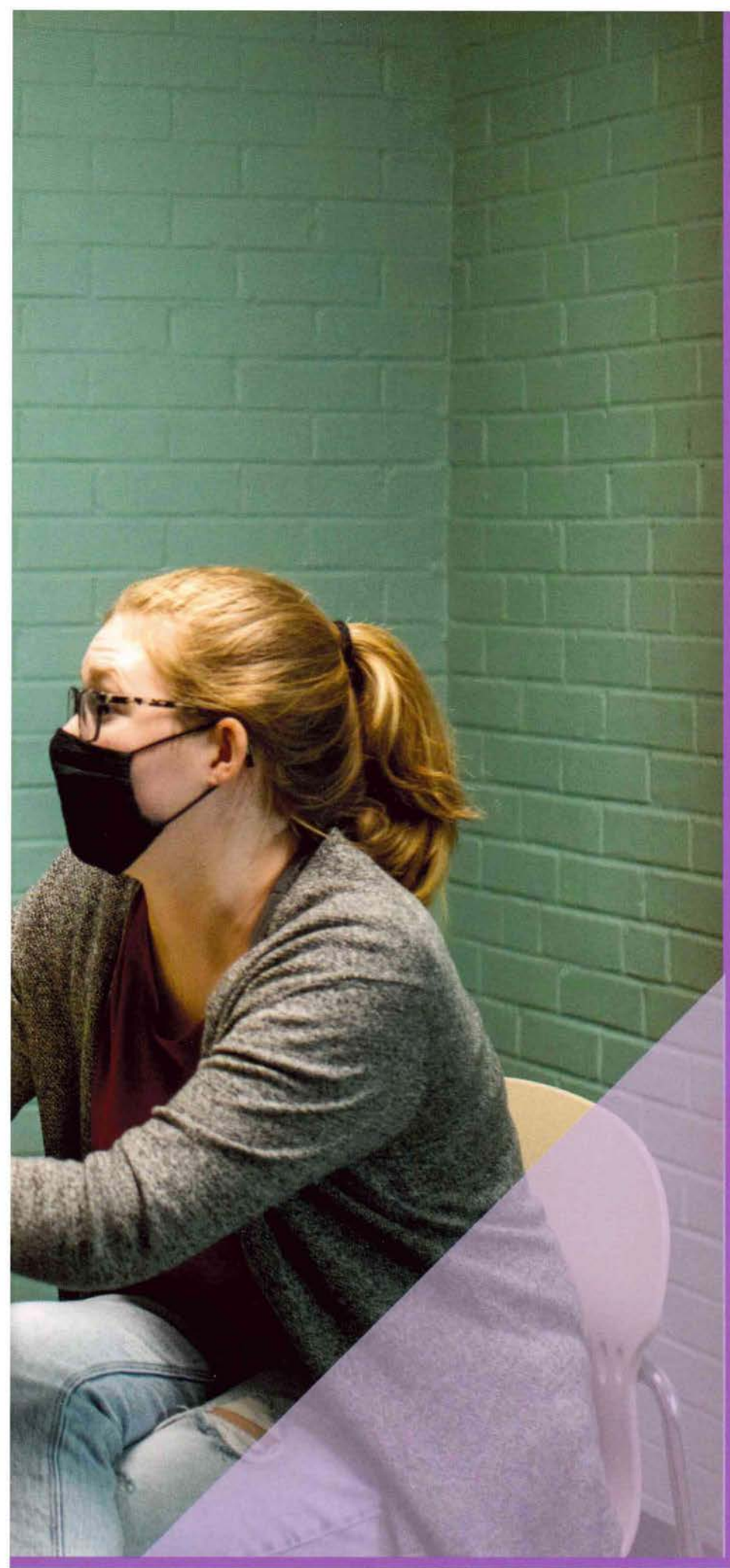




Seniors Katherine Fehlman and Brooke Snyder conduct teletherapy. Speech path majors held therapy sessions over Zoom. Photo by Abby Blankenship





# ACADEMICS

Desks became distanced and academic trips were canceled. Plexiglass separated student from teacher and Zoom continued to be utilized. However through it all, Ouachita exhibited ***resilience.***



In a season of many unknowns, the Hickingbotham School of Business remained one of the most popular and successful majors on Ouachita's campus. Hickingbotham's Dean, Bryan McKinney, worked incredibly hard, along with many other faculty members, to ensure the success of all business students.

"I have worn a lot of hats at Ouachita, but being in this position has been a great opportunity to get to know students. This has become my home, and the faculty I work with are among the best people," said Dean McKinney.

Dealing with COVID-19 repercussions was challenging. Professors struggled to connect with students as well as vice versa. The school of business tried very hard to keep things as normal as possible even with all of the restrictions that were in place.

One aspect of the business department did not change: Ary Fund.

Will Guerra, a senior finance and political science double major from Benton, said, "The Ary Fund was a \$1.6 million stock portfolio of Ouachita's endowment funds and was managed by 12 senior finance majors. We met weekly to discuss everything that goes into the Ary Fund."

These students worked closely with Dr. Chris Brune, associate professor of finance in the school of business, to ensure the success of the Ary Fund. The organization was one of the many opportunities the school of business provided to allow for student success, education, and enjoyment.

"The Ary Fund was started years ago and is one of the most instrumental parts of our students' educational journey," said Dean McKinney.

Other than the Ary Fund, there was a few changes due to the unique year.

"The main thing that changed was mask-wearing and teachers changing classrooms across campus due to the class size. We also tried to do mostly virtual quizzes and assignments," Dean McKinney stated.

All of these endeavors added minutes to a normal day, but the school of business faculty tried their hardest to make the transition as easy as possible in order for students to participate in normal school clubs and activities.

Dean McKinney mentioned how proud he was of Ouachita as a whole because of how responsible everyone was in wearing masks everywhere on campus.

"Our faculty and students have impressed guests and many others because of how diligent they are in everything," McKinney said. "We had to adapt to new technology and schedules and it was not easy. Everyone tried to make the most of this environment and that is what makes, not only the school of business but, Ouachita as a whole so special."

Madi Darr

**"Our faculty and students have impressed guests and many others because of how diligent they are in everything."**

**- Dean Bryan McKinney**

**DILIGENCE**

Attentive ears result in earned success



A.



B.



C.

A. **Dr. Brune** takes the JPAC stage to teach Personal Finance. This unique classroom was the setting for students to develop budgeting skills. *Photo by Sarah Dean*

B. **Lily Maxwell** presents at an Ary fundraising meeting as technology sector analyst. She presented stocks for the tech sector holdings. *Photo by Jomari Bailey*

C. **Brooks Brown** attends Microcomputer Applications taught by Dana Dixon on Zoom. Zoom classes have now replaced cancellations, such as snow days. *Photo by Madison Melcher*



**COVID Conduct**  
Large classes were hosted in JPAC and Verser Theater





Business Ethics



Ary Fund

Global Business students listen to a lecture in Verser Theatre. Students expanded their knowledge on world markets. Photo by Levi Dade

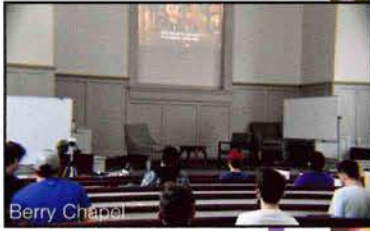
## FLEXIBILITY *on display*

The members of the Ary Student Investment Fund met each week to discuss their respected sectors. The fund was a stock investment portfolio managed by a team of senior finance students in the School of Business. They met regularly to review current holdings and discuss needed changes. Two of those students were Carlos Solorzano and Javi Fito, who are seniors from Morella, Mexico and Valencia, Spain, respectively. "I think that flexibility is a strength in our group because, although there is always a wide variety of opinions in our discussions, everyone was willing to listen to other people's point of view and be flexible while making team decisions if necessary," Fito said. "The Ary Fund is a valuable experience for all business majors as it prepares them for managing an investment fund."

*As told by Emily Barton*







Berry Chapel

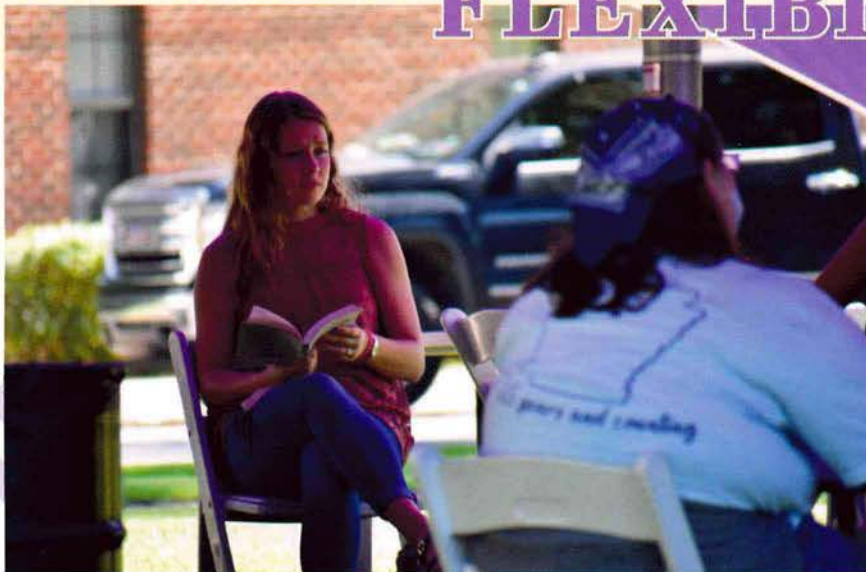


Dr. Franklin



Ben Inmon and Aaron Koen have an intentional conversation. Christian Studies students were seen throughout campus conversing and growing community.  
Photo by Levi Dade

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*



"My favorite part of the Women's Ministry class was that it never felt like a class. We had great discussions. Mrs. Shari [Edwards] was so kind and helpful at all times and wanted us to actually understand her teaching, and not just to be on a syllabus schedule. I really enjoyed all of the discussions in class. I was surrounded with a lot of amazing women. We learned about the women in the Bible and their key roles in leadership. Learning about this was so powerful and inspiring. We emphasized principals in ministry from our special perspective as women," said Sarah Collins, a sophomore communication major from Lucas, Texas. "The Christian Studies department has done an excellent job with keeping students safe by spreading us out. I am a very social and physical touch person, so it has been hard to not express myself in those ways. I am still so grateful to be with people again."  
As told to Emily Barton



# DIVINITY

Studies with eternal implication

The Pruet School of Christian Studies equipped Ouachita students to be followers of Jesus who disciple the Church as well as local, university and global communities. Through teaching that broadens students' world view and challenges them to develop their own theology, students understood and could effectively communicate God's Word, all pointing back to discipling the Church. Despite COVID-19, the school creatively adapted and persisted in their mission.

Dr. Scott Duvall, chair of the Department of Biblical Studies and Theology, said the school implemented detailed procedures for faculty and staff.

"Dean Danny Hays is an engineer by training. All of his training kicked in and we had air filters, the latest masks, procedures and policies. He took good care of us by really keeping up with all the little details of the pandemic," Duvall said.

Along with all these little details came managing Moodle and Zoom, a curve for both students and faculty. Although the school year was quite different, the department kept a hands-on learning approach. The department required all students to have an internship or service opportunity, an important aspect of the major.

"Students have all the standard opportunities in the church. They can help with worship, youth, or as a pastoral assistant. You also have camp opportunities and other ministry organizations," Duvall said. "It is up to the student to think creatively about what would be good."

The department cultivated an environment that is both gratifying and challenging for students. Bailey Buettner, a senior from Garland, Texas, said this environment grew her.

"The department has allowed me to question what I believe in a safe space. Whether it is doubts I might be having in my personal life or with my own theology, I know that I have the freedom to doubt and question," Buettner said. "The professors definitely encourage that and allow you to come into their office and pour out questions about life, Jesus, Scripture, theology, and how it all applies to our life and why."

This challenging environment encouraged students to broaden their world view and see their greater need and purpose. Ben Inmon, a junior from Bentonville, said this allowed him to see the character of God and his role in God's grand story.

"I see a greater need and purpose behind ministering to the Church. Through the Christian studies school, I have seen more of who God is and His character throughout all of Scripture and what this means for us," Inmon said. "Knowing we get to be a part of this awesome story of how God made us, and we get to respond to this in faith and desire to live for Him and tell others about Him."

The PSCS sought for all students to deeply love the Lord and have a heart of devotion to Him. Kaylie Green, sophomore from Fort Worth, Texas, said this looks like seeing God in the mundane.

"I think loving the Lord with all heart, soul and mind means thinking about Him prayerfully. Praying without ceasing and doing it in your everyday life. Praying with God and have communion with Him in the everyday aspects," she said.

**"Through the Christian Studies Department, I have seen more of who God is and His character throughout all of scripture."**

**- Ben Inmon**

MacKenzie Hall



A. **Visiting a cemetery** allowed the Death and Dying class to focus on those who had passed away. The class was taught by Dr. Byron Eubanks. *Photo by William Read*

B. **Students lead** an active discussion while presenting in World Religions. The class introduced students to other major religions around the world. *Photo by Ashley Harrison*

C. **Noah McCallum** takes notes in his Intro to Christian Ministry class. This class prepared students with practical applications for their theological foundations.

*Photo by Levi Dade*



The Huckabee School of Education prepared students called to the ministry of education to be next generation leaders. The program was built on strong foundations of Christ-centered teaching and the love of learning. It sought to prepare students by equipping them to fulfill their calling in the mission field. Despite COVID-19, the department adapted and still held a high expectation for its future teachers.

Dr. Kathy Collins, chair of the Education Department, said, "The biggest change was with how we do field experience and practicum. Student teachers were allowed into schools, but our field experience kids, who were just going for observations, and then our practicum students, were not allowed to go into the schools due to COVID."

Although this was not the same, students adapted and taught each other rather than going into schools. Some tasks did remain the same amid the pandemic.

"The main thing we maintained was our system of integrity and our student responsibility," Collins said. "The kids still dressed professionally when teaching each other. We kept the standards high regardless of the fact that we did not actually work with children. I still wanted them to treat it as if they were actually in the field and take it seriously."

**"The professors model good teachers by balancing instruction along with getting to know students individually."**  
- Josiah Elmore

For Josiah Elmore, a senior from Arkadelphia, these high standards prepared him for student teaching in the third and fifth grades.

"The professors model good teachers by balancing instruction along with getting to know students individually. They provide a real catered learning experience, which drew me to Ouachita in the first place." Elmore said. "The student to faculty ratio was nice because they spend time with us and that's something I want to translate into my classroom."

The education department focused not only on preparing students to teach, but to also be the next generation leaders who shape societies. Victoria Mayfield, a junior from Jonesboro, said this responsibility makes her call all the more important.

"We're the ones put in charge of making sure that students get a good, quality education. If we felt called to do it, we have to step up and do it because it's our call," she said.

The department also had an emphasis on spiritual growth. Professors wanted students to know that Jesus is the master teacher and learn from His ministry. Anna Katherine Green, a freshman from Little Rock, said the emphasis on spiritual growth prepared her to teach.

"In Foundations of Education, we start every class period with a devotional. We open with scripture about Jesus and how He was the ultimate teacher and how we can learn from Him and apply it to the classroom," Green said.

The Huckabee School of Education students sought to make an impact on future generations by diligently preparing to teach.

"Our students are exceptional. They have a strong work ethic and really care about kids," Collins said. "They really want to be good teachers. They're so easy to work with. It's wonderful to have not just that faculty that I work with, but students that are just outstanding."

MacKenzie Hall

# EQUIPPED

Experience leads to success




A. **Students jot** down notes over special education law. Their class focused on teaching exceptional learning experiences. *Photo by Sarah Dean*



B. **Celebrating** World Read Aloud Day, education majors gather to read to each other. Students honored and expanded their knowledge on children's literature. *Photo courtesy of Education Facebook*



C. **Chloe Workman** teaches a phonics lesson to first graders. Students were able to fulfill their student teaching internships in person, but were not able to do observation hours in schools. *Photo courtesy of Education Facebook*

 **COVID Conduct**  
Students were unable to observe Arkadelphia schools





Anisley Melton



Student teachers

Brooklyn Jennings-Seward takes notes in her Practicum Education lecture. The class focused on teaching 4th - 8th graders. Photo by Faith Webb

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*

"The Education department has done everything possible to keep classes running smoothly," senior Michael Burer said. "Every time something crazy happened, like the snow [in February], they were flexible and understanding in adjusting the schedule to give us time to finish our work well. With everything that's happened in the last year, COVID and non-COVID related, professors worked with us and supported us every step of the way." Amidst pondering his future plans, Burer's passion was ignited when observing a high school band rehearsal. Seeing the director interact with students and hearing the music got Burer excited about teaching. "My Learning Theory class helped me understand all the theories related to education and I saw how I can use them to help students learn to the best of their ability," Burer said.

*As told by Emily Barton*







Wellness



Yoga



David Rainwater and the kayaking class enjoy the water in beautiful weather. Students received hands-on experience as nature was their classroom.  
*Photo by Madison Melcher*

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*



The Care and Prevention of Injury class participated in Dr. DeWitt's CPR training. "The kinesiology program has held several labs such as the CPR one outside. The program has been affective in making the adequate accommodations, and we have all worked together to make the most of it all. Kinesiology is such a diverse field and the program here has broadened my understanding of the human body, how every part of it works together, and how everyone here can work together through it all," said Grace Loftin, a junior kinesiology major from Shreveport, La. The event was open to all students where they could stop by and learn cardiorespiratory emergency first aid tips.  
*As told by Emily Barton*



# APPLIED

Working out and working toward fruition

The Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies focused on equipping students through hands-on experience that prepared them for a successful career. Most years the department hosted events such as the Special Olympics, Exercise is Medicine, and invite people to campus for various clinical exercises. This year, due to COVID-19, professors implemented more hands-on experiences that could be accomplished in the classroom.

Brunson McDonald, a junior kinesiology major from Arlington, Texas, believed the department has given her many opportunities to gain experience in her specific subject area.

“Dr. Chelette is very good at coming up with hands-on opportunities in the classroom. Normally, we are put into groups where we interact with kids and teach them skills. With COVID-19, we have taught our classmates,” McDonald said. “With many projects I am able to choose the direction of my lessons to fit my subject area.”

Dr. Amber Chelette believed hands-on experiences were vital for students and encouraged her students to think of new ways to involve the community this semester.

“We did try a Zoom exercise class for Group Living, and that went better than I thought it would. Addison Bates and Halley Bryant helped with that, and participants actually did really well,” Chelette said. “We try to do hands-on with everything we do. Having that hands-on opportunity makes students understand better and makes them better potential employees.”

Beyond group projects that allow for hands-on opportunities, professors also provided experiences weaved into class curriculum.

Johnathon Callum, a junior kinesiology major and biology minor from Pine Bluff, felt that his professors, and the department as a whole, have prepared him for graduate school and his future career.

“In Care and Prevention class with Dr. Dewitt, we did not have to learn how to tape an ankle, but Dr. Dewitt went out of his way to give us tape every class and learn on our own,” Callum said. “Our kinesiology program pushed so much for us to be hands-on and comfortable so that when we get out into the field we are not just confident in our knowledge, but we can actually apply it.”

Lexi Castillow, a junior kinesiology and education major from Greenwood, also felt prepared for the future and complimented her professors for the effect they have had on her college experience.

“[The professors] are all readily available and flexible, especially right now,” Castillow said. “They have all done a lot to help me and get me a plan of what I want to do.”

The Kinesiology and Leisure Studies Department had to change many traditional activities due to COVID-19, but they continued to adapt and help their students gain experience and learn in new ways through each challenge.

**“Our kinesiology program pushed so much for us to be hands-on and comfortable.”**

**- Johnathon Callum**

Michaelyn Ferrell



A. **Outdoor Adventure** class students examine a knot tying technique. Students explored various outdoor activities throughout the semester like rock climbing. *Photo by Abby Blankenship*  
B. **Dr. Eubanks** discusses the intricacies of kayaking with a student. Students were able to learn and apply at the same time throughout the semester. *Photo by Madison Melcher.*  
C. **Virtual exercise** program is hosted through the leadership of kinesiology students. New ways were created to keep people in the community active. *Photo courtesy of Group Living Facebook*



**Classrooms  
received a face  
lift in order to  
provide safety.**



**O**ver the summer, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ouachita's classrooms received a social distancing makeover.

The university desired for its students to attend class on campus, so the Health and Monitoring Action Team, or HMAT, along with Academic Affairs, went to work in order to find a way to host students for on campus learning and living.

The Academic Affairs recruited Dr. Matt Douglas, Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, to determine each classroom's COVID capacity on campus.

"The first thing I did was go to each

classroom and pace out the seats so it would give enough room for students to maintain a six-foot distance while keeping the professors safe," said Douglas.

After surveying every classroom, a spreadsheet was created to determine how many students could fit in a room safely.

After the spreadsheet was made, the deans held a meeting with Douglas and Academic Affairs to discuss their plan of action.

There the team discussed the placements of each class and which classes had top priority. For Dr. Tim Knight and the School of Natural Science, figuring out a way to lecture and perform labs was one challenge they faced.





Photo by Hannah Smith

“When it comes to lectures, some classes have gone to different buildings which is good. However, labs were different. I got with my lab instructors and I had a plan, and I didn’t get any resistance,” said Dr. Knight.

**It’s like one big sleep over, and that’s how I feel about sharing the building.”**  
**- Dr. Gary Gerber**

As the school year inched closer, progress was being made, not only in the School of Natural Sciences but also in the School of Fine Arts. Mabee was receiving its own transformation.

“Plexiglass dividers were installed in the band rooms and neoprene covers were bought for instruments,” Dr. Gary Gerber, Dean of the School of Fine Arts, said.

Instead of beautiful melodies filling the empty hallways, the music building has become a place of

versatility.

“It’s like one big sleep over, and that’s how I feel about sharing the building. I want everyone to have enough space and have what they need,” said Dr. Gerber.

The fall semester was unprecedented, but students expressed feelings of safety in the classroom because of new guidelines.

“Even with all the restrictions, I felt safe. I appreciate our professors and student body for making my freshman year such a positive atmosphere,” said Sydni Watts, a freshmen middle school education major from Lindale, Texas.

“Being able to attend class in person shows how much faculty and staff love the students,” Watts concluded.

Lydia Dean



**D**espite challenges and changes, the art and theater departments continued to create and perform throughout the year.

"During COVID-19, all of our productions were changed to be socially distanced and to wear masks," sophomore Wyatt Ashlock said, a theater arts and communications double major from Royse City, Texas. "With these changes we had to livestream shows since we closed our campus to visitors. I was able to head up the livestreaming process for the theater and actually won an award for live-streaming 'Hay Fever.' It definitely made things way more difficult, but I am grateful for the chance to learn the live-streaming process to be more versatile in my field."

The biggest challenges the art department faced was moving online last year. Being in person this year was a blessing to students to get to still take part in many projects alongside students.

"We can't have as many people in classes so our classes are smaller, we maintain social distancing so little things like typing on someone else's computer to help them, or passing around an artwork example aren't possible anymore," junior Tehya Hinkson said, studio art major from Benton. "It's the little things like that really remind me how big of an impact COVID-19 has had on us as a department but also us as a school. But even with all of these limitations, the art department has managed to make classes feel as normal as possible and I'm still learning as much as I can."

**"These classes let me interact with so many different artists and it has helped me realize just how different each person is creatively."**  
**- Tehya Hinkson**

While being a studio art major, Hinkson enjoyed the diversity that is provided in the types of classes offered. A wide range of classes are provided which include print making, ceramics, painting, typography, and much more.

"These classes let me interact with so many different artists and it has helped me realize just how different each person is creatively and how seeing others creative solutions can help inspire you to make your own," Hinkson said. "These trends of mutual inspiration has bled over into my day to day life as well. I see someone volunteering for a project and working hard and it makes me seek out ways I can do the same. And this mindset I owe to the many different opportunities and encouragements I have received from the art department and the people in it."

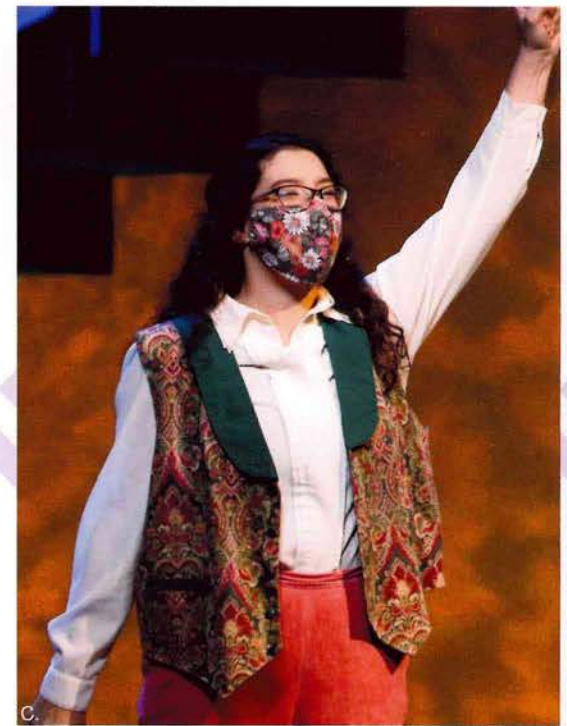
Senior graphic design major Brady Barton, from Russellville, also expressed this thankfulness for the art department. Being a senior, she was able to display her work for peers and family to see.

"My senior exhibit featured mostly design work that I've done over the past year and a half," Barton said. "I really love working on branding projects, so I was excited to get to display several of those for my peers to see. My favorite part was watching my friends as they discovered the personalized logos that I made for each of them; it was a complete surprise to them! The day after that, I invited faculty and staff who have been very import to my Ouachita experience to come see my show. It was so encouraging to see all of them come look at my work."

Gracen Goudy

**CRAFTSMANSHIP**

**Projects with a purpose**



A. **The cast rehearses for** their roles in "The Old Man and The Old Moon." The production was this year's Muse project and was put on entirely by students with Molly Kennedy as director. *Photo by Abby Blankenship*

B. **Sabaoot Esho** describes the inspiration for her art work at the Musical Art Gallery. Students posted their art on easels to present to their peers. *Photo by Callie Rogers*

C. **Emma Lawyer** performs on stage in the whimsical show, "Puffs." Lawyer was the narrator for the one act fall production. *Photo by Hannah Smith*





MLK Painting



Gallery

Jorie Beaumont sculpts in her ceramics class. She constructed a plate with 3D waves.  
Photo by Abby Blankenship

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*

Danielle Hall, a senior musical theatre major from Prairie Grove, used her time on stage to jump into the world of fun and witty characters throughout the year. "It was difficult to put on the show during COVID times, but I think it really pushed us all as actors," Hall said. "We had to maintain social distancing and wearing masks. We couldn't convey certain actions that require closeness. We had to be flexible and learn how to act without using the lower half of our faces. It is a challenge when we are portraying larger than life characters. It made us work so much harder to convey the story, since we were deprived of some of our acting tools. My favorite part of 'Hay Fever,' where I played Judith, was the sheer ridiculousness of the characters. This comedy let me portray a hilarious character that was just being completely herself."

*As told to Emily Barton*







Josh Sutton plays his saxophone on the McBeth Recital Hall stage. Sutton performed in the SAI recital. Photo by Hannah Adamson

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*



"Being involved in choir this year has been so different, it's hard to feel like a unified group when everyone is all spaced out. Of course, singing with a mask took a lot of adjustment, but even after we got used to that everyone still felt isolated. But I so admire everyone's attitude to adapt. Performing outside was honestly one of my favorite parts this year. It was certainly a challenge to sing well both outside and with mask, but all our concerts have been so much fun. It has been great to still have the opportunity to perform. From being involved in choir I have learned how to deepen community even when it is not the easiest to do. I have had to always be prepared and hold my own if the rest of my section was quarantined. Most importantly I learned to never take for granted the privilege of singing together," said Kyleigh Stevens, a sophomore performance voice major from Hot Springs. As told to Emily Barton



# EFFICIENT

A remodel leads to fresh innovations

Ouachita's Division of Music within the School of Fine Arts worked to provide students with ample opportunities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The department had to change the way musical productions and performances were done which ended up being a positive change. Clara Taylor, a junior choral music education major from White Hall, explained many of the concerts have moved to outside venues.

"I really enjoy the outdoor concerts," Taylor said. "It has pushed them to be more creative and has been a really good experience."

Before COVID-19, students participated in Festival of Christmas in the fall and a spring musical, but this year the department put on four outdoor concerts throughout both semesters.

Craig Crawford, a junior saxophone performance major from Texarkana, Texas, explained that the outdoor concerts feel more organic and relaxed. The music division has given students the opportunity to try new things and take advantage of the unique opportunities COVID-19 has given them. The division has also taken advantage by teaming up with other departments during concerts.

"I'm hoping we make regular outdoor events for the OBU community to enjoy," Crawford said. "The percussion ensemble teamed up with the art department to do a crossover exhibition. It was incredibly fun, and I thought being outside added a lot to the effectiveness of the event."

Along with the outdoor concerts, the division also incorporated more livestream and digital options. Hannah Anderson, a senior musical theater major from Austin, Texas, described that many concerts have been recorded and posted on YouTube, which was not an option before the pandemic.

"Technology has opened up a lot of new possibilities for the department," Anderson said. "We have been livestreaming everything and figuring out ways to do things digitally. Combined with traditional methods going forward would be interesting to help the department grow."

The music division has continually worked hard to give students a hands-on learning experience through choirs, performances, ensembles, and outstanding professors.

"I have been given so many opportunities to perform and put myself out there," Taylor said. "I am very close to my professors; they are very helpful and admirable."

Although Ouachita's program is smaller than some universities in Arkansas, Hannah Anderson described that Ouachita has something very unique to offer.

"You get really solid quality musical training, but everyone also cares so much that they push you past your comfort zone," Anderson said. "Everyone makes sure you are truly learning and growing as an artist."

Aryana Gardner, a senior music industry major from Conway, explained the Ouachita music program is very helpful and being part of a choir has taught her many things throughout her four years.

"We have had to work a lot harder than usual and adapt," Gardner said. "My favorite thing about the music department is creating beautiful sounds with different people coming together as one."

**"You get really solid quality musical training, but everyone also cares so much that they push you past your comfort zone."**

**- Hannah Anderson**

Michaelyn Ferrell



A. **Cloe Humphry** plays piano as she writes a song. Humphry arranged several songs throughout the semester in her class. Photo by Callie Rogers  
B. **Katie Bayer** plays in the Halloween piano recital. She dressed as a ghost in the spirit of the holiday. Photo by Hannah Adamson  
C. **Anna Holiman** sings during the Performing Arts Class. Holliman sang "With You" from the musical "Ghost." Photo by Hannah Adamson



In the School of Humanities, the Department of Language and Literature and the Rogers Department of Communications prepared students for a wide range of careers and a lifetime of learning. The School of Humanities consisted of languages and communications including English and Spanish majors as well as strategic communications, multimedia journalism, sports media, and many others. Communications was one of the largest majors at Ouachita, while English and Spanish majors continued to increase in number as students started to show more interest in the career fields.

Dr. Jeff Root, a communications professor since becoming part of the Ouachita faculty in 1991, has been Dean of the School of Humanities since 2002. What led Dr. Root to become a part of the Humanities department was his time at Ouachita.

"I studied communications, history, and education as an undergraduate at Ouachita, and I enjoy teaching and working with faculty," he said.

Dr. Root explained that some humanities classes that students are able to take include core courses such as Composition I and II, World Literature, and Fundamentals of Public Speaking.

"Hands-on learning experiences are the bread and butter of the school," Dr. Root said. "From the *Signal* newspaper, *Ouachitonian* yearbook and *Scope* on the print side, to sports productions to the newscasts, students learn their craft by gaining experience."

**"Understanding communication is essential for success in all occupations."**

**- Kara DeLaune**

Emily Koonce, a senior English and secondary education double major from Wylie, Texas, plans to teach English and language arts at the high school level and eventually earn her master's degree in English.

"I decided to major in English because it doesn't come easy to me," she said. "English was the only subject that I enjoyed, and I felt challenged me to grow as a writer and reader."

Matthew Branch, a junior communications major with an emphasis in sports media, from White Hall, wants to use his degree to go into the business of sports.

"My dream is to either be the broadcaster for a professional sports team or for a sports network like ESPN or Fox Sports and do national broadcasts," Branch said. "By taking humanities classes, I have grown by learning about who we are as people and how we can better communicate to work together."

Kara DeLaune, a senior Spanish and community and family services double major from Conway, believes that students should consider majoring within the school of humanities.

"The school of humanities provides students with the ability to take courses that will help them develop both personally and professionally," DeLaune said. "Understanding communication is essential for success in all occupations. Advanced skills in speaking, reading, and writing will not only aid in personal relationships, but in all areas of life."

Angela Webb

**PROACTIVELY**

Applied learning leads to practical wisdom



A. **Caity Hatchett** directs the production team at a swim meet. Hatchett worked on livestreams for all sports. *Photo by Levi Dade*

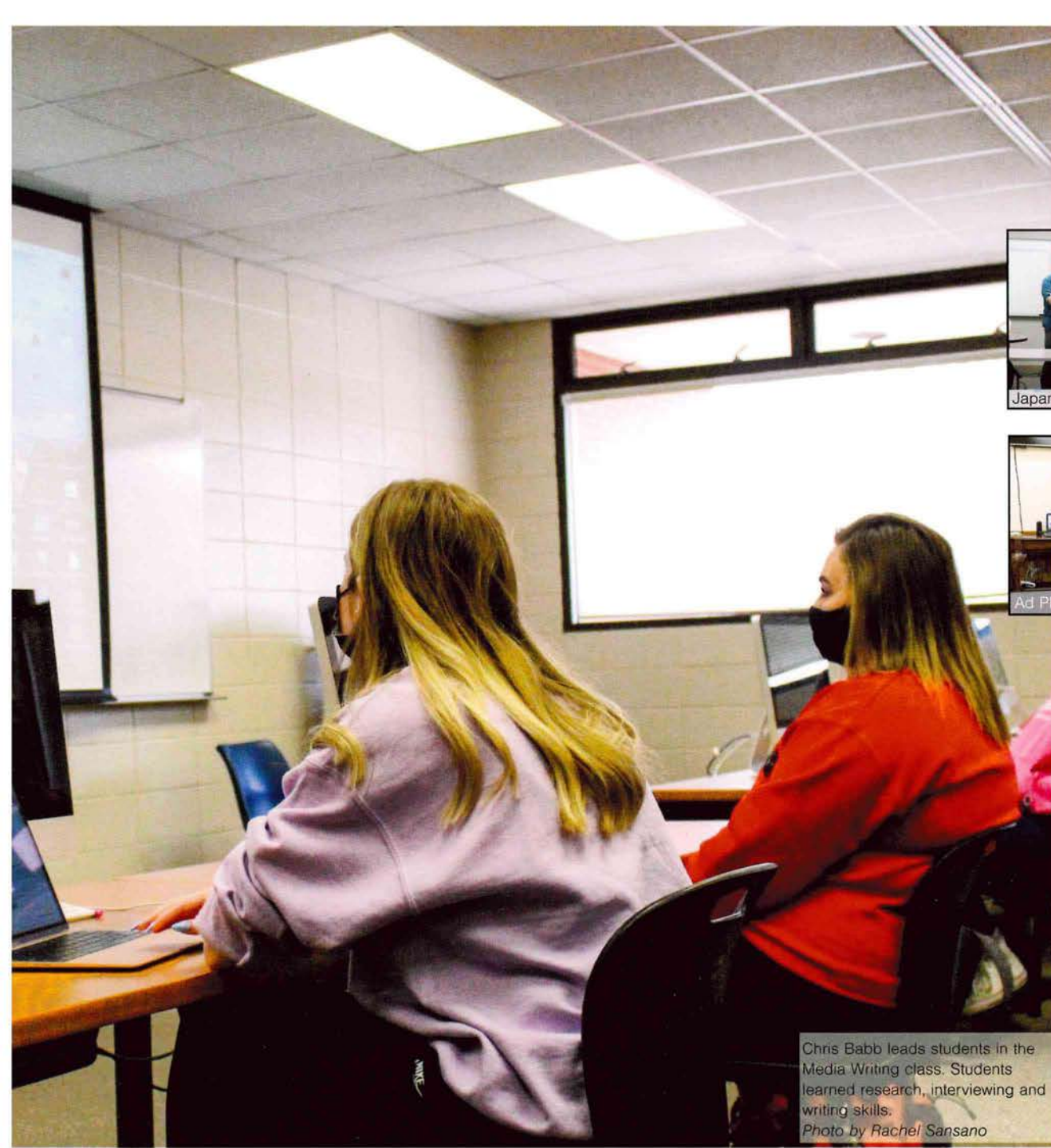


B. **Students discuss** poetry in Advanced Creative Writing. The class focused on the creative process behind their major works of fiction. *Photo by Levi Dade*

C. **Matthew Branch** interviews volleyball coach Allison Frizzell-Kizer between innings at the softball game. Branch served as video editor of the OSDN team. *Photo by Abby Blankenship*







Japanese



Ad PR Campaigns

Chris Babb leads students in the Media Writing class. Students learned research, interviewing and writing skills.  
Photo by Rachel Sansano

# FLEXIBILITY *on display*

“Our professor for Intro to Photography was Dr. Kluck who led the COVID task force on campus, so we knew our class would be run effectively while being safe. It was strange having a communications class in the choir room instead of a normal classroom, but it was a nice change of scenery. My favorite part of the class was going outside every Friday to practice taking pictures. It was a nice and refreshing way to leave the classroom environment and I could take in the fresh air. I enjoyed spending time outside with my fellow classmates. All of us were thankful we could be back on campus even amongst a global pandemic,” said Bates Yoakum, a senior communications major from Fayetteville.  
*As told to Emily Barton*





## Ouachita reintroduces graduate studies with Applied Behavioral Analysis

**W**orking against the shortage of trained Board-Certified Behavior Analysts in the nation, Ouachita decided to offer the first full master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis in the state of Arkansas.

Sheila K. Barnes is the Director of the ABA Program and within the program are multiple previous Ouachita students.

One of these students is Ouachita graduate Sadie Prejean from Russellville, who would describe the program so far as "learning together."

"My time in the ABA program has been a learning experience," Prejean said. "We are all learning together, students and faculty. Being in the first cohort means diving into more unknown than just graduate school. We are working as a team to learn how to multitask school and life and work. Working as a team to understand difficult concepts. Working as a team to communicate expectations."

The budding program was divided into coursework and fieldwork. The coursework was online consisting of online modules and Zoom classes. For Prejean, her fieldwork was working at Pediatrics Plus and getting all hands-on learning there. For these fieldwork courses, students get to apply what they learn in class by doing research projects and taking data in a clinical setting like they would as BCBAs.

"I find myself comparing it to my undergrad studies at Ouachita quite frequently," Prejean said. "It seems so weird to be a Ouachita student without being at Ouachita, considering the homey community experience that you get from physically being on, and submerged into, campus. As far as academically, hands are still outstretched for help when you need it and expectations and support for success are still present. There is still a sense of pride that comes with being a Tiger."

Another Ouachita graduate, Bethany Long, praises Ouachita for launching this program amidst a pandemic.

"It's honoring to be in the first cohort of this program ever, and it's also a lot of trial and error on both sides with trying to figure out logistics and everything," Long said. "Everything is online, but Dr. Barnes is good about being available to video chat with us as well as required weekly classes on Monday nights, and it's so nice being able to know that help is there. The program partners with other ABA programs to make sure you get the in-person instruction you need."


Libby Thompson, who is another Ouachita graduate also in the program, is paired with a clinic called AIM: Autism in Motion, where she gains her fieldwork experience hours for class.

"It's a great opportunity because I am working at an ABA Autism clinic as a Registered Behavior Technician and it counts for school," Thompson said.

"There has not been any difficulty for me. I just go to work full-time (to get my hours) and then come home and do my homework on nights and weekends. The Zoom calls for class materials are great and Dr. Barnes is very helpful and brilliant when it comes to her knowledge of Applied Behavior Analysis."

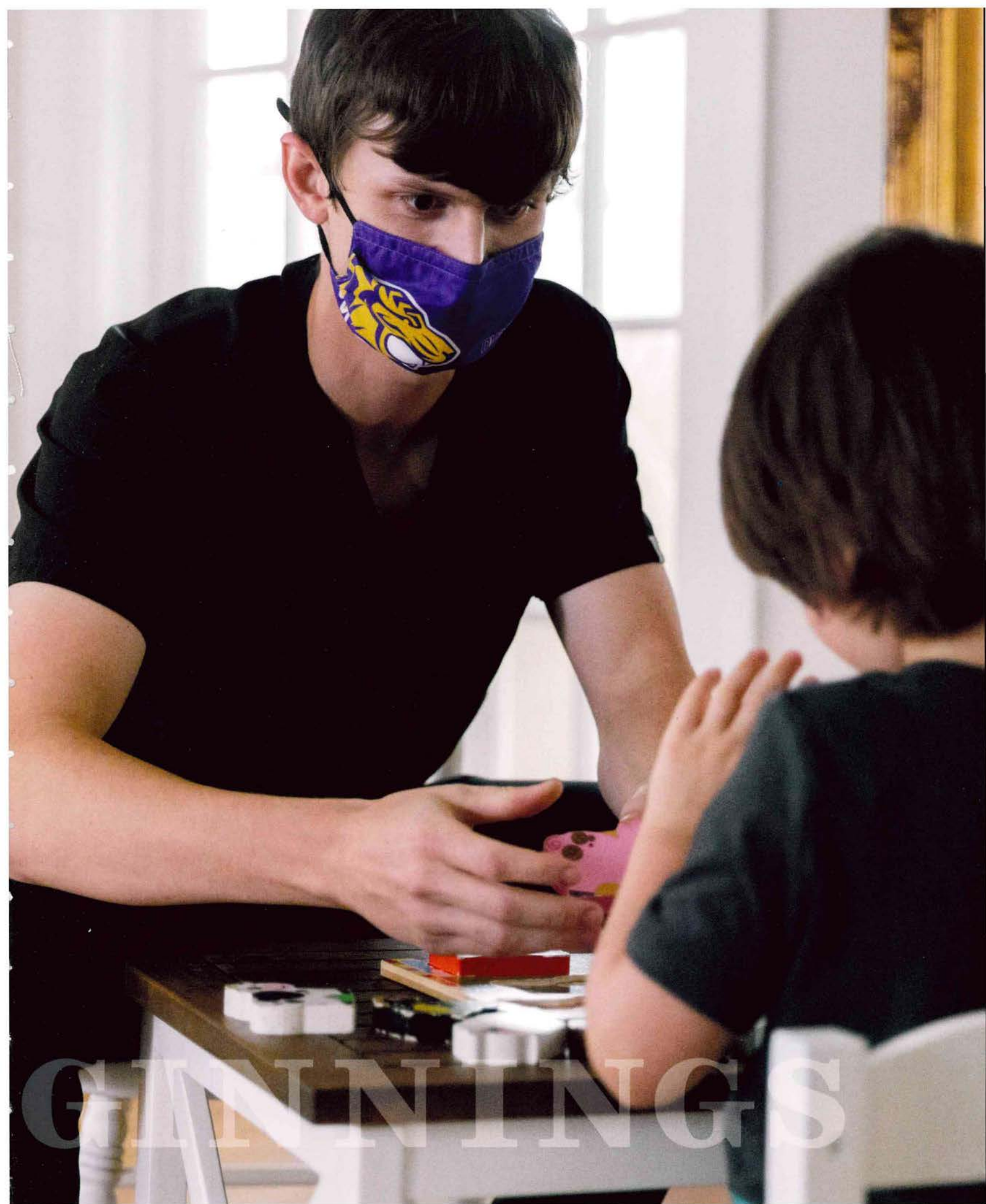
Ouachita Baptist halted grad study programs in the early 1990s, but with the recent emergence of the ABA Program, additional graduate programs are being developed.

Gracen Goudy



Ouachita partners with Pediatrics Plus to deliver behavior analysis programs.  
Photo by Brooke Zimny









Trey Nichols studies the brain's structure. Nichols dissected a sheep eye and brain in his lab.  
Photo by Meagan North

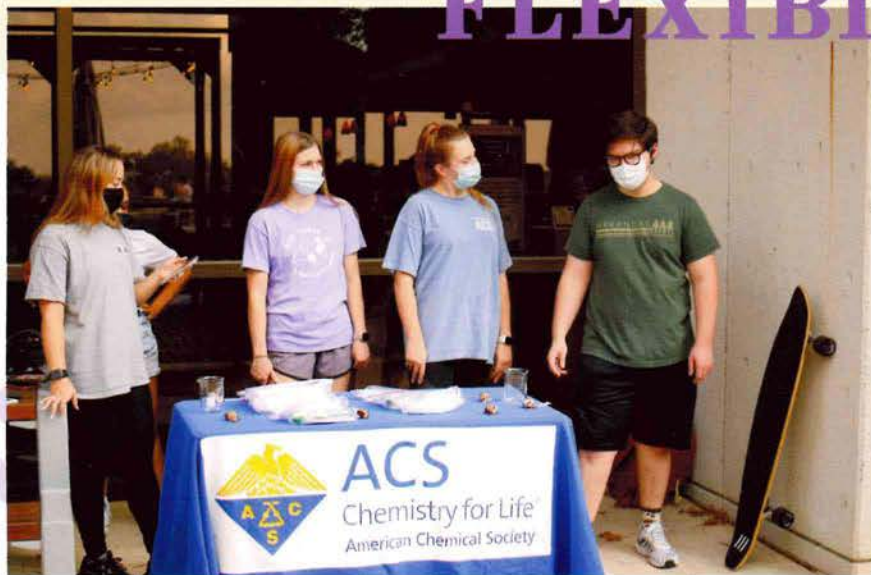


Sarah Rountree/CMDS



Nutrition Month

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*



The American Chemical Society exhibited extraordinary flexibility in how they were able to pivot while planning events throughout the semester, Harry Jeffrey, a junior chemistry major from Conway, said. He served as the OBU chapter's vice president. "For National Chemistry Week, we had to adapt from our usual demonstrations. We assembled the demos into bags and passed them out along with a link on how the science behind it made it work. My favorite part this year was working so closely together with fellow officers and sponsors to show the student body how awesome chemistry is. When we could not host a live Women in STEM event due to COVID-19, we adapted and got to work on a Zoom conference. ACS banded together to make the most out of this very different year." As told to Emily Barton



# POSSIBILITIES

Making the most of every opportunity

The Patterson School of Natural Sciences was one of the largest schools on campus, serving as a home to eight different majors: biology, chemistry, physics, math and computer science, dietetics, communication sciences and disorders, and nursing. The school focused not only on in-class instruction, but experiences that gave a more well-rounded education.

Dr. Tim Knight served as dean of the school and played an active role in Ouachita's summer research program. This program, which has been completed by over 300 students, was first funded by an endowment donated by an alumnus which allowed students to stay on campus for eight weeks in the summer to research and learn alongside their professors.

"It is a phenomenal program that helps students figure out what they really enjoy doing," Dr. Knight said. "It's really been one of the key ingredients of our success."

The school had to make several adjustments to accommodate for COVID-19 within the context of their more hands-on learning experiences, such as labs. Some professors took on overseeing two classrooms at once in order to allow all students to take the classes they needed while also keeping everyone safe.

"My folks have really stepped up and gone above and beyond the norm to help accommodate students," Dr. Knight explained. "They've gone the extra mile without complaining and have done a great job."

Even aside from these restrictions, professors in the school made an active effort to get to know each of their students on a personal level and invested in them like any other year.

Kallen Smith, a sophomore biology major from Jonesboro, liked how the professors in every science major did a good job of making sure he, not only learned the material but, was able to apply it. In his opinion, the professors helped make the program one of the best in the state.

"They do a good job of seeking out every single student and want to see everyone succeed, not just a percentage," Smith said. "The professors really know who I am outside of class."

Ouachita's dietetics major expanded this year when the school added a dietetic internship program that students can apply for after graduation.

Madeline Steely, a senior dietetics major from Conway, enjoyed the opportunities she's had in the department to take what she learned in classes out into the field. Steely was able to see what it takes to run an operation efficiently through volunteer service and saw what clinical dietitians are responsible for at Baptist Hospital, and also had a chance to help in an educational nutrition fair for kids.

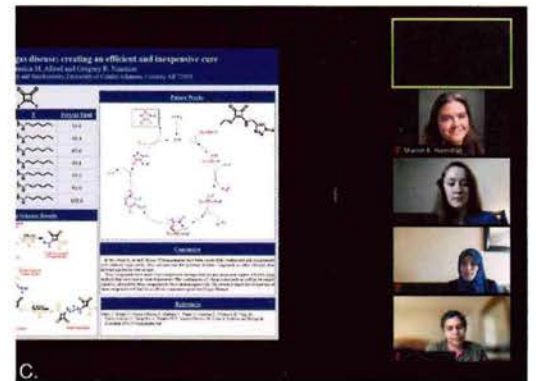
"I would say that the dietetics major provided students with many different experience opportunities," Steely explained. "These are great not only for boosting our resumes, but also provide us with insight of what it is like to work in the different areas of our field."

Whether cleaning out the ravine, teaching children in school about their majors, or hosting campus events such as Chemistry Week or a Student Dietetic Association chocolate-covered strawberry fundraiser, the School of Natural Sciences had a very active presence both on campus and in the community. Students faced difficult classes in a new environment and worked with professors to create a safe space for learning.

**"I would say that the dietetics major provided students with many different experience opportunities."**

**- Madeline Steely**

Anna Rousel



A. **Students cook** vegetables in their Nutrition and Dietetics food lab. The class learned how food reacted to different elements. *Photo by Abby Blankenship*

B. **Amy Eubanks leads** her students through their Anatomy Lab. Students were given a cat to dissect and were quizzed throughout the year. *Photo by Meagan North*

C. **Dr. Sharon Hamilton hosts** the Women in STEM Conference over Zoom. The department was the first to hold a Female STEM conference in Arkansas. *Photo courtesy of obu.edu*



**T**he nursing program at Ouachita Baptist was fairly new as it launched in the fall of 2019. Although the first full year was cut short due to COVID-19, this school year, despite the circumstances, was successful for the nursing program.

After two years at Ouachita, nursing students complete the clinical portion of the degree through Baptist Health in Little Rock. Transitioning to online learning at Baptist Health due to COVID-19 effected nursing students differently. Some were able to adapt quicker under the conditions, whereas other students faced challenges.

"Honestly, at first I struggled with learning online, but as time has gone on, I have learned how to better study under the certain circumstances," said Madi Esch, a junior nursing major from Benton.

Prior to the clinical portion of the program at Baptist Health, the nursing program taught their students in the classroom with more hands-on practical learning, but because of COVID-19, nursing students endured several obstacles this school year.

"I had to overcome test anxiety, learning online, dealing with COVID-19, and having to wear a mask, and having to wear a mask when talking face-to-face is extremely difficult and tiring," said Esch.

Even though COVID-19 brought some challenges, overall it did not affect the teaching of nursing classes by faculty.

"Nurses are flexible and COVID-19 brought out the best in the nursing faculty to ensure that teaching, learning, and advising continued in quality manner," said Dr. Brenda Trigg, the nursing program director.

Although adversities took place this academic year, the program continued to grow and left the department excited for what is to come.

"With a shortage in the nursing profession, we are excited and proud to educate quality professional future nurses," said Trigg.

Amidst the trials and circumstances COVID-19 brought to this program, nursing students still felt extremely prepared to continue their program at Baptist Health.

"After leaving Ouachita, professors would come visit Baptist Health and help us retain information," said Bethany Colbert, a junior nursing major from Jonesboro. "The program gave me a great education in all background knowledge I needed for nursing school," said Colbert.

One thing that set Ouachita's nursing program apart from other schools is the smaller class sizes during the students' first two years on campus.

"I love that the classrooms are smaller than most schools because we get to work all together," said Martha Kay Freeman, a senior nursing major from Freeport, Florida.

Ouachita offered an intimate and faith-based education that is too hard to pass up, according to the students. With smaller class sizes, it was easier to connect with professors and faculty on a personal level.

Whether it is the materials learned, or accomplishments made amidst the circumstances of COVID-19, Ouachita's nursing students were ready for whatever came their way.

Lucie Shepherd

**"The program gave me a great education in all background knowledge I needed for nursing school."**  
- Bethany Colbert

**PURSUIT**  
Ready for twists and turns through every trial



A. **Madi Esch** and Dr. McKeever work their shift of administering vaccines. Nursing students helped vaccinate people in the community at several different clinics.

*Photo courtesy of Facebook*



B. **Dr. Rebecca Parnell** teaches fundamental nursing skills. Parnell served as associate professor of nursing. *Photo by Hannah Adamson*



C. **Gio Chavarri** washes his hands. Chavarri learned the importance of proper hand washing for hands-on learning activities. *Photo by Hannah Adamson*





Maci Hill puts on surgical wear. Hill was practicing sanitation rules for a class. Photo by Hannah Adamson



Sanitizing



Group discussion

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*

"I think one of the biggest challenges nursing students overcame was finding ways to serve and care for people among all the restrictions. We all share a desire to serve and love on people. Thankfully, we were able to have a few opportunities to serve within the community. We found creative ways to think outside of our normal box to figure out how to best serve others," said Bay Novak a junior nursing major from Caldwell, Texas. Novak discussed how her professors were a huge encourager for her to get through the challenges of learning in a pandemic. "All three of our professors are very involved in preparing us to become great nurses. They exhibit such joy of teaching, and because of them I feel prepared to one day become a nurse. I have had to adjust to e-learning and attending Nurses' Day online. We discussed how to become involved in the political arena for nursing issues."

*As told to Emily Barton*







Sarah Freeze actively takes notes in History of World Societies. The course was part of the CORE requirements.  
*Photo by Madison Melcher*

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*



"Scientific Inquiry had a lot of hands-on learning where we had to get in groups, answer questions and complete assignments. Engaging with the other classmates helped me stay active in class. My focus for being flexible helped me work through the pandemic," said Tanner Shipman, a junior business administration and marketing major from Little Rock. He was successful by getting rid of distractions. "I found it hard to study sometimes, but I put away distractions, such as phones, TV and other things. This helped me to engage in my studies better. My professors have been extremely helpful throughout the pandemic. They are understandable when something happened and I couldn't make it to class. As well as helping us all stay on track. Class dynamics have changed a lot. It's weird having to social distance, but it helped limit distractions in class, making us better students."  
*As told by Emily Barton*



# DIVERSE

Liberal Arts provide a medley of wisdom

From its initial founding, Ouachita offered a liberal arts education. The school's ability to offer a vast variety of core classes allowed Ouachita to provide exclusive skills and forms of study to students who may never have encountered this opportunity otherwise. The School of Interdisciplinary Studies web page states, "At Ouachita, we recognize that in the world God created all of these areas are interconnected. While we separate them to create major fields of study, we also emphasize through Ouachita's CORE program that we have something to learn from each one and from connections among them."

Alongside the school's dedication to the liberal arts courses was the dedication of the faculty to present such material in an engaging and active way. Dr. Rebecca Jones, Program Administer of the Oral Communications Program, mentioned that her time teaching public speaking has been some of her most fulfilling work, allowing her to interact with a diverse group of students. Dr. Jones also spoke on the importance of such curriculum.

"I love the way it brings understanding to a lot of different things and different subjects, disciplined deeper in some areas that are really interesting," she said.

Not only was the university faculty adamant about diverse education, but so were the students. Sophomore physics and mathematics major from Benton, Kinley Ritter, found that Interdisciplinary Studies courses gave her the opportunity to meet professors that she was able to go to for advice about potential majors.

As well, junior communications major Erica Wilmath from Hot Springs, stated that her Fine Arts Theatre course may not influence the career path that the Lord leads her down after college, however, she gained a new appreciation and understanding for what this industry is.

Wilmath also said, "I have learned to think differently than I may have ever done if it hadn't been for this class that Ouachita offers. I think that it is beneficial to your character."

In regard to the COVID-19 semester, forming new communities and relationships became difficult for students because of social restrictions.

Junior nutrition and dietetics major Abigail Morris from Conway, stated that she was grateful for her current courses. Morris said that she made new friends in her World Lit class that she may have never crossed paths with due to conflicting majors on top of COVID-19. Many of Ouachita's liberal arts courses have allowed many diverse students to build strong relationships on top of furthering their educational experiences.

**"I have learned to think differently than I may have ever done if it hadn't been for this class that Ouachita offers."**

**- Erica Wilmath**

Katie Moore



A. **Students read** for History of World Societies. Students gained an understanding of the use of primary and secondary material in their studies. *Photo by Madison Melcher*

B. **Students concentrate** on the lecture in Scientific Inquiry. This science class held active discussions and gave students hands-on learning. *Photo by Hannah Adamson*

C. **Group discussion** is how students connect in World Literature. The class was held in Walker, and dividing in small groups helped in analyzing the readings. *Photo by Madison Melcher*



The Sutton School of Social Sciences emphasized hands-on learning which allowed the students to gain real world experience.

Hannah Webber, a public history major from Longview, Texas, discussed how the department has inspired her passion to connect with people.

"The history department encouraged discussion; I have gotten a lot more comfortable with how I present myself to people. I like to say I major in museums and I am hoping to be able to connect with people sharing pieces of history," Webber said.

A visit to a World War I museum was beneficial for Webber. "It shined a light on the humanitarian aspect of history," Webber said.

The school has a wide variety of disciplines including political science, psychology, sociology, history, and social justice.

Social justice students expanded their knowledge and influence on the community volunteering with numerous nonprofit organizations.

"My career path changed since going through the program, because I learned my passion is less in the legal process and more in the sociological relations. I want to use my social justice degree to start up my own nonprofit," Jared Wainright said, a junior double major in psychology and social justice from El Dorado.

**"My Social Science degree gave me a new lens and taught me how to look for the need in a community while building on my empathy."**

**- Jared Wainright**

Psychology students got hands on learning from shadowing in classrooms for human development as well as getting to curate a research study in Research Methods.

"My hands-on experience grant writing directly helped the local enrichment center," Wainright said.

Dr. Myra Houser was an assistant professor in history and coordinator of the social justice program. Her role helped students learn how to grow their passions into actively seeking positive change.

"Within the classroom students held important discussions on topics related to humanity and growing their interpersonal skills preparing them for professional relationships," Dr. Houser said.

The pandemic made students expand their ways of connecting to people and many students had to overcome the cancellation of internships. However, practical opportunities were provided.

"Being in model UN has given me experience in approaching political issues. It facilitates compromise. I learned how difficult legislating is and it gave me a stronger belief in large institutions," Spencer Worth said, a senior political science major from Little Rock.

Worth discussed how he felt his degree prepared him for a future in international security working in government.

"Political science is a broad sweeping major that can be applied in all areas where people have the opportunity to pursue interest in the organization of structures. Gaining experience in social interactions is the biggest contributor social science offers," Worth said.

Social Science is rooted in addressing systemic issues while holding positive outlooks. This important challenge prepares students for the real world.

"My social science degree gave me a new lens and taught me how to look for the need in a community while building on my empathy," Wainright said.

Emily Barton

# INTELLECT

Classrooms with growth orientation



A. **Students lead** discussion facilitation in Revolutionary Europe. The class learned about the economic and social factors of European culture. *Photo by Mikaela Monahan*



B. **Digging into** archives, students gain valuable experience with real artifacts. Dr. Lisa Speer showed how to properly care and handle the valuable pieces of history. *Photo courtesy of Social Science Facebook*

C. **Pietra Gois Camargo** attends a panel discussion prior to the November election. Students attended the panel, led by Dr. Lewis Shepherd, as a way to learn more about civic engagement. *Photo by Sarah Dean*



C.





Dr. Mott



Electron path...

Students in Research Methods work all year on building their own study. Research was a focus of all disciplines within the social sciences. Photo by Levi Dade

# FLEXIBILITY *on display*

"The history department, students and professors alike have had to explore and learn new realms of technology during this past year in order to keep up with everything changing so rapidly," said Hannah Webber, who is photographed in her American Women class. "We had to incorporate a mixture of meeting on Zoom and in person to make sure everyone stayed a part of the important conversations and discussions. Professors maintained office hours with safety protocols to ensure their students felt supported. Discussions remained as lively as ever, sometimes even having to yell a little to be heard through our mask. In American Women class we discussed the progress and evolution of women's standing in America. It pushed us to actively evolve ourselves while trying to make sense of an ever-changing world."

*As told by Emily Barton*





## A presentation of *Gianni Schicchi*, on disc

**W**hen students were sent home in March due to the coronavirus pandemic, the opera was already chosen, cast and being prepped for the upcoming semester. The students were to perform, *Gianni Schicchi*, "one of the classics that the community of opera knows and loves to this day," said Logan Dooley, a senior musical theatre major from Texarkana, Texas, and lead actor playing Gianni Schicchi.

Due to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 guidelines, like social distancing and wearing masks, the opera had to find a new way to present the *Gianni Schicchi* production. The solution was to film, record and create an opera documentary with a full production video, behind the scenes look and interviews with the cast and crew. This type of production had never been done before at Ouachita and was definitely a challenge for both the directors and students.

"With our new plan, students were to come back to campus in the fall as prepared as possible, so we could move quickly through the music and begin recording," said Dr. Joshua Brown, music director of *Gianni Schicchi*. "The only issue was that this is a 180-page-opera and the Arkansas Department of Health singing guidelines said we can only sing for 30-minute stretches in a particular area. So, we created these schedules where we would start in the dance studio singing, then move to the recital hall to sing and then go back to the dance studio to sing and back and forth to have rehearsals."

After the musical prep-work was completed, another schedule was created for recording performances with the instruments and borrowed-recording equipment, in which the singers only had time for two recording cuts of each chunk of the show.

"At first, we recorded about half the scenes with the piano, organ and percussion without the singers," Brown said. "Then the singers were able to listen and record themselves over the tracks of the instruments. The phases were, tracks, tracks and live singers and finally singers performing over the piano and organ."

The next portion of the documentary process was to block and record the visual part of the show. All aspects of the acting portion were recorded and performed in singers masks while students lip sang to their previous recordings.

"Wearing masks can distort sound and has made breathing correctly more challenging for all of us," said Melodie DuBose, a senior musical theatre major from Conroe, Texas, and female lead, Laurette. "I have also found it more difficult to play infatuated lovers while always staying six feet apart."

In addition to this difficulty, opera director John Briggs was teaching remotely throughout the entire semester.

"He remotely blocked the whole show and it was crazy," said Brown. "He had someone conduct a Zoom session while one student held a camera from one angle and the Mo-flex from another angle, allowing him to see everything. "It definitely was a challenge artistically, but it worked."

At the beginning of 2021, the documentary film was completed and released to students, staff and community through online video and blu-ray discs. In the film, the performers answered interview questions as well as offered the option to watch the entire production of *Gianni Schicchi*. With those options, the audience had the opportunity to pick and choose what they wanted to watch.

"This process pushed us beyond the norm and forced us to grow; and our students were benefitted by that," said Brown. "In terms of Ouachita, this has opened the possibilities to continue doing our productions in this way. Who knows what kind of creative abilities this may give us for the future, but we have certainly made the most of this season."

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, Dooley said, "Ouachita will still reach the expectations of an amazing school of music and an amazing expression of art."

Madison Cresswell



Photo by Abby Blankenship









Professional attire



Lunch Break



Katie Harmon presents her honors thesis. Harmon's presentation was over math anxiety.  
*Photo by Abby Blankenship*

## FLEXIBILITY *on display*



"The honors program has always been about connecting and learning with others, especially with people inside and outside of our own discipline. COVID-19 put a strain on how much connecting we could do at first, but I'm grateful for how Dr. Pemberton, the members, the officers and ambassadors rose to the challenge. In the fall, lots of ambassadors got creative with honor events, whether it was through Zoom calls, letters of encouragement, or simply having intentional conversations with the new members. I'm impressed with all the honors students, it's been a tough year, but we've pushed through and have come up with amazing thesis topics. If you attended Scholars Day, you know how much effort went into those presentations. I am so grateful to be apart of this amazing program and learn from even more amazing students," said Cora Saddler, a junior English major from Cabot.  
*As told to Emily Barton*



**COVID Conduct**  
Many presentations were made outside



# DISPLAY

Presenting powerful research

**D**uring this unprecedented school year during COVID-19, changes were made to all of the annual activities that usually happen during the normal school year. Scholars Day was no exception. Last year, Scholars Day was moved online, and all seniors and juniors presented their presentations on Zoom. This year, the presentations were able to happen in person with small changes to accommodate COVID-19 guidelines. There was a limit of how many people could be inside during the presentations and some were even moved outside to allow for more people to attend.

Seniors in the Honors Program presented their thesis project during Scholars Day.

Scarlett Castleberry, a senior psychology and communications double major from Bryant, presented her Honors thesis on an examination of creation myths across multiple time periods and cultures.

"It was great getting to study something of my own choice and it really encouraged me to learn the process better than I likely would have otherwise," said Castleberry.

She began working on her project at the beginning of the spring semester, spending up to two hours a day reading, researching and writing.

Caity Hatchett, a senior history and communications double major from Shreveport, La., used Scholars Day as a way to channel her academic and presentation skills.

"I'm grateful to have been a part of the Honors program and to have been able to be part of this event for two years, and I couldn't imagine my Ouachita experience without Scholars Day. It's just a really fun experience that brings the campus community together," said Hatchett.

Scholars Day provided opportunities for students to gain knowledge from professors and work with them on their research and performance skills. Will Guerra, a senior finance and political science double major from Benton, worked alongside Dr. Chris Brune to present his project.

"I worked with Dr. Brune and the two other presenters for probably a few hours so we'd be prepared for the presentation. We came up with the panel format and then worked through some of the questions we knew we'd be asking," said Guerra.

While Scholars Day had minor changes this year, it still allowed students across disciplines an opportunity to display their hard work and accomplishments.

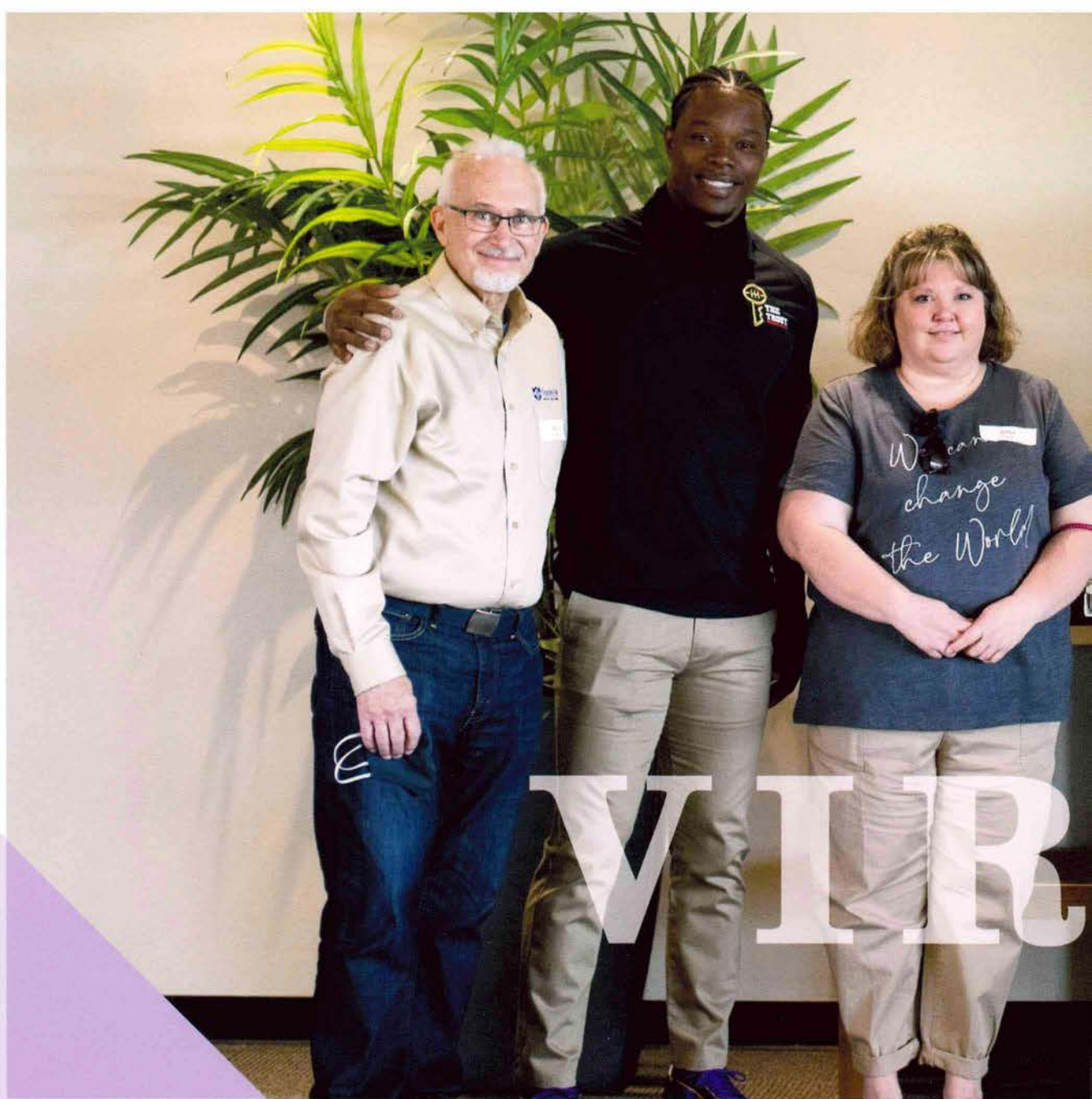
**"It was great getting to study something of my own choice and it really encouraged me to learn the process better."  
- Scarlett Castleberry**



A. **Natural science** students prepare for their poster presentations. These students presented their summer research findings in JPAC. *Photo from Facebook*  
B. **Elizabeth Ring** and Sara Kate Cole play sisters in their theatre performance. They performed on the Verser stage. *Photo by Levi Dade*  
C. **Students gather** on the lawn in the plaza area. Students ate lunch outside on Scholars Day to celebrate the beautiful spring weather. *Photo by Levi Dade*



**Online learning  
offers freedom  
and flexibility**



**T**he pandemic made many colleges and universities turn to online means of learning. Luckily, Ouachita was ahead of the game with its online program already in place. Ouachita Online was a nationally-accredited program that offered four different majors for students to pursue anywhere they were located.

Sophomore John Guttery, a Christian studies major from Benton, Ark., chose to be a part of the program due to the availability, and it had the major he wanted. Many non-traditional students not only had jobs, but families they had to support.

“Working full time, as well as being a full-time husband and father, the program enabled me to seek a degree in a field dear

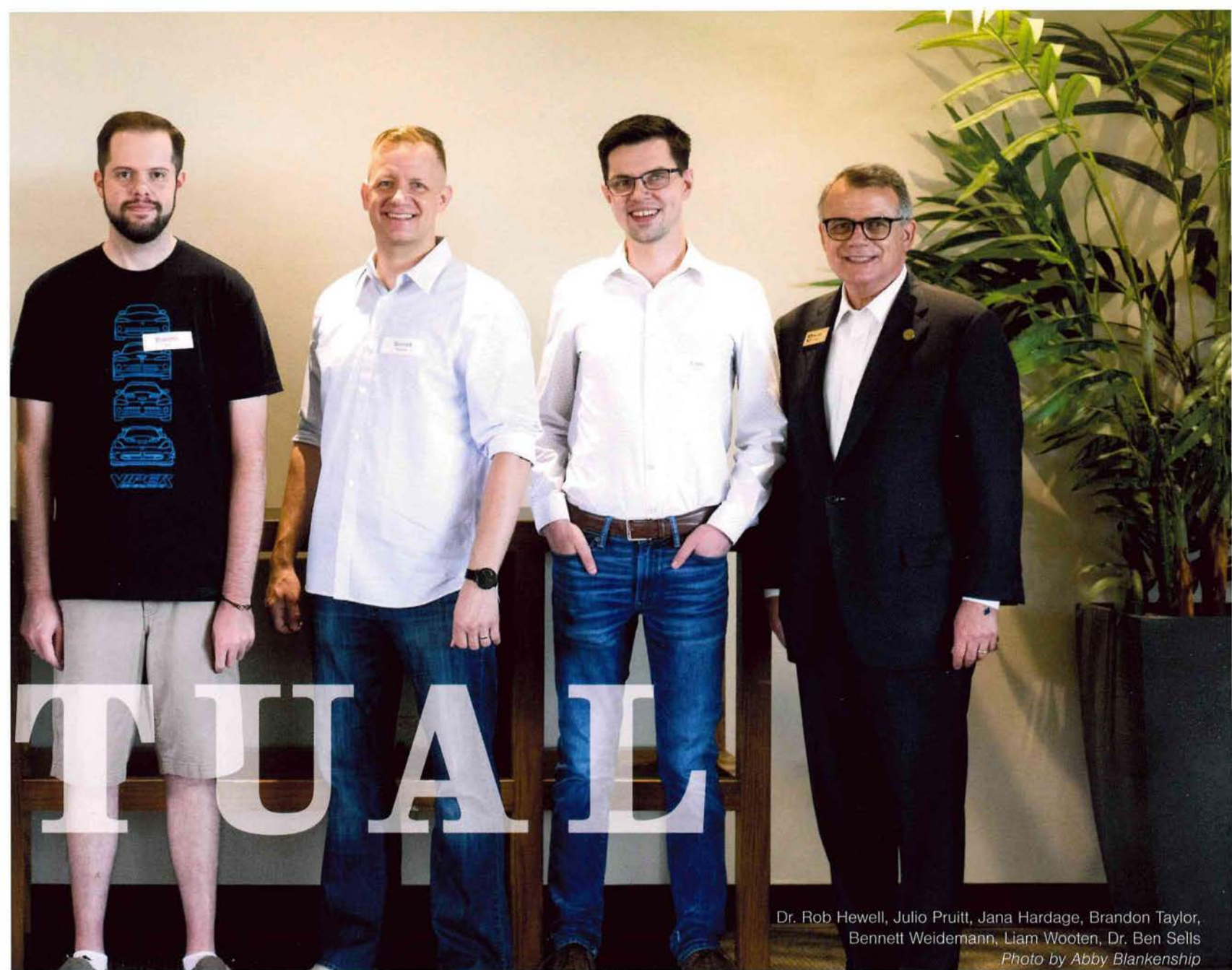
to me. The online format is simple and easy to understand, while providing the content to learn,” Guttery said.

Another online student, Bennett Weidemann, from Arkadelphia, Ark., was a student at Ouachita and obtained his first degree in person. He knows what it’s like to be an online student, but also that traditional in-person learning. The program allowed him to come back and be a Tiger again through different means.

“I love this program. It really creates opportunities not otherwise possible for people like myself. It has been challenging, fun, frustrating, exhilarating, and unique. I was able to be a Tiger twice, as a 20-year old and as a 40-year old,” Weidmann said.

Weidmann also acknowledged the





Dr. Rob Hewell, Julio Pruitt, Jana Hardage, Brandon Taylor, Bennett Weidemann, Liam Wooten, Dr. Ben Sells  
 Photo by Abby Blankenship

importance of getting a college education in order for him to progress within the workforce. Online learning allows for the student to be able to gain their degree while also still working around their schedule.

“As an almost 20-year active duty United States Air Force service member, continuing my education is vital

**“This is new for all of us, but we push each other every day to get better despite the circumstances.”**  
 - Dawson Goodwin

to my career progression. OBU has allowed me to meet this requirement seamlessly with my busy nonstop career and life,” Weidemann said.

Suzette Handwork, an online nursing major from Benton, Ark., greatly appreciated the

online program’s ability to work around and through her schedule. She currently is working in a hospital but knew that in order for her to advance in her career, she needed to further her education.

“My favorite aspect of being online is flexibility. I am able to work full-time and carry full-time hours in college. I can work ahead if I need to or spread my learning out over the entire week. Online classes help to foster the work-life balance that nurses seek,” Handwork said.

The day before spring commencement, Ouachita Online hosted a luncheon for the graduates who came to campus to participate in the graduation ceremony.

“They really enjoyed getting to meet online classmates in person,” said Dr. Rob Hewell, director of Online Learning Initiatives. “They appreciated Dr. Sells being present, and several of them who had Mr. Ellis Leagans for Elementary Spanish 1 & 2 were delighted to get to meet him in person. It was a privilege for our Ouachita Online Staff - Marla Rigsby, Sara West, and myself - to host the event.”

Meredith Medford



## International students battle uncertainty amidst global pandemic

**D**uring a time of uncertainty, Ouachita's international students were faced with many problems when COVID-19 hit March of 2020. Some struggled to find ways to return home and others a place to stay. However, Ouachita kept its doors open and provided a home as students sorted out their living situations.

For Gwyneth Hadasa, a junior nutrition and dietetics major from Indonesia, traveling home during a global pandemic was the greatest worry on her plate.

"I was too scared to go on a plane because my plane ride would be 24 hours," she said. "I was also scared that I could not come back here, because of travel restrictions, so I didn't really want to risk it, and decided to stay put here in America over the summer."

Hadasa was not the only student worried about traveling home during the pandemic. Vanessa Vives, a sophomore elementary education major from Bogota, Colombia, also had to find somewhere to stay other than home.

"A very generous and loving family from Memphis received me and two other international friends," she said. "Some days were very hard, but being together with two other international friends was very encouraging. Our faith was strengthened and we grew closer to the Lord. It was also really sweet because we got to make fun memories through it all – we baked, we painted, and we laughed."

There was no way of knowing when COVID was going to come to an end so many students had to find ways around their travel restrictions administered by their home country, and also had to find ways to get into the states. Isabella Bejarano, a freshman elementary education major from Bogota, Colombia, faced those problems as she struggled to return to school in August of 2020.

"I had my visa and passport appointments scheduled over the summer, but just as they were coming up, stricter lock downs and curfews were applied, and my appointments were canceled," Bejarano said.

However, Ouachita's policy for check-in was very flexible for those students who faced difficulties getting into the United States.

"When I finally released my expectations, miraculously, I got new appointments scheduled and my processes were expedited," she said. "In the span of two weeks, I had to pack my bags, and say goodbye to everyone."

João Rodrigues, a senior, finance major from Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, faced similar problems to Bejarano.

"I was supposed to be gone for three months that ended up being 10 because of the U.S. travel restrictions," Rodrigues said. "It was complicated to understand and work around travel guidelines that were often changing or inconsistent."

Despite the fact that many of the international students were unable to return home, many of them made the most out of their situations. Kelsey Bester, a sophomore biology and communications major from South Africa, had a memorable summer.

"I stayed in the Starlite apartments with a roommate, but the third month was where the real fun began," Bester said. "My dad and I decided that I should use my time as best I could while having the opportunity to be in the states, so I went on the road trip of a lifetime. Over those 30 days, I explored Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, and Tennessee. I had the best time ever and I'm so grateful I got to do that."

Meredith Medford

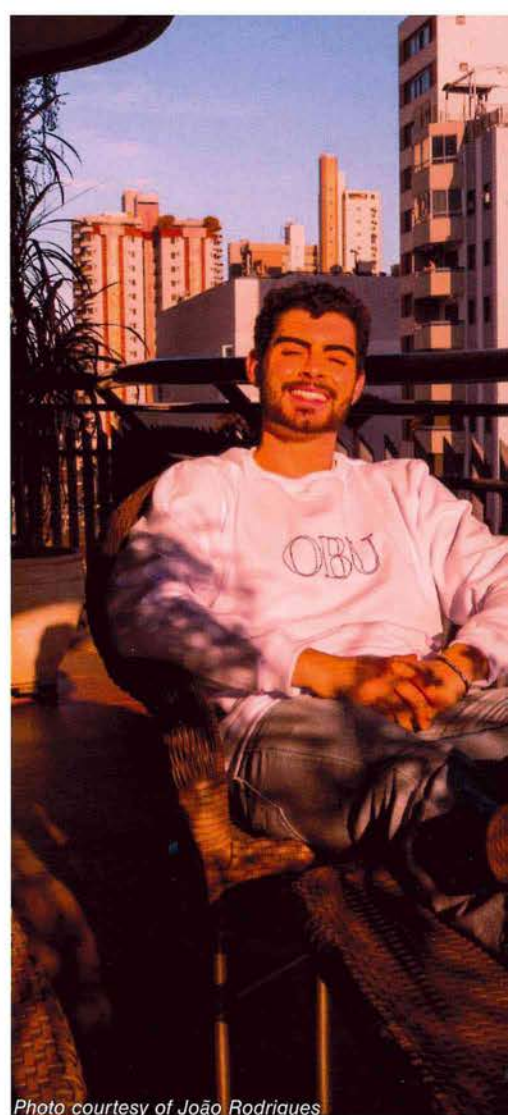


Photo courtesy of João Rodrigues



Photo courtesy of Sabaoot Esho (also pictured is Gwyneth Hasada)





Photo by Vanessa Vives (Also pictured is Pietra Gois Camargo and Maria Urbina with Keren Fernandez on FaceTime)

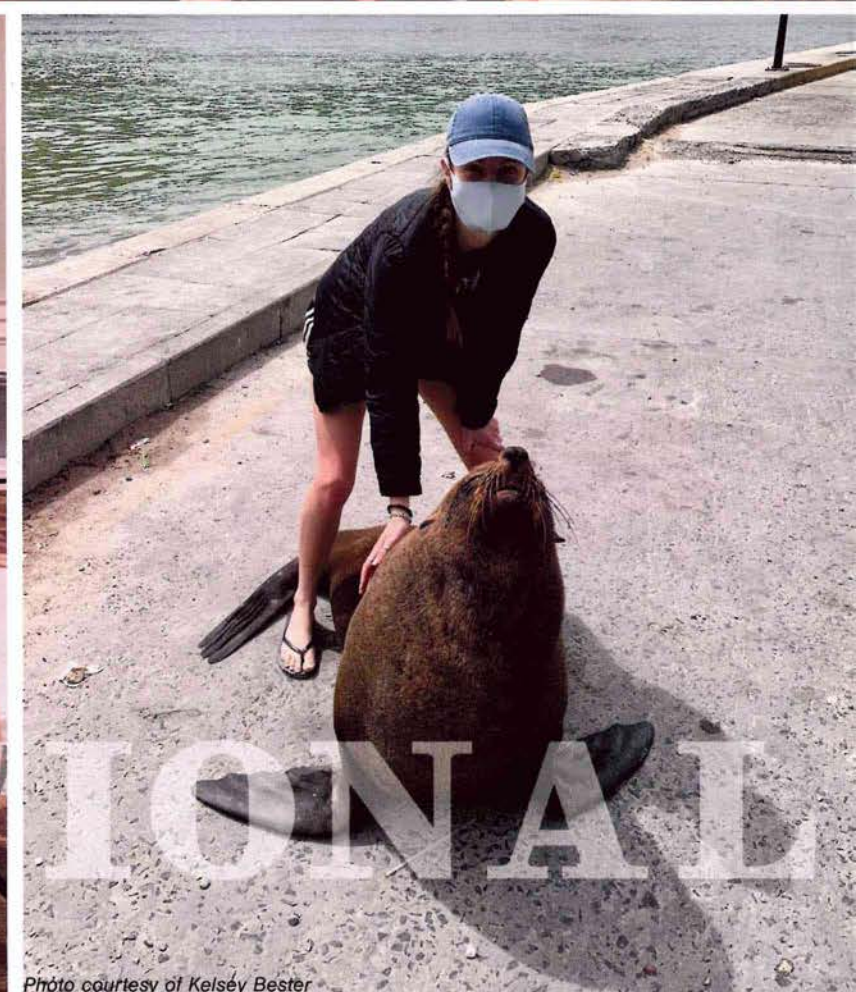


Photo courtesy of Kelsey Bester