tiger Traks. The tricycles are a Tiger Traks staple. Photo by Abby Blankenship

## A month-long party

# FESTIVITY

A normal week-long party filled with Ouachita women gaining courage to ask the Ouachita men to each club's TWIRP (The Woman Is Required To Pay) event turned into a full month of parties, thanks to constant change due to COVID-19.

Throughout the month of October, each female club held its event: Chi Mu's Mask-Querade, Tri Chi 80's Festival, EEE FiftEEEs Fair, Chi Delta's Carnival, Gamma Phi's Angels in the Outfield, and Christian Ministries' Barn Bash.

Seth Hunter, a freshman psychology major from Russellville, was able to experience his first year of attending TWIRP dances.

"I went to the masquerade, 50's night, and Barn Bash. Fifty's Night was my favorite. There was a lot to do and there were lots of good places to take pictures, a lot of fun games, the Coke float was nice, and the show they put on was great too," Hunter said.

The EEEs had to change their normal plan of having a live show due to COVID-19 regulations. Sophomore Anna Hampson, a communications and media major from Little Rock, was asked to help with the dance. The EEEs decided to record their audio beforehand, rather than singing live, and danced along to the tune.

"My job was choreography. I made up half the dances, sent videos of me teaching it and explaining the moves, to the girls. I loved getting to teach the girls moves and help them out, and I loved getting to perform in front of all the freshmen and give them a warm welcome," Hampson said.

The Tri Chi's had to re-adjust their plans as well. They held their dance at the football indoor facility instead of their normal spot, the Tiger Den. Junior Nick Hazlet, an engineering major from Greenville, Texas, and also a Tri Chi beau, helped put together Tri Chi's dance.

"I was the loud voice for trivia and costume contests or when they needed people's attention," Hazlet said. "My favorite part was definitely the people. They made the time being there so much fun by all their dancing, joy, and excitement."

Toward the end of the month of October, Campus Ministries put on Barn Bash in front of Cone-Bottoms, where there was line dancing, barbecue, and 2020 graduate Clay Mobley came back to sing and showcase his deep, country twang. Barn Bash had never been held no campus, but CM decided that hosting the event outside on campus would be the safest option. Sophomore Gracie Vaughn from Little Rock, an elementary education major, helped teach line dances to the guests.

"This year we couldn't do square dancing like before," Vaughn said. "We got our [line dancing] songs and practiced teaching them to each other to make sure we knew how to explain them. One of them we even wrote part of it to make it more fun and we couldn't all go to the big field, but it was still an absolute blast."



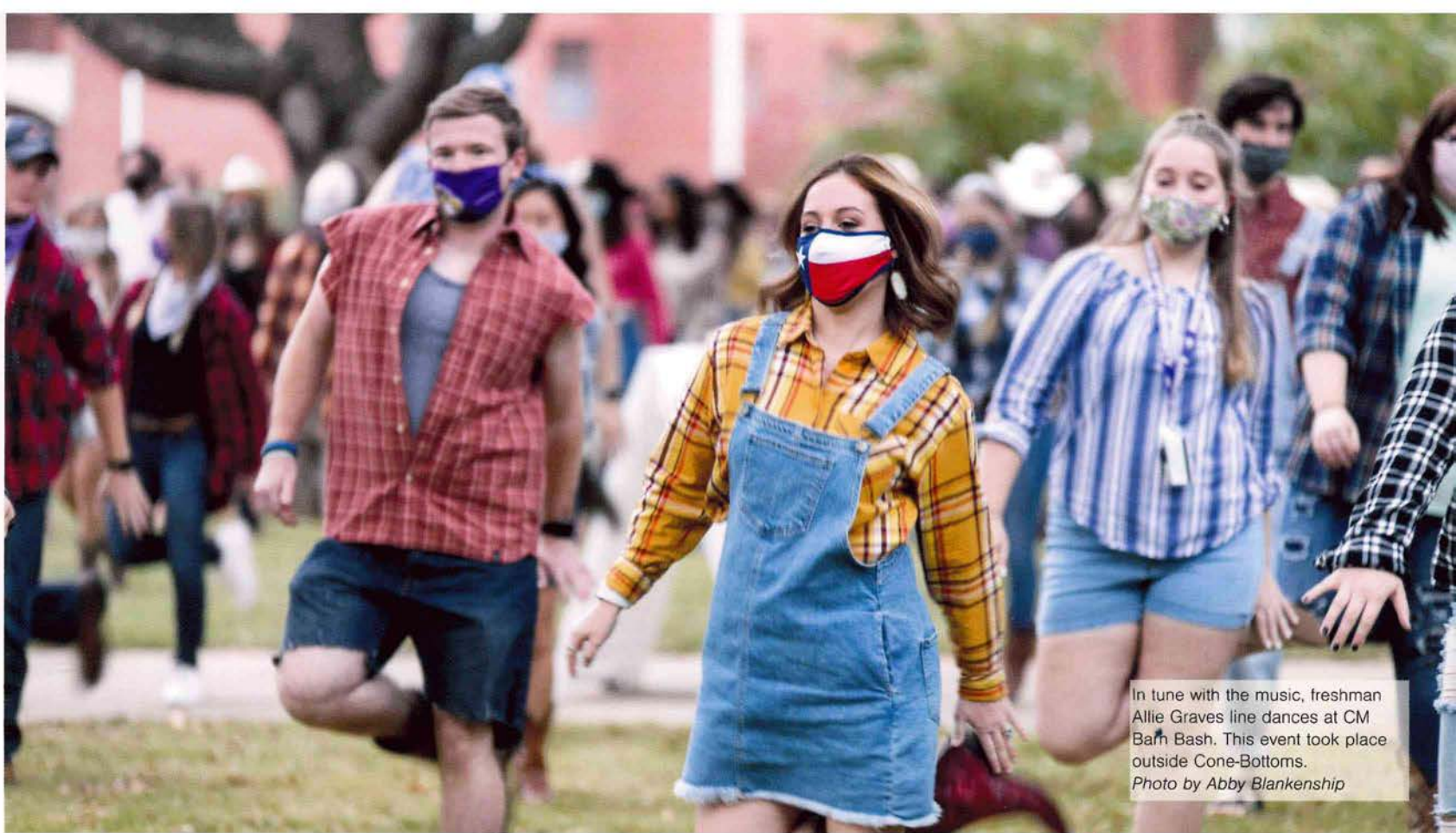
Meredith Medford



Senior Rachel David plays Connect Four at Chi Mu's masquerade. This TWIRP night took place outside in the middle of campus. *Photo by Hannah Adamson*



The Women of EEE PC '20 performs outside Cliff Harris Stadium at their 50's Night TWIRP. The lyrics of the song were pre-recorded and played while they danced live. *Photo by Abby Blankenship*



In tune with the music, freshman Allie Graves line dances at CM Barn Bash. This event took place outside Cone-Bottoms.  
Photo by Abby Blankenship

**DRESSED IN** 80's gear, sophomore Jack Webb and freshman Logan Talley pose for a photo at Tri Chi TWIRP. This event took place inside the football field house.  
Photo by Callie Rogers



**MARKING A** student's hand, sophomore Alex Henry works the ticket booth at Chi Delta's Carnival. Students dressed up in 70's attire for the Chi Delta party.  
Photo by Abby Blankenship



## reporting **RESILIENCE** blythe epp

"I got the opportunity this year to teach the 'Footloose' and 'Boot Scootin' Boogie' line dance at Barn Bash put on by Christian Ministries. I loved how Barn Bash was still just as fun, if not more fun, as last year! I think the incorporation of line dances was a fun way to still be COVID safe, but also keep the tradition of dancing all night long. It seemed like people really enjoyed it and left wanting more. Despite the changes, Ouachita was still the same Lord-loving, upbeat, encouraging place and Barn Bash really brought that to the surface. TWIRP remains one of the best traditions here, not because of the activities that we do, but the people we get to do them with."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*



**Our world grew farther apart, but from a distance, we thrived.**

**O**n March 12, 2020, Ouachita students were told that their semester was coming to an abrupt end. The fast-spreading coronavirus pandemic forced everyone to go home and begin a new chapter of life that utilized Zoom and online assignments.

“I remember waiting for the e-mail that was going to send us home,” said Grace Oliver, a senior communications science and disorders major from Little Rock. “Not knowing what was going to happen was unsettling and leaving my friends was really sad, but I think Ouachita did a good job of handling the situation.”

During the extended break and summer

vacation, students were restricted from travel, quarantined in their homes, and introduced to a new normal. Shaking hands was no longer the norm, you had to wear a mask in public, and family walks became a daily outlet to get out of the house.

Luckily for Ouachita students, the administration began working day in and day out to find a way to bring students back to campus in the fall.

“It had been the most work I had ever done in my life,” said Dr. Wesley Kluck, Vice President of Student Development and university physician. “Around February, we started working on bringing students back even before we had to make those tough decisions in March.”

After returning to school, students



Photo by Abby Blankenship

remained a safe six-foot distance from one another, attended class in spaced out rooms like Walker Conference Center and Jones Performing Arts Center, and understood the necessity to cancel or postpone normal fall events. Around campus, there were hundreds of sanitation stations installed for the

**“Quarantine definitely was not the most fun experience.”**

**- Cameron Conner**

Irby, a sophomore engineering physics major from Arkadelphia.

As students learned to adapt, Dr. Kluck reminded everyone that, “implementing social distancing and wearing a mask is what allows us to stay on campus

safety of students, along with signs establishing the allowed number of people in certain areas and rooms.

“All the rules put in place are necessary for us to be safe, but I miss all of the fun events we’d have every fall,” said Landen

in Arkadelphia.”

The CDC guidelines did not require every student coming back to school to be tested for COVID-19, but those who did test positive or were in close contact with those positive students were required to be quarantined.

“Students with negative-tests had to quarantine in their rooms,” Dr. Kluck said. “So, we brought meals to these students, ran their errands and did everything we could to assist them.”

“Quarantine definitely wasn’t the most fun experience but it kept us on campus all semester, so be it,” said Cameron Conner, a senior music industry major from Little Rock.

Though the 2020-2021 school year was not particularly the year most students imagined, it will definitely be a year we will never forget.

Madison Cresswell

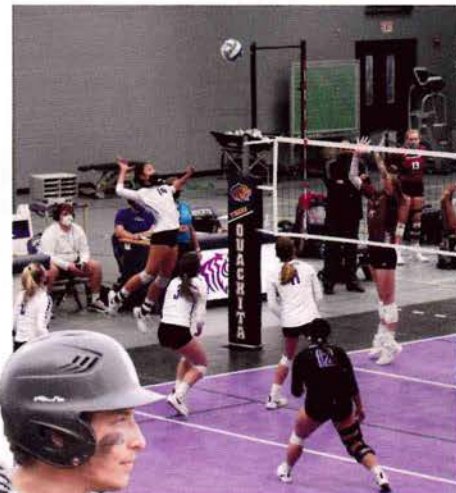




Sophomore Heather Brown rounds the bases at the BOTR softball game. The team went 1-2 against Henderson.  
 Photo by Callie Rogers

**LOOKING AHEAD**, sophomore Makayla Miller heads to the basket. The BOTR games had few fans in attendance due to COVID-19 regulations.  
 Photo by Hannah Smith

**FRESHMAN EJ** Day jumps up to set the ball in a home match. The volleyball team went 1-1 with their hometown rivals.  
 Photo by Abby Blankenship

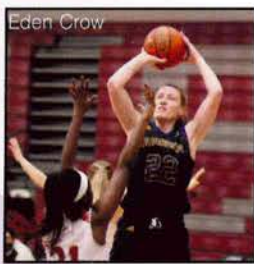


## reporting **RESILIENCE:** louis steen

"This year's Battle of the Ravine was a high scoring game with some mistakes that we fixed for future games. Henderson was right in front of us in the rankings so it was a great rivalry weekend. COVID-19 has made things a little different with less of a locker room life and wearing masks when needed, but all together baseball has felt like my one escape back to the normal life I knew before COVID-19. I was extremely excited to play this year especially since there was a lot of uncertainty. I am thankful to have the opportunity to play, and it showed me how quickly it can be taken away."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*

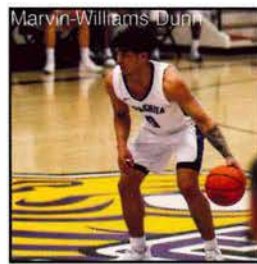




Eden Crow



Rebecca Holliman



Marvin-Williams Dunn



Lilia Clark

## The battle for bragging rights

# RIVALRY

The Battle of the Ravine between Ouachita Baptist and Henderson State has always been one of the biggest small-school rivalries in all of college football, but it is also an important rivalry for all of the sports on Ouachita's campus. Being across the street from one another, the Tigers and the Reddies share a unique hometown rivalry.

"Our other opponents we see once, maybe twice a year, just to play a match before we go our separate ways," said tennis player Claire Phillips, a senior business marketing and strategic communications major from Midlothian, Texas. "With Henderson though, these are the people we share a town with, we see them at El P, Wal-Mart, or even in some of the same classes as us. I mean, we can even see their courts from ours. This only adds to the excitement that comes with Battle of the Ravine because whoever comes out on top becomes the talk of the town for the next year."

Preparing for the competition against Henderson was not only a physical challenge but also a mental challenge full of personal goals. The thrill of playing a hometown rival creates a unique and unforgettable atmosphere that gives the teams bigger motivation to work harder and come out on top.

"The atmosphere at a Battle of the Ravine game is always through the roof. There are always lots of fans from both schools who attend and make it an incredible experience. It feels just like a rivalry between two SEC schools. Both schools thrive off of the rivalry, and it pushes us each time

we play. It's like it gives you an extra drive or determination to win at any given cost," Simmons Sowell, a senior baseball player and kinesiology major from Barr, Miss., said.

This year's Battle of the Ravine competitions helped to restore some life and energy back into the Ouachita campus and to the teams after losing a full semester of sporting events.

"The Battle of the Ravine meet we held was something that definitely brought back some of that energy we had lost not competing the whole first semester," said swimmer Jack Connor, a junior history major from Gunter, Texas. The energy we brought to the meet helped us bounce back and almost helped us learn how to compete again. It was fun to watch and see people get excited through swimming and cheering even if it wasn't our team's best performance."

Each team always comes prepared for a hard-fought battle and in search of a hopeful victory.

"When we beat Henderson, it was like winning the lottery because we were so hyped up and filled with joy," Parker Smith, a freshman basketball player and early childhood education and kinesiology major from Searcy, said.

No matter the sport or the outcome of the matchup, the Battle of the Ravine, is and will always be, an exciting tradition for the community and the schools.

Kathryn Totty



Senior Maija Gertsone and junior Jessi Bennett discuss strategy during the game at Henderson. As leaders on the team, the girls knew the importance of the BOTR competition. Photo by Thomas Donley



The Tiger bench celebrates junior Ma'Darius Hobson's dunk. The Henderson and Ouachita rivalry was strong on the basketball court. Photo by Thomas Donley

Serving our city with ready hands and open hearts

# VOLUNTEER

Once a semester the Elrod Centers hosts the 24-year tradition, Tiger Serve Day. In 1997, the day was a scheduled event to serve the city of Arkadelphia, in traditional ways. The event took a different turn, though, after a tornado swept through parts Arkadelphia and left neighborhoods and businesses destroyed. Tiger Serve Day arrived early as Ouachita students and faculty came together to clean-up and serve the heart-broken community the tornado left behind.

This year's fall Tiger Serve Days was unique much like the first day. Although there was no tornado, there was a pandemic. The day was adapted to follow and comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Masks were worn, social distancing was in place, and trash pickup replaced visiting homes. Despite the adaptations, the heart behind the day remained the same.

"I love everything about this day," said Judy Duvall, associate director of the Elrod Center. "Tiger Serve Day is when our campus gets to live out our Christian faith in very practical ways; both practically and relationally. We get to move outside our bubble and see places and people that we wouldn't have seen and genuinely make a difference. It provides an impetus for many of our students to discover the joy of serving that ignites a fire to serve in other ways long after the day is over."

When spring semester rolled around and restrictions began to lift, the day returned to what it was pre-pandemic. Volunteers were able to gather for breakfast and lunch, masks were not worn outside, and teams were able to safely visit homes.

When reflecting on spring semester, Kady Johnson, sophomore from Mountain View said, "It was nice, second semester, to have the restrictions lifted and have a normal Tiger Serve Day. It allowed us to spend more time in community and grow more relationships as we served Arkadelphia."

The day was planned by 33 student leaders. Six weeks leading up to the big event, the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team met to plan the details. The team made sure volunteers were signed up, tools were in stock, and posters were made.

Jacob Brown, a junior from Carrollton, Texas, served on the Leadership Team. The team taught him the importance of serving others wherever he is.

"I learned that it is important to be engaged with the community you are in," Brown said. "That can go as far as being willing to have conversations with those who are older, they can be beneficial to your life. We are called to minister to the elderly and show them Christ in those conversations and acts of service."

Tiger Serve Day could not happen without the volunteers. They directly impacted those whom they serve as they are the hands and feet of Jesus, truly servants of Him.

Keaton Goodrum, a junior from Arkadelphia, said that serving allowed him to do the Lord's work.

"Jesus did a lot of things, and one of those was help people and perform miracles. To be able to go out and serve in the name of Jesus is a neat aspect of Tiger Serve Day. He is doing His work through us," Goodrum said.

Tiger Serve Day was far more than a day of service, it was a day of bringing hope to a community in need.

"Those served are especially touched by the kindness and care given on this day. Driving around town after the day you will notice a freshly painted school, clean streets, painted guard rails and flowers planted by the entrance to our city. Tiger Serve Day brings hope to our city and reminds the residents that there are those that care and want to make a difference. Volunteers are reminding that there is more to life than living for oneself. That to give their lives away is the best way to live," Duvall said.

Mackenzie Hall



Elythe Epp



Scott Duvall



Trash Pick Up



Josiah Elm



The men's basketball Tiger Serve Day team works together to repaint a gate. Several teams did maintenance work across campus. Photo by Hannah Smith



Senior Gregory Junior picks up his supplies for his Tiger Serve Day team. The majority of teams collected trash on popular Arkadelphia streets. Photo by Levi Dade



Sorting through flowers, sophomore Ana Oelenberger serves by gardening. Different organizations and groups formed teams together.  
Photo by Hannah Adamson

**UP ON** a ladder, junior Kennedy Stringfellow cleans out gutters. Teams served at local houses within the community.  
Photo by Abby Blankenship



**TEAM LEADERS** pick up supplies to distribute to their group. Tiger Serve Day leadership team collected specific supplies for each team.  
Abby Blankenship



## reporting **RESILIENCE:** kayla whittington

"I think something challenging this year has been changing how we do things because of COVID-19. Normally, most teams are going to people's homes in the community. This year, we really had to change that. Perhaps the big lesson learned here is that there is always some capacity in which we can be serving others and loving people well, but we have to be willing to change how we have done things and adapt. For me, getting to serve on TSD team under Judy Duvall and Ian Cosh is one of the greatest privileges. The biggest thing though, is getting to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I don't think there is anything more important than loving and serving others in our community!"

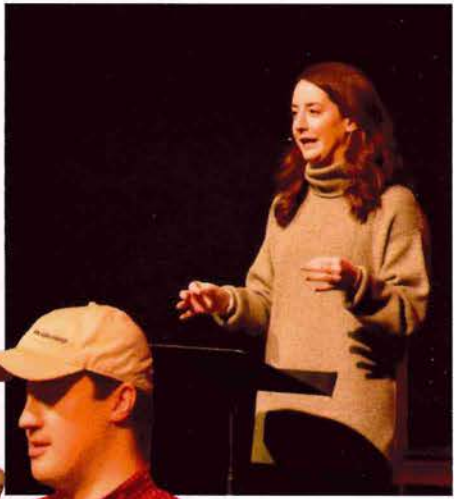
*As told to Gracen Goudy*



Senior Bri Penn leads worship during one of the CFW worship nights. Each night included a guest speaker.  
Photo by Hannah Adamson

**AFTER A** time of worship, speaker Justin Bilson shares a touching message. Bilson was the speaker to kick off the week and introduce the theme "One on One."  
Photo by Hannah Adamson

**DURING A** worship night, Mary Farley shares a message on the JPAC stage. Farley serves as a graduate counseling intern as she is pursuing her masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.  
Photo by Hannah Adamson

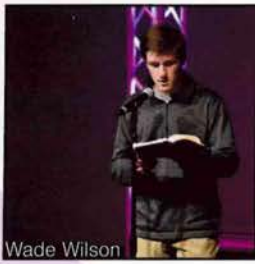


# reporting **RESILIENCE:** ben lewis

"While on the CFW leadership team I gave one of the morning devotionals, introduced the Refuge speakers, and volunteered at several of the events. The team was full of creative people, and I was lucky to be a part of it. We began having Zoom meetings as early as September and October to begin planning. By November, we decided on a theme to emphasize relationships, which is something the pandemic affected. One challenge we faced was the classes in JPAC during the day when we would normally have worship. Due to this, we moved the worship to the evening like Refuge, and we had breakout sessions over Zoom. I know looking back after I graduate, CFW will always be a favorite memory."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*





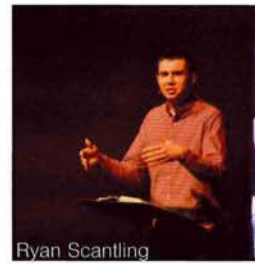
Wade Wilson



Katie Bonge



Buck McKnight



Ryan Scantling

## Prioritizing one-on-one time with Christ

# INDIVIDUAL

Christian Focus Week is a staple event on Ouachita's campus every year. The theme for 2021 was One on One. The mission set forth throughout the week was to equip students, faculty, and staff to be more faithful disciples of Christ. Though 2021's CFW event was a little different due to COVID-19, it did not stop the work of God's hands in the hearts of people.

Student leader Faith Moore, a senior political science major from Rogers, defined Christian Focus Week as a week of both collective and individual growth in Christ.

"The week provided a time for students, regardless of the current state of their spiritual journey, to learn new ways to encounter God, and to do so with their fellow students, thereby strengthening individual relationships with the Lord while also lifting up the community. Since I first experienced CFW my freshman year, I have always thought that I would enjoy leading in this area. I became inspired to take on this position not because of any specific experience, but just because of what the week actually is and the role that it plays on campus."

Wade Wilson, a Christian studies major from Springdale and fellow student leader, explained that his favorite part of this year's CFW was being a part of the Art and Worship event.

"During Art and Worship, one can do an art project while they listen to a live worship band, talk to friends, or just sit in

silence. It's a really chill time where someone can leave the schoolwork and come and worship God however they want to," Wilson said.

Wilson reminisced that he needed to be reminded of prayer in leadership.

"I think it's easy to get caught up in helping plan CFW and volunteering that you forget about prayerfully trusting God to work in hearts and minds," he said.

One of this year's speakers, Hannah Pilcher, the Resident Director for Francis Crawford Hall, reflected on her CFW experience as a staff member.

"I was reminded throughout the week that it is so often in the small moments, at the most unexpected times, when Christ encounters us," Pilcher shared. "My favorite memory was watching my best friend speak during one of the main worship sessions. We went to college together and attended many CFW events as students, so it was special to see her using her gifts as she shared about encountering Jesus."

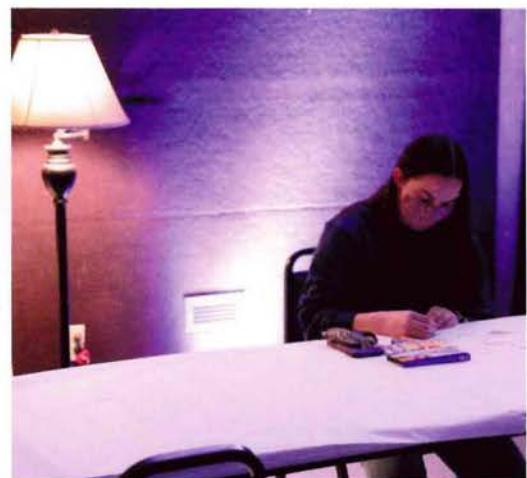
Freshman Gracee Drake, a kinesiology major from Dallas, Texas, explained, "I grew spiritually during the worship break out session and now realize when worship songs are God-centered versus when they are self-centered."

Despite the odd year, Christian Focus Week pushed on and the result was growth within the hearts of many.

Angela Webb



Junior Lucie Shepherd leads worship on the JPAC stage. Worship was held four nights of the week. Photo by Levi Dade



Junior Kaitlyn Campbell takes part in Art and Worship in the Tiger Den. A Spotify playlist and art supplies were provided for students to worship and create on their own. Photo by Levi Dade

## A trip into the great outdoors

# ACTIVITY

Despite the pandemic, ReLife was one of Ouachita's staples on campus. ReLife was responsible for outdoor events, intramurals, the climbing center, and much more. Though ReLife had been affected by the coronavirus, the program had adapted to the newly made changes, such as wearing masks and social distancing.

Shane Seaton, the director of ReLife, has served as director since August of 2015. Seaton took the position as director because of his calling.

"I connected well with the college students and this position combined my passion of using recreation to help people grow with a group of people I enjoyed working with," Seaton said. "Ouachita ReLife gives students an opportunity to be physically active through intramurals, outdoor recreation, and fitness. However, I believe that the benefits go beyond just physical activity. Through these activities students learn about themselves and grow closer to God and others in the Ouachita community."

Seaton shared that the pandemic has greatly affected normal operations.

"COVID-19 has greatly affected ReLife's operations. Regarding intramurals, we have been limited on the number of traditional sports we can host. Our outdoor recreation events have been limited by transportation and food service," he said.

Seaton described that ReLife had overcome COVID-19 because of extreme flexibility.

"We have had to adapt and be creative with our choice of activities. Our entire department, from our student workers to our assistant director and director, has given input and been willing to change our perception of what ReLife looks like. It looks a little bit different, but we have still provided students with opportunities to be active and engage with one another. Some events we had to cancel completely, but others we just had to change. For instance, the Rockfest Climbing Competition was a month-long instead of one day because we could not put that many people in the CRAG."

Kiki Swanson, a freshman major in nutrition and dietetics from Spring Branch, Texas, had briefly worked in the CRAG.

"Never have I felt closer to the Lord or seen similarities of the Lord than when I am outside, enjoying His creation," Swanson said. "I love how ReLife allows us, as students, to slow down, get outside, and just truly enjoy all that He has created for our pleasure."

Josiah Elmore, a senior education major from Arkadelphia, served as a referee for ReLife events. Elmore shared that his favorite ReLife event from this year was the archery tournament.

"Archery is a fun sport that most people can pick up," Elmore said.

Hannah Martin, a junior double major in psychology and business management from Conway, has participated in many intramurals and outdoor events.

"ReLife has brought me many opportunities to create a fun environment for my friend group and helped us create that community outside of school," Martin said.



Lake Day



Basketball



Yoga



Rock Climbing

Angela Webb



Freshman Scarlett Bates relaxes while taking part in ReLife's afternoon yoga. Students gathered outside the Village Circle to take lessons. Photo by Abby Blankenship



Assistant director of ReLife Matthew Cook explains the course for the disc golf tournament. Teams of four competed against one another for bragging rights. Photo by William Read



**COVID Conduct**

New activities and competitions were introduced



Freshmen Gracee Drake and Jenne Wilson roast hot dogs over a fire. RecLife hosted several outdoor events at the Eubanks' pond.  
Photo by Sarah Dean

**FOLLOWING THROUGH** on his throw, sophomore Ethan Marshall releases his disc. Marshall competed with a team representing his social club, Eta Alpha Omega.  
Photo by William Read



**COMPLETING HIS** throw, junior Andrew Boatman watches his disc fly. Boatman competed on a team consisting of four BETA BETA brothers.  
Photo by William Read




## reporting **RESILIENCE:** trexler proffitt

"RecLife was different this year, for one, because we had different sports than usual. No football, soccer, or basketball, but instead foosball, kickball and archery. Even though we had to wear masks and be mindful of distancing, the RecLife team did a good job of doing as much as they could, and the new games were awesome to play. I did foosball, kickball men's league with Eta, as well as archery and disc golf. I really enjoyed being able to get out and be active, as well as getting to interact and still be around other people was nice. Of course winning the foosball league was awesome as well!"

*As told to Gracen Goudy*

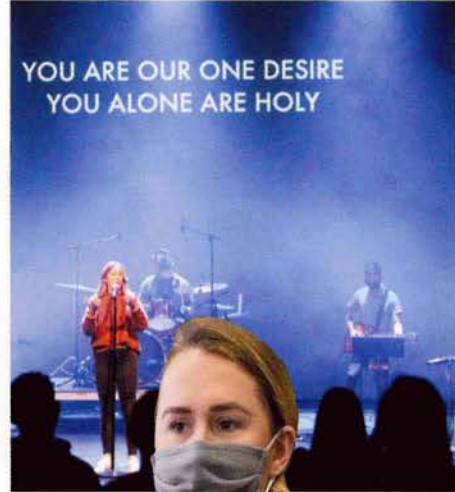




Juniors Carlee and Caleb West share their experiences with the Elrod Center at the Elrod Center Foundation meeting. The couple spoke at Noonday during Healthy Relationships Week, also.  
Photo by Abby Blankenship

**OPENING UP** for Refuge, sophomore Kinley Ritter speaks on unreached mission groups. Ritter served on Campus Ministries in the area of missions.  
Photo by Sarah Dean

**LEADING THE** crowd in worship, Ouachita Worship continues the night at Refuge. The night focused on the theme of healthy relationships.  
Photo by Sarah Dean



## reporting **RESILIENCE:** anna black

"I participated in TranServe, Elder Serve, after school tutoring and Tiger Serve Day. Due to COVID-19, in-person tutoring was canceled, so I was not able to go to the elementary school to tutor or participate in after school tutoring. With the changes, I had to hold Zoom tutoring sessions. Zoom is a nice tool to help people connect, but it is also difficult when trying to teach algebra. My favorite part of this past year serving through the Elrod Center would be meeting my new friend, Ms. Lindsey. I met her one day doing yard work for her. Ms. Lindsey wanted to get to know me personally, and she has continued to do so over several months."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*





Gift basket



Judy Duvall



TSD



Thanksgiving baskets

## Shining the Lord's light through loving deeds

# SERVICE

The Elrod Center's service looked different this year, but students were still able to volunteer and uplift the community in a multitude of ways. Significant programs like Elder Serve and school tutors came up with creative ways to stay in touch.

"The tutors couldn't go in the schools, so we switched gears and focused on encouraging teachers and administrators. Tutors have written handwritten notes and small gifts to show appreciation," said Judy Duvall, the associate director of the center.

While some tutors got to continue their work by meeting students at the Elrod center, most tutors were no longer able to help their students like they were used to.

"It warms my soul when I get to see the little impacts that my serving has on others. The proud look that a student may get when they get a tricky concept, they have been working on with me is what serving is all about. You don't know how much joy someone has in their life and being able to give even the tiniest bit to them is an honor," said Tehya Hinkson, a junior studio art major from Benton.

ElderServe volunteers wrote letters, called, and visited outside of windows. Students brought special gifts for residents on Christmas, Valentines and Easter. Marlie Moix, a sophomore accounting major from Conway, took her service dog, Essie, with her to visit outside residents' windows and in person after regulations were lifted.

"My favorite part of volunteering is the relationships I

make. I love when Essie and I get to walk in a room, and all the residents are overjoyed. It brings me great pride that Essie and I can shine a light on their day. I recognize that God gave me an amazing gift through this dog, and I love sharing that with anyone I can," said Moix.

The Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team was able to facilitate a safe and successful event. Without going to older residents' homes, the university focused on honoring our city workers. Will Guerra, a senior finance major from Benton, served on the leadership team in a very impactful year.

"We knew that our job was just as important during abnormal semesters, so it was our responsibility to make sure TSD was as great as it has always been. Everyone was focused on making TSD great, and on serving the community and OBU students well. It's really been an incredibly rewarding experience overall, and it's helped me to lead in ways I wasn't able to before joining," said Guerra.

The Center was able to serve the community in a hard year when people needed it most.

"Our theme for this year was to be flexible, creative and to pivot when we needed to, and we kept these in mind all year. We are going to look back on this year and see all the blessings that came out of it. We have seen God exceed our expectations during this season of COVID," said Duvall.

Emily Barton



Sophomore Keelan Stanley helps clean a yard on Tiger Serve Day. Stanley and the wrestling team formed their own TSD team to help the community. Photo by Hannah Adamson



Senior Luke Scaggs speaks with sophomore MacKenzie Hall about his Tiger Serve Day duties. Scaggs and the Tiger baseball team committed to serving the community in the offseason. Photo by Abby Blankenship

## The time that Noonday was not at noon

**F**or the first time in Ouachita's history, Christian Ministries, better known as CM, determined Noonday would no longer take place at noon – at least for two days out of the week, to start the fall semester.

Enter the birth of Moonday. While the classic Noonday was still held on Fridays, students gathered under the moon, stars, and Lord's glory in front of Cone-Bottoms following Ouachita's physical distancing guidelines while enjoying cooler weather.

Moonday integrated nighttime nature with safe group gatherings. Within Berry Chapel, where Noonday was traditionally held, constraints were placed on attendance. However, under the moon, on the grassy lawn, students gathered with a safe distance between peers.

With every new journey, however, especially amidst a pandemic, growing pains were to be expected.

"It had been an adjustment this year to try to make the mission of Noonday still work in student's lives," James Taylor, director of Campus Ministries, said.

Noah McCallum, a Noonday leader and sophomore Christian Studies major from Jonesboro, described Moonday as, "an opportunity for students to get to share their testimony or something that God has put on their heart to other students, so others would be encouraged to share what God is speaking to them."

For one Noonday leader, growth was the theme for the year.

"Though I am not really a public speaker and get nervous and shy speaking in front of others, I think just communicating with people and introducing speakers every week has given me a chance to become more confident in who God made me to be and what he has led me to do," Kayla Brown, Noonday leader and senior kinesiology and Spanish double major from Hot Springs, said. "Even though I am not able to do everything, such as public speaking, I can still serve the Lord by granting people the opportunity to share their passions and their stories."

Students were the backbone of Moonday. Hearts were opened, stories were shared, messages were communicated, and the Lord moved, in a pew and under the moon.

"This past summer, God really laid on my heart a message about faith and how as Christians when we have our faith we need to use it and that we should want to use it and share it with others," Mitchell Waite, a junior communications major, from Van Buren and one of Moonday's first guest speakers, said.

The theme of 2020 seemed to be change. Changes wide and narrow. Moonday was a change met with open arms. Whether students gathered within walls and in a pew, or within the confines of the Lord's nature and under the moon, where two or three are gathered, the Lord is there, too.

Angela Webb



Photo by Abby Blankenship



# Calling awareness to cultural treasures CELEBRATION

Clubs La Fuerza and MORE gathered together during months of celebration in order to bring awareness to their culture all across campus. La Fuerza hosted events during September for Hispanic Heritage Month, while MORE brought awareness during February for Black History Month.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the cafeteria featured Hispanic foods and La Fuerza hosted a game night. To conclude the month, La Fuerza set up a Fiesta Mesa that had Hispanic snacks and a photo booth.

"My favorite event has to be the Fiesta Mesa because I loved interacting with everybody and explaining what everything was," said Karla Montiel, a sophomore Spanish major from Fayetteville. "I got involved with La Fuerza my freshman year because I loved being with a group of girls who looked just like me and were wanting to reach out and talk about what it is like to be Latina or Hispanic in the U.S. I love seeing people's enthusiasm on the events and how they get so intrigued by what really goes on during that month. It means to me that they are willing to help bring awareness and are encouraged to participate and learn about our culture."

During the month of February, MORE hosted events including a game night, choir night, and a flag prayer. They also provided Val-A-Grams for purchase to celebrate Valentine's Day and participated in a food drive for Percy and Donna Malone Child Safety Center.

A group of students, including sophomore communications major, Jomari Bailey from Prescott, sang at Dr. Jack's coffeehouse to conclude the month of celebration. Singing at this event was something that Bailey never thought he would have the opportunity to do. Being able to take part in this event during Black History Month made it memorable.

"Having the opportunity to sing alongside some of the most gifted individuals I have met here at Ouachita was truly amazing," Bailey said. "Singing a 'Reckless Love' duet with Dayja James was the highlight of the moment. Coming together in the end with 'A Change is Gonna Come' was really special as well."

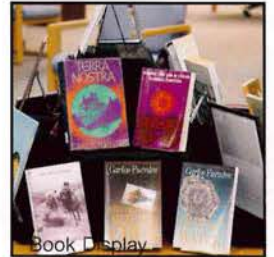
Senior Studio Art major Bri Benton from Bryant was thankful for her past years at Ouachita getting to celebrate Black History Month, and was eager to see what all MORE will become.

"The events have made me feel like I actually matter and that I'm actually seen as a person," Benton said. "It makes me proud when I see the Black and other minority students on campus celebrated for a month even though they should be celebrated every month. I love MORE and all that it stands for, and I pray that it continues to flourish and make a positive impact on Ouachita's campus."

Gracen Goudy



Aryana Gardner



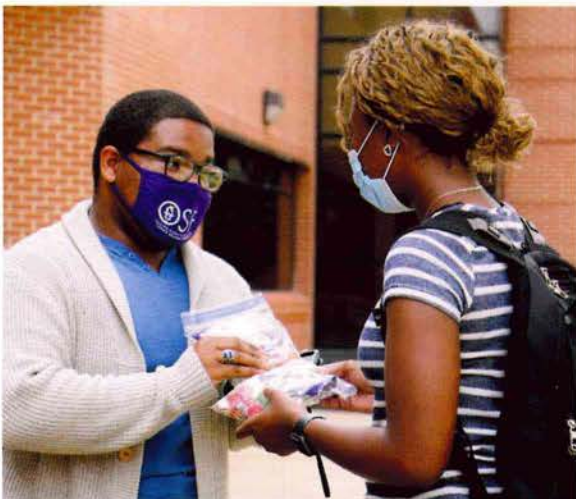
Book Display



Valagram



MLK March



Senior Tyrese Allen hands a student a gift bag from the Fiesta Mesa. Students were able to experience a variety of treats. Photo by Callie Rogers



President Ben Sells hands senior Breanna Parker a cupcake in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The party table featured a variety of Hispanic snacks. Photo by Callie Rogers



Sophomore Dayja James speaks with students during the BHM Flag Prayer. Students gathered around the flag plaza to pray as part of Black History Month activities.  
Photo by Callie Rogers

**FACULTY POSE** for a photo at the Fiesta Mesa photo booth. Students, faculty and staff were able to take a photo and grab a bag of Hispanic snacks and treats to celebrate.  
Photo by Callie Rogers

**DURING COFFEEHOUSE**, sophomore Jomari Bailey sings alongside others for Black History Month. The group sang worship songs and ended with "A Change is Gonna Come."  
Photo by Wesley Kluck



## reporting **RESILIENCE:** **javonte brown**

"The Black History Month events were different because there wasn't the chance for a lot of student involvement. Due to COVID and the constant practice of social distancing, not having people attend took the element of engagement away. However, the events provided by MORE were still enjoyable. Singing at Dr. Jack's coffeehouse was thrilling and took me back to singing at church before COVID. I sang 'Blessed' by Daniel Caesar because although he talks about a relationship with a woman, I performed it talking about my relationship with God. It gives me a sense of pride to truly know that Black History Month is being recognized and seeing students engage in the activities."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*



Hunched over, senior Emma Lawyer addresses a fellow cast member during dress rehearsal. The musical was performed in Jones Performing Arts Center. Photo by Levi Dade

**ARMS SPREAD** wide, senior Paige Price plays the role of Jo March. Price's performances took place Thursday and Friday nights. Photo by Levi Dade

**EYES FIXATED** toward the crowd, senior Emma Lawyer embraces her character in "Little Women." Lawyer played Marmee March. Photo by Levi Dade



## reporting **RESILIENCE:** sam campione

"I played Laurie in both casts. I loved his spark. Nothing compared to Jo's fire, but when you put those two knuckleheads together, it's always a blast. There was one note near the beginning, and every night it was always fun to see if I was going to hit it or not. My most enjoyable part was the bond I made with the Five Forever! I love the March sisters!"

*As told to Gracen Goudy*





## The student bond created greatness

# DEVOTION

The lights dimmed as students got in place in Jones Performance Arts Center, and the characters of "Little Women" took their places. These students and directors worked for months, not only on character development but, on how to make the show COVID-safe. "Little Women" took place April 15-18th, as the show varied in its performance and execution more than past spring musicals.

Landon Denman, a sophomore theatre and history major from Fort Worth, Texas, has done a variety of shows in his time at Ouachita. He had experience in the theatre department back when life knew nothing of the coronavirus times.

"As a result of COVID, my time spent during 'Little Women' was very interesting because of regulations such as social distancing and mask requirements. These systems that were put into place caused our rehearsal process to be altered and changed so that we could keep the entire cast safe, while also putting on the best production we can," Denman said.

One of the challenges that the cast and crew of "Little Women" faced was during the time period that "Little Women" was written, there were no masks. Ryan Lynch, a senior BFA musical theatre major from Bryant, Ark., has been in the theatre department for the past four years, and noticed the challenges of doing a period piece musical during a pandemic.

"There were definitely sacrifices to the story because of the mask but it was worth it if it kept everyone safe," Lynch said.

Even Shelby Tripcony, a freshman BFA musical theatre major from Little Rock, Ark., acknowledged that the show was difficult to do because of regulations. However, she spoke on the fact that the casts were still able to bond as they do for every show.

"It's a bit hard to show emotion through the masks, but showing how we felt through our motions helped the show come to life. I have only been in one other show at OBU, but 'Little Women' seemed so much more family oriented. The closeness of the March family definitely had an impact on the cast and made all of us closer as a result," Tripcony said.

Payton Mixon, a sophomore BFA musical theatre major from New Caney, Texas also saw the closeness of the casts, and how much the cast was able to bond despite the use of masks.

"I could write a novel on how special and exciting it is to be in a show playing a character you love, and the best part about being on stage and off was the time I got to spend with my cast. We spent many hours together in rehearsals which definitely bonded us and made the on stage relationships that much better," Mixon said.

Meredith Medford



The March sisters dance around the stage during a musical number. Within the play, these sisters shared a strong bond. Photo by Levi Dade



Sarah Franklin and Sam Campione take part in a dramatic scene during dress rehearsal. By having a double cast, more students were able to participate in the production. Photo by Levi Dade



## A gateway into fantasy

# ESCAPE

Students involved in theatre productions overcame the challenge of performing and relaying emotions while having to wear a mask on stage. The theatre productions this year included "The Old Man and The Old Moon," "Hay Fever" and "Puffs."

"There were a lot of comedic things that require close contact and we had to find ways around those and still make the moment funny," said Ryan Lynch, a senior musical theatre major from Bryant, "It has been a challenge but definitely worth it if it keeps everyone safe."

The student body embraced these productions and felt fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be a part of something positive in a difficult year.

"I would describe our productions this year as just a lot of fun. Even the more depressing moments were more heart felt rather than sad. I think our professors knew that during this crazy time we wanted to keep our audiences smiling," said Lynch.

Even though they were back on stage, many things had changed, and the entire cast and crew had to display flexibility in how they managed rehearsals and the show nights.

"My favorite part of being involved was getting to see the creativity with our director as well as our cast members in telling this story in a believable way that maintained the playwright's intent while still keeping actors and audience members safe," said Paige Price a senior musical theatre major from Plano, Texas.

Molly Kennedy, a senior musical theatre major from Melissa, Texas, was chosen to direct this year's Muse Project, "The Old Man and the Old Moon." Kennedy was so passionate and thankful for the opportunity to lead a show in her time at Ouachita.

"I am so appreciative for this production because I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder that limits my mobility and this show gave me the opportunity to be involved in a production even with my mobility limitations and I am so grateful for the cast and crew for giving me this opportunity to make this show more than anything I could've imagined," said Kennedy.

The theatre productions were a chance for students to escape into the story they were telling while inspiring others who had the privilege of seeing a story come to life. While theatres ran at limited capacity all year, all the productions were live streamed. Theatre students overcame canceled shows, lost contracts, closed theatres and felt immense gratitude for the chance to be back on stage in front of an audience.

"Performing a live production of a show during a year where this was a rarity and a privilege, was one that we didn't take lightly. We followed all of Ouachita's COVID-19 safety protocol and made modifications to blocking and other performance aspects, but we were still able to keep many aspects of the show intact that would be present regardless of a pandemic," said Price.

Emily Barton



Madeline Martin



Sam Campione



Bella Owen



Avery Stall



Deep in the scene, junior Cross Brandon performs his One Act. One Acts allowed multiple students to be involved in both acting and production crews. Photo by Levi Dade

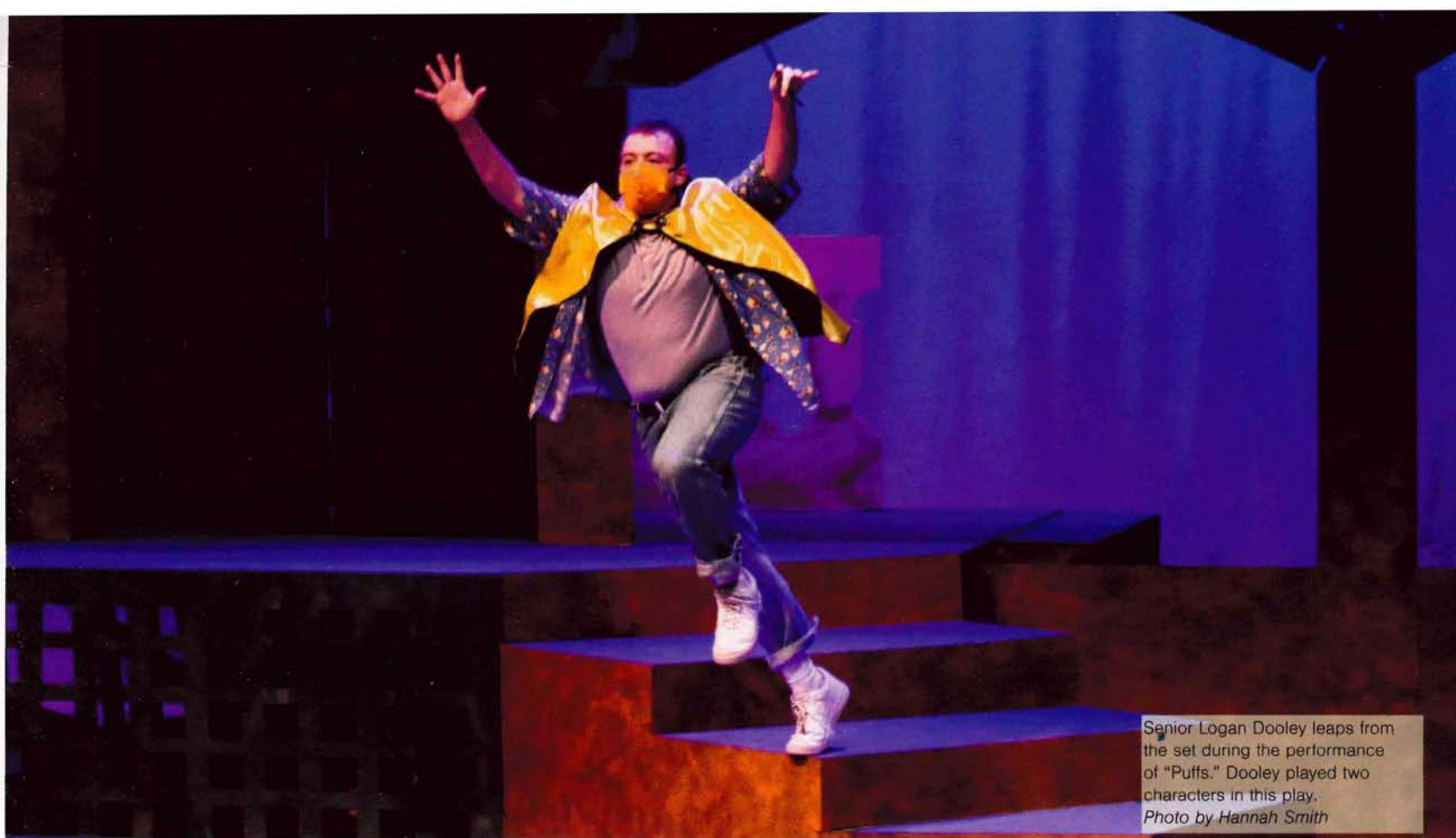


During the performance of "Hay Fever," cast members adopt the 1920's London environment with their characters. The play was produced and performed in the fall semester. Photo by Sarah Dean



**COVID Conduct**

Performances were in person and livestreamed

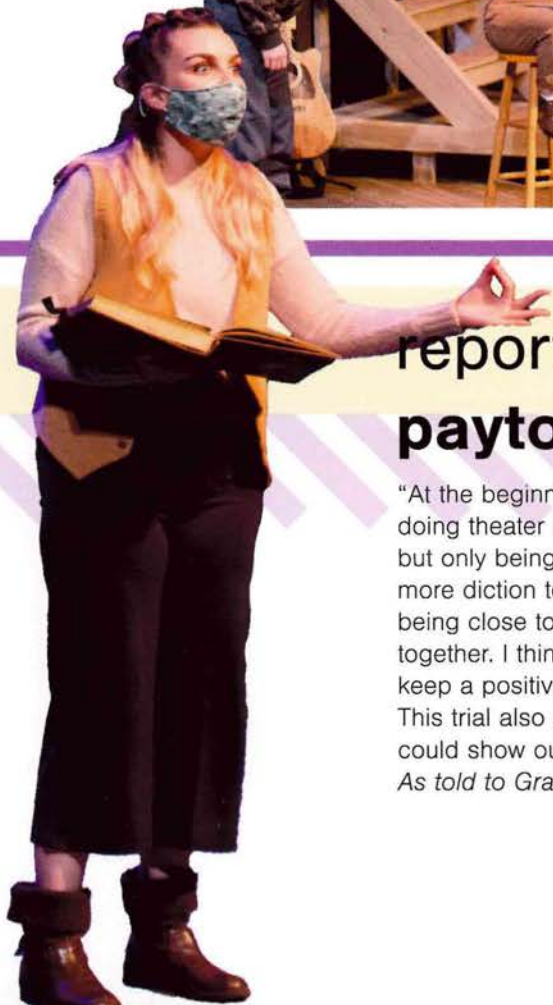


Senior Logan Dooley leaps from the set during the performance of "Puffs." Dooley played two characters in this play.  
Photo by Hannah Smith

**ON SET**, two cast members run through the play, *The Old Man and The Old Mood* at dress rehearsal. This play took place in Verser Theater.  
Photo by Abby Blankenship



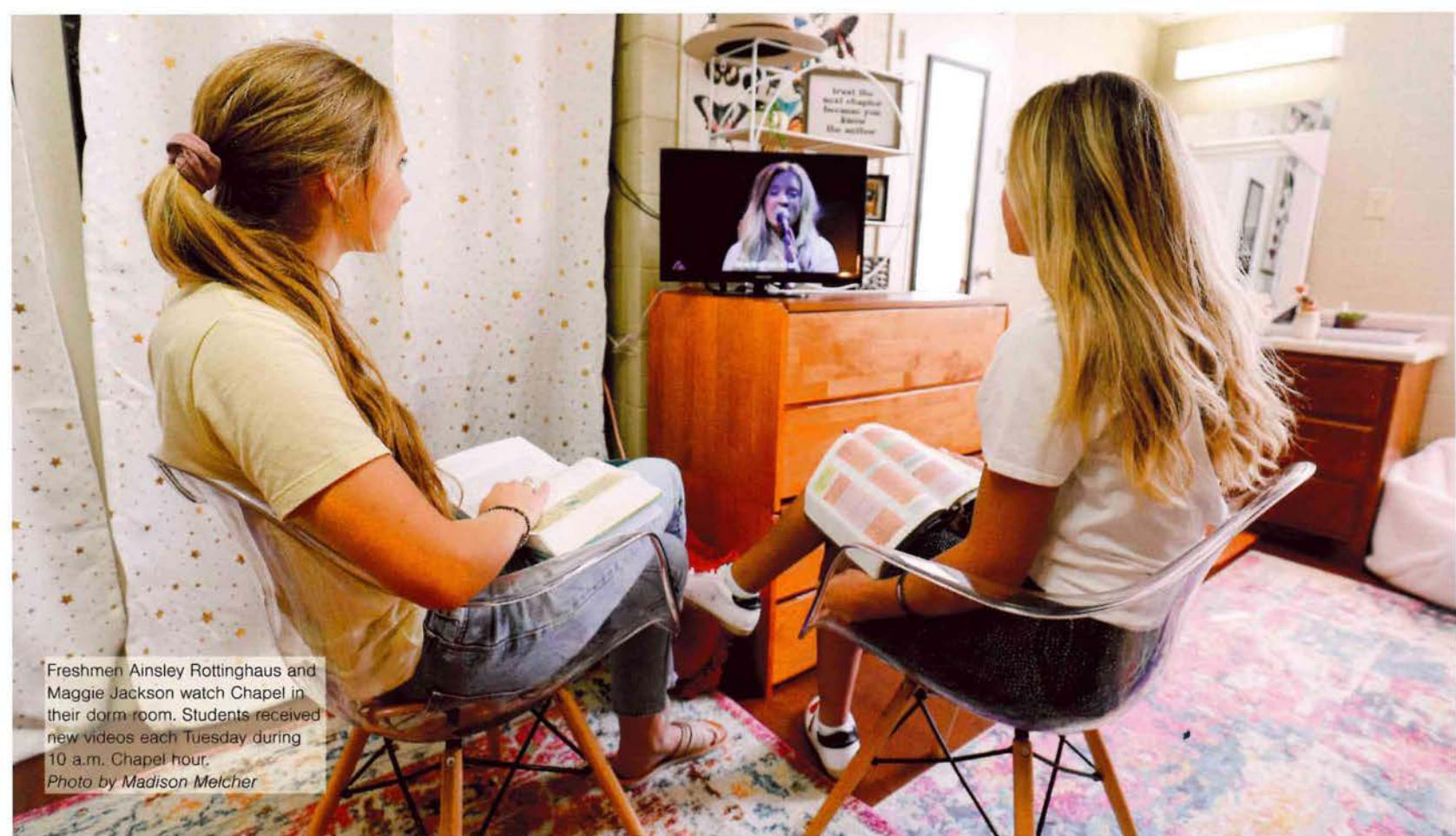
**PLOPPED ON** the couch, senior Paige Price plays her role as Sorel in "Hay Fever."  
Photo by Sarah Dean



## reporting **RESILIENCE:** **payton mixon**

"At the beginning of the semester, it was definitely difficult to adjust to doing theater six feet apart with masks. Eventually you got used to it, but only being able to use half of your face for expression, trying to give more diction to make sure you're understood under the mask, and not being close to people was something we all had to learn to get through together. I think the most important thing through all that was trying to keep a positive attitude and being grateful that we still got to perform live. This trial also opened up a new opportunity of live stream theatre so we could show our art to more people, which is always a great thing."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*



Freshmen Ainsley Rottinghaus and Maggie Jackson watch Chapel in their dorm room. Students received new videos each Tuesday during 10 a.m. Chapel hour.  
*Photo by Madison Melcher*

**ON THE** keys, senior Stuart Sowerbutts leads worship during Chapel. Both worship and speaking segments were pre-recorded.  
*Photo by Levi Dade*

**VIEWED ON** a laptop screen, KaNeil Purifoy speaks during Chapel. Students had the flexibility to view Chapel on their own time during the week.  
*Photo by Faith Webb*



## reporting **RESILIENCE:** **cameron conner**

"Recording worship was a really cool aspect of leading the worship team. The biggest challenge we faced was probably leading without a congregation and having a camera in our face throughout the entire thing. The way we moved past it was focusing in on worshipping the King and leading ourselves into a personal time of worship. Having been the leader of Ouachita Worship, I had such a big vision for what Ouachita Worship could be. This year we released our first single on all streaming platforms. Seeing the team come together and lean into this project was probably the most beautiful thing I've experienced in a long time."

*As told to Gracen Goudy*





Janvel Lair



Ouachita Worship



Bethany Duncan



Hayden Waller

**Amidst uncertainty, we still praise Him**

# WORSHIP

For the past 135 years Chapel at Ouachita was a staple of campus life for all Ouachitonians, and for the first time in all these years, Chapel was converted into a virtual credit for the safety of the University's students. The main components of Chapel such as coordinators, leadership, and students, found themselves adapting to a whole new world.

Due to the increasing effects of COVID-19, the Tuesday mornings previously spent in Jones Performing Arts Center were switched to an easily accessible online version to continue the completion of Chapel credits. However, creating the virtual version of this OBU legacy took careful consideration.

James Taylor, director of Campus Ministries and coordinator of Chapel, stated that once Chapel was placed online, the team set out to record quality videos of worship, speakers, and form a simple three question quiz due each Thursday night to ensure student viewership.

The Ouachita Worship team was one of many crucial components of online Chapel.

Lucie Shepherd, junior worship team member and communications major from Rockwall, Texas, mentioned that she "saw the vision and room for improvement so I wanted to use my talents to serve." However, when filming these online worship sessions, it was difficult to feel less like a performance and more like a worship guide. For Shepherd, it became hard to adjust to the lack of physical students worshipping alongside the band. Despite these changes,

the team of professionals banded together to make online Chapel as personal as possible.

According to Erica Wilmath, junior communications student from Hot Springs, online Chapel gave her, "a chance to remove the normal JPAC distractions and really lean into what the guest speaker has to share."

While the routine of Tuesday mornings spent together was a vital piece of the OBU experience, it seemed as though students were able to receive the same benefits from the online platform.

Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement, served as the Chapel coordinator for 33 years. He said that online Chapel was an obvious option from the beginning, and the process to officially make the decision was quite expected. As for the future of Ouachita Baptist Chapel, Cosh made it clear that the goal was to re-establish in-person Chapel when the time is right.

Both Taylor and Cosh wished to bring in-person Chapel back to OBU's campus and believed the moment of online Chapel to be a way to provide an accessible option. While many students have preferred the virtual option for Chapel, it can be said that there is nothing quite like the gathering of all students in one place on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. The Ouachita experience was not quite the same without in-person Chapel, as it left many students excited for it to be reinstated.

Katie Moore



LET OUR HEARTS RECEIVE YOUR GRACE

Junior Lucie Shepherd leads worship alongside sophomore Chloe Schnaitman. Different students rotated throughout the year leading worship.  
Photo courtesy of Ouachita Baptist YouTube



Ouachita Worship released its first original song "Holy Fire" on multiple streaming services Jan. 22.  
Photo courtesy of Ouachita Worship

## Graduates embody resilience on way to diploma

# FULFILLED

As the Ouachita Baptist graduating class of 2021 walked across the stage, minds throughout the crowd were reminiscent upon the good, the bad, the trying times, and the successful ones throughout this historic school year.

In March of 2020, everything the world seemed to know, changed. Families hunkered down into quarantine. Masks, hand sanitizer, and even toilet paper, disappeared from stock rooms. No longer could grandparents receive the hugs they have grown accustomed to. No longer were group gatherings permitted. Everything we had taken for granted throughout our entire lifetimes had just been stripped from our fragile grasp.

The class of 2021 battled COVID-19 and won. The class of 2021 battled harsh adjustments to their final school year and prevailed. The class of 2021 fought harder than ever to lead the way for the student body through a pandemic school year and triumphed.

For Olivia Yarbrough, treading through student teaching proved to be a battle worth fighting.

"Starting my student teaching semester during a pandemic was not the ideal experience I had been dreaming of for three and a half years," Yarbrough, senior elementary education major from Rogers, said. "However, looking back on my time with my sweet second and fourth grade students, I wouldn't have changed a thing. The relationships I made, even through masks, were ones that will remain in my heart forever. I am extremely grateful for the semester God had in store for me, pandemic and all."

Yarbrough came out on the other side of student teaching as the recipient of the Charles Chambliss Distinguished Educator Award honoring the most outstanding student teacher.

For the communications department, adjustments were necessary and for Preston Crowder he found himself engulfed within the change.

"For myself, during the fall semester, I was quarantined for a month straight but still did my best to stay on top of my classes," Crowder, senior communications major from Arkadelphia, said. "Not many universities had full in person learning this year, and for the communications department to still be able to do so many broadcasts of games and studio shows, was a tremendous accomplishment."

Crowder was most commonly found assisting the Ouachita Sports Digital Network in the broadcasting of live stream sports. Because of the nature of the pandemic, live streams have never more be crucial.

Within the science department, the year was centered around future success, even amidst all the abnormalities.

"One thing that OBU and the science department did really well during COVID, especially for the upperclassmen, was helping us adapt and prepare for an irregular grad school admission process," said Luke Livingston, senior biomedical science major from Batesville. "Whether it be with virtual interviews or strengthening essays, the OBU science faculty helped me adapt to changes and pursue my future with even great intensity."

The year was about adapting and through it all the senior class displayed resilience. As another class has come and gone, more Ouachita legacy lives on beyond the walls of campus.

Ben Swanger



Hannah Smith spots the photo staff during commencement. Smith was co-editor of the photo lab during her senior year at Ouachita. Photo by Levi Dade



Zhang Xinwen celebrates with family and friends following commencement. Xinwen graduated with honors as a finance and business management major. Photo by Abby Blankenship



**COVID Conduct**

Only eight tickets were reserved for each graduate



Landon King and Mara Gillispie show off their diploma cases. King and Gillispie were great friends throughout their time at OBU.  
Photo by Levi Dade

**SUITE MATES** Nathan Wuellner and Blaine Miller celebrate on the turf. Wuellner left Ouachita with a degree in business and Miller with a degree in Christian ministry.  
Photo by Levi Dade



**OLIVIA YARBROUGH** shows off her diploma on her way back to her seat. Yarbrough graduated with magna cum laude honors.  
Photo by Abby Blankenship



## reporting **RESILIENCE:** **julius pruit**

"I left Ouachita for the NFL in 2009 for a dream opportunity with the Miami Dolphins. In the process I left Ouachita without honoring my commitment of completing my degree. I promised myself, my parents, and coaches that I would return one day to finish my degree. God had other plans for me and a path laid out for me to walk. My wife Marylen was so instrumental in my transition out of football and my light during dark times along my journey. She pushes me daily to be the best version of myself, so honestly through prayer, my wife's motivation, and my kids being of age to see their dad doing homework and studying with them during their virtual learning was all the push I needed to see it through to the end. It meant more finishing now than it would've 11 years ago because I was able to complete my degree with the support of my wife and kids. God has a way of making us understand things in a different light along our paths once we allow Him to guide us."

As told to Ben Swanger