

ETCHED IN GOLD

2023 OUACHITONIAN
Ouachita Baptist University
Enrollment: 1,784
410 Ouachita Street
Arkadelphia, AR 71998
870.345.5211
Ouachitonian@obu.edu

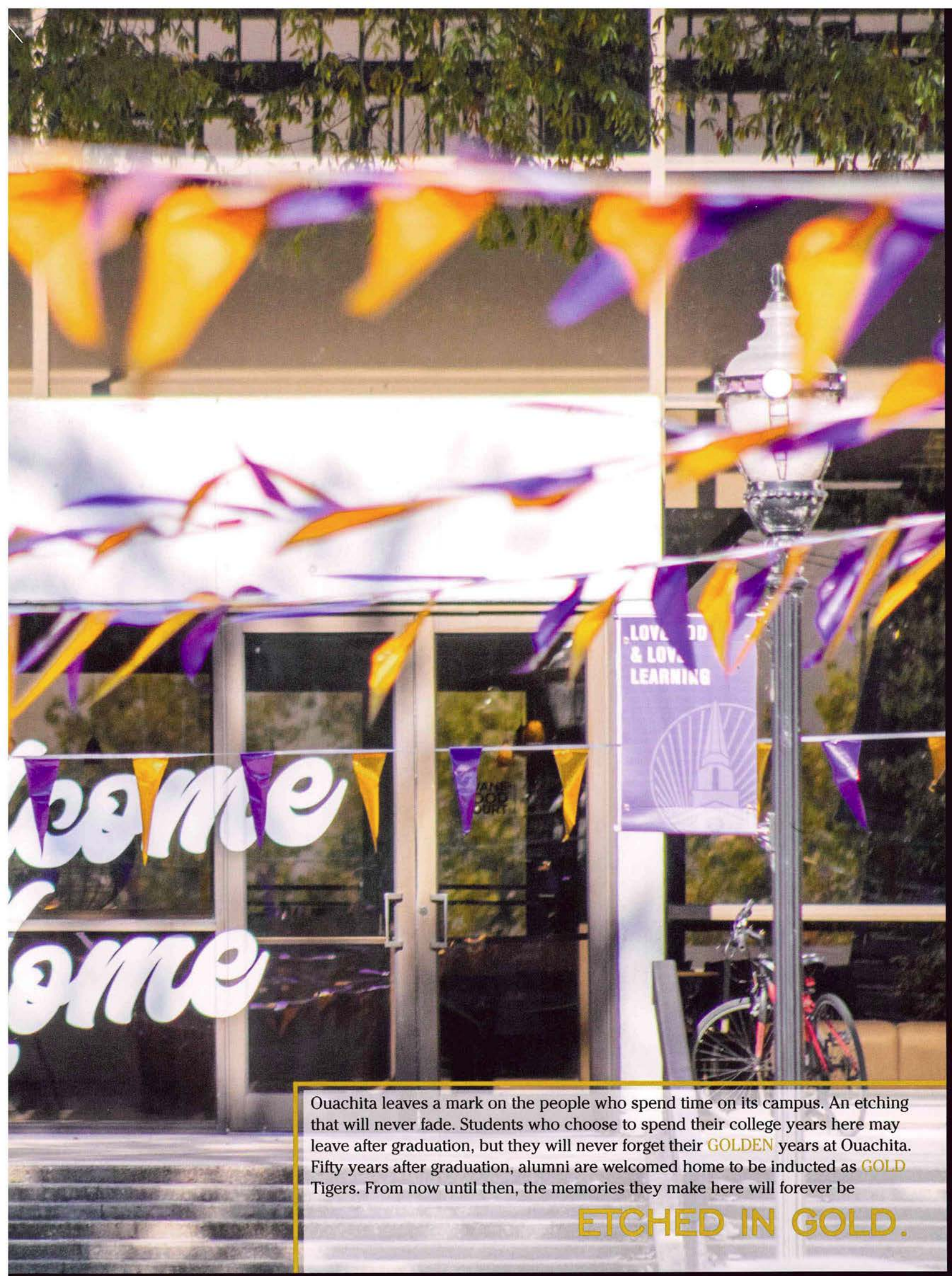


Sunset at Cliff Harris Stadium // Photo by Sarah Dean

2023 *Ouachitonian* // VOL. 114




Wave The Welcome Flags // Photo by Sarah Dean



Ouachita leaves a mark on the people who spend time on its campus. An etching that will never fade. Students who choose to spend their college years here may leave after graduation, but they will never forget their **GOLDEN** years at Ouachita. Fifty years after graduation, alumni are welcomed home to be inducted as **GOLD** Tigers. From now until then, the memories they make here will forever be

ETCHED IN GOLD.



Students leave their mark on Ouachita, changing it for the better during their years here. A student-led organization raises a record-breaking amount of money for student scholarships. New sports teams are created. New and old events are re-imagined. When it is all said and done, students leave Ouachita a better place than they found it. Even when our records are broken and our once new events become time-honored traditions, one thing will not change. Our names on the senior side walk will forever be

ETCHED IN GOLD.



Golden Ginkgo Tree // Photo by Levi Dade

When we look
back at our time
at Ouachita, the
flecks of *GOLD*

sewn through our memories
will be our fellow students.


From guarding the Tiger
late at night, to dancing on
the JPAC stage, the nature
of *STUDENT LIFE* etched
unforgettable moments into
each of our stories. Even
when pages are torn and
tattered and colors begin to
fade, these moments will not
change as they are ingrained
in us forever.

STUDENT LIFE



REJOICING IN THEIR VICTORY. President Ben Sells and members of OSF splash through the mud. They were competing in a tug-of-war event during Tiger Traks. Photo by // Levi Dade





JULIA SHANDS admires art at a gallery in Bentonville. She participated in a 10-week internship program at Art Bridges and spent her free time visiting art galleries.
Photo Courtesy of // Julia Shands



Noah Sanders
Photo Courtesy of // Noah Sanders



Wade Wilson
Photo Courtesy of // Wade Wilson



GEORGIA RICHARDS (right) takes a picture with her supervisor at a wedding. She worked for Amanda Reed's wedding planning business for her summer internship.
Photo Courtesy of // Georgia Richards

STANDING ON the steps of the United States Capitol Building, Sarah Spakes is shown with her boss, Senator John Boozman. She interned for him in his Washington D.C. office.
Photo Courtesy of // Sarah Spakes



Ouachita prepares students to embrace

NEW EXPERIENCES

For the 2022-2023 school year, Ouachita's mission was to "love God and love learning." This past summer, students did just that from embracing opportunities at summer camps to interning in Washington D.C., they showed their Ouachita spirit. Senior Noah Sanders, a Christian studies and political science double major from Little Rock, along with senior Sarah Spakes, a public history and political science double major from Benton, discovered their dreams of working on "The Hill" were not out of reach after spending the summer interning in Washington D.C.

"For people that go to Ouachita, working in D.C. is probably not something that they think they're able to do. They think it's probably something that is loftier or higher and something that's farther away for the people at bigger schools to do," Sanders said. "Ouachita prepared us well to accomplish a lot of things."

Working at summer camps is a popular choice for Ouachita students. Senior Wade Wilson, a Christian studies major from Springdale, was granted the opportunity to work at Super Summer Arkansas, a Christian camp hosted on Ouachita's campus. This was the first time Super Summer welcomed campers since 2019.

"I got the chance to pray with many kids who wanted to trust in Jesus for the first time, and that was really cool to be a part of," said Wilson. "For different reasons, the kids heard something in God's Word that affected them and made them know that they needed to follow Jesus."

Students agreed that they felt more prepared going into their summer jobs because of Ouachita. Senior Julia Shands, a communications and media major from Searcy,

interned for the Art Bridges Foundation.

"I was the communications and marketing intern, so I was prepared in that aspect and able to draw on my experiences with Ouachita's marketing and communications office, writing for the Signal, and previous internships," said Shands.

In addition to her previous background working for Arkansas Business Publishing Group, Julia wished to gain more experience with a foundation and navigating the nonprofit sector. Shands felt that Art Bridges' mission was one of importance and hoped to contribute to the deepening of connections between institutions and their communities. She learned how difficult it can be to communicate a brand's messaging efficiently and convince others to believe in the mission you support.

Through these opportunities, many students were able to establish a clear idea of what they wanted to do after walking across the stage at graduation. Sophomore Georgia Richards, a communications and media major from Farmington, received the opportunity to work for Amanda Reed Weddings. This solidified her decision to become a wedding planner in the future.

"This is what I want to do, and I believe this is what God has me to do. I really enjoy it, and I'm able to serve people and serve God within that," Richards said.

By // Ellie Bennett

"Ouachita prepared us well to accomplish a lot of things."

SUMMER'S GOLDEN MOMENT



One perk of Julia Shands' internship was the bike rental provided for her. The Airbnb she called home for the summer was a short bike ride from downtown. Shands also used her bike as a fun way to get outside and exercise.

Photo Courtesy of // Julia Shands

WHOLE NEW WORLD

Introducing students to a

As families stood on Cone-Bottoms lawn and said their goodbyes, excitement, sadness, and a little bit of fear filled the air. First-year students were about to embark on an adventure into a world of new opportunities. The “See You Soon” lawn party kicked off Welcome to Ouachita’s World, otherwise known as WOW, the freshman orientation weekend. This four-day weekend was a crucial part of the Ouachita experience and it allowed new students to make friends, transition into a new season of life, and experience their first of many Ouachita traditions.

“I made some great friends along the way.”

From bonding with their WOW group to participating in the beanie ceremony, first-year students were guided through their first four days on campus by a team known as WOW steering. Tim Harrell, entering his 14th year as the Director of Student Life, led this team to ensure that WOW ran smoothly.

“WOW is meant to help new students adjust to the new world of Ouachita. One of our main goals is to make students feel at home, and make sure they know Ouachita is a safe place, and that Ouachita is a place where they can grow,” Harrell said.

Noah Barker, a junior nursing major from Batesville, was a new member of the WOW steering committee and had the same goals as Harrell.

“While we had our goals for the incoming students, we also wanted our WOW leaders to

connect with their freshmen WOW groups,” Barker told the Ouachitonian.

WOW was a wonderful opportunity to not only meet other freshmen but to find those who you can look to for guidance.

“I have loved getting to meet WOW leaders and upperclassmen who grew to be my mentors by the end of the week,” said Tori Reecer, a freshman elementary education major from McKinney, Texas. Along with WOW’s focus to help freshmen and transfer students become acquainted and comfortable on campus, it was also a valuable experience for those who served as WOW leaders. Kensley Flynn, a sophomore pre-medical biology and chemistry major from Cabot, invested her time in being a WOW leader.

“I loved getting to know and help my WOW group,” said Flynn. “The students get to know their leaders more than some typical students, so they reach out and ask questions they might not feel comfortable asking others, even weeks after WOW has ended.” Building comradery and relationships between students was the spotlight during WOW. Hayden Wylie, a freshman mass communications and media major from Little Rock, enjoyed connecting with his WOW group during the weekend.

“I had such an exciting time simply talking with my WOW group during Family Time,” said Wylie, “We had great conversations with each other to calm our nerves about the new environment we were all experiencing, and I made some great friends along the way.”

A common phrase heard at Ouachita is “we are family.” WOW introduced first-year students to the world of new opportunities that await students during their time at Ouachita. It also set the precedent that the campus of Ouachita will be home for many years to come.

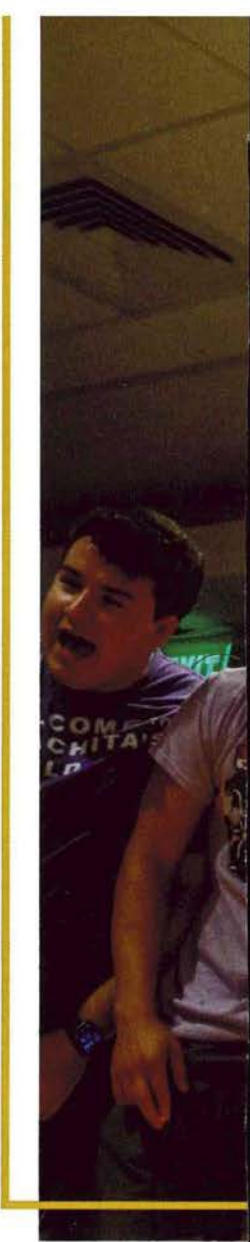
By // Katy Beth Dunn



WOW'S GOLDEN MOMENT

Tim Harrell, director of student life, and his team of eight students made WOW happen. WOW Steering moved to campus six days before the new students arrived and put in over 90 hours to prepare for a weekend of intentional activities for new students.

Photo By // Dr. Wesley Kluck



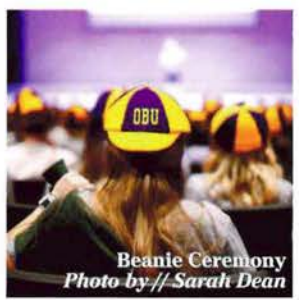


BROCK BIVENS and fellow students perform karaoke at the purple and gold party. It was an annual event to end orientation weekend.
Photo by // Levi Dade



HELPING FRESHMEN move in, Abigail Powers brings items into Francis Crawford. She served as a WOW leader and helped freshman become familiar with Ouachita during the orientation weekend.
Photo by // Levi Dade

RACHEL FORSYTHE holds up a sign for her WOW group, number 14. WOW included games and activities for the new students to participate in with their peers.
Photo by // Sarah Dean



Beanie Ceremony
Photo by // Sarah Dean



Scoops
Photo by // Levi Dade



THE STUDENTS of Campus Ministries dance on the JPAC stage. Campus Ministries won for the first time since 2009.
Photo by // Levi Dade



The Women of EEE
Photo by // Sarah Dean



The Men of Beta Beta
Photo by // Sarah Dean



PERFORMING WITH passion, the hosts and hostesses sing "Hold On." The hosts and hostesses were chosen in the spring, and they moved in two weeks before class started in the fall to begin practices.
Photo by // Levi Dade

DIRECTOR BRADEN Crowley teaches his club choreography. Students practiced 12 hours a week for one month to prepare for Tiger Tunes, but directors started planning months in advance. *Photo by // Levi Dade*



RECORDS ARE BROKEN

Tiger Tunes achieves more than ever as

Jones Performing Arts Center's glistening stage lights, the sweet sound of Ouachita Student Foundation workers scanning tickets, and the sound of club cheers filling the atmosphere were just a few of the things that made Tiger Tunes so memorable. Repeatedly, Tiger Tunes was referred to as "the best time of the year." The 44th year of Tunes ended with a grand total of five sold-out shows and \$170,000 raised in the name of student scholarships.

This year's Tiger Tunes director, Izzy Baughn, a senior communications and media and political science double major from Jonesboro, said, "One of the many highs this year was meeting our scholarship goal well over \$70,000. This would not have been possible without the help of fundraising and finance, philanthropy, student recruitment, and special events." Baughn also mentioned that being the director of Tiger Tunes was the highest honor because she got to serve among these people.

The men and women of Campus Ministries crossed the finish line to a first-place win. Kaylie Green, a Christian studies major from Fort Worth, Texas, and Kallen Smith, a biomedical science major from Jonesboro, directed CM for the second year in a row.

"Deciding to direct a Tunes show again was a no-brainer," said Green. "After we won, I think I hugged everyone in our show."

The directors of all of the shows played a very special part in Tiger Tunes; without them and their creative minds the shows would not have been possible. For the Campus Ministries and Student Life directors, they had an even greater weight put on them. Directing shows with mainly freshmen was no small feat. They used their leadership roles to help freshmen feel welcomed, and helped build a sense of community through being directors.

"I fell in love with Ouachita through Tiger Tunes," Smith said. "When our name was called for first place, we took a fast selfie, sprinted to our people, and they just erupted. It was so sweet."

Emma Gipson, a freshman psychology major from Walnut Ridge, said, "My favorite Tunes memory was jamming to 'Cruel Summer' by Taylor Swift before every show and building community through meeting new people."

Brennan Humphry, a senior music industry major from Bryant, was one of the eight Tiger Tunes hosts. Humphry said, "I loved this group of hosts so much. They are some of the best people I've ever worked with, and we still hangout and check on each other." This talented group of eight practiced every day during show week for no fewer than five hours. They were unbelievably talented, and kept the crowds on the edge of their seats with their high energy and iconic outfits. This electric group of eight practiced for hours on end, and truly made the show one to remember.

Tiger Tunes season was full of memory making and new friendships. Over 700 participants and more than \$170,000 raised for student scholarships made the year historic. The point of Tiger Tunes was to raise money for the Ouachita Student Foundation scholarship fund. OSF scholarships helped upperclassmen who needed additional aid in order to complete their college degrees. The record-breaking amount raised at Tiger Tunes ensured that more students than ever were able to receive the much-needed scholarships.

By// Rose Robinson

"I fell in love with Ouachita through Tiger Tunes."



TIGER TUNES' GOLDEN MOMENT



Alex Savage was awarded the Shelby Seabaugh Spirit of Tunes Award. This award was given annually to one individual in honor of the late Shelby Seabaugh. Alex directed the Rho Sigma show and served on OSF Steering during Tiger Tunes.

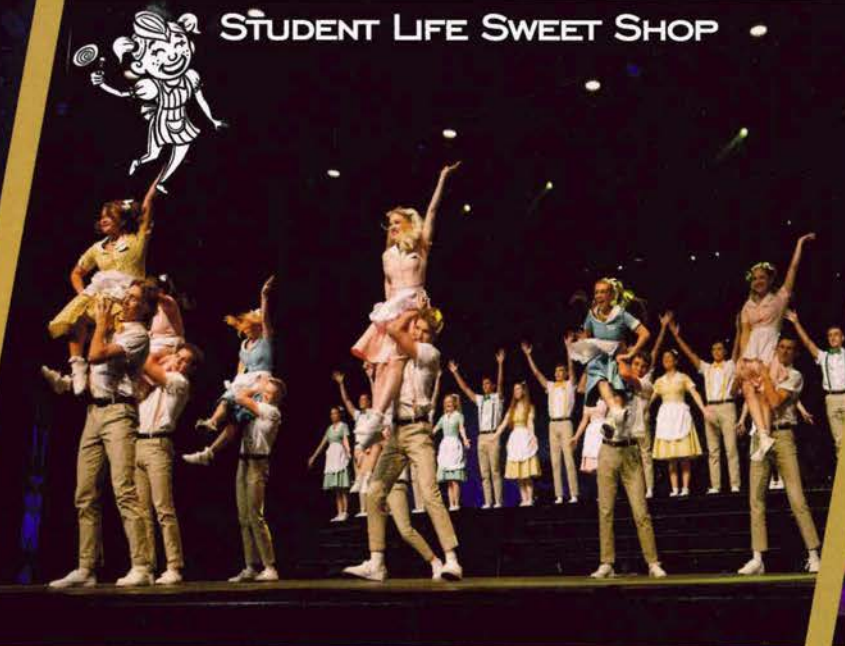
Photo by// Levi Dade



CHI DELTA DISCO



STUDENT LIFE SWEET SHOP



TIGER TUNES

Photos by // Levi Dade and Sarah Dean

TRI CHI ROCKS
5TH PLACE



KAPPA CHI AUSTRALIA



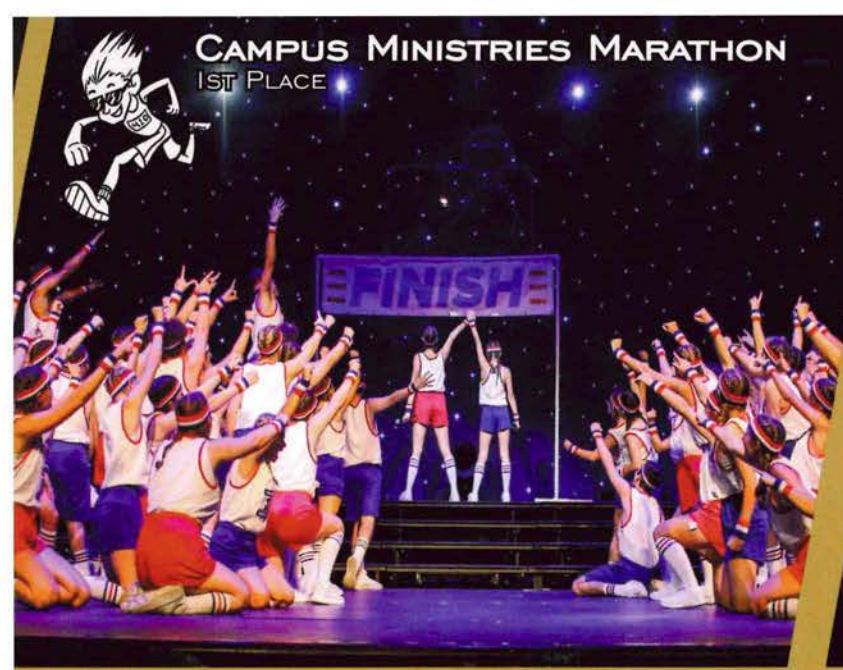
ETA ALPHA OMEGA MALL COPS
4TH PLACE



RHO SIGMA REFEREES



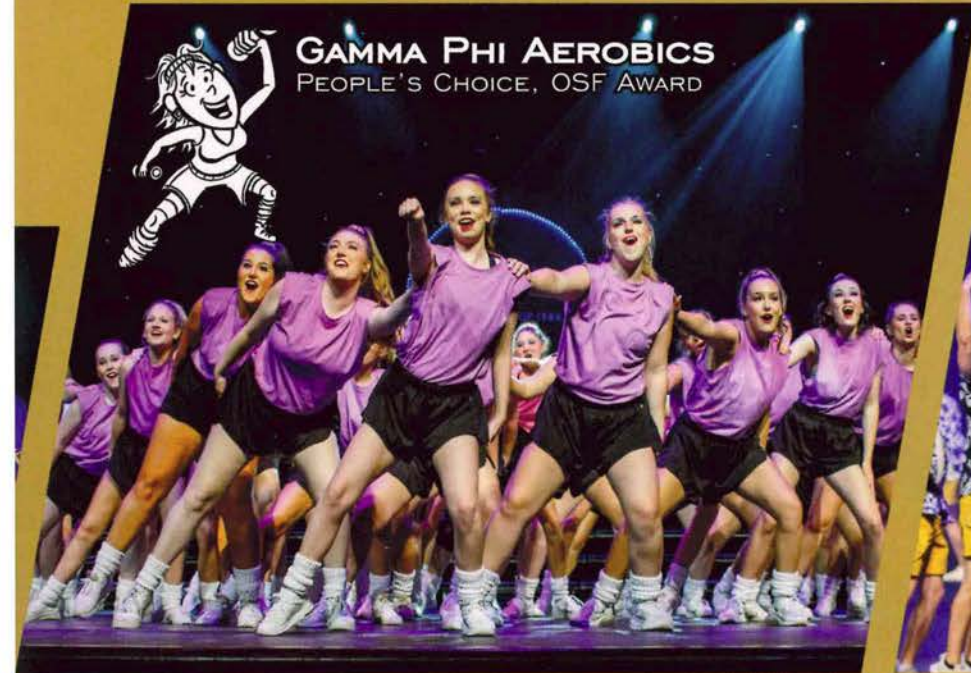
CAMPUS MINISTRIES MARATHON
1ST PLACE



TIGER BLAST "WANT YOU BACK"



GAMMA PHI AEROBICS
PEOPLE'S CHOICE, OSF AWARD



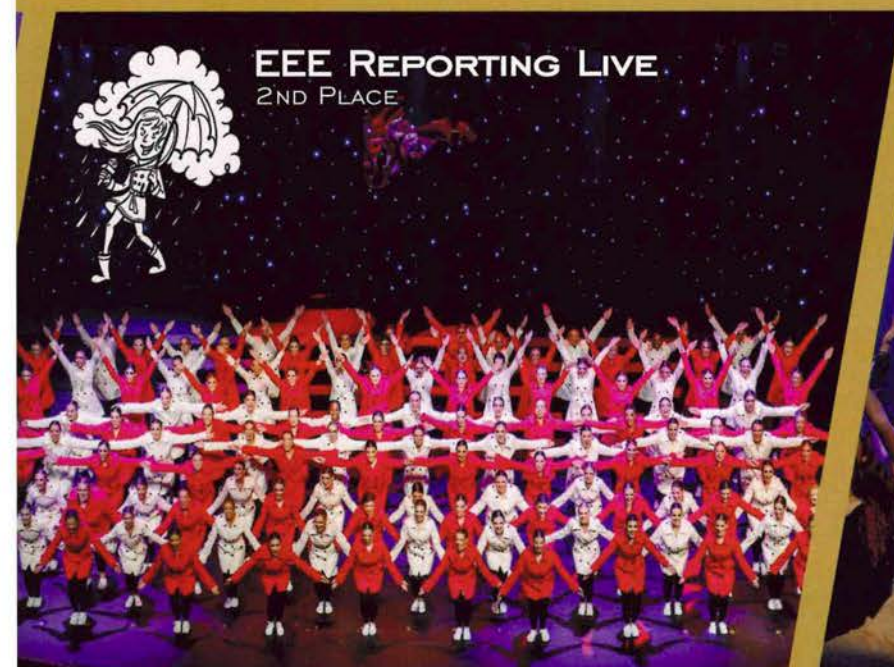
BETA BETA BEACH BOYS
3RD PLACE



\$170,000 Raised for Student Scholarships

5 SOLD OUT SHOWS // 7,214 TICKETS SOLD // 770 PARTICIPANTS

EEE REPORTING LIVE
2ND PLACE



CHI MU QUEENS



HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

Traditions celebrated through

Each year, purple and gold flags are seen above campus sidewalks, along with lights and streamers guiding alumni back to their home away from home. These decorations continued to signify a beloved Ouachita tradition: Homecoming week. Students, faculty and alumni proudly showed their Tiger spirit as they attended annual events such as the Purple Plaza Party, alumni teas for social clubs and the football game.

“Being chosen as Homecoming Queen by my friends and peers is such a humbling feeling.”

Allee Lipford, a junior marketing and entrepreneurship double major from Farmington, participated in various events during the weekend. Lipford was a member of the women of Chi Delta and attended their alumni tea.

“The Purple Plaza Party allowed for alumni to come and see that their legacy is still with us. We had tables full of scrapbooks from the past five decades along with shirts and pledge pins as well,” Lipford said. “We are truly blessed to be able to talk to and spend time with our very first president.”

Along with various events on campus, Savannah Pierce, a senior Christian studies major from Dover, was crowned Queen during

the pregame ceremony at Cliff Harris Stadium. Pierce was crowned by the 2021 Queen, Erica Dixon.

“Being chosen as Homecoming Queen by my friends and peers is such a humbling feeling. It is such an honor and will be something I carry with me long after I graduate,” Pierce said. “I felt so loved and celebrated.”

Hannah Claire Humphries, a freshman biology major from North Little Rock, participated in her first Ouachita Homecoming as a cheerleader. The cheerleaders performed a routine during the Purple Plaza Party and raised enthusiasm throughout Homecoming week.

“Because of my heart condition, I wasn’t able to participate in the game. Instead, Talley, the Ouachita mascot, and I greeted kids at the Purple Plaza Party and the game,” Humphries said. “The pep rally allowed a lot of students to come and participate alongside the cheerleaders.”

To close out the festivities, The football team triumphed against Southwestern Oklahoma State in a 63-24 win. Running back Kendel Givens, a junior mass communications major from Little Rock, scored three touchdowns.

“Homecoming is always a fun time for me. Getting to play in front of a big crowd with football alumni watching is special to me,” Givens said. “We never go into a game being cocky, but confident. The Homecoming game wasn’t any different.”

The weekend continued the legacy of inviting all students to participate and uphold the school’s sacred traditions.

By // Addie Woods

HOMECOMING'S GOLDEN MOMENT



Savannah Pierce was crowned Queen for the 2022 festivities. She performed in the halftime show in the color guard. She also participated in the Band's Tiger Tunes show, “Tiger Blast,” as well as her social club's show.

Photo by // Sarah Dean

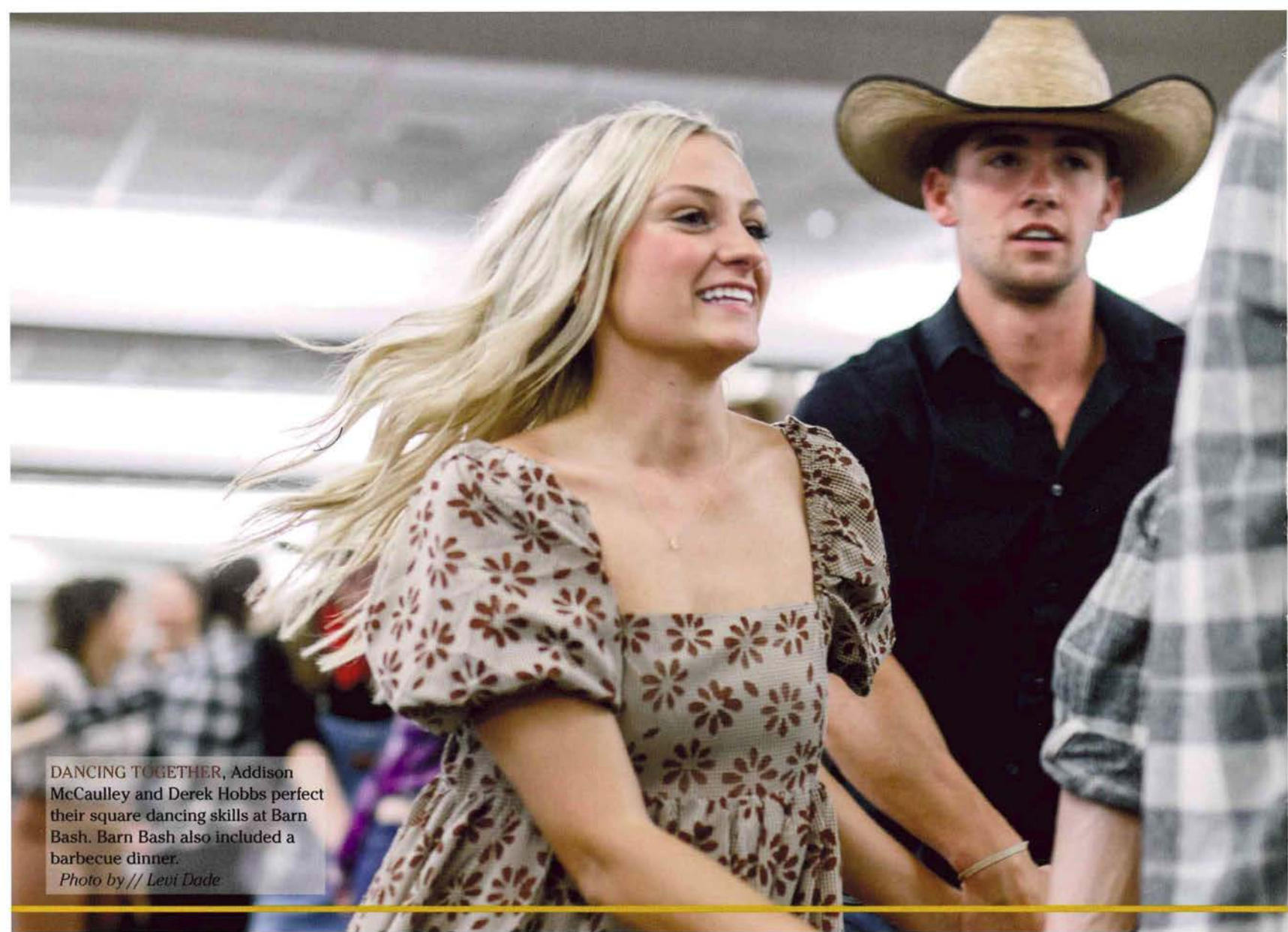


TAKEN BY SURPRISE, Savannah Pierce shows her excitement as her name is announced as the Queen. Pierce represented the Ouachita marching band.
Photo by // Levi Dade



BRENNON HUMPHRY sings with Chloe Wallace during the Purple Plaza Party. Upperclassman music industry students performed as a project for their production practicum class.
Photo by // Levi Dade

HOMECOMING QUEEN Savannah Pierce stands with her court. The runners-up were Karigan Beckwith, Pietra Gois Camargo, Caroline Derby, Reyna Rogers and Vanessa Vives. *Photo by // Levi Dade*



DANCING TOGETHER, Addison McCaulley and Derek Hobbs perfect their square dancing skills at Barn Bash. Barn Bash also included a barbecue dinner.
Photo by // Levi Dade



Tri Chi '80s Night
Photo by // Sarah Dean



Chi Mu Masquerade
Photo by // Sarah Dean



GAMMA PHI member Andie Fletcher welcomes guests to Gamma's "Angels in the Outfield" with two beaus. The beaus helped set up and attended the club's TWIRP event. *Photo by // Levi Dade*



JAY BRUMSEY and Chandler Cooley shoot a ball during a game at Chi Delta Carnival. This was the third annual Chi Delta Carnival during TWIRP week. *Photo by // Levi Dade*

MONTH FULL OF DANCING

Organizations host TWIRP and incite a

Cowboy boots, neon costumes, glow sticks, poodle skirts, masquerade masks, and angel wings all meant it was one of the best times of the year as a Ouachitonian: TWIRP Season. TWIRP stands for the woman is required to pay. All of the women social clubs, as well as Campus Ministries, came together to form the event: TWIRP. The parties were divided up into two different weekends, and The Women of Chi Delta, EEE, Tri Chi, Chi Mu, Gamma Phi and Campus Ministries each hosted a party.

Riley Crouse, a freshman community and family services major from Branson, Missouri, was a TWIRP-attending regular.

"All of the parties were different as each night brought about a different experience to go with it," Crouse said, "I was constantly looking forward to going to the next one." Crouse enjoyed the uniqueness that came with each party, and learned new dance moves at Barn Bash. Her Barn Bash group consisted of multiple personalities, and this made her Do-Si-Dos humorous and enjoyable.

Rain or shine, Barn Bash was a hit. It was hosted by Campus Ministries where barbecue was served, square dancing was learned, and photo shoots were held. Due to weather, this popular event had a last-minute location change to Walker Conference Center. CM's Special Events Team embraced the change, and pulled off the event despite the location change. Lacey Lewellen, a sophomore history and English middle school education major from Bryant, was one of the Barn Bash planners this year.

"From a standpoint of working it, I

really enjoyed getting to see the behind-the-scenes action take place," Lewellen said, "Although the atmosphere may have differed a tad from past years, we still had around 140 students sign-up, and everything went well."

One of the parties hosted was Gamma Phi's "Angels in the Outfield" themed event. Liberty Crouse, a sophomore from Sheridian was Gamma's 2022 pledge class Vice President. One of her responsibilities as the pledge class vice president was planning the TWIRP event for her club.

"The best part of planning was being able to add my own touches to the event while also using some of the original TWIRP decorations from our very first TWIRP since being back on campus," Crouse told the Ouachitonian, "I also wanted all of the freshmen to feel included as we each gave personal letters to every single person that attended to ensure this."

"I was constantly looking forward to going to the next one."

Each night of TWIRP brought a new theme, wardrobe, and an all-around great experience. It was a great opportunity for freshmen to meet new people and have a blast with all of the clubs. It consisted of two exhilarating weekends full of dance parties, fun costumes, and much quality time spent in the Tiger Den. Although TWIRP was fun and relaxed, it did have one requirement, the woman had to pay. *By // Rose Robinson*



TWIRP'S GOLDEN MOMENT

The Women of EEE hosted a 1950's themed TWIRP. At the dance, pledge class 22 performed. This performance was similar to Tiger Tunes. The pledge class' newly elected Tiger Tunes Directors choreographed the performance and wrote the lyrics for the dance. *Photo courtesy of // Haley Shourd*

PREPARED TO BATTLE

The Tigers trek across the ravine

One week out of the year, Ouachita and Henderson students take part in the 95 year rivalry known as Battle of the Ravine. The campus wide event allowed for various clubs and students to uphold traditions dating back to the first Battle of the Ravine. In particular, the men of Rho Sigma guarded the Tiger and organized the pep rally.

Alex Savage, a senior biology major from Smackover who served as the president of Rho

“The Tiger statue has always been something that we vow to protect because it has such a deep history.”

Sigma, recognized the importance of the ravine rivalry to the men of Rho Sigma.

“The Tiger was sculpted because a student couldn’t afford his tuition, and that student was a Rho Sigma,” said Savage, “Another year, the Tiger was completely destroyed, and the three biggest fundraisers to put the Tiger back together were the men of Rho Sigma, Rho Sigma alumni and one of Rho

Sig’s pledge classes. The Tiger statue has always been something that we vow to protect because it has such a deep history.”

In addition to guarding the Tiger, the men of Rho Sigma collaborated with the football and cheer team for the annual pep rally. The pep rally consisted of raising morale before the game between students and players, a speech from Dr.

Casey Motl and a bonfire on campus. The senior football players carried torches, made by the men of Rho Sigma, across campus that were lit in honor of the game.

Kennedy Johnson, a junior biology major from Fayetteville, served as the co-captain for the Ouachita cheer team and participated in events leading up to the Battle of the Ravine.

“The bonfire is such a unique aspect of Battle of the Ravine because it’s at night and took place in the amphitheater where everyone is packed in. We were also able to perform at the Henderson House alongside the Henderson cheer team,” said Johnson, “When people see cheerleaders, they know they’re supposed to get excited, so our job at the pep rally was to interact with the crowd and bring excitement.”

The Ouachita Tigers defeated the Henderson Reddies in a 40-37 nail biting win. Ouachita was down two touchdowns with under five minutes to play in the game. Two back-to-back touchdowns tied the score and sent the game into overtime. TJ Cole, a senior sports administration and kinesiology double major from Texarkana, Tex., scored the winning touchdown in overtime.

“It was a great feeling having my teammates and coaches trust me for the last possession. The play was designed to run left, but I saw a big gap in the middle, so I took the chance of diving in the end zone,” said Cole, “We lost a brother of ours, Clark Yarbrough, earlier this season, so we dedicated our season to him. Whenever we’re feeling down, we play for 96. That was a big reminder to me throughout the season and during Battle of the Ravine.”

By//Addie Woods

BATTLE OF THE RAVINE'S GOLDEN MOMENT



As a way to excite the crowd, purple rally towels with the Ouachita Tiger logo were given to students and fans. Throughout the game, the purple towels signaled successful moments for the Tigers. From kickoff to the final touchdown, the purple towels were waving.

Photo by// Sarah Dean





HEAD FOOTBALL COACH Todd Knight proudly hoists the BOTR trophy. Each year the score of the game is added to the trophy.
Photo by // Sarah Dean



QUARTERBACK RILEY Harms leads the walk over to Henderson before the Battle of Ravine football game. The game was played at Henderson for the first time in four years.
Photo by // Levi Dade



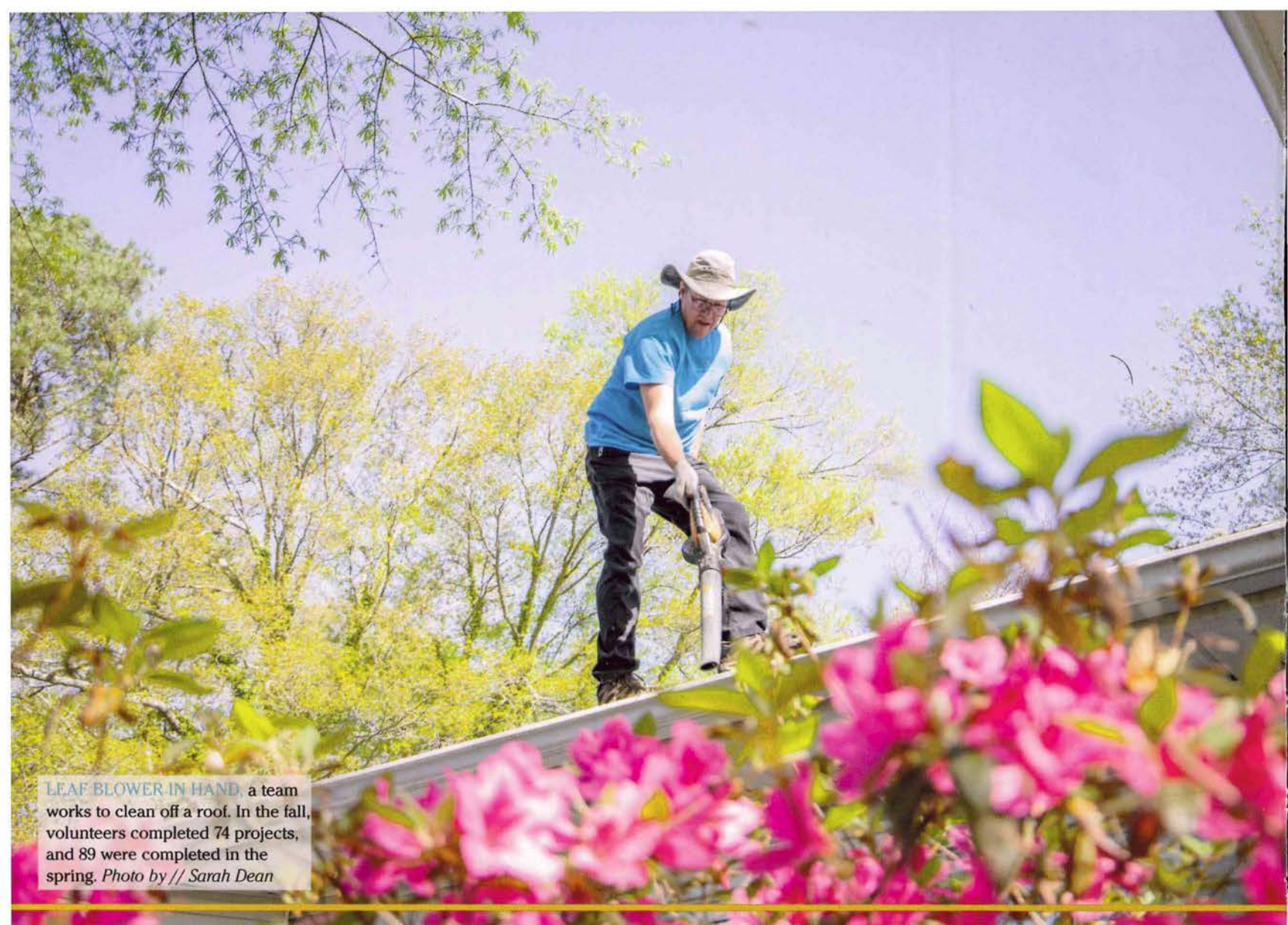
SENIOR FOOTBALL players light the annual bonfire. The men of Rho Sigma created the torches used to light the fire for the Homecoming week event.
Photo by // Levi Dade



Cheer Team
Photo by // Levi Dade



Peyton Stafford
Photo by // Levi Dade



LEAF BLOWER IN HAND, a team works to clean off a roof. In the fall, volunteers completed 74 projects, and 89 were completed in the spring. Photo by // Sarah Dean



Hannah Lloyd
Photo by // Sarah Dean



Hayden Childers
Photo by // Sarah Dean



KALEIGH THOMAS paints a house in the Arkadelphia community. There were around 80 teams that served each semester. Photo by // Levi Dade



GLOVES ON, Emma Rouse helps get leaves out of a gutter. Campus organizations and groups of friends formed teams for Tiger Serve Day. Photo by // Sarah Dean

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAYS

The Elrod Center facilitates

Painting elementary schools, becoming sore from raking large loads of leaves, and the sweet aroma of Sodexo breakfast coming from a tent at 8 a.m. could only mean one thing - Tiger Serve Day. This special event presented students with the rewarding opportunity to go out into the Arkadelphia community with their team to participate in community service.

In the fall of 2007, Judy Duvall began leading the Tiger Serve Day Leadership Team. This is a gifted group that attended training meetings, visited sites before the big day to ensure a successful project, and placed the teams at projects suitable for them. In the midst of working out all the major and minor details, as well as direct where over 600 volunteers would do their project at, Duvall took a step back and admired this year's Tiger Serve Day theme.

"The theme for the Fall 2022 Tiger Serve Day was 'Purpose' and the theme for the Spring 2023 Tiger Serve Day was 'Love God, Love Others,'" said Duvall. "As volunteers served, they could fully express their love for God by loving others in tangible ways in addition to meeting practical and relational needs in our community."

As the Tiger Serve Day participants swarmed to grab a donut before getting their tools and heading to their designated job, the leadership team was well-prepared when their busy day started at 5:30 a.m. All hands were on deck as some helped make breakfast while others helped organize tools as everything came together. Kassidy Gray, a sophomore biomedical science major from Magnet Cove, spent her first year on the leadership team visiting different projects prior to the day to get an idea of how many people and what tools would be necessary for the jobs.

"The best part of these visits was having the opportunity to see the elders as they would show us anything from a project they crocheted to telling us about their future weddings," Gray said. "We got a good laugh out of our visits and would even try to see the same elders every semester since we loved the relationship we got to form with them."

Tiger Serve Day gave many leadership opportunities for students in more ways than one. As students could put their strong leadership and organization skills to good use and join the leadership team, they could also be a team leader for the club, class, or organization they participated with. Alex Watson, a junior Christian studies and communications double major from Longview, Texas, was a team leader for the women of EEE. It was her second year to participate as a team leader, and this year her team's job was to clean gutters, rake leaves and trim branches.

"It was a little windy that day so some of the leaves, dirt and sticks didn't quite make it in the bag as they proceeded to get all over some of the girls on my team," said Watson. "They all had good attitudes and were very kind about it even if they got dirt or leaf particles all over their hair and faces."

Tiger Serve Day was a purposeful day where students could actively be the hands and feet of Jesus as they went about their projects loving God, and loving people as well.

By // Rose Robinson

"As volunteers served, they could express their love for God..."

TSD'S GOLDEN MOMENT

The Tiger Serve Day Leadership team members gathered once a week in the Elrod Center to plan for Tiger Serve Day. They discussed service projects as well as got everything together for the big day. Each meeting's goal was to be intentional to make sure Christ was the focus of each team's service.

Photo by // Levi Dade



CHRISTMAS SEASON

Celebration With a Deeper Meaning



JUMPING FOR JOY President Ben Sells and his wife Lisa enjoy the bounce house. They attended the Christmas event dressed as elves.
Photo by // Levi Dade



The final weeks of the semester leading up to exams can be busy, exhausting, and overwhelming. In order for students and staff to take a break from all of their work and preparation for the semester's end, Student Life, in collaboration with Communications & Marketing and the Ouachita Student Foundation (OSF), hosted "Christmas on Ouachita Street." Held at the first of December, the event gave everyone the opportunity to relive their childhood days by decorating cookies and ornaments, live out their rock star dreams by singing along to Christmas songs on the tram rides, buy those last minute Christmas gifts at the market, warm up with hot chocolate and marshmallows, and regret eating all of the cookies after jumping in the bounce house.

To the surprise of many, "Buddy the Elf" made an appearance in the form of Dr. Ben Sells who dressed up as the beloved character alongside his wife, Lisa, who complimented the iconic green costume with a pink one of her own. To Dr. Sells, it meant more than simply having a little fun with the students. This quality time with the students enabled Dr. Sells to engage with them, showing his personality that he is so known for across campus.

"I tell people that I want us to be serious about the things we should be serious about, but not take ourselves too seriously," Sells said. "I'm willing to dress up like 'Buddy the Elf' because I don't want to be someone who takes themselves too seriously. I'm the president, but I'm just a person. Let's not take ourselves too seriously as well." This year's campus-wide celebration was not just a first for Dr. Sells and his costumes, but also for senior biology and Spanish major Jade Dorman from Benton, who was able to help put on the event for the first time. Her main job was finding people to sell at OSF's "Deck the Delph" student market. "It's fun to just walk around and enjoy the Christmas things," Dorman said. "But I think being the one who was responsible for inviting the vendors to come and sell and watching them get excited when people came and were buying their things was really special to know that I was a part of making that happen and getting to see it from another side than just showing up enjoying what's going on."

One of the vendors Dorman reached out to was senior engineering physics major Ashlyn Ham from Jonesboro. She sold macrame art in the form of wall decor, car charms, key chains, and more. Previous to "Christmas on Ouachita Street," Ham had not had many opportunities to sell her work because of COVID-19. However, the on-

campus occasion not only brought sales to her table, but a smile to her face.

"It's been really cool since the people that are buying my stuff are people that are my friends, other classmates, and professors," Ham said. Although she was not able to participate in all the festivities offered, being able to see how much fun everyone else was having and the support around the market made it fun for her to see all of the Christmas cheer around. Part of what brought the Christmas cheer around was the tram rides where students and staff could take a scenic drive across campus, singing along to the Christmas songs of their choice.

Residence Life Director Quantel Williams had the privilege of being behind the wheel for the event. "At first I was kind of hesitant, but then I did it," Williams said. "Come to find out, it was the highlight of my day being able to drive students around campus and listen to Christmas music." For Williams, ultimately the best part about the night was seeing students come out and celebrate Christmas together as a Ouachita family. The

Ouachita family not only celebrated typical Christmas traditions together, but also celebrated the birth of Christ later that night at a special Christmas Refuge. Led by students for students, Christmas Refuge gave the opportunity to spend time in congregational worship, singing hymns tokened by Christmastime, as well as hear a message on Jesus' birth. Junior music industry major David Weick from Pocahontas helped

in leading the worship aspect of Refuge.

"Getting to do a Christmas Refuge was really unique in the fact that Christmas was there, but it was also the advent season," Weick said. "It was super cool to be able to kick the season off and do that with your peers." This is what differentiates Ouachita from other universities. The main goal and focal point of Christmas is not the gifts, watching "Elf" or even keeping the Santa Claus legend alive, but rather it is the birth and anticipation of the return of Christ. As president, Dr. Sells takes fulfilling the school's mission of being a Christ-centered university a matter of great importance.

"Ninety-eight percent of the universities in this country aren't Christian colleges, so they're not going to mark Christmas in the way we are, and I think our focus on Christmas here is going to be different than most colleges and it should be," he said. "It ought to be distinctive, and we do that in lots of different ways, but marking Christmas and the reason for Christmas is what we want to be doing." *By // Ellie Bennett, Art By // Addie Chumley*

"Our focus on Christmas here is going to be different than most colleges, and it should be."



Festival of Christmas
Photo by // Levi Dade



Lessons and Carols
Photo by // Sarah Dean



Christmas Chapel
Photo by // Coleman Callan



Smores Bar
Photo by // Levi Dade

S TUDENTS GET MUDDY

In the name of scholarships,

The Ouachita Student Foundation continued its tradition with the thrilling event of Tiger Traks. Although things looked a bit different this year, everything still turned out for the better. Whether it was team spirit or new games, Tiger Traks was once again a hit on campus. The OSF team spent several weeks preparing and planning for the day.

Junior finance and business entrepreneurship double major from Conway, Joey Whisenhunt, was the special events chair who coordinated the event. He spent countless hours behind the scenes getting everything together.

Whether this was delegating roles for OSF members, or coming up with logistics for games, he thought of it all.

Whisenhunt also had help from his co-chair, Jillian Covington, and the president suite of OSF. They worked together to decide on what games to add and things to change to make the day the best it could be.

"Some games are Traks traditions like the mud games and trikes, but we were open to suggestions regarding other games. I sat down with my team and we brainstormed some ideas. We ended up coming up with two new games that we added which were water toss and hungry hippos," said Whisenhunt. Another significant part of this year's event was team spirit. Teams lived out their name and went above and beyond to express themselves.

"I think this year's team spirit was great. Teams dressed up together and were also announced at the opening ceremony. Everything went over smoothly and next year will be even bigger and better," said Whisenhunt.

Traks also served as a great opportunity for students to meet new people. Teams were able to bond through events and had to work together to succeed. This created such unforgettable memories through a time when college students could act like kids again. Daniel Gillson, a freshman environmental science major from Sherwood, played on a team.

"Before the day, I did not really know the people on my team. It was very exciting to bond and get to know them. Traks was a unique experience that allowed me to meet others," said Gillson.

The exciting day also provided a way for students to give back. The money raised through the event went straight to student scholarships. This provided a way for participants to have a great time while also doing it for a good cause.

"At the end of the day, you get to have fun and act goofy, but you are also helping student scholarships," said Gillson.

OSF members were scattered throughout campus during the day. They helped work the different games and were available for any help the participants needed. Sophomore elementary education major from Bossier City, La., Caroline Jurkovich, served as the game boss for tube turbo. She was in charge of the event and helped the entire game run smoothly.

"I enjoyed being in charge and seeing this side of things. I had a lot of fun working the event as a whole. I also had the opportunity to work the slip-n-slide," said Jurkovich.

Tiger Traks gave students the chance to come together as a student body. Everyone got to spend the day together competing, serving and having a great time. It created a unique experience where students made memories and helped fellow students.

By // Luke Falco

"At the end of the day, you get to have fun and act goofy, but you are also helping scholarships."



TIGER TRAKS' GOLDEN MOMENT

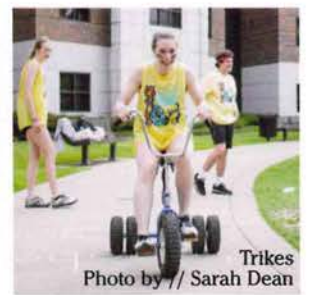
President Ben Sells joined in on the fun during Tiger Traks. He participated in the slip-n-slide event. He also joined a team of OSF members to play tug of war in the mud pit. Thanks to Dr. Sells, the OSF team came out on top during the tug-of-war battle.

Photo By // Levi Dade





PLAYING IN THE MUD, teammates try to score the winning point. OSF members served as referees and judges for the events.
Photo by // Levi Dade



DYLAN BILBREY returns the ball during Oozeball. The game was played on a mud court, and was a creative spin off of volleyball.
Photo by // Levi Dade

PULLING FOR A WIN, Caroline Smallwood goes head-to-head in a game of tug-of-war. Tiger Traks was deemed Arkansas' most exciting college weekend.
Photo by // Levi Dade

Tiger Feast
Photo by // Sarah Dean

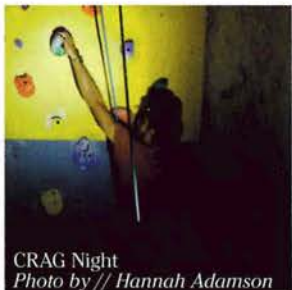
Trikes
Photo by // Sarah Dean



BEATING THE HEAT on Labor Day weekend, Aidan Perry reaches for a frisbee. Eubank's Lake provided a place for students to swim, hammock and kayak.
Photo by // Levi Dade



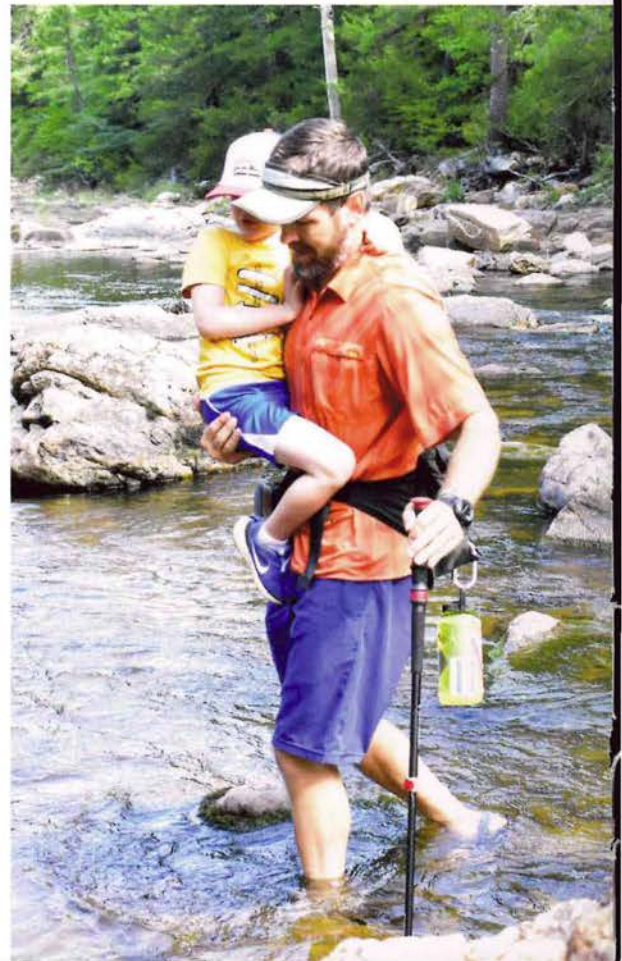
Labor Day
Photo by // Levi Dade



CRAG Night
Photo by // Hannah Adamson



EYEING THE BASKET, Levi Dade throws a frisbee in a round of disc golf. The course included 18 holes located around campus.
Photo by // Levi Dade



RECLIFE DIRECTOR Shane Seaton treks through the water during a backpacking trip. Students and faculty hiked into Winding Stairs and camped by the Little Missouri River.
Photo by // Levi Dade

STAY ACTIVE TOGETHER

Unique experiences to make friends and

Throughout a busy year, students tended to feel overwhelmed and in search of time away from school. Responsively, the RecLife team offered numerous solutions. RecLife tended to this need and gave opportunities for both outdoor and indoor events. This gave all kinds of students much-needed relief and exposure to the outdoors. Whether students wanted to spend an entire weekend away, or simply an afternoon, RecLife provided. During the school year, events were offered about every week. This allowed students to learn anything from survival skills in the wilderness to being able to climb whatever obstacle they faced.

Among the activities was the C.R.A.G., which stood for climbing, rentals, and gear. This consisted of an ever-changing climbing wall and endless rentals available, such as backpacks, cooking supplies, tents, and many other camping necessities. The climbing wall created a safe space for students to learn the world of climbing while having a great time. The RecLife team hosted Rockfest this year which provided a unique experience of glow-in-the-dark climbing. Senior English major, Hannah Smith, was a regular attendee in the C.R.A.G.

"The main thing that drew me to RecLife was the fact that they had a rock gym on campus, it is a great workout both physically and mentally," said Smith. The climbing wall forced students to focus on technique and patience instead of simply trying to muscle their way up.

RecLife provided unique experiences at low costs with highly valued experiences. These included: the Rattlesnake Ridge climbing trip, the little grand canyon hike, and the moonlight canoeing trips. One of the most significant events offered this year was the snow retreat.

Participants drove to Wisconsin where they spent four days out in the snow together. RecLife director Shane Seaton helped lead and put events like this together.

"Students experienced a whole new atmosphere out at Honeyrock camp where they partook in cross-country skiing, tubing, and broomball," Seaton said.

Events like this gave students opportunities to connect with individuals they would not typically interact with.

Seaton was able to use his prior experience with the outdoors to teach students in a faith-based manner.

Outdoor trips and adventures gave the student body time to put down their phone and experience the outdoors like never before. Life-long skills of camping, survival, and leadership helped far beyond students' time here at college. RecLife also taught students to go out of their comfort zone when attending the trips. Students were not only able to meet others but create such close bonds in a short amount of time. Sophomore nursing major, Maddy Geller, had the privilege of meeting several individuals throughout the year.

"It really helped me to meet lots of people on campus because it is such a friendly place," Geller said.

By // Luke Falco

"It Really helped me to meet lots of people on campus because it is such a friendly place."

RECLIFE'S GOLDEN MOMENT



One of the services that rec life provided was the CRAG. CRAG stood for climbing, rentals, and gear. The CRAG has multiple rock climbing walls for students to use and enjoy. All gear was provided and there was staff present to teach students how to climb. Multiple climbing nights were held at the CRAG including a glow in the dark climb.

Photo by // Sarah Dean

COMMIT TO SERVICE

Students come together to

The Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community has been blending Arkadelphia and Ouachita's communities since 1997. With several ways for students to serve, it also gave real-world opportunities that aligned with their career paths. The students that volunteered through the Elrod center have said they left feeling connected to the community outside of campus and were better off because of the organization.

Caroline Jurkovich, a sophomore elementary education major, got plugged into the Elrod Center during her freshman year.

Jurkovich knew she wanted to work with kids, but serving for America Reads and the Elrod Center's tutoring program solidified her career path.

"It allowed me to get involved in the local schools and experience with elementary students," Jurkovich said. "The kids can hardly contain their excitement when I tutor them." Her experience at Pruitt Elementary made her more passionate about wanting to be a teacher and allowed her to work with different age groups.

Another student, Ben Olatunji, who transferred to

Ouachita his sophomore year, as an accounting major, was looking for ways to get connected when he learned about the TaxServe program. This program had allowed him to apply what he was learning in his accounting classes to real clients in Arkadelphia. Olatunji served the lower-income community. When he transferred to campus, he did independent training to qualify for the program.

"It was intimidating at the beginning, but I have learned a lot on the way," Olatunji said. "After practice, the tax refunds are straightforward, however, there is always diversity in my client's

stories." Olatunji went on to express how rewarding it was to help the clients with the knowledge he learned through the TaxServe program and his professors in the business school. Dr. Jeanie Curry, an accounting professor, created a connection from her class to the TaxServe program; there are now dozens of students that volunteered in comparison to the two others that served with Olatunji during his sophomore and junior year.

While it was visible that participation within the Elrod Center grew in the school year, Tiger Serve Day continued to be a hit with over two-thirds of the campus involved. The Tiger Serve Day leadership team spent two months preparing for the designated day of community service each semester.

"There is a huge outpouring of students and faculty, coaches and players, people that don't hang out outside of the classroom or practice but come together early on Saturday morning to serve their community together," said Wes Guerra, head of Tiger Serve Day logistics team. Tiger Serve Day made a huge impact on Guerra's college experience. He learned how to coordinate events and as the official "tool guy," how to make sure all of the logistics were in place. Since such a large percentage of campus participated, the leadership teams worked simultaneously for the best results possible.

"We work so hard to put action behind the emphasis OBU puts on service," Said Guerra. "Not only do we get a lot out of it but it benefits the elders and non-profit organizations in ways that would not happen outside of Tiger Serve Day." While these were only a few of the Elrod Center programs that Arkadelphia had benefitted from, many others unified Clark County and the abundance of college students; tutoring, ElderServe, Thanksgiving baskets, TaxServe, and Tiger Serve Day. These are each programs that set Ouachita Baptist apart as beneficiaries of God's grace.

By // Lilly Biggers

"We work so hard to put action behind the emphasis OBU puts on service."



ELDER SERVE'S GOLDEN MOMENT

The Elrod Center organized a ministry called Elder Serve. This program paired college students with elderly members of the community. The students visited with their elders regularly and provided companionship and friendship to their senior citizen. The students also gained wise advice and mentorship from their elder.

Photo By // Judy Duvall



SERVING WITH A smile, Kaelin Clay hands out ice cream. The annual Veteran's Day luncheon honored veterans along with their families in the community.
Photo by // Levi Dade



HARD AT WORK Judy Duvall helps distribute equipment for teams to complete their service projects. Duvall was the director of the Elrod Center.
Photo by // Levi Dade

LOADING UP BOXES, Cade Burris helps deliver Thanksgiving meals to the community. The event helped serve residents of Arkadelphia and ensured they had a meal on Thanksgiving.
Photo by // Sarah Dean

*Thanksgiving Basket
 Photo by // Sarah Dean*

*Tutoring
 Photo by // Levi Dade*



WORSHIP IS led by Stephanie Epps and Mike Wollard. Campus Ministries worked hard to bring in outstanding guests and leaders for the week. Photo by // Levi Dade



Art and Worship
Photo by // Sarah Dean



Refuge
Photo by // Emma Mayes



GUITAR IN hand, Brooks Bell plays during a worship service. There were nine various worship events held throughout Christian Focus Week. Photo by // Levi Dade



SPEAKER SHANE Pruitt brings a message. Pruitt has written two books and served in ministry for over 20 years. Photo by // Levi Dade

THE DEEPER MEANING

Students shift their focus to the

Ouachita students piled in Jones Performing Arts Center at nine o'clock on a Monday night as they hung on to the speaker's every word. One week out of the year, students gathered for a time designed to inspire and challenge themselves to be more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. "God's Unexpected Ways" was the theme and aimed to encourage students and faculty to follow God's calling in their life, no matter the circumstances.

The week was headed by a leadership team of 10 to 12 students who were involved in the planning process of recruiting speakers and events throughout the week. Allie Jane Wilson, a sophomore biomedical sciences major from Springdale, served for the second year on the team.

"Both years I have been able to help plan the overall theme for the week and help choose the speakers. As a leadership team, we spend time reflecting on our campus and society as a whole to choose a theme that can benefit the students on our campus the most," said Wilson.

Being a Baptist university, many students attended worship nights and Bible studies outside of the week, but the week allowed for intentional time to reconnect their minds and hearts with the path of Jesus. Andrew Ellis, a sophomore accounting and finance double major from Ruston, La., applied the lessons from the week into his daily life.

"When we go to the cross and see all that Jesus has done for us, it humbles us and changes our perspective of those around us. We

are called by God for a bigger mission and that is to love God, love people and make disciples," said Ellis.

In order for the week to run smoothly, there was behind the scenes work done by Campus Ministries which involved a design team that prepared months in advance on the theme the campus needed to hear. The theme was based on Isaiah 55:8 that stated, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways."

Hannah Walker, assistant director of Campus Ministries, touched on how this idea played into the speakers chosen for the week.

"We had Tyler and Anna Rosenthal come in to talk about the unexpected 20's and Dr. Chris Brune on unexpected finances,

and how God views money differently than we do. It started with very few people with an idea and prayer and then built up to the whole week. A lot of the material is less about big picture ideas, but instead practical ideas that students can take with them after the week is over," said Walker. "It gives you tools to be a more disciplined Christian or to be a more loving person versus a 'I'm on top of the world feeling.'"

"It gives you tools to be a more disciplined Christian."

By // Addie Woods



CFW'S GOLDEN MOMENT

One of the Christian Focus Week events was a desert night. At this event Scott Haynes shared about his family's dependence on God and submission to his plans for them on the mission field. This story was an encouragement to those who attended. The students also discussed his story while eating a variety of desserts.

Photo by // Natalie Moore

MUSICAL TAKES FLIGHT

Through passion and performance the

The School of Fine Arts presented its spring musical, "Mary Poppins," April 20-23 in Jones Performing Arts Center. Students involved put in hours of work from January until opening night. Auditions and callbacks took place early on in the spring semester. The musical was directed by Dawn Schluetz, visiting associate professor of theatre arts.

"Although it was our first musical together, it definitely won't be our last!"

Opening night drew a large crowd. President Ben Sells and a Broadway World representative were in the audience, which began the performances with great momentum. Sunday afternoon was the cast's favorite performance because of the excitement in the audience.

Noah Warford, a senior musical theatre major from North Little Rock, played the character of George Banks in his eighth show for the Ouachita's School of Fine Arts. Warford experienced a bond with students more so than any other production he had been a part of. Due to changes in the theatre department, the students and faculty had to band together to make effective progress on the musical. The cast and crew all had to learn new trades in order to live up to their potential.

"This semester I have recognized a sense

of purpose and community at Ouachita," said Warford.

The cast members' favorite part about rehearsals and practices was the participation of professors and administrators. Schluetz invited three Ouachita employees into the cast and it created energy and excitement that resulted in even more participation from the audience.

Dr. Keldon Henley said, "I was in awe of the amazing talent and performances delivered by our students."

This musical was no small effort and took multiple students stepping up in areas that were not their expertise. Halle Jones, a junior musical theatre major from Fort Worth, Texas, had the opportunity to be head stage manager for the first time. While the task came with many challenges, she had two assistant stage managers who helped with technical cues, sets, props and lights. This task required communication and organization skills that Jones handled with diligence.

The character Jane Banks was played by Genevieve Cooper, a freshman double major in musical theatre and business administration from Frisco, Texas. Because of "Mary Poppins," she created a great friendship with the cast including Annslee Clay, a junior musical theatre major from Benton, who was cast as Micheal. Clay and Cooper said, "Although it was our first musical together, it definitely won't be out last!"

The friendships and core memories created were what made "Mary Poppins" so special. For many in the audience, it was a return to a favorite story, complete with a flying Mary Poppins.

By // Lilly Biggers





DANCING TO "JOLLY HOLIDAY," the "Mary Poppins" cast sings along. There were four performances of the musical.
Photo by // Emma Mayes



ON OPENING NIGHT, Anslee Clay and Genevieve Cooper take the stage. They played the Banks' children, Jane and Michael.
Photo by // Levi Dade

UMBRELLA IN HAND, Erin Bagley and Mack Ricks lead the cast in a song. Bagley was cast as Mary Poppins, and Ricks was cast as Bert.
Photo by // Sarah Dean

Isabella Owens
Photo by // Emma Mayes

Mac Ricks
Photo by // Sarah Dean



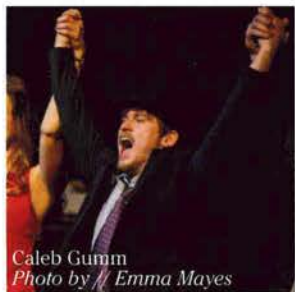
THE CAST OF "CLUE" ponders the latest information in the mystery. The cast rehearsed for weeks leading up to the performances. Photo by // Levi Dade



Abby Durison
Photo by // Sarah Dean



GENEVIEVE COOPER and Kenzie Tatum Gumm take on the roll of their characters. They performed in the fall production of "Anne of Green Gables." Photo by // Sarah Dean



Caleb Gumm
Photo by // Emma Mayes

DURING SERVANT of Two Masters, Mac Ricks delivers a speech. The cast and crew consisted of 28 students who brought the show to life. Photo by // Sarah Dean



TELL UNFORGETTABLE STORIES

Casts and crews work together to

The theatre program thrived as students took the stage in multiple productions throughout the year. This program allowed students to show what they could do in the acting realm, whether they have had experience or not. It was something that took dedication, long hours and a lot of practice.

The theatre department produced four major shows - "Anne of Green Gables," "Servant of Two Masters," "Clue" and "Mary Poppins." They also hosted the annual 10-minute play festival, the all-night theater festival and the Muse project, which allowed students to express themselves in ways they never thought of before, and with an experience they would never forget.

The plays chosen for the year were selected by a variety of professionals in the department. They came together to discuss the plays they wanted, and gave each other ideas as to how to bring the productions together. Sophomore musical theatre major Mac Ricks from Carlisle was a student at the time who dedicated a lot of his time to theatre. He was a character in three of the four productions - "Servant of Two Masters," "Clue" and "Mary Poppins," as well as the 10-minute play festival. Despite not being an actor in "Anne of Green Gables," he still had his part to play in the final product.

"I was head of the costume crew for 'Anne of Green Gables,'" said Ricks. "I was making sure that everyone's costumes were in place and making sure they were washed and clean." Even though not everyone got the opportunity to act in every show, they still were involved in some way.

There was a lot more to putting on a play than what met the eye. There were two main parts - acting and technical work. The acting part was geared more toward the people who had the desire to be on stage.

On the other hand, there was the technical work, which included everything else required to put on a show. There were five main crews involved in tech - costume and makeup crew, shift, fly and prop crew, light crew, and sound crew. All of these crews entailed many different roles that involved a lot of work.

Junior theatre arts major Brylee Beams from Cabot was on the tech side of productions. She was able to try out every crew instead of staying in one position. Students were encouraged to try out new things and get familiar with being behind the scenes.

"We're encouraged to try everything, but I love working on shift crew because I get to be backstage with all the actors," said Beams. "It's like one big happy family."


One of the most difficult challenges about tech was the lack of work they got to have with the rest of the crew. They did not come to the rehearsals until a week before the opening show, so they only had seven days to start, finish, and add the touch-ups to perfect the show.

"The crew gets to watch the show and start applying," said Beams. "The next day they start programming queues, working runs, doing shifts, and learning everything."

All students had different experiences but shared the same passion and love for the arts. Theatre took a lot of time and effort from both cast and crew. The theatre department devoted weeks and months to each production in order to tell their story to the audience.

By // Rosalyn Decker

"It's like one big happy family."



THEATRE'S GOLDEN MOMENT
All night theatre was an Alpha Psi Omega event in the spring. It was comprised of student written and directed plays. The plays were voted on by a panel to determine which were performed. The directors and writers did a talk back, question & answer session with the audience at the end of the show.
Photo by // Sarah Dean



TO COMMEMORATE the start of a new school year, President Ben Sells speaks during the annual Convocation chapel. The students were handed a patch with this year's theme as they left the service. Photo by // Hannah Adamson



Allie Jane Wilson
Photo by // Coleman Callan



Gaylon Williams
Photo by // Sarah Dean



INTRODUCING THE weekly speaker, James Taylor engages the audience. He organized chapel speakers and events each week. Photo by // Levi Dade



TAKING A moment to spend time in prayer, Chloe Wallace pauses during a song. Wallace started her time on the student-led worship team this year. Photo by // Coleman Callan

FIND COMMUNITY AS ONE

Students gather together to

Ouachita was a school founded upon rich history and Christian tradition. In order to keep this foundation strong, faculty, staff, students and alumni alike came together for a worship experience weekly. Professor Angela Douglass received the opportunity to give her personal testimony, speaking on hardship and trials that had occurred in her life, including the loss of her daughter, Joy.

"I did not really experience trials until being older, so giving somebody a heads up that trials will happen, and that's OK, and that you can survive it is really important," Douglass said, "It's important to me and my story." Douglass' vulnerability with her colleagues and the student body greatly resonated with them. Senior Christian studies major Karis Staley was especially grateful for this message.

"I really appreciate that because even being a senior, I'm realizing hardships are real," said Staley. "The fact that faculty here are intentional about sharing that and are vulnerable enough to share it is really important to me. She [Douglass] shared her journey with losing a kid and that meant a lot because for somebody to go through pain and to not avoid talking about it afterwards is really healthy and helps younger people go through their similar experiences."

Sharing stories during chapel was not only done by speakers, but also by Ouachita Worship who delivered them in song. Staley viewed her time on stage as an opportunity to communicate with her peers and professors. For those in attendance who have a relationship with the Lord, Staley and Ouachita Worship's storytelling served as an ebenezer for what God had accomplished in their lives. Singing songs during chapel most resonated with Douglass because they served as a reminder.

"It helps me remember. It's a refocus," Douglass said. "You go to church on Sunday, then Monday you're getting into things, and

you forget, so it's like I can take this moment to focus on God and pull Him back to the front of my mind."

James Taylor, director of Campus Ministries, felt that witnessing true worship was a blessing. "I think because chapel is required, we always recognize that there are people that don't want to go," Taylor said, "Because of that, you can really tell when a speaker or the music is connecting with the group."

Bringing together the entire campus weekly was no small feat. The duties were dispersed into three separate departments: Student Development handled seating assignments and attendance, the School of Fine Arts organized worship music, and Campus Ministries coordinated the service.

"We try to design programs that will encourage people's faith, have diversity, and introduce students to some of the life of Ouachita," said Taylor. "Ultimately, it's about helping students grow spiritually and exposing them to different voices from within the Christian world."

Freshman Christian studies major Noah Terry found worshipping the Lord as a community was truly special.

"It's fellowship. It's community. It's growth," Terry said. "You get to share with each other your struggles. For all of us to be able to experience that together, I don't think I would change that for the world." Staley enjoys the community aspect as well.

"I think that's one aspect we forget about is that all of our friends and the people we're around all heard the same message. On Sundays and Wednesdays we go different places, but Tuesday mornings we're in the same building," said Staley.

By // Ellie Bennett

"It helps me remember. It's a refocus."

CHAPEL'S GOLDEN MOMENT

Dr. Pemberton was one of the weekly speakers at chapel. The message she shared was about believers carrying the gospel with them wherever they go. She challenged the audience to live intentionally and share the good news of Christ.

Photo by // Hannah Adamson



COKE VS. PEPSI:

The rivalry between Coca-Cola and Pepsi has existed ever since both companies were created in the late 1800s. Ouachita's campus was no exception when it came to debating between the two. The argument of Coke vs. Pepsi had a prevalent presence on campus over the 2022-2023 school year.

Prior to the 2022-2023 school year, the Ouachita campus served Coca-Cola products throughout the university. The Ouachita administration decided to switch from Coke to Pepsi over the summer and it was officially implemented on August 1, 2022. Jason Tolbert, Ouachita's Vice President of Finance and Administration Services, had the opportunity to oversee the decision-making process of whether or not to renew the school's contract with Coca-Cola. He explained that Ouachita's contract with Coke had expired two years ago, and the administration wanted to be intentional about choosing the option that would most benefit the school.

"We put two to three years into making this decision. We spent time researching and saw how the switch would affect students, and Pepsi had a more attractive offer," said Tolbert, "Pepsi had been wanting our business and their offer included both more scholarships and sponsorships."

During the 2021-2022 school year, Student Senate sent out a survey to the student body about their preference regarding Coke and Pepsi products. According to current Student Senate president Kathryn Toddy, a senior mass communications and political science double major from Camden, the survey's results revealed that the student's top drink selection was Dr. Pepper. When Student Senate looked at the opinions concerning Coke and Pepsi products, the statistics were extremely close.

"The ultimate decision to switch over to Pepsi came when they proposed a deal that we really couldn't pass up," said Toddy. She explained that in Pepsi's proposal, they offered a significant amount of money to fund the Student Senate budget and to provide for things such as student scholarships.

"The bottom line was that Coke really didn't want our business; they weren't servicing our machines or living up to their contract," Toddy told the Ouachitonian, "All of these things led us to switch to Pepsi. It was ultimately a no-brainer for administration. Plus,

we still got to keep Dr. Pepper."

Students, faculty, and campus visitors alike quickly recognized the university's transition. There were a variety of reactions among the student body.

"I wasn't a huge fan of the switch," said Caden McCaulley, a junior finance and business double major from Ozark. "I usually stick to water in the caf so that didn't bother me much, but I really liked the Coke machines in the Stu. They had a much wider variety of drinks. Even though you can still add flavors with the Pepsi machines, it's not quite as good." McCaulley acknowledged both perspectives of the school and the students. "I'm sure it cut down on costs for the school, but I've heard more complaints than praises for the switch from fellow students."

Another perspective came from Hanna Williams, a junior community and family services and psychology double major from Prairieville, La. Williams co-runs the 'OBU Caf Reviews' social media page where they review what is served in the main line of the cafeteria each day.

"I'm personally a Dr. Pepper girl, so the switch didn't affect me too heavily," said Williams, "What shocked me the most was how we had to switch out all of our drinks. I guess I didn't realize that juice, energy drinks, and even the kind of water we had would be affected by this switch." Like McCaulley, Williams stated her support for the decision due to it being in the best interest of the school, however, she also commented on what she observed of the rest of the student body.

"We have a lot of Diet Coke consumers on this campus," Williams told the Ouachitonian, "so when they found out Ouachita wouldn't be serving it anymore, I saw many confused and frustrated people. I feel like I've gotten used to it, but some people don't feel that way and are upset that we have Pepsi instead of Coke."

Overall, the consensus seems to be that the changeover to Pepsi products has not been ideal but because it was in the school's best interest, it is a decision the majority of individuals are willing to both accept and support. Even though the Coke vs. Pepsi rivalry has an evident split of opinions, it has been made clear that prioritizing the best interest of the school is a difficult concept to debate.

Story By // Erin Key, Art By // Addie Chumley

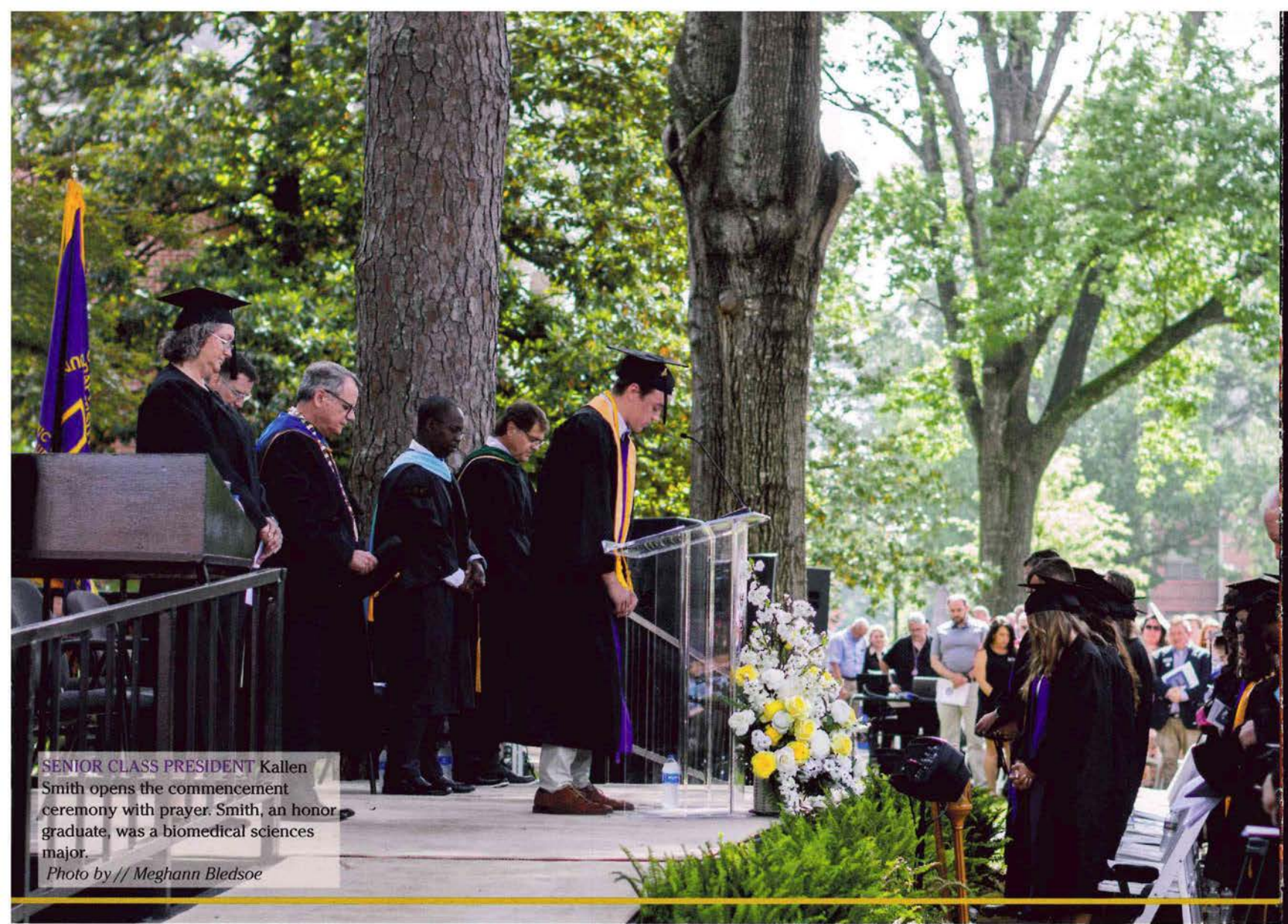


THE GREAT DEBATE



STUDENTS USE the new Pepsi machines located in The Commons. In addition to new machines in the commons, new Pepsi machines were placed in the Student Center as well as multiple Pepsi vending machines across campus.

Photo by // Levi Dade



SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT Kallen Smith opens the commencement ceremony with prayer. Smith, an honor graduate, was a biomedical sciences major.
Photo by // Meghann Bledsoe



ROTC Commissioning
Photo by // Meghann Bledsoe



ABA Hooding
Photo by // Meghann Bledsoe



LIZANNE TOLLETT celebrates after commencement. Tollett was the assistant registrar and received her Master of Education degree.
Photo by // Sarah Dean



WAVING TO THE CROWD, Kenta Jones participates in the commencement recessional. Jones earned his degree while playing football for the Tigers.
Photo by // Sarah Dean

G RADUATES CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Through traditions and honors

Ouachita honored more than 400 students during its 136th Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 13, on the front lawn of Cone-Bottoms Hall. Graduates earned Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees, as well as Master of Science degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates for Dietetic Internship and the university's first Master of Education degrees in curriculum & instruction and Master of Science degrees in nutrition.

In keeping with Ouachita tradition, the Commencement address was delivered by Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president, who also led Commencement exercises. He encouraged graduates to know the importance of humility, foster character and nourish hope in pursuit of the goal of being lifelong learners.

"I believe you are more likely to flourish and excel in every area of life if you commit to be a learner no matter how much you come to know," said Sells. "Knowers, assuming they have arrived, draw only on what they have learned. Learners, on the other hand, never stop learning. They continue to adjust, adapt and add to their advantages.

"Based on what your predecessors report, your Ouachita education and experience have prepared you exceedingly well," he added. "The investment in you by faculty and staff, the support of your family and classmates, the time and effort you have put forward and the grace of God help you go from this place with an advantage. The better you steward it, the more opportunity it will provide."

Students recognized during the ceremony included those who completed their degree requirements in August 2022, December 2022 and May 2023. Collectively, they earned the highest number of degrees conferred by

Ouachita in more than 40 years. Of 187 honor graduates, 30 achieved a 4.0 GPA.

Senior Class President Kallen Smith, a biomedical sciences major from Jonesboro, Ark., delivered the invocation. Scripture was read by Mason Campbell, a Christian studies/biblical studies & theology major from Hinton, W.V.; Ashton Hurst, a psychology and Christian studies/biblical studies & theology double major from Van Buren, Ark.; Alex Moore, a philosophy & English double major from Gulfport, Miss.; Angela Staats, a Christian studies/Christian missions major from Oklahoma City, Okla.; Hannah Tullos, a Christian studies/biblical studies & theology major from Paris, Texas; and Wade Wilson, a Christian studies/biblical studies & theology major from Springdale, Ark. All were students in the Pruet School of Christian Studies.

Sells conferred degrees upon the graduates, including an honorary degree conferred posthumously upon Clark Yarbrough, a senior from Rowlett, Texas, who died unexpectedly in the fall. He also recognized four graduates who were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army: Chase Howerton, a nutrition & dietetics and military science double major from Rockwall, Texas; Trey Lamb, a biology major from Austin, Ark.; Joe Ragsdell, a kinesiology/recreation & sports administration major from Columbia, Mo.; and Alex Thyges, a business administration/entrepreneurship major from Conroe, Texas. *By // Felley Lawson*

***"Learners,
on the
other hand,
never stop
learning."***

COMMENCEMENT'S GOLDEN MOMENT



All commencements at Ouachita include the ceremonial mace. The mace was crafted from wood from Old Main, which was the university's primary facility from 1889 until 1949 when it was destroyed by a fire. The mace was carried by the chair of the University Committee, Dr. Jim Files. *Photo by // Meghann Bledsoe*