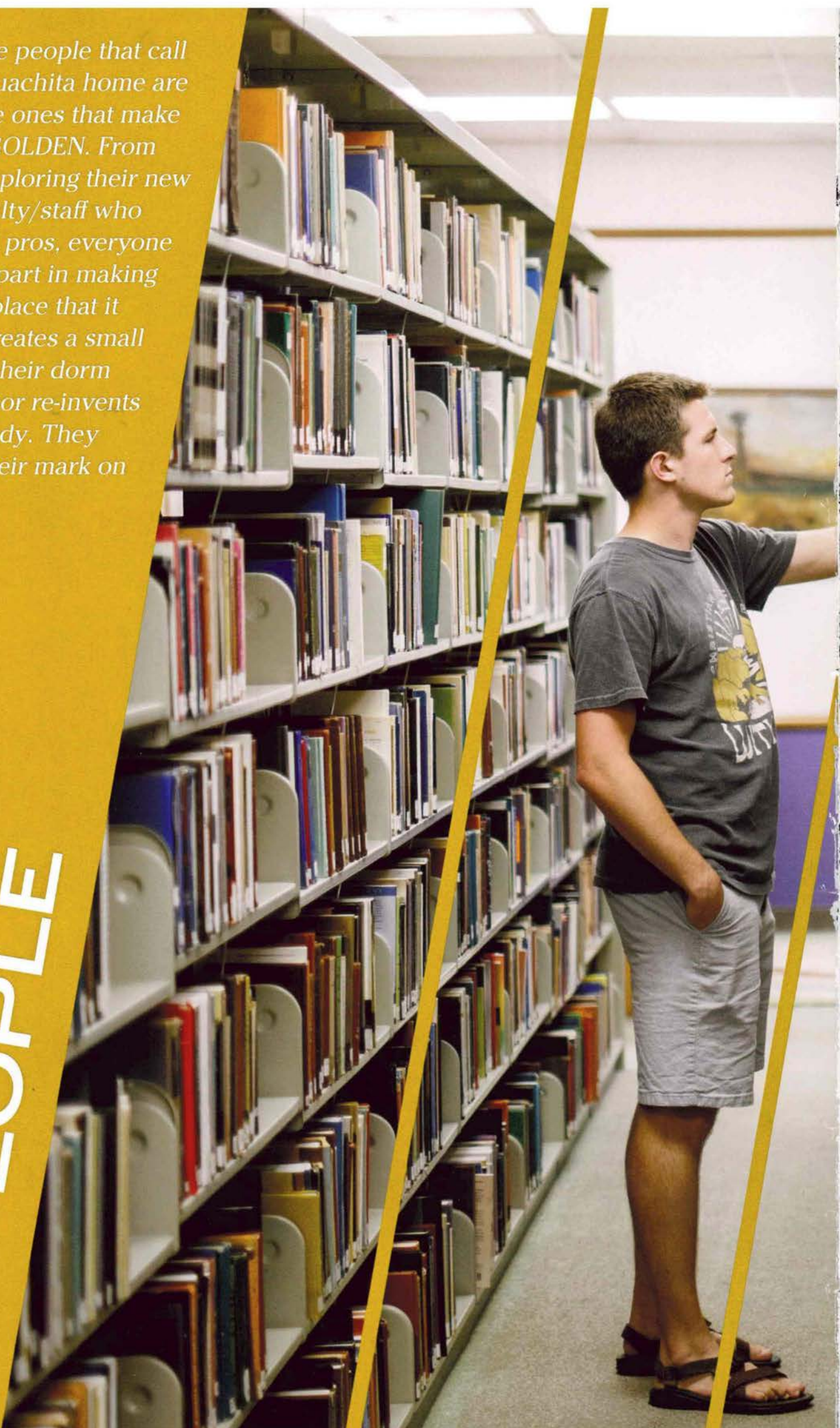


**T**he people that call Ouachita home are the ones that make it GOLDEN. From freshmen exploring their new home to faculty/staff who are seasoned pros, everyone plays a small part in making Ouachita the place that it is. A student creates a small business from their dorm room. A professor re-invents a program of study. They each ETCHED their mark on Ouachita.

PEOPLE



**EXPLORING THE LIBRARY,**

Wade Wilson finds his book of choice. The Riley-Hickingbotham Library was open each day to aid students' learning.

*Photo by // Levi Dade*



Emily Adams // ARLINGTON, TX  
 Miller Adams // WHITEVILLE, TN  
 Remington Adams // FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
 Jaycie Anderson // MAUD, TX  
 Jimmy Anderson // McDONALD, PA  
 Tyler Andruss // FORT WORTH, TX  
 Evan Armitage // HOT SPRINGS, AR



Ashton Arnold // BENTON, AR  
 Cassidy Ashcraft // COVE, AR  
 Symira Avery // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Sydney Babb // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Tiffany Backeberg // PEYTON, CO  
 Kodee Batchelor // MALVERN, AR  
 Allison Bates // ODEN, AR



Madelyn Baxley // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Cole Bedwell // SOUTHLAKE, TX  
 Olivia Beene // ENOLA, AR  
 Ellie Bennett // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Bryce Benson // FORNEY, TX  
 Lilly Biggers // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Faith Billings // BISMARCK, AR



Meghann Bledsoe // PLANO, AR  
 Gracie Blocker // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Joseph Bolin // EL DORADO, AR  
 Hannah Boswell // SHERWOOD, AR  
 Kylee Braley // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Riley Braziel // DECTAUR, TX  
 Ali Bricker // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Ella Claire Brinkley // MURFREESBORO, AR  
 Alex Brown // JONESBORO, AR  
 Catie Brown // DAMASCUS, AR  
 Dawson Brown // VILONIA, AR  
 Drew Bryant // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Stephanie Bryant // GRIFFITHVILLE, AR  
 Carson Burks // BENTON, AR



Kate Burris // BROKEN BOW, OK  
 Sara Burroughs // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Baylee Burson // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Fernando Bustillo // TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS  
 Sadie Buttram // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Tiffany Byers // NASHVILLE, AR  
 Anna Cabaness // FORT SMITH, AR



Caden Callahan // WEST FORK, AR  
 Gracie Campbell // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Carly Carozza // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Savannah Mae Carrigan // CENTERTON, AR  
 Emery Cash // BLYTHEVILLE, AR  
 Mika Celicourt // HAITI  
 Mallory Cheatham // TEXARKANA, AR



**A**llison Bates, a freshman biology major from Mena, could say something that very few individuals could say: she had both qualified and swam in the Junior Olympics. The Amateur Athletic Union, often referred to as the AAU, Junior Olympic Games were known as the largest national multi-sport event for youth in the United States. Teams all over the country associated with AAU swam at the Junior Olympics, but individuals had to qualify in order to go. Bates attended the Junior Olympics through SASA, the Southern Arkansas Swim Association.

"I've qualified every year I've swam," said Bates. "I went when I was eight, nine, and 10 years old." Once a swimmer has qualified for the Junior Olympics, they get to swim three times for each event that they qualify for. To qualify, swimmers had to get first, second, third, or qualify by time in a prior meet.

"As you get older, it gets hard to qualify, especially because you're competing against year-rounders," Bates told the Ouachitonian. In swimming, people were classified into summer swimmers and year-round swimmers. The summer league expanded from early June to late July and the swimmers only practiced and competed during that time period. In comparison, individuals who swam year-round swam nearly every day of the year. It was difficult for Bates to practice during the school year because the only pool in Mena was an outdoor pool of poor quality. There was a time when Bates would drive to Hot Springs twice a week for private lessons, but it became too demanding to continue.

"At my school, I was always 'the swimmer'," Bates said. "I was an outlier because I didn't do a lot of things that everyone else did." Swimming was uncommon in Mena and according to Bates, it wasn't taken seriously.

Bate's preacher was the one who introduced her to swimming, and he soon followed to be her first swim coach. Bates began taking swim lessons at age three after her preacher advised her parents to sign her up, and she then started competitive swimming at age five. She first went to the Junior Olympics at age 8. It was extremely intimidating for her to go because it was her first time swimming in a bigger league.

This meet was over a span of three days and as the days went on, Bates's confidence grew which helped her in her races. Bates competed in the 50 and 100 butterfly, the 50 and 100 freestyle, the breaststroke, and relay events. She received four medals from the Junior Olympics: two bronze, one silver, and one gold. She won one of her bronze medals in Michigan for the 100 butterfly and the remaining three were won through her participation in relays.

"The Junior Olympics set me on a path to realizing that swimming was a really big part of my life, even though I only got to do it two months out of the year," said Bates. Not only did the Junior Olympics allow Bates to gain experience, but she also gained confidence in her ability as a swimmer. The opportunity aided her in creating her love for swimming and fostering her motivation to do the best she could. Competing in such a high-level environment transferred over to her desire to qualify again in regular meets.

*By // Erin Key*

# Allison BATES





# Ryan HARRIS

**H**e sets his feet, he shoots, he scores! Freshman Ryan Harris found that he was no longer in his small hometown of Arkadelphia, but on the hardwood of Gallagher-Iba Arena at Oklahoma State University where he had just scored his first points as a Ouachita Tiger.

When deciding where he would take his next steps in both his academic and athletic careers, Harris opted to stay home close to family and play at Ouachita. The school's caring community was what made all the difference.

"Knowing just the people around here, knowing that if I needed help with anything that they'd always be looking out for me, and they're here for my education," Harris said. "Basketball is just a plus."

As a kinesiology major, Harris quickly discovered the amount of work student-athletes put in on a day-to-day basis. Studying to receive a degree, as well as practicing to perfect one's craft in areas of athletics, is not a task for the faint of heart.

"It's a lot more work. It's become a job," he said. "You have to stay on top of school more, on top of working more, staying in and out of the gym, in and out of the classroom, on top of things."

However, Harris' workload did not stop him from earning playing time in the Tigers' season opener against Oklahoma State University, a Division 1 school whose men's basketball team had made a NCAA Tournament appearance in 2021. It was quite uncommon for freshman players to touch the floor, especially in the opening game of the season. Harris knew this.

"Before the game, I didn't think I would be able to get in just because it's a big time game, first game of the season," Harris said, "

but I did tell myself whenever I do get in, I'm not wasting any time. I'm gonna get right to it." He did just that, confidently shooting a three pointer and in doing so proving he was where he was meant to be. "I was filled with joy after I hit the shot," said Harris. "I didn't really know how to react." Like any veteran player would do, Harris looked to the next play.

"I just knew I needed to get back on defense before Coach said something to me," said Harris. Harris was no stranger to having a basketball in his hands. In high school he played the point guard position, then moved off the ball to receive more shooting opportunities. He was successful, lettering in both basketball and baseball at Arkadelphia High School. This year, however, he predicts a change.

"I think I will be running more of a true point this year, instead of being more of a scorer, just finding guys that are open, getting to the lane, breaking the defense down, and finding guys that can knock down shots," said Harris. In filling this facilitative role, Harris hoped to bring joy, encouragement, and general excitement to the team so they can stay on top, stay above, and stay surprising people throughout the season.

Ryan Harris, a kid from small-town Arkadelphia, was already making his mark on Ouachita Baptist University and the men's basketball program. His big dreams and aspirations foreshadowed a bright future for the Tigers this season and those beyond. Harris believed he could achieve his goals, both athletic and academic, with the help of his teammates and the Ouachita community. Those three points versus Oklahoma State were just the beginning.

By // Ellie Bennett



Kaliya Cherry // VILONIA, AR  
 Peyton Church // JONESBORO, AR  
 Madeline Circle // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Carlin Clark // ARGYLE, TX  
 Nathan Clark // LONGVIEW, TX  
 Morgan Cobb // BENTON, AR  
 Katie Cofer // WACO, TX



Hayden Coffman // ROGERS, AR  
 Jubilee Collins // IRON RIVER, MI  
 Wyatt Compton // EL RENO, OK  
 Shayla Conley // SILOAM SPRINGS, AR  
 Mikayla Cook // ROYSE CITY, TX  
 Genevieve Cooper // FRISCO, TX  
 Kinley Cooper // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Angela Coriaty // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Kelsey Coventry // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Maddie Cox // NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, AR  
 Riley Crouse // BRANSON, MO  
 Ligia Da Silva // MANAUS, BRAZIL  
 Halley Daniel // COLLEGE STATION, TX  
 Rebecca Danuwar // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR



Ella Marie Davis // ROLAND, AR  
 Ellie Davis // NACOGDOCHES, AR  
 Eryn Dawson // FRISCO, TX  
 Rachel Del Angel // HOUSTON, TX  
 Nadia Denman // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Isaac Devine // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Dylan Dew // HOT SPRINGS, AR



Blake Dickinson // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Deacon Drennan // GREENWOOD, AR  
 Anika Dresser // LUCAS, TX  
 Payton Dumas // BENTON, AR  
 Heather Dunavan // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Katy Beth Dunn // MOUNTAIN HOME, AR  
 Jackson Edds // MAUMELLE, AR



Abby Elcan // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Emma Kate Elliott // COVE, AR  
 Zoie Eserman // CONWAY, AR  
 Ashleigh Estes // KELLER, TX  
 Haley Fairchild // CABOT, AR  
 Brie Fewell // COLLEYVILLE, TX  
 Campbell Fisher // WYNNE, AR

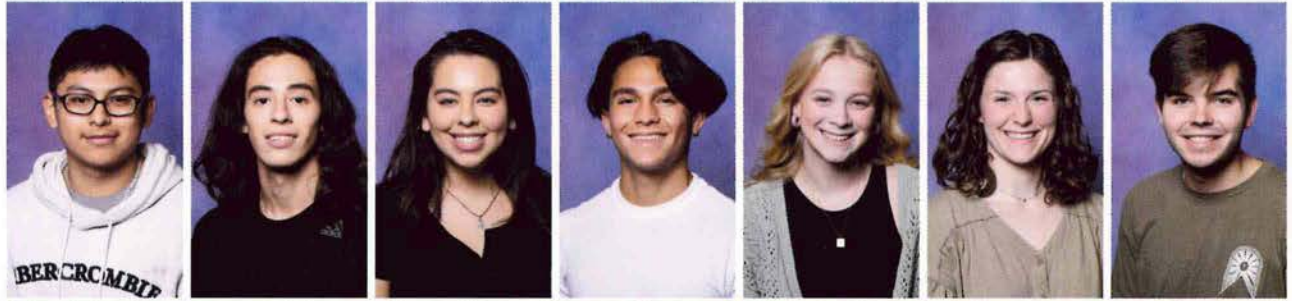


Abby Flora // FAIR PLAY, MO  
 Kyndall Fomby-Bell // MESQUITE, TX  
 Samuel Forbus // GREENWOOD, AR  
 Jackson Forthman // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Kendall Gall // CONWAY, AR  
 Leah Gamble // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Lyndsey Gardner // LITTLE ROCK, AR

Ethan Gibson // JONESBORO, AR  
 Riley Gillis // REDFIELD, AR  
 Daniel Gillson // SHERWOOD, AR  
 Emma Gipson // WALNUT RIDGE, AR  
 Jaden Gipson // CONWAY, AR  
 Cable Glenn // SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX  
 Samuel Goins // GRAND PRAIRIE, TX



Luis Gomez Guzman // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Gael Gonzalez // BENTONVILLE, AR  
 Hannah Bess Gonzalez // MISSOURI CITY, TX  
 Alfonso Gonzalez Gomez // MIAMI, FL  
 Alissa Gordon // CABOT, AR  
 Zoe Graham // RUSTON, LA  
 Trevor Greene // NORMAN, OK



Grant Greenway // CONWAY, AR  
 Payne Greer // PARAGOULD, AR  
 Raegan Greer // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Maggie Gregory // POTTSVILLE, AR  
 Clara Griggs // WEST MEMPHIS, AR  
 Tamia Gulley // PRESCOTT, AR  
 Hannah Grace Hallum // MARION, AR



Katelyn Hancock // HENSLEY, AR  
 Reese Hargrove // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Abby Harrington // MAGNOLIA, AR  
 Avery Hart // CONWAY, AR  
 Lauren Heathcock // EDMOND, OK  
 Ashlynn Hecht // TYLER, TX  
 Emily Hensley // MOUNTAINBURG, AR



Angela Hibbard // CROSSETT, AR  
 Andy Hilton // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Ben Himaya // BROKEN ARROW, OK  
 Harlie Hipp // WHITE HALL, AR  
 Kennedy Holland // GREENWOOD, AR  
 Bella Howell // BELLBROOK, OH  
 Addison Hudler // OWASSO, OK



Hannah Claire Humphries // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Acacia Hunter // MALVERN, AR  
 Blythe Hutchison // FRANKLIN, TN  
 Alli Hylkema // JACKSON, TN  
 Haley Jackson // ALMA, AR  
 Barrett James // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Brayden James // HOT SPRINGS, AR



Kiley James // BRYANT, AR  
 Chloe Jamora // EVENING SHADE, AR  
 Caden Jenkins // VAN BUREN, AR  
 Xandra Jetton // ALPENA, AR  
 Isaac Jiles // PARAGOULD, AR  
 Jaycie Jobe // VILONIA, AR  
 Emyr Johnson // MOUNTAIN VIEW, AR



As his high school senior year track season came to a close, freshman Christian studies major Ben Himaya thought he was done running competitively, that was until his collegiate career began at Ouachita. Little did Himaya know, he would soon be receiving the call that he qualified for the Nike Outdoor Nationals. Nike Outdoor Nationals is an elite competition for high school and middle school outdoor track runners held each year by Nike.

"I never really thought it was possible for me to go to Nike Nationals," Himaya said, "but after senior year track season, I realized I qualified, and it was only a few weeks away."

Limited on time, Himaya chose to stick with his training routine from high school. This included vigorous amounts of speed work and two-hundred meter runs which would ultimately enable him to keep up with his competition. His routine proved undoubtedly useful in the past with Himaya being a two time state champion in the 4x800 relay, receiving All-State in track, and setting records for his high school, Lincoln Christian, in the 4x800 relay and the 4x400 relay. Once the time came, Himaya and his teammates took the long trip to Oregon where the The 2022 Nationals were being held. As a native Oklahoman, Himaya quickly came to love it there.

"It is a very beautiful state with lots of green, great weather, and good places to eat," he said.

With the Oregon cuisine on his mind, Himaya competed in the

men's 4x800 meter relay in the "emerging elite" category. "Emerging elite" signifies a runner's potential to be one of the big names, or "elite" in the sport. Himaya and his team finished the relay with a time of eight minutes and four seconds, securing their spot as fifth overall nationally. Himaya found it to be an incredible experience for him and his teammates.

"Going in, I had no idea what to expect," he said. "It was really a great experience to run alongside some of my best high school friends and compete against some of the best runners in the nation."

A golden moment for Himaya was being able to meet track star Nick Symmonds. Not only did Symmonds hold the American record for the eight-hundred meter which is one of the events Himaya typically runs with a time of one minute and forty-two seconds, but he also is a long-time hero of Himaya's and someone he looked up to. It was a very surreal experience for him to receive that once in a lifetime opportunity.

With Nike Nationals under his belt, Himaya was excited for the track season ahead of him as a Tiger. Being able to compete against some of the best runners in the nation had prepared him and given him the confidence to excel in his time on the track team at Ouachita. In addition, he felt right at home with his teammates who he was excited to get to train, compete, and grow with.

"I have been really happy with the relationships I have been able to make. Looking forward, I'm really excited to compete and raise some heads as I do it," he said.

*By // Ellie Bennett*

# Ben HAMAYA







# Kennedy HOLLAND

**P**assionate about making change and creating spaces for all, freshman Kennedy Holland, a strategic communications major from Greenwood, started a journey to give all kids a place to get outside and play. Holland is the founder of Compassion Legacy Inc. a 501(C)3 non-profit organization that aids in installing accessible playground equipment.

The current goal of Compassion Legacy Inc. is to make public places more accessible and inclusive. Using funds raised from the people to meet the needs of the people, Compassion Legacy is able to purchase and install accessible and adaptive playground equipment. Holland's passion for this cause started before she even knew it did, she was inspired to start Compassion Legacy because of a kid in her second-grade class named JJ.

"JJ was the first person I met that used a wheelchair or walker, and it confused me at the time. I did not understand why he struggled to walk or why I was riding a shorter bus with him alone on field trips. I later realized it was because JJ had a developmental disability that inhibited his ability to walk, and I was his only friend in our class," Holland said. From then on, Holland had a heart for people that were looked down upon by others for something out of their control.

"Being from a small town in northwest Arkansas, we only have one playground. I realized my town's playground did not compare when it came to accessible playground equipment," Holland said, "Seeing this just struck a chord in my heart and made me want to do something about it." That day Holland started her journey to installing her first wheelchair-accessible swing of many.

Holland said, "My first step was talking to the mayor and parks director in my town. I wanted them to be involved with the fundraising, marketing, and every step I could because he has done amazing things for our community."

After receiving support and approval from her community leaders,

Holland set her sights on fundraising. Holland first sang in front of a locally owned grocery store one rainy Saturday in hopes of raising some funds. Through in-person donations, private donors, a matching grant program, and a Facebook live fundraiser of the mini-concert Holland raised almost \$4,000. Holland then hosted a car show with 63 entries and over 500 people in attendance.

"The high number of attendees was really unexpected and the turnout was extremely encouraging, and we raised over \$6,000 for a new wheelchair-accessible swing," Holland said. After these fundraisers, it came time to install the swing.

"Installation day rolled around, and my dad and I met up with the park's installation crew and installed the swing," Holland shared. Installation day sparked a fire in Holland's heart, she wanted to keep fundraising and installing swings. She wanted to continue to make a difference.

"After seeing how this impacted Greenwood, it really made me want to do it again and again. So I hosted another fundraiser and was able to install a swing in Alma and Clarksville," Holland said. Holland's passion for this cause was enough for her to want to do it again. Each community had a different story to share and each one gave Holland another reason to continue pushing Compassion Legacy Inc. to bigger and better things.

"Having grown up in northwest Arkansas I really focused on those communities. I would really love to do an install in Arkadelphia, Conway, and Little Rock. Eventually, I want to do an installation in every city in Arkansas," Holland said. Holland's passion does not just stop at raising funds and installing accessible playground equipment.

"I hope to one day help create legislation that focuses on requiring accessible playground equipment in every county of America," Holland said.

By // Katy Beth Dunn



Hope Johnson // VILONIA, AR  
 Kayla Johnson // SHAWNEE, KS  
 Anderson Jones // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Darby Jones // HUNTINGTON, AR  
 Troi Kacsir // MAGNOLIA, AR  
 Isabel King // VIENNA, TX  
 McKenna King // ROCKWELL, TX



Quintin Kispert // MCKINNEY, TX  
 Ann Klein // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Elise Knight // JONESBORO, AR  
 Cade Knoernschild // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Riley Kratz // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Emma Kyzer // MALVERN, AR  
 Rachel Lane // DAMASCUS, AR



Rachel Langham // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Sophia Lee // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Jamie Linton // SULPHUR, LA  
 Peyton Lowery // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Yosua Lumbanradja // AUSTRALIA  
 Elexis Lunsford // MOUNT VERNON, TX  
 Karmen Lybrand // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Matthew Magnano // WOODWORTH, LA  
 Cara Malin // DOVER, AR  
 Daniel Marcano // VENEZUELA  
 Olivia Marine // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Jenna Martin // MESQUITE, TX  
 Karis Martin // CABOT, AR  
 Aksa Mathew // INDIA



Sarah Kate McAnelly // JUDSONIA, AR  
 Jackson McCaleb // GARLAND, TX  
 Addison McCaulley // OZARK, AR  
 Alysha McClure // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Elly McDonald // TONTITOWN, AR  
 Justin McDonald // WALDO, AR  
 Abby McElhane // BENTON, AR



Jonathan McEndree // FORT WORTH, TX  
 Marcus McGahee // SEARCY, AR  
 Kennedy McGuire // ALEXANDER, AR  
 Colson McKinney // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Micah Meeks // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Cali Mendonca // TROUP, TX  
 Caleb Metz // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Caleb Miller // BENTON, AR  
 Chloe Miller // CABOT, AR  
 Kimber Mitcham // EL DORADO, AR  
 Kate Moody // BATESVILLE, AR  
 Trey Moody // BATESVILLE, AR  
 Opal Moore // MIDLOTHIAN, TX  
 Jonah Morgan // SILOAM SPRINGS, AR

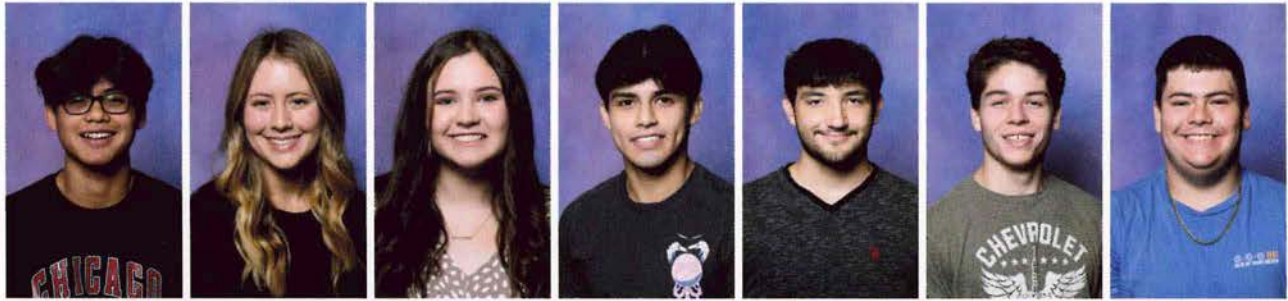
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 Raleigh Murphree // BATESVILLE, AR  
 Blake Myers // LONGVIEW, TX  
 Kate Nachtigal // ROGERS, AR  
 Xander Naegle // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Hannah Newcomb // HOT SPRINGS, AR



Finley Nipper // NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, AR  
 Cooper O'briant // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Andrew Ohrn // MCKINNEY, TX  
 Erika Ortiz // MIAMI, FL  
 Aaron Osmond // GUNNEDAH, AUSTRALIA  
 Justin Oulette // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Tag Pacot // ROCKWALL, TX



Anthony Paculba // CARROLLTON, TX  
 Rylee Patterson // MOUNTAIN HOME, AR  
 Trinity Pearson // MALVERN, AR  
 Alex Pena // SEARCY, AR  
 Austin Perez // PROSPER, TX  
 Aidan Perry // BUMPASS, VA  
 Joe Phillips // BIGELOW, AR



Olivia Phillips // BENTONVILLE, AR  
 Anna Claire Powers // NACOGDOCHES, AR  
 Kate Provence // CAVE CITY, AR  
 Deanne Puryear // JONESBORO, AR  
 Connor Radabaugh // RICHARDSON, AR  
 Anna Grace Rankin // HEWITT, TX  
 Ian Redman Aguilar // HONDURAS



Tori Reecer // MCKINNEY, TX  
 Aaron Reed // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Joshua Rhine // FRISCO, TX  
 Elle Riendeau // ROGERS, AR  
 Luke Robbins // CONWAY, AR  
 Jillian Roberts // PONDER, AR  
 Allyson Rodgers // PRINCETON, TX



James Savarese // DALLAS, TX  
 Danielle Schager // FRISCO, TX  
 Jacie Sellars // AMARILLO, TX  
 Grace Sexton // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Sam Sexton // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Paige Shepard // BAUXITE, AR  
 Lauren Shipman // JUNCTION CITY, AR



Madysen Shoebottom // BALD KNOB, AR  
 Carter Smith // NEW BOSTON, TX  
 Kaylee Smith // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Landon Smith // DURANT, TX  
 Shelby Smith // LORENA, TX  
 Tatum Smith // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Sadie Snow // FRISCO, TX



**K**ayla Johnson, a freshman from Shawnee, Kansas wrote multiple creative songs. While attending a college fair, Johnson was introduced to Ouachita Baptist University. After flipping through the brochure, Johnson was so interested in the music school that she applied, and ultimately decided to move to Arkadelphia. Growing up near Kansas City, Johnson was not used to small town living. However, Johnson fell in love with the quaintness of Ouachita.

Five of Johnson's songs were produced before she started college and she was a signed artist with BMI records. Coming to college she decided to make music a lifestyle and entered into the Music Industry major. Johnson described the program as a combination of music and business. Originally, Johnson was set on majoring in business entrepreneurship. However, after exploring it further, she felt like she was missing out on something she loved: music.

"When I saw what my schedule would look like for the Music Industry, it excited me because it was continuing what I had already been doing with my music records. Every class piqued my interest," said Johnson. "I wrote my first song in the summer going into my junior year, and it came out on August 28." Johnson has been writing songs since that first single called "Happy or Not."

Johnson said, "This song portrayed a situation I found myself in where I did not feel entirely heard or respected. I was mad about it one day and started to scribble down words."

"I was in the midst of teaching myself ukulele and already knew how to play piano. I started to play around with a melody and found something I really liked. Through the whole process, I learned how to

forgive and respect myself regardless of the situation. In writing the song, I figured out how to say goodbye," Johnson said.

Under the name Kayla Christine, Johnson could be found on any musical platform, such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon.

Johnson said, "I have released five songs, but I have lost count of the songs I've written. When I do write one I am ready to release, I go to my family friend's house who is the owner of High Point Records. Sometimes his sons will play background instrumentals and help with the tracks." This close relationship with the owner of the record label gave Johnson the freedom to be very creative.

"It can feel vulnerable being on those platforms because they are real life experiences. A little nerve-racking at first, but seeing how people relate to it makes it all worth it," said Johnson.

Not all of Johnson's songs came to her in the same way, though she did have a system. It was easiest to begin with lyrics and slowly work in a melody. Bullet points and listing ideas induced creativity and ideas for Johnson when writing. Johnson usually had many lyrical options when writing songs, but not all of them usually fit into the piece. In addition to being a recording artist, Johnson was also talented in the art of poetry. Any lyrics that she did not use in her songs, she generally made into a poem. These were sometimes used in songs later. Johnson was open to the idea of continuing to make her own music, but would also love to produce other people's music.

"Anyone can get into songwriting. Not just music majors or famous people. Don't do it for other people, but yourself," said Johnson. For Johnson, and many others out there, music was one of the biggest parts of their life.

*By // Brooklyn Perkins*

# Kayla JOHNSON





# Noah ZETTS

**S**creaming fans, playing sold-out shows, and late nights spent on the road were considered normal in the life of the freshman physics major, Noah Zetts from Jessieville. While at a neighborhood hangout in Hot Springs Village around a year ago, a band from Maumelle was playing, and it sparked Zetts' interest immediately. He began to attend regularly, and eventually talked to the lead singer of the band, Bad Habit. This conversation helped jumpstart his Bad Habit career of working tech, tuning 85 guitar strings during a Tom Petty themed show, and playing rhythm guitar.

"I've been into music for as far as I can remember," Zetts said. "My dad and uncle taught me everything they knew, and I just ran with it."

Music runs in the Zett's family. Noah's dad and uncle helped impact his career as a musician from the beginning. His dad was a musical role model for him because he played a wide variety of music. Through playing 70s and 80s music, Zett's uncle set him up for success by teaching him the basics. His dad and uncle went from being his teachers to some of his biggest supporters; his family has never missed a performance.

"I've always loved music," Zetts stated, "so when I was asked to play a show with Bad Habit, the decision was a no-brainer." He received a text from the band's founder asking him to help out with the band, and this opened the door to an exciting opportunity. Zetts started out doing behind-the-scenes things to help shows run smoothly.

"I would usually sit in the back with about seven to eight guitars, make sure they were in tune, and then go up on stage for a quick guitar exchange with the lead singer. After that, the process would repeat," Zetts said. He made the impressive transition of playing one song in a

concert, to playing half a show in the next, and then working his way up to playing an entire set. Zetts was grateful for the opportunity to play with the band as he even labeled them some of the best musicians he had ever met. He's enjoyed getting to know the other members, and has learned so much from them.

This ambitious group transformed from having a handful of audience members in the crowd to now playing for hundreds of people. The Beehive in Hot Springs Village was where most of the magic took place as the band had regular gigs there. Audience members would often start shows sitting down, but end up storming the stage when they heard the first few chords of a classic Eagles song or a favorite song in general.

"When there were dancing songs on the set-list, one of my favorite things was to see the crowd get up from their seats and start dancing around," Zetts said. "Even all the older people in the Village were all in front jumping around."

In the midst of helping sell out shows in downtown Little Rock, and finishing weekly gigs after midnight, Zetts was living the best-of-both-worlds life as a student-athlete. He was a member of the cross country team as well as chasing after a physics degree.

"My dream was to work for NASA one day," Zetts said. When he's not working on set-lists in preparation for the next show, Zetts was actively working towards this goal. He was oftentimes found doing physics homework or having a concert of his own in Flippen-Perrin. At only 19 years old, he's got quite the r sum  and would continue to pursue music no matter where his dreams took him.

*By // Rose Robinson*



Lorraine Soto // ROCKPORT, TX  
 Addison Southerland // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Ashlyn Spanos // CRAWFORD, TX  
 Dillon Staal // GONZALES, LA  
 Maison Staggs // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Mary Kathryn Staley // CROSSETT, AR  
 Bree Steinfeldt // GREENWOOD, AR



Brooke Steinman // MURPHY, TX  
 Ethan Stevens // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Laura Stewart // LONOKE, AR  
 Andrew Stinchfield // MINEOLA, AR  
 Alyssa Strauss // EULESS, TX  
 Raegan Swindle // BENTON, AR  
 Makaylen Swint // EL DORADO, AR



Jameson Tankersley // CONWAY, AR  
 Kenzie Tatum // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Sydney Taylor // WALPOLE, MA  
 Noah Terry // ELKINS, AR  
 Amerie Thomas // WACO, TX  
 Joely Thomas // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Harmony Toth // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Braden Tucker // FORT WORTH, TX  
 Gracie Tucker // HORATIO, AR  
 Makayla Turner // KIRBY, AR  
 Reid Tyler // JONESBORO, AR  
 Sophie Uselton // WEST FORK, AR  
 Brady Ussery // VILONIA, AR  
 Fritz Vetter // MOUNTAIN HOME, AR



Chaya Vogel // CEDAR HILL, TX  
 Autumn Walters // MANILA, AR  
 Piper Warren // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Aaron Washburn // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Kelcie Watson // CONWAY, AR  
 Melina West // BENTON, AR  
 Katie Wilder // PRINCETON, AR



Kennedy Wilkie // SILOAM SPRINGS, AR  
 Steven Willett // CENTERTON, AR  
 Caley Williams // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Lexi Williams // MENA, AR  
 Sarah Grace Wisener // MAGNOLIA, TX  
 Abbi Wood // HARRELL, AR  
 Kenya Wright // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR



Landon Wright // ASHDOWN, AR  
 Hayden Wylie // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Blair Yager // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Jacob Yates // TULL, AR  
 Chandler Yung // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Natalia Zamora // COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA  
 Noah Zetts // HOT SPRINGS, AR

Jessalyn Ahrens // DEWITT, AR  
 Cydni Alexander // FORNEY, TX  
 Joel Allen // SAN ANTONIO, TX  
 Mackenzie Amaya // DALLAS, TX  
 Sammy Arizaga // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Susannah Arnn // CELINA, TX  
 Logan Babel // BEEBE, AR



Hannah Bailey // SUNNYVALE, TX  
 Payne Barrow // NEDERLAND, TX  
 Taylor Bass // PROSPER, TX  
 Bailey Bearden // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Brooks Bell // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Sam Bennett // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Madilyn Bonsall // EL DORADO, AR



Malea Borland // CARROLLTON, OH  
 Mason Boswell // CARROLLTON, TX  
 Rylee Branch // PARAGOULD, AR  
 Isabel Breaux // LONGVIEW, TX  
 Anna Breeding // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Adrienne Brown // ROCKWALL, TX  
 Connor Brown // ROGERS, AR



Alex Browning // PINE BLUFF, AR  
 Carter Bunn // FARMINGTON, AR  
 Anna Beth Burrow // CONWAY, AR  
 Coleman Callan // GRAYSVILLE, AL  
 Brianna Cantrell // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Mallorie Carozza // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Kylie Carpenter // BENTON, AR



Macie Cash // HACKETT, AR  
 Carina Chavarria // MANSFIELD, AR  
 Matthew Cheatham // TEXARKANA, AR  
 Shelby Cheek // ENGLAND, AR  
 Tiffani Chew // DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX  
 Madeline Ciesla // GREENWOOD, AR  
 Collin Clark // LONOKE, AR



Kaelin Clay // IDABEL, OK  
 Zachary Cloud // BENTON, AR  
 Annamarie Cobb // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Carter Collins // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Ben Combs // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Nathan Costner // FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
 Graceann Covington // ARKADELPHIA, AR



Jillian Covington // ALEXANDRIA, LA  
 Andrew Cox // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Makenzie Cresswell // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Liberty Crouse // SHERIDAN, AR  
 Katharine Crowe // BENTON, AR  
 Sophia Cunningham // BARTLETT, TN  
 Abigail Dahl // MCKINNEY, AR



**S**tarting a bakery out of one's dorm seemed almost impossible. However, sophomore AnnaMarie Cobb from Arkadelphia made it possible. She started her business while in high school, selling to her classmates in-school and continued the business into college.

"I've had my business now for about three years, since 2019," Cobb said, "I provide baked goods. I can supply anything from cakes to breads, pastries, and just about anything in between." Anna's Cookie Jar, the name of Cobb's business, took some time to take off. Just like any other business, she had some obstacles to overcome. Despite the challenges, she had support from the very beginning.

"I would often bring my cookies to school all the time, and everyone told me that I should sell them," Cobb said. "Then, one day, I decided to start selling them in school. I almost got in trouble because I wasn't supposed to do that in my high school. It was against the rules, so I stopped doing that. Instead I started doing online orders through Instagram." Once the COVID-19 pandemic didn't allow her to distribute her baked goods, she had to improvise. With the help of her parents and their locally-owned business, she was able to keep Anna's Cookie Jar up and running.

"When they had customers that had an event coming up, they would want me, they would want some baked goods from me for that," Cobb said. "That's how most of my business went."

One of the beauties about Cobb's business was that she did not have a set amount of baked goods that people could choose from, rather she allowed her customers to customize every product that she provided.

"I'll let my customers decide what they want each week," Cobb said. "I will sometimes ask my customers via Instagram something along the lines of 'Does anyone have a request for something that you want me to bring this week?' Usually, I'll get an order that way and I'll provide that. "When providing orders for customers, Cobb had to be wise with her time management. As a full-time college student, it was difficult to manage her business and keep up with schoolwork at the same time. However, Cobb did have ways to keep on track.

"It's very difficult to manage time because I am a music major," Cobb said. "I am busy a lot of the time, so it helps that my house is five minutes from the campus. I usually will go on the weekends and will bake over there and then I just bring stuff back with me and pray that none of it breaks on the way." Despite the difficulties she faced, Cobb pushed through to make her customers happy, which is what she loved most about Anna's Cookie Jar.

"I love seeing people eat the stuff that I make and seeing them really happy," Cobb said. "When I was in grade school, when my grandparents would bake for me, that would make me really happy. I like giving that happiness to other people through having something really good and delicious. "While Cobb enjoyed making people happy through her sales, she especially loved the personal connections she made with people on Ouachita's campus.

"My business has helped me meet some new people," Cobb said. "When I do my sales in the Stu, I get to meet a bunch of different people. Everyone was really friendly and nice. It was a really good way to meet people and spread awareness about my business."

*By // Hayden Wylie*

# Anna Marie COBB







## Barry, Ben and Luke

**W**hile many students' summers consisted of laying by the pool, or working at church camps, three sophomores from Maumelle had Basic Training Camp on their summer to-do list. On the first day of July these students packed their bags, waved goodbye to their families, and hopped on a plane to begin their journey. It was 32 days of learning complex formations, rooming with 14 strangers, and eating out-of-the-ordinary food every day. Business major Ben Harrod, communications and media major Barry Schnaitman, and biology major Luke Garrison's summer days consisted of workouts early in the morning and talking to family and friends via letters. As they ended their freshman year of college, a year full of newness, their new experience was just beginning as they attended National Guard Training Camp.

"The worst part was being away from family and friends, but one thing that helped was being in the same environment doing the same thing, wearing the same thing, and fighting for the same purpose," Harrod said. The boys were given their phones at night but were often too exhausted from their long days to contact their families. Often they only had time to send a quick text to update their families.

"It's difficult being there with strangers," Garrison said. "You just have to remember why you're there and that it's going to end eventually." Mentally, physically, and emotionally exhausted, these cadets made the adjustment from being roommates in Flippen-Perrin to being bunkmates at Fort Knox.

"The community we had there helped me make it through," Schnaitman said. "If it was just me by myself all the time, I wouldn't have been able to do it." This determined trio started their days before the sun

rose each morning. Their alarm clocks were set to 4 a.m. and they were well on their way to their first formation by 4:15. Going from Chick-fil-A's breakfasts at Ouachita to early morning workouts was a hard transition. Despite the change, the boys had the spirit to push through, especially with support from their peers.

It was the little things that kept the cadets going. The prayers, phone calls, and praise from their people were what fueled the motivation to get them through their worst days. Receiving letters and care packages from families would brighten their day.

"Basic Camp was focused completely on being an officer and learning leadership roles. The experience was everything," Garrison said. In the midst of adjusting to a new state, living environment, and even a completely new life for 32 days, these boys showed that they have what it takes to be in the military.

Schnaitman said, "I was so grateful for the opportunity to take everything back with me that I learned." In the midst of learning discipline and enjoying the rewarding benefits of being in the military, there's always a chance of deployment. When a war takes place, the first military branch sent out is normally the National Guard.

Harrod said, "When we had war in Vietnam, the National Guard was the first to go. My grandpa got sent. "The boys truly had a bright future ahead of them in the National Guard, as they were on track to become lieutenants before the end of their contract. Whether it is the business department for Harrod, medical school for Garrison, or something in the communications field for Schnaitman, their time in the military had already prepared them for the days ahead.

By // Rose Robinson



Jordan Dallimore // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Jalon Davis // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Logan Davis // BENTON, AR  
 Mackenzie Davis // FRISCO, TX  
 Ella Depriest // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Jane Ellen Dial // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Sierra Douglas // SACHSE, TX



Kasey Dumas // EL DORADO, AR  
 Lane Dunman // CASH, AR  
 Rachel Dunnam // JONESBORO, AR  
 Mullen Duty // HOUSTON, AR  
 Brandon Dyberg // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Kate Ellis // FRISCO, AR  
 Jake Emmons // CABOT, AR



Josh Engle // CLARKSVILLE, AR  
 Nick Ernest // MCKINNEY, TX  
 Valeria Figueroa // BENTON, AR  
 Andie Fletcher // JACKSONVILLE, AR  
 Julianne Fletcher // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Kensley Flynn // CABOT, AR  
 Rachel Forsythe // AMITY, AR



Chip Fournier // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Gabriella Gancarczyk // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Kristopher Garcia // PINE BLUFF, AR  
 Luke Garrison // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Maddy Geller // WYLIE, TX  
 Madison Gray // FORDYCE, AR  
 Reece Gray // MONTICELLO, AR



Will Green // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Jake Greenwich // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Andrew Grisham // AUGUSTA, AR  
 Lindsay Hachat // MIDLOTHIAN, TX  
 Elizabeth Hahn // WASHINGTON, IL  
 Mariah Halbert // PRAIRIE GROVE, AR  
 Bethany Hall // TROUP, TX



Tamia Haney // LAKE VILLAGE, AR  
 Sarah Hankins // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Amaya Hardin // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Reagann Harper // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Wyatt Harrington // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Naturi Harris // DEWITT, AR  
 Ben Harrod // MAUMELLE, AR

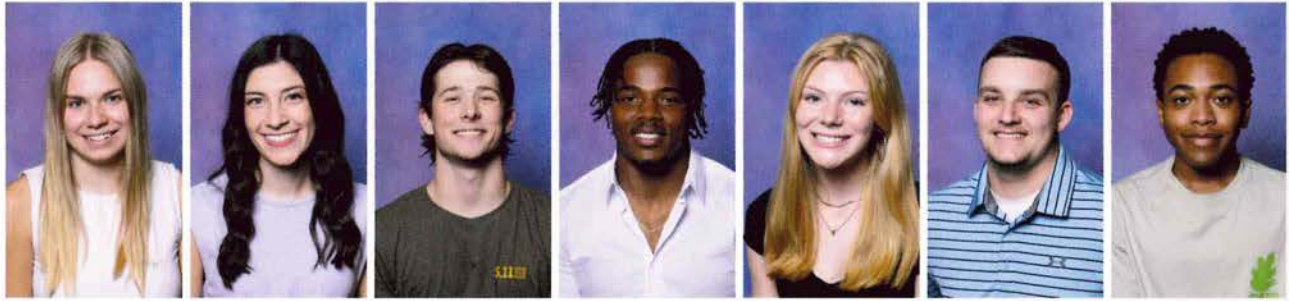


Katelyn Hartsell // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Alexis Hawkins // DURANT, OK  
 Allison Hernandez // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Mavric Herrera // WYLIE, TX  
 Carleigh Himmelsehr // MESQUITE, TX  
 Brandon Holloway // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Ashlyn Holt // ROGERS, AR

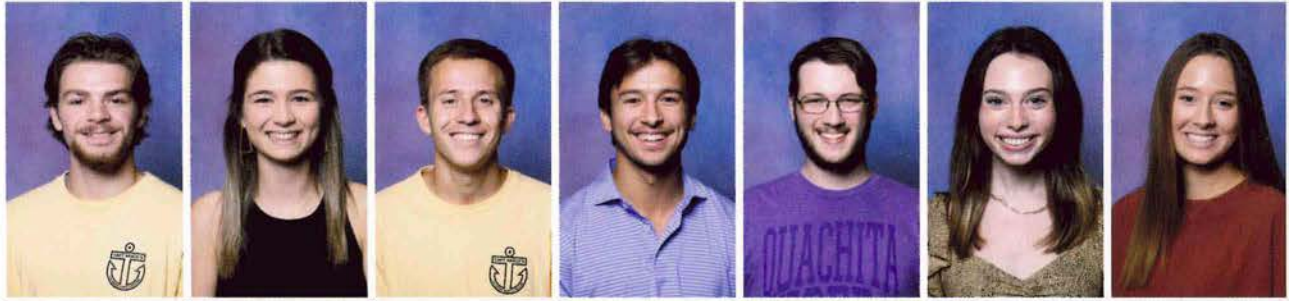
Robert Hood // FORT WORTH, TX  
 Brodie Horton // BENTON, AR  
 Lizzie Horton // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Wyatt House // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Tom Huston // SANGER, TX  
 Baylee Hutchison // ALEXANDER, AR  
 Conner Jacobs // MARION, AR



Madison James // ROCKWALL, TX  
 Abigail Jansen // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Hayden Jestes // PROSPER, TX  
 Josiah Johnson // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Qara Johnson // BENTON, AR  
 Grady Jones // NASHVILLE, AR  
 Trevor Jones // MAUMELLE, AR



Davis Jordan // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Caroline Jurkovich // BOSSIER CITY, LA  
 Ethan Kailey // CONWAY, AR  
 Benjamin Kelley // ROLAND, AR  
 Noah Kelly // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Abby Kemmer // MARVEL, AR  
 Erin Key // BENTON, AR



Brody Kriegel // MARSHALL, TX  
 Julia Lance // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Chloe Lane // VILONIA, AR  
 Andrew Laney // BENTONVILLE, AR  
 Kaleb Langford // CENTERTON, AR  
 Emily Langston // WYNNE, AR  
 Nicolette Larkins // HAUGHTON, LA



Laci Larsen // BENTON, AR  
 Whit Lawrence // MOUNTAIN HOME, AR  
 Isaac Lawson // KINGSPORT, TN  
 Arcrel Lee // PINE BLUFF, AR  
 Michael Lee // FAYETTVILLE, AR  
 Payton Lee // BRYANT, AR  
 Jocelyne Leon // GURDON, AR



Priscilla Leverett // FRISCO, TX  
 Cameron Lewis // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Jacob Lewis // MANSFIELD, TX  
 Matthew Lloyd // HOPE, AR  
 Adam Lott // MURFREESBORO, AR  
 Katelyn Lu // SHERWOOD, AR  
 Kirsten Lu // SHERWOOD, AR



Emma Mackey // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Jeremiah Malnor // CARROLLTON, TX  
 Kieran Malmer // LITTLE ELM, TX  
 Jenna Malone // BENTON, AR  
 Camryn Manning // RUSSELVILLE, AR  
 Claire Martinson // NEW LONDON, MO  
 Heidi Mathes // CABOT, AR



Everyone dreams of doing what they love as their profession, but for sophomore art education major Kasey Dumas, this dream of hers has been her reality. Dumas was the embodiment of artistry and innovation. As the owner of two businesses, the second shooter and wedding-day assistant for an established photographer, and a full-time student, it was more than reasonable to say that Dumas has challenged herself to pursue her passions despite her heavy workload. Her expressiveness was first cultivated by her parents.

"My dad is super business minded and my mom is creative," said Dumas. "They were the perfect parents for me; they gave me a foundation." Due to their shared love for art, Dumas and her mother spent the majority of their time together decorating and painting. She was so immersed in art that toward the end of junior high school, Dumas started giving art lessons to kids in her neighborhood. This resulted in her choosing art education as her course of study in college.

Dumas had been employed with Katie Keith, a wedding photographer in Mountain Home, since January 2022. She had worked as both her second shooter and her wedding-day assistant.

"It's pretty surreal waking up on wedding days and thinking 'I get paid to do what I love. This is work'", Dumas said. "That's when I finally felt the meaning of the saying, 'Do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life'. I really do get it now." Along with having worked for Keith, Dumas also created two businesses of her own. In 2020, Dumas started her own photography business. During COVID,

her mom noticed the trend of photographers taking front porch family pictures and advised her to give it a try.

"Saying yes to doing that was probably the scariest but the best thing I could've done," Dumas said. After doing that and getting her name out there, families asked her to take their Christmas card pictures and one thing led to another. Her photography business was primarily run through Instagram, but Dumas utilized her personalized website as well.

Dumas's other business, Kaseycreates, sold stickers and art prints. Dumas loved painting but never saw it as a career; however, she started doing it because it is what she loved and it was a way for her to channel her creativity to honor the Lord.

"I've come to realize that my life is kind of based around these two questions," said Dumas. "One is asking myself, 'How can I utilize myself and my abilities to honor God?' and the other question is really more of a question that I don't want to ask and that's, 'What if?'" Dumas loved walking around campus and seeing her work on people's water bottles and laptops.

"It's just so neat to walk by and be like 'Hey, I did that!'" Dumas said. "But what I love more is the community and support a business can bring." Through her business, Dumas has had the opportunity to meet countless new people, even if it has only been in a quick, simple interaction such as dropping off their order.

"Just being able to create something that will put a smile on someone's face makes it all worth it," said Dumas. "That's my purpose here: to serve God and to serve His people."

*By // Erin Key*

# Kasey DUMAS





# Hamilton HAMM

**P**hotography had everlasting effects on people for numerous reasons. For sophomore Hamilton Hamm from DeSoto, Texas, photography was what he was most passionate about. However, Hamm didn't initially capture still pictures.

"I wanted to start off in film because I love watching action movies," Hamm said. "Then, as I got started, I realized that I had a natural gift for photography."

Training was a large factor in Hamm's photography career. Hamm's education experience was not the typical way of learning, as he had to teach himself the rules of photography.

"I learned from YouTube University," Hamm said. "After YouTube, I reached out to a couple of content creators in the Dallas area. They kinda showed me how to take pictures, too. With a mixture of YouTube, and a little help from my peers, I am who I am today." Since his initial experience with taking pictures in high school, Hamm started taking pictures on Ouachita's own campus. He especially enjoyed capturing scenes during football games.

"My favorite things to capture are here at Ouachita," Hamm said. "I have been shooting a couple of football games, and I got to capture the moments there. Specifically, I got to capture different emotions during the football games. "Once Hamm began to learn professional photography, he started his own business right away. He wanted to gain experience in the photography world as soon as possible.

"I started [the business] during the summer before my senior year," Hamm said. "I already played sports, so after my games, I would pull out my camera and try to record a couple of friends and see how I did. Then, as I transitioned into photography, I started liking it better."

Hamm's business was very important to him, especially as a small business owner. The sole proprietorship was also unique, as he was a very young entrepreneur.

"I've been trying to build my business, Hamm Visuals," Hamm said. As he continued his business, Hamm needed support from as many people as possible. He also found motivation through his greatest supporters.

"My family kept me motivated to try new things and think outside the box," Hamm said. "They always encouraged me to try new things." The support he received fostered his love for photography and made the pursuit of his talent more passionate. As he continued in his journey, he found more and more reasons to love his new job. Hamm specifically remarked on his favorite aspect of photography.

"The thing I love most about photography is being able to capture a moment you will forever be able to cherish," Hamm said. "Photos can last forever." Hamm also related his ambitions for photographing the world to his own personal memories with his family. He was able to see family members in their youth and perceived the emotions felt in the moment which the image was taken.

"I still have pictures of my grandmother and other family members when they were younger," Hamm said. "You can still feel the emotion in the photographs." Despite his multiple reasons to capture the world around him in photographic form, Hamm loved one aspect of photography more than anything, and that underlied all other motivations.

"I love capturing moments that people will forever cherish," Hamm said.

*By// Hayden Wylie*



Hannah Matthews // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Ali May // FRANKLIN, TX  
 Kailey May // DOVER, AR  
 McKenzie May // DELIGHT, AR  
 Emma Mayes // LIPAN, TX  
 Kate McCown // ROCKWALL, TX  
 Jackson McDonald // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Jenna McGraw // BENTON, AR  
 Mary Hannah McKnight // NASHVILLE, AR  
 Angel Medina // ROUND ROCK, TX  
 Deacon Miller // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Gabe Mills // PROSPER, TX  
 Kaylee Mitchell // GLENWOOD, AR  
 Parker Monk // ROLAND, AR



Abbey Moore // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Paris Morse // KELLER, TX  
 Abby Moseley // CENTERTON, AR  
 Jordan Nelson // FRISCO, TX  
 Tanner Nelson // GRANDVIEW, TX  
 Olivia Nethercutt // MOUNT PLEASANT, TX  
 Endsley Norman // TEXARKANA, TX



Kaitlyn Norris // TYLER, TX  
 Joseph Osborne // WYNNE, AR  
 Cody Pallen // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Kloe Parsons // BENTON, AR  
 Emily Payne // MOUNTAIN HOME, AR  
 Lexi Peck // SHERIDAN, AR  
 Elizabeth Phifer // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR



Andrew Pierce // BENTON, AR  
 Maddie Plyler // GLENWOOD, AR  
 Seth Poindexter // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Ella Ragar // NASHVILLE, AR  
 Keila Ramirez // VAN BUREN, AR  
 Chase Ramsey // BENTON, AR  
 Mason Rasberry // NACOGDOCHES, TX



Glenna Ratcliff // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Katie Reeves // SHREVEPORT, LA  
 Maryann Rettig // BEEBE, AR  
 Georgia Richards // FARMINGTON, AR  
 Caroline Richmond // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Presley Roberts // GREENBRIER, AR  
 Tanner Roberts // HOT SPRINGS, AR

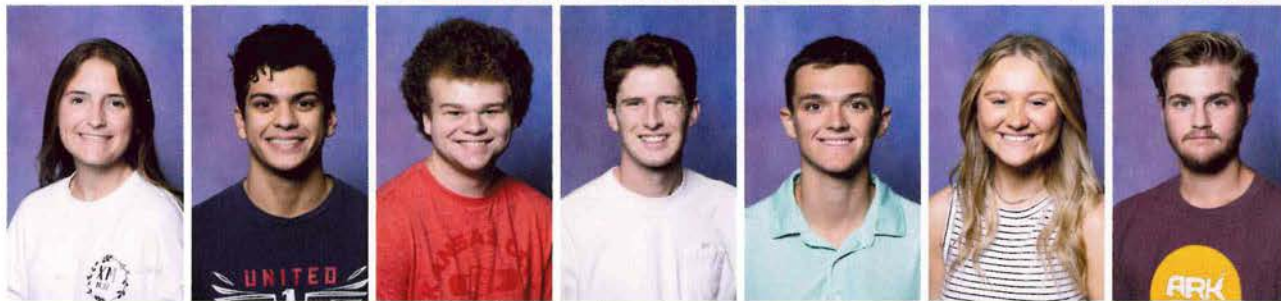


Addie Robertson // ALEXANDRIA, LA  
 Rose Robinson // BENTON, AR  
 Will Ross // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Alyssa Rye // CONWAY, AR  
 Lawson Sanders // FORT WORTH, TX  
 Brianne Sanford // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Skylar Schaffer // WEST, TX

Barry Schnaitman // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Elizabeth Seek // KATY, TX  
 Lily Sewell // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Emily Shipman // MIDLOTHIAN, TX  
 Haley Shourd // CONWAY, AR  
 Baylie Slone // BELLA VISTA, AR  
 Samuel Spraggins // HOT SPRINGS, AR



Molly Stanley // CABOT, AR  
 Jax Stevens // KINGWOOD, TX  
 Matthew Stratton // SEARCY, AR  
 Eli Stuart // CONWAY, AR  
 Cade Swindle // CONWAY, AR  
 Paige Tankersley // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Micah Terry // LONOKE, AR



Natalie Thomas // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Briley Thompson // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Abby Thurman // BERRYVILLE, AR  
 Kaitlyn Tillman // BECKVILLE, TX  
 Kady Tosh // BATESVILLE, AR  
 Chau Tran // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Trinity Tyre // NACOGDOCHES, TX



Ashlyn Vana // CELINA, TX  
 Hallie Vaught // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Alex Watson // LONGVIEW, TX  
 Brendan Watson // MANGOLIA, TX  
 Joseph Webb // ARLINGTON, TN  
 Teddy Webb // GONZALES, LA  
 Zach Weeks // BONNERDALE, AR



Clay West // CHARELSTON, AR  
 Mary Beth White // SPARKMAN, AR  
 William White // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Olivia Whitlatch // JONESBORO, AR  
 Lawson Wideman // JESSIEVILLE, AR  
 Liberty Wiggins // PLANO, TX  
 Georgia Wilder // GREENBRIER, AR



Ashton Wilhelm // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Landi Williamson // TEXARKANA, AR  
 Allie Jane Wilson // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Kendall Wilson // MONTGOMERY, TX  
 Sydney Windorf // BEEBE, AR  
 Carter Wood // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Luke Wood // MABELVALE, AR



Jonah Worley // CAMDEN, AR  
 Caroline Worthen // CONWAY, AR  
 Brooke Wright // GILMER, TX  
 Tavin Wright // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Julie Ann Zimmerman // ARLINGTON, TX



Out of the countless ways to express one's self, sophomore English major Rodney Scott from Birmingham, Alabama, had always expressed himself best through music. Although music meant a lot to so many people, to Scott, music had meant everything to him since his childhood. However, throughout his life, his love for music had evolved to where it has become a part of him. Music first became a priority in Scott's life when he was 8 years old and he watched his dad write and record songs. His dad encouraged him and his brothers to make songs in his footsteps.

"When I was 8, my dad inspired me," said Scott. "You know, I love my Pops and he was doing this and I thought the world of it so I wanted to show him that I could do it too." In having that shared love of music with his dad, music was able to integrate into his life more easily than it otherwise would have. Although Scott's passion originated with his dad, it quickly developed into his own. There were multiple aspects Scott loved about music, but the main one was how it's a natural form of expression.

"It brings me a lot of joy that I'm able to express myself not only in a way that's helpful to me but also in a way that other people can enjoy," Scott said. "Part of my personality is that I love making people happy and entertaining them. The fact that I can do that through music and share that with people is really exciting."

To Scott, music was seen as poetry. Poetry is the expression of feelings and ideas using rhythm which was precisely why Scott had

always loved it. Each day, Scott had been seen indulging himself in music for at least 30 minutes to an hour a day.

"My practice is just doing it," said Scott. He had written multiple throw-aways, songs he had chosen not to show people, and he had done so to have had an outlet for his thoughts and emotions. Not only did music give Scott an outlet to express himself, but music also taught Scott how to better empathize and sympathize with other individuals. After turning to the Lord, Scott knew he also had music to turn to difficult times.

"Music has allowed me to be a lot more understanding," Scott said. "I know there are some things that people deal with and have going on and they don't have a way to express themselves because they're scared of how other people will view them," said Scott. "When people explain to me that they're going through something and feel like they can't talk to anybody, it reminds me of when I used to feel like that so it comes from a place of not only listening and saying 'oh, I get that' but truly being able to say 'I remember when I felt like that'."

When Scott released his songs, he used the platform Soundcloud. He created his account in his senior year of high school when he first recorded his songs. After encouragement from his friends and feeling confident in his work, Scott released what he had recorded.

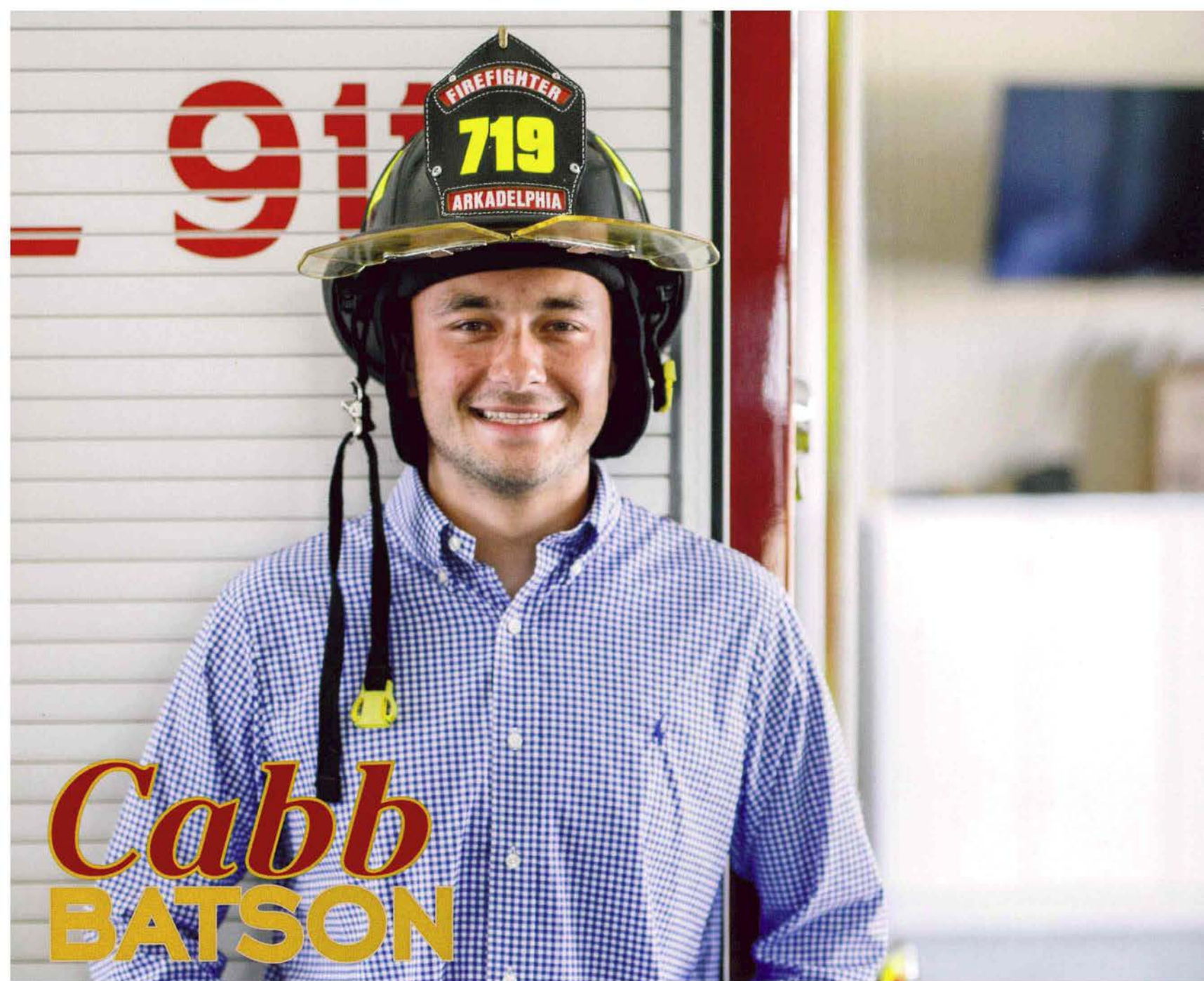
"I posted it not thinking anything would come of it but it got 39,000 views which I was very much happy with," Scott said. "It's small but because it's mine and I made it, it means something to me."

*By // Erin Key*

# Rodney SCOTT







# Cabb BATSON

**A**s an Arkadelphia native, junior biology major Cabb Batson decided to take on the role of a volunteer emergency responder/firefighter during his academic pursuit at Ouachita. Following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, Batson was excited for the job opportunity.

"Being able to see how much my dad helped the community as a firefighter made me want to do the job, too," Batson said. "It's kind of like a family tradition."

Before choosing to become an emergency responder, he felt a calling as a citizen of his community to give back and lead a life of service. Volunteering as a firefighter was just the way for Batson to answer that call.

"Being able to give back to the community that nurtured and fostered my growth was amazing," Batson said. Batson also remarked on the rewarding aspect of his role as a volunteer emergency responder. He emphasized how rewarding the job can make one feel.

"Usually if I am there helping, it's going to be the worst day they've had in a really long time," Batson said. "Just knowing that I can be there to help and do something for them in that situation is really rewarding."

However, Batson still carried the not-so-good turnouts of responding to a call on his shoulders throughout the rest of the day, weeks, months, or even years following the incident. Making sure his mental health was good was incredibly important not only for himself as a volunteer, but also balancing his commitments as a student at Ouachita.

Batson emphasized the importance of friends and a trusted circle of people that he needed during difficult situations.

"It is helpful to have a community of firefighters that I know so that I can talk to them about anything hard that's going on, and we can talk out the situation together," Batson said. "The Ouachita community is also great. It is nice to surround myself with my friends here at Ouachita. If I ever needed to talk through something, I feel like I could talk to my friends at OBU. I would feel safe about that."

Having a close group of people to be mentally healthy also prepared Batson for his academic studies, as he is preparing for his career in the medical field. A typical day at work for Batson was not a typical day at work for most, as he only responded to calls when he was available. This allowed him to balance his work schedule and to focus on his studies at school.

"I'm on call 24/7. We choose whether or not to respond, so if I am in class, I typically don't respond to calls like that," Batson said. "However, I have definitely had work and class on the same day, but I think I manage it pretty well."

While on the job, his experiences as an emergency responder prepared him for class, as well as preparing him for his future.

"I've learned a lot getting to see some medical procedures firsthand," Batson said. "I get to do some shadowing and relating to people through empathy, since that is a really big thing as a physician. Being able to translate that into being a physician should be imperative, in my opinion, for both technique and general skills." *By // Hayden Wylie*



**Madison Atchley** // TEXARKANA, TX  
**Armani Atilano** // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
**Noah Barker** // BATESVILLE, AR  
**Scarlet Bates** // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
**Cabb Batson** // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
**Brylee Beams** // CABOT, AR



**Matthew Bearden** // FORT WORTH, TX  
**Alyssa Beggs** // BENTON, AR  
**Brock Bivens** // SHERWOOD, AR  
**Luke Black** // RUSTON, LA  
**Emily Blair** // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
**Brooks Brown** // LITTLE ROCK, AR



**Katelyn Brown** // HOUSTON, TX  
**Blake Buffalo** // CABOT, AR  
**Jaelyn Bunch** // TEXARKANA, AR  
**Abby Burlison** // BEEBE, AR  
**Mason Campbell** // HINTON, WV  
**Emily Caraway** // ROANOKE, TX



**Christian Carney** // VAN BUREN, AR  
**Josh Case** // KELLER, TX  
**Addyson Cassell** // FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
**Becca Caughron** // HARRISBURG, AR  
**Gabe Chandler** // CONWAY, AR  
**Derek Cheatham** // VAN BUREN, AR



**Addie Chumley** // BENTON, AR  
**Kellen Church** // JONESBORO, AR  
**Brynn Clark** // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
**Hannah Coffman** // ROGERS, AR  
**Gannon Connelley** // MOUNTAIN HOME, AR  
**Emma Kathleen Conner** // ROLAND, AR



**Caleb Cornelius** // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
**Ella Cox** // ROGERS, AR  
**Kie Crone** // MABELVALE, AR  
**Hannah Crosswhite** // PARIS, TX  
**Isaac Crow** // CONWAY, AR  
**John Hunter Crum** // GREENBRIER, AR



**Katie Dabrowski** // MAUMELLE, AR  
**Morgan Darr** // GREENWOOD, AR  
**Lawrence Davis** // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
**Jamila Day** // COVINGTON, LA  
**Sarah Dean** // NASHVILLE, TN  
**Kinley Deaton** // MAUMELLE, AR

Rosalyn Decker // CENTERTON, AR  
 Ben Depriest // WAKE VILLAGE, TX  
 Aiden Dillard // BENTONVILLE, AR  
 Olivia Dixon // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Ashton Dorathy // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Ashley Drennan // CONWAY, AR



Olivia Eggleston // CABOT, AR  
 Sydney Ellason // SUNNYVALE, TX  
 Andrew Ellis // RUSTON, AR  
 Luke Falco // MALVERN, AR  
 Mikaila Fatheree // WYLIE, TX  
 Natalie Fletcher // LITTLE ROCK, AR



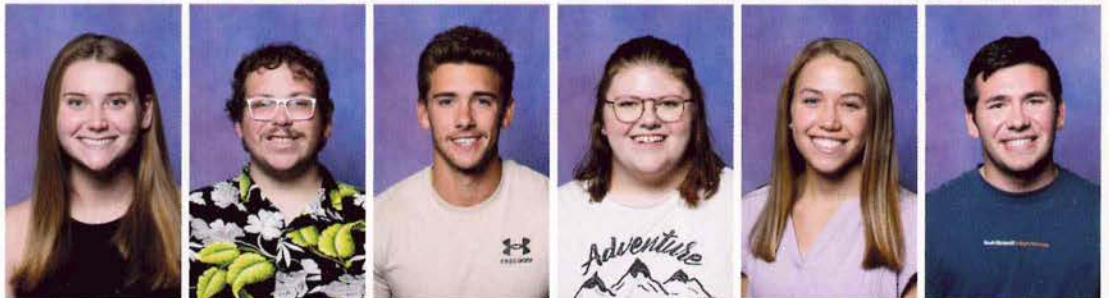
Ruthie Fox // SEARCY, AR  
 Sarah Franklin // GRAND CANE, LA  
 Kaleb Freeman // SHERIDAN, AR  
 Chris Gay // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Bailey Gibson // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Anna Katherine Green // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Emily Greenwell // BRYANT, AR  
 Chad Gscheidle // LANTANA, TX  
 Chase Hartsell // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Holly Hatcher // PLANO, TX  
 Alexandria Hesse // GRAVETTE, AR  
 Brooklyn Hester // CAVE SPRINGS, AR



Landen Hill // DELIGHT, AR  
 Kinder Hinrichs // HARRISON, AR  
 Derek Hobbs // LOWELL, AR  
 Makenna Holder // CAMDEN, AR  
 Sara Holman // CONWAY, AR  
 Jacob Holt // ROGERS, AR



Sierra Hoss // FOUKE, AR  
 Avery Howard // FRISCO, TX  
 Peyton Howell // MALVERN, AR  
 Anna Hudson // CHARLESTON, AR  
 Cordell Hufstedler // THAYER, MO  
 Seth Hunter // RUSSELLVILLE, AR



May Hyman // FOUKE, AR  
 Brody Jacks // TULL, AR  
 Lauren Jamell // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Reagan James // GREENBRIER, AR  
 Riley Jeane // TEXARKANA, AR  
 Jessica Jennings // HOT SPRINGS, AR



**F**rom best friends to cast mates, Eli Butler, junior BFA musical theater major from Greenwood and Kenzie Burks, junior theater education major from Beebe, joined the cast of the award winning musical, *Kinky Boots*. Butler took on the role of an Angel and Burks was a member of the ensemble, a swing for the Angels, and was the understudy for Lauren and Nicola. The production took place under the direction of Justin Pike from September 8-25 at The Studio Theatre in Little Rock.

"Getting to do *Kinky Boots* with Kenzie every day was so much fun," said Butler. "I think it was our favorite show we have been a part of." The musical process started two weeks before classes at Ouachita began. On weekdays, Butler and Burks would get out of class at 4 p.m. and leave for Little Rock at 4:30 p.m., giving them just enough time to grab a snack and their materials for practice. On Sundays, they would endure 12 hour rehearsals, making up for lost time during the week.

"We were the only two Ouachita students and the youngest members of this cast," Burks said. "The dynamic of our cast was so cool and they created a bond with us - like family. "The run of *Kinky Boots* lasted for three weekends and when the night was over Burks and Butler would drive back to campus arriving back at 1 a.m. Not only were they working full time on a show that was located an hour away from Ouachita's campus, they were full-time students as well. Burks began the semester taking 17.5 hours and Butler took 17.

Butler said, "Homework was done during any free time we had." Burks added that "If you have any other theater commitments outside of class, the department is very understanding and accommodating."

Butler became involved in theater his senior year of high school and decided it was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

"I dropped all of my AP classes and joined theater," said Butler. "I was originally going to OSU to double major in biology and chemistry but the Lord had different plans for me." On the other hand, Burks was introduced to this world at the young age of 8. She participated in competitive dancing and watched her mother become involved in theater in Little Rock. Both parties had been encouraged by not only their families, but friends as well.

"My parents, especially my mom, have always been very supportive," Burks said. "She pushes me to be the best I can be in this field." Butler and Burks had also been supported by their professors at Ouachita, specifically Jennifer Maddox. Both expressed that having family, friends, and professors that pushed them out of their comfort zone and gave their full support had made their career a success. Both Butler and Burks offered advice to those looking to get into the business of theater.

"Be a hard worker, open minded, and do not be scared to try new things," Burks said. "You have to be pushed out of your comfort zone in this business or you will not grow." Butler's advice was similar to Burks' as he mentioned that the world of theater was not an easy one. Treat everyone with kindness and work hard, people would want to work with you. Theater was not only offered in Little Rock, but all over the state. Those involved in local theater were regular people that had normal jobs and school work and would spend their free time doing what they loved.

*By // Madi Darr*

# *Kenzie and Eli*





# Joe COUCH

**J**oe Couch, a junior kinesiology major from Australia, played for the Ouachita Tiger football team. He planned to do something extraordinary.

“For every one of OBU’s punts that are downed inside the opponent’s 20-yard line, I donate \$20 to support Group Living, Inc. My hope is that others will join in donating,” Couch said.

Group Living, Inc. was a private, non-profit organization providing normalization skills and living assistance to adults with developmental disabilities. It’s mission was to help each individual attain the highest level of independence of which he or she is capable. Group Living was local to Arkadelphia. Couch heard about Group Living through one of his classes, which led to his desire to help in any way he could.

“I had a class called Adaptive Kinesiology with Mrs. Hallie Wallace, and the purpose of that class is to gain the knowledge to help people with disabilities in the field of kinesiology. Once a week, we had the opportunity to work with Group Living clients who came down to Ouachita,” said Couch. Getting involved was not difficult and happened from one simple Instagram direct message.

“I was looking to get involved in the community and just messaged Group Living on Instagram that I was looking to help and that I had an idea that could create awareness and maybe help raise funds for their organization. We had a meeting and they were excited to do this, so I had a few meetings with Ouachita in the process to see if it was appropriate, and it was all approved. OBU has been great at promoting

the cause,” Couch said. Couch wanted to create Punting for a Purpose to make a difference. As an international student from Australia, it was important for Couch to give back to the community in Arkadelphia while he was in the United States.

“I just wanted to be a part of something greater than just playing football and I felt this was a great way to help the community in my time at Ouachita,” said Couch. Throughout the season Couch had a lot of success.

“In six games I have had 5 i20s so I will be donating \$100 at this point, and with five games remaining in the conference and potentially more in the playoffs, I will have more opportunities to raise more on the field,” Couch said.

“People in the community are always willing to help, so get out there and advocate for what you believe in,” Couch said. Couch was hardworking and cared about not only his community but those around him. Jake Ford, Couch’s football coach, described him as being a great asset to the team. Not only did he give back through his charitable efforts, he also performed well for the Tigers.

“He’s the type of person who wants to help others and get people involved,” Ford said. “He’s definitely a great team player and I think that shows when he is getting out in the community and helping others as well. He is a great man. The other players love him and love being around him. He’s great for the program. He’s a great football player and just a great young man.”

*By // Jane Ellen Dial*



**Yu Chan Jeong** // SALATIGA, INDONESIA  
**Anna Johnson** // CONWAY, AR  
**Kaylee Johnson** // HENSLEY, AR  
**Kennedy Johnson** // FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
**Brooke Jones** // GREENWOOD, AR  
**Matt Kulbeth** // CONWAY, AR



**Cliff Lance** // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
**Kelsie Lawhon** // CABOT, AR  
**Lauren Lester** // SHERWOOD, AR  
**Lacey Lewellen** // BRYANT, AR  
**Allee Lipford** // FARMINGTON, AR  
**Mikayla Long** // MALVERN, AR



**Lynli Lowry** // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
**Daniel McCarty** // CABOT, AR  
**Charlie McClain** // BATESVILLE, AR  
**Zoe McGregor** // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
**Meredith Medford** // STUTTGART, AR  
**Tuesday Melton** // BAUXITE, AR



**Jana Milam** // EL DORADO, AR  
**Abbie Moix** // CHOCTAW, OK  
**Marlie Moix** // CONWAY, AR  
**Megan Monk** // SHERIDAN, AR  
**Allie Mooney** // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
**Demi Moore** // GLENWOOD, AR



**Maddy Moore** // MESQUITE, TX  
**Taylor Moran** // TEXARKANA, TX  
**Hannah More** // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
**Trace Morrow** // BERNICE, LA  
**Makena Munger** // CASSCOE, AR  
**Rachel New** // CANTON, TX



**Tyler Parker** // VAN BUREN, AR  
**Charles Parkinson** // CHELSEA, AL  
**Michael Pasman** // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
**Alexis Perry** // BUMPASS, VA  
**Brooklin Pitard** // EL DORADO, AR  
**Anna Marie Plastiras** // LITTLE ROCK, AR



**Abigail Powers** // NACOGDOCHES, TX  
**Brallee Price** // PINEVILLE, LA  
**Vivian Pryor** // MANILA, AR  
**Abby Ralston** // TULSA, OK  
**Callie Renshaw** // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
**Ainsley Rottinghaus** // HOT SPRINGS, AR

Allie Sample // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Makenzie Schilmoeller // BEDFORD, TX  
 Nikki Schneider // TRASKWOOD, AR  
 Megan Schulz // HOUSTON, TX  
 Nathan Scolaro // MOUNT PLEASANT, TX  
 JD Scott // OAK LEAF, TX



Sam Scott // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Emma Smith // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Noah Smith // PEARCY, AR  
 Victoria Sprague // PONDER, TX  
 Avery Stahl // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Kayla Steinmeyer // SAINT CHARLES, MO



Logan Talley // ARKADDELPHIA, AR  
 Tyson Tatum // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Kieran Theriot // VICKSBURG, MS  
 Josh Tibbs // CONWAY, AR  
 Kamy Treat // CONWAY, AR  
 Shelby Tripcony // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Sarah Wagner // ALEXANDER, AR  
 Chloe Wallace // CONWAY, AR  
 Malley Wallace // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Lindsey Ward // HARRISON, AR  
 Noah Warford // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Mallorie Warner // BENTON, AR



Reagan Watkins // WOODWAY, TX  
 Breanna Watson // MEMPHIS, TN  
 Emily Watson // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Sydni Watts // LINDALE, TX  
 Angela Webb // JUDSONIA, AR  
 Emilee Webb // LEOLA, AR



Marion Webb // AUSTIN, TX  
 Mary Beth Wedgeworth // BENTON, AR  
 David Weick // POCAHONTAS, AR  
 Meredith West // SHERWOOD, AR  
 Joey Whisenhunt // GREENBRIER, AR  
 Hanna Williams // PRAIRIEVILLE, LA



Natalie Williams // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Jenae Wilson // COPPELL, TX  
 Layne Wilson // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Lukas Wingfield // MALVERN, AR  
 Grace Wood // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Grace Woodward // PLANO, TX



**M**arlie Moix, a junior double major in accounting and finance from Conway, began her journey in aviation with a discovery flight on her 16th birthday in June 2018. It was during this flight that she realized that one day she was going to be a pilot. Flashforward to spring of 2020. The pandemic gave Marlie the perfect opportunity to pursue her dream of becoming a pilot. Learning to fly was a challenge, and there were lots of hiccups along the way. Moix fondly recalled one particularly difficult flight lesson with her instructor that took place in Arkadelphia.

"I was struggling to be able to land the airplane on the centerline of the runway," said Moix. "My instructor decided that this was the day we were going to fix that problem."

Marlie completed that lesson successfully and was ready for the next big step, a solo flight. The moment came in November 2021.

"It was my time to either sink or swim," said Moix.

That first solo went spectacularly and just a short month later Moix walked out of the examiner's office the proud holder of a brand new private pilot's certificate. Having a private pilot's license was not the end for Moix, she wanted to achieve more. So in the spring of 2022 she began work on her next rating, an instrument flight rules (IFR) certificate. Flying IFR is more difficult than a basic private pilot's license as that only allows flight during visual flight rules (VFR).

"When flying IFR you are flying entirely on instruments, so you can be completely in a cloud unable to see anything," said Moix. "This

is a big difference from VFR as there is a lot more to manage in the cockpit."

It was a challenge and much harder than achieving her private pilot's license. Nothing could stop her, not even months of her aircraft being down for maintenance while waiting on a part.

In August of 2022, Moix passed her IFR rating checkride with flying colors. There was still one more thing to do before returning to Ouachita, learning to land on the water. Just a few days after passing her IFR checkride, Marlie and her dad traveled to Orlando, Florida and went to flight school to learn to fly a seaplane.

"Learning to fly a seaplane was one of the most fun experiences I've had in aviation," said Moix. "It was something special I was able to do with my dad and he is the reason I wanted to be a pilot."

This experience only furthered Moix's interest in flying.

"I got my pilot's license for personal use, but it does have some professional benefits," said Moix. "My family owns a business with multiple dealerships around the state, so it is helpful to be able to fly to those various locations and check in without having to drive all day."

"Airplanes are time machines," said Moix. "I can truly say I have never gotten out of the cockpit without learning something new."

Moix hopes she is an inspiration as a female in a male-dominated profession to those who want to follow their dreams, especially young women. She encourages people to follow their dreams and keep on putting in the work until that dream comes true.

*By // Angela Webb*



# Marlie MOIX





# Madison MELCHER

**M**adison Melcher took a deep breath as she walked into room 200 of Hickingbotham Hall. Her family, friends and other competitors stood before her. She had 25 minutes to prove to the judges that her business deserved first place and \$5,000. She stood before five judges and up against four other teams who worked tirelessly over the last semester for this exact moment. Melcher, a senior business entrepreneurship major from Rockwall, Texas, presented her business, Covered by Grace, which merged the physical and digital formats of the Bible by creating customized printed Bibles.

The venture began in 2018 as a way for Melcher to spend time with the Lord while she utilized a creative outlet. She grew up with various side projects such as selling beaded bracelets and lemonade to hand-lettered quotes and watercolor paintings that eventually turned into hand-painted Bibles. As time went on, she realized a market for hand-painted Bibles, and she created Covered by Grace in fall of 2020 and officially launched the website in 2021.

"The Business Plan Competition was right up my alley as I've always had an entrepreneurial spirit. Alongside painting, I stayed busy with my photography business focused on seniors and families. All of this played a huge role in my desire to compete in this competition," said Melcher.

The 25-minute presentation detailed Melcher's business along with a strategy she planned to implement to generate a higher profit. While she created and built her business from the ground up, Melcher had some help along the way. To prepare for the presentation, her team consisted of an advisory board which helped her with various aspects of the presentation such as an investor, a visionary and an individual with a marketing background. In particular, Johan Eriksson, visiting instructor of business administration and director of entrepreneurship

programs, served as Melcher's advisor and coached her throughout the process.

"Many professors and mentors assisted me throughout the creation of Covered by Grace. Leading up to the competition, Professor Johan Eriksson challenged, encouraged and equipped me. My plan would not be half as good without the guidance of Professor Eriksson," said Melcher. "As a student, Christian, leader and professional, Professor Eriksson has provided indispensable knowledge and experience." Covered by Grace and Melcher took home first place in the competition along with \$5,000 that was invested directly back into her business.

She planned to dive deeper into the business with the money. Before the competition, Melcher had focused on Walmart and Amazon for her go-to-market strategy, but with the help from the competition, moved her strategy to target summer camps and church organizations. She planned to compete in the Arkansas Governor's Cup in the spring with a cash pool prize which totaled \$114,000.

Melcher was thankful for the lessons learned about herself and her growing business that she gained from the competition.

"Walking away from the competition, I have learned that resilience and confidence pay off. Before the competition, I read Psalm 127 that states, 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.' I surrendered the results and all my striving which resulted in a deep, God-confidence within me," said Melcher.

There were no plans in sight to retire Covered by Grace. After graduation, Melcher hoped to continue Covered by Grace as a side job as she navigated working her first nine to five job in sales at Lime Media Group.

"I want to see where it goes post graduation. The main reason I started Covered by Grace was to use it as a platform to encourage and equip believers about Jesus," said Melcher.

By // Addie Woods



Hannah Adamson // NEWTON, KS  
 Emma Anderson // PLANO, TX  
 Wyatt Ashlock // ROYSE CITY, TX  
 Meg Atchison // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Brandon Avila // DALLAS, TX  
 Madeline Babb // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Jenna Barnes // SHERIDAN, AR



Taylor Barnhart // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Emily Bass // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Izzy Baughn // JONESBORO, AR  
 Katie Bayer // LONOKE, AR  
 Karigan Beckwith // DONALDSON, AR  
 Isabella Bejarano // BOGOTA, COLUMBIA  
 Isaiah Belue // BARLING, AR



Kelsey Bester // JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA  
 Anna Black // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Bella Blankenship // MELISSA, TX  
 Katie Bonge // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Grace Bornemeier // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Victoria Bourgeois // BISMARCK, AR  
 Jacob Bowman // WOOSTER, AR



Lauren Bridgeman // PLANO, TX  
 Jay Brumsey // SOUTHAVEN, MS  
 Kennedy Brunson // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Halley Bryant // CAMDEN, AR  
 Michelle Byers // TOMBALL, TX  
 Emma Bynum // TROUP, TX  
 Elizabeth Byrd // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Chaney Campbell // ROGERS, AR  
 Maddie Cargile // FRISCO, TX  
 Katie Carroll // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Jimmy Castro // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Rebekah Chandler // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Reese Chesshir // TEXARKANA, AR  
 Lacameria Clark // ARKADELPHIA, AR



Karigan Clay // IDABEL, OK  
 Kelsi Coleman // BENTONVILLE, AR  
 Riley Collins // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Ty Compton // SHERWOOD, AR  
 Chris Couch // JONESBORO, AR  
 Sam Coventry // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Joy Covington // CHEROKEE VILLAGE, AR



Jolie Crane // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Braden Crawley // JONESBORO, AR  
 Seth Curl // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Levi Dade // SENATOBIA, MS  
 Taylor Darland // FORNEY, TX  
 Madi Darr // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Landon Denman // FORT WORTH, TX

Emma Dennis // GARLAND, TX  
 Caroline Derby // ARKADDELPHIA, AR  
 Destiny Diaz // MALVERN, AR  
 Emily Dodson // TRUSSVILLE, AR  
 Caleb Donoho // NORTHLAKE, TX  
 Jade Dorman // BENTON, AR  
 Aidan Doss // VAN BUREN, AR



Reganne Dumas // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Christy Dunavan // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Alexandra DuPree // VAN BUREN, AR  
 Madison Easley // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Sabaoth Esho // ERBIL, IRAQ  
 Hannah Estes // BOULDER CITY, NV  
 Emma Firestone // DEERFIELD, IL



Trey Flint // GRAPEVINE, TX  
 Katelyn Franzke // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Martha Kay Freeman // OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
 Lindsay Fulton // AUSTIN, AR  
 Abigail Gaddis // CABOT, AR  
 Lauren Gaharan // FRISCO, TX  
 Audrey Gallagher // HENRIETTA, TX



Emilio Garcia // MCKINNEY, TX  
 Pietra Gois Camargo // BRAZIL  
 Valeria Gomez // ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA  
 Gabe Goodman // ARKADDELPHIA, AR  
 Allie Graves // TEXARKANA, TX  
 Kaylie Green // HASLET, TX  
 Wes Guerra // BENTON, AR



Elizabeth Hall // PRARIE GROVE, AR  
 Ashlyn Ham // JONESBORO, AR  
 Taylor Hansard // FORT STOCKTON, TX  
 Kelley Hayes // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Mea Heard // NASHVILLE, AR  
 Colby Heaton // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Natalie Helms // BENTONVILLE, AR



Alex Henry // ROSENBERG, TX  
 Seth Hernandez // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Olivia Hibbard // CROSSETT, AR  
 Benjamin Highsmith // DENTON, TX  
 Clara Beth Hill // BRYANT, AR  
 Emmy Hipps // RUSSELLVILLE, AR  
 Isabelle Holeyfield // SEARCY, AR



Anna Holiman // PRATTSVILLE, AR  
 Emily Horn // SHERWOOD, AR  
 Hailey Houghton // HUMPRHEY, AR  
 Brock Howard // DENTON, TX  
 Tyranni Hubbard // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Sara Hulse // SHERRILL, AR  
 Henry Hunley // ARKADDELPHIA, AR



**D**ylan Rowlee, a senior mass communications major from Texarkana, Texas, was the captain flight leader of a virtual air demonstration team called "The Black Snakes." About a year ago, Rowlee held auditions as he was on a search to find his flight crew. He posted a YouTube video explaining the need for virtual pilots which resulted in a flight crew including six individuals from all over the globe. Rowlee and his team have been flying for around a year and a half now, and they enjoy each other's company despite living in different time zones. The crew played a game called "DCS" which stands for Digital Combat Simulator. In this game, the flight would take place in a F-18 Hornet which is a model of the United States Navy's main air craft. This was also the same plane the Blue Angels flew, and the group did a routine in the simulator that was equivalent to what the Blue Angels do. The team of six spent about three to four hours daily flying virtually.

Every year, Rowlee and his crew picked a virtual air show for their team to learn. As they flew virtually, they also streamed a live recording of the show on Twitch. Viewers often tuned in to watch the show and donated.

"Anything that someone donates to us," Rowlee said, "we give it all to charity. We don't keep any of the profits because we're trying to give back to the community." Rowlee and his flight crew hope to expand coverage as they strive to donate as much as they can to St. Jude's Hospital and The Arkansas Food Bank. The team's goal was to branch out to global charities in addition to local ones.

Having always had a love for aviation and a hobby of watching

other teams, Rowlee's adoration for virtual flying developed over the years. The Black Snakes' fearless leader had a dream of attaining a Recreational Pilot's License one day. Growing up, he was the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds number one fan.

"I've always wanted to do real air shows, but I have a heart condition," Rowlee said, "so there's no way I could be a Naval pilot. But the next best thing was a virtual pilot." Rowlee looked on the bright side as he continued to put his pilot talents to good use as he bettered the virtual world. The simulator he used was regarded by our US Navy and Airforce as the most realistic simulator you can get without actually being in a real jet.

"It is 100% real to life." Rowlee said. A company called Eagle Dynamics spent eight to ten years of research on the real airplane the Navy used to get the virtual one as close as they could. The flight characteristics are about as realistic as possible.

All the virtual flying magic took place on the Discord App. Two of Rowlee's crew members are from California, another from Oklahoma, one pilot from Maine, and one more from New Hampshire. Although the group was spread all across the country, these college students flew at least once or twice a week. Even though they faced the difficulties of dealing with Central Time, Pacific Standard, and Eastern Time, the group still practiced often and managed to build a strong bond.

While dealing with the everyday stress of classes, studying for exams, and managing college life, Rowlee took on the challenge of adding virtual flying to his plate as well.

*By // Rose Robinson*

# Dylan ROWLEE





# Sarah SPAKES

**A**lmost every person in the United States has dreamt of one day being able to be on the popular television show “Wheel of Fortune” to spin a wheel and guess a letter to solve a word puzzle on national television, but very few have actually done it. However, senior political science major Sarah Spakes from Benton was able to do so while promoting Ouachita at the same time. Many might be scared to just apply for an interview, but Spakes was confident in her decision to start the process of being on the air.

“All I had to do was record myself and submit it to the website,” Spakes said. “I Zoom auditioned in early June, and that was really simple. We solved puzzles, introduced ourselves, and solved more puzzles.” According to Spakes, the only intimidating aspect of the process was waiting to see if she was going to be selected to be a contestant on “Wheel of Fortune.”

“[They] said that if we didn’t hear back from them within one month, we should try again next year,” Spakes said. “I didn’t hear back from them by July, and I was like ‘It’s fine, I really didn’t expect to [be selected]’. Then, on August 9, more than two months later, I got an email. The first line said, ‘Dear future Wheel of Fortune contestant’, and I was like ‘Oh boy!’” Participating in a nationally-broadcasted show was intimidating for Spakes, as she had never done anything like it before. Her main worry was that she was going to mess up on camera and leave viewers critiquing her from home.

“I watch it at home all the time,” Spakes said. “When I watch people make a mistake, I’m like ‘Ah! Why did you do that?’ I didn’t want to make those mistakes too, because [I would feel like a] hypocrite.” Making sure she did her best on the show required strategy and

motivation. Spakes made sure to have a goal and ways to get closer to that goal.

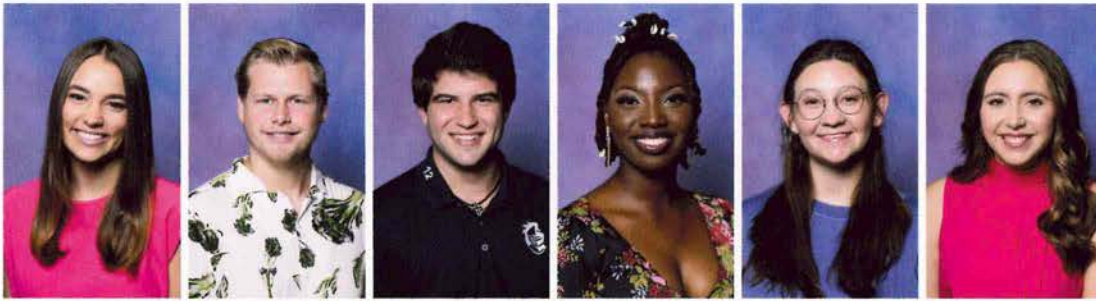
“My goal was to win at least \$5,000, because that felt like a substantial amount to say ‘I earned that money’,” Spakes said. “I tried to buy vowels, because vowels have a better chance of getting one right, as you only have five letters to pick from instead of 21.” Spakes’ motivation and strategizing helped her, as she ended up solving the puzzle and going to the bonus round. The feeling of earning the most amount of money was unreal for her, and it was difficult to comprehend the situation as it was happening right in front of her eyes.

“The whole thing was an out-of-body experience,” Spakes said. “I was really excited because I would get to spin the little wheel—which is really cool, and I would get to talk to Pat and Vanna even more one-on-one, which is a really fun experience.” Following the bonus round attempt, Spakes was indeed able to talk to Pat Sajak and Vanna White one-on-one. While it was chaotic with music blaring and people cheering, Spakes loved the experience.

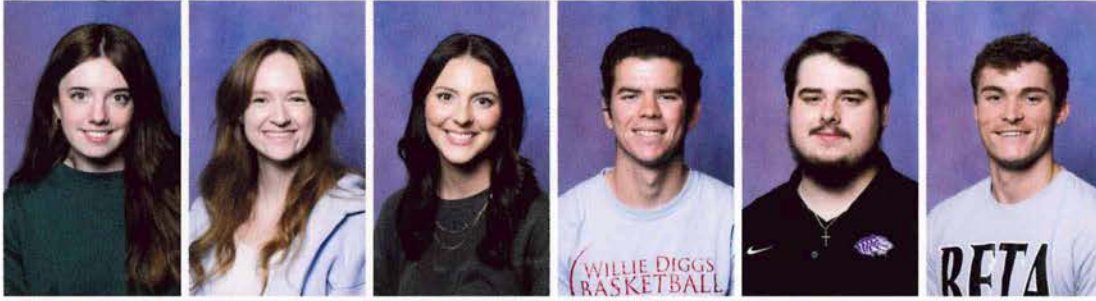
“There’s a lot of music going on, everyone clapping, there’s a lot of noise, so it’s hard to hear them,” Spakes said. “We just made a little bit of small talk. They were super nice. They congratulated me, and they were asking about Ouachita, like where it’s located. I thanked them many, many times. I was a little starstruck, too.” Spakes also had some tips for prospective contestants.

“Try out even if you don’t think you’ll make it,” Spakes said. “If you do audition, you have to turn on the bubbly factor by a thousand. People who know me know that I’m not outgoing. I had to turn that on, and it wasn’t that hard.”

By // Hayden Wylie



Ashton Hurst // VAN BUREN, AR  
 Broc Ingold // BENTON, AR  
 Hayden Jackson // LEANDER, TX  
 Dayja James // MCGHEE, AR  
 Chloe Jetton // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Caroline Johnson // OZARK, AR



Hayley Johnson // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Jessica Johnson // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Kady Johnson // MOUNTAIN VIEW, AR  
 James Jolly // PFLUGERVILLE, TX  
 Matt Jones // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Baker Kendrick // CONWAY, AR



Brenna Kesterson // MALVERN, AR  
 Kylie Jo Kilgore // YELLEVILLE, AR  
 Karlee Kindy // BENTON, AR  
 Kaitlan Kinney // DEKALB, TX  
 Taylor Koeth // GREENWOOD, AR  
 Bryce Krisell // BENTON, AR



Trey Lamb // AUSTIN, AR  
 Luke Lancaster // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Katelyn Langston // BATEVILLE, AR  
 Jentry Lantzsch // ROGERS, AR  
 Bethany Laturno // GUTHRIE, OK  
 Chloe Lay // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR



Hannah Lloyd // HOPE, AR  
 Seth Lybrand // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Faith Lymburner // ROGERS, AR  
 Bailey Martin // MOUNTAIN IDA, AR  
 Kaylee Martin // HARRISBURG, AR  
 Caroline Massey // MCGHEE, AR



Matthew Mayfield // TULL, AR  
 Samantha McCarty // PFLUGERVILLE, TX  
 Zach McClain // BATESVILLE, AR  
 Christopher McDaniel // DEKALB, TX  
 Seth McDowell // BENTON, AR  
 Madeline McKay // CENTERTON, AR



Elise McWilliams // MAGNOLIA, AR  
 Lydia Medigovich // FRISCO, TX  
 Madison Melcher // ROCKWALL, TX  
 Harrison Miller // KELLER, TX  
 Kaitlyn Montgomery // MONTGOMERY, TX  
 Karla Montiel // SPRINGDALE, AR

Abbey Moore // MAUMELLE, AR  
 Alex Moore // GULFPORT, MS  
 Natalie Moore // ASH FLAT, AR  
 Faith Morgan // HUNTSVILLE, AR  
 AubrieKate Moseley // BENTON, AR  
 Hope Murphy // DE KALB, TX  
 Trey Nichols // OWINGS, MD



Ben Olatunji // ROGERS, AR  
 Isabella Owen // JONESBORO, AR  
 Jill Parsons // CELINA, TX  
 Juli Parsons // CELINA, TX  
 Emily Pease // RICHARDSON, TX  
 Julie Phillips // WILLINGBORO, NJ  
 Jackson Pickard // GEORGETOWN, TX



Savannah Pierce // DOVER, AR  
 Kaydee Price // SHERWOOD, AR  
 Noah Pruitt // SHERIDAN, AR  
 Dawson Ramsey // BENTON, AR  
 William Read // FLOWER MOUND, TX  
 Grace Rew // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Brad Richardson // LONOKE, AR



Eryn Riley // FORT SMITH, AR  
 Abigail Roberts // SHREVEPORT, LA  
 Logan Robertson // ROGERS, AR  
 Jenna Rogers // PARAGOULD, AR  
 Hannah Rossell // MADISON, MS  
 Emma Rouse // MOUNT PLEASANT, AR  
 Dylan Rowlee // TEXARKANA, TX



Noah Sanders // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Jonathan Sandy // EL DORADO, AR  
 Alex Savage // LOUANN, AR  
 Joni Schneider // GARLAND, TX  
 Julia Shands // SEARCY, AR  
 Juliana Shaw // ROGERS, AR  
 Camryn Shelton // CASSCOE, AR



Lavery Shepherd // CONROE, TX  
 Tanner Shipman // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Caroline Smallwood // POWDERLY, TX  
 Hannah Smith // LEANDER, TX  
 Jacob Smith // ROWLETT, TX  
 Kallen Smith // JONESBORO, AR  
 Claire Sorg // SPRINGDALE, AR



Sarah Spakes // BENTON, AR  
 Josh Spiva // MALVERN, AR  
 Chloe Spraggins // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Angela Staats // OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
 Emma Starkman // SAN ANTONIO, TX  
 Kyleigh Stevens // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Gary Storment // BENTON, AR



**J**osh Spiva, a senior biomedical/science and chemistry double major from Magnet Cove spent his summer break participating in an exclusive summer program at Children's Hospital Research Institute in Little Rock. The program was eight weeks full of research under Dr. Ariel Berlinski, a general pediatric pulmonologist and the director of the cystic fibrosis (CF) center. Dr. Berlinski has been practicing medicine for more than 20 years and shared his medical wisdom with Spiva for the summer. Dr. Berlinski showed him how to research particle characterization, and how medicine reacts in a patient's lungs, and also allowed Spiva to shadow him in the CF Center. Spiva's summer was completed as he applied for this program last spring, was accepted, and proceeded to drive to Children's Hospital five days a week to work on his research for seven hours daily.

"I ran four of the experiments a day," Spiva said. "Dr. Berlinski would run my data through software, give them back to me, and those are the numbers I would present on." Spiva's time at Ouachita helped prepare him for long days in the lab as well as his future in medicine. Big things were on the horizon for Spiva. he submitted his application to MD-PhD Programs and planned to attend one following graduation.

"My job prospects are seeing patients, but also doing research," Josh said. "Being able to research with a physician is close to what I want to do in the future as having the opportunity to see his day-to-day life puts things into perspective for me. Some days Dr. Berlinski and I would only work half a day doing research in the morning and seeing patients in the afternoon, and that kind of research/patient split is what

I'm looking for in my future career."

"Physician-Scientist" was the distinguished job title this dedicated science student was chasing after. Spiva's greatest aspirations were to see patients, conduct research, and to teach classes to future medical students. Spiva dreamed of his future job being near a hospital for the sole purpose of having the never-ceasing opportunity to conduct research. He strived to work in an academic research hospital so he could have the best of both worlds. The Spiva family had a mutual love for science and medicine. Josh's brother was a second-year medical student at UAMS. Spiva planned to follow in his brother's footsteps to attend UAMS as well.

Throughout his time at Ouachita, Spiva spent many hours learning, studying, and working; Jones Science Center truly became a second home for him.

Josh said, "I feel like the science center is big on getting experience as I've had the privilege to go to the UAMS Simulation Center. The science center is a very actual experience heavy and has reaffirmed that I want to do medicine."

Spiva had quite the resume as he was president of the American Chemical Society Chapter, a part of Ouachita Student Foundation, a WOW leader, Tri-Beta Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, an Elrod Center volunteer, and even more. He tutored two seventh-graders and also offered tutoring through the Academic Success Center. Spiva held many well-respected titles and will soon add one to the lengthy list when he puts on his white coat to take on his next adventure of being an OBU alum - Dr. Spiva.

*By // Rose Robinson*

# Josh SPIVA







# Lexie CASTILLOW

**C**ancer paused the lives of all people that it affected. It especially affected athletes like graduate student Lexie Castillow from Greenwood. Castillow dealt with cancer since the early 2010's, which was when she was diagnosed.

"I was 10 years old at the time when they removed the tumor from my kneecap," Castillow said. "They used a new bone graft for the kneecap."

While the bone graft proved to be effective for a couple of years, Castillow began to have pains in her knee. Both the doctors and her family thought it was only the result of her bone growing back, however her cancer had returned.

"The tumor had come back and completely destroyed my right patella, so they just removed all of it, leaving me without a kneecap," Castillow said. "I was told that I would never play volleyball, softball, or basketball again."

Having been in sports since the age of 3, she was too passionate to simply give it up. Castillow and her family were determined to find a way for her to continue sports without having a kneecap.

"We found this custom-made ACL brace. Basically, it held my whole knee in place," Castillow said. "When we started with that, it was kind of a challenge. I couldn't play basketball anymore because it was too much running up and down the court. I still continued to play softball, but this is when volleyball became more of my love and the thing I could do the most without a kneecap." Because of these burdens in her life that affected her sports career, Castillow gained a new perspective on life. She learned to appreciate everything that she was given.

"Being able to play volleyball is honestly a gift every day," Castillow said. "Being able to share my story and to see how God uses me on the court, I think that can inspire people and my teammates and play for one another. It makes me more passionate everytime we play, and just remembering not to take these moments for granted, like how much volleyball has helped me and impacted me throughout my life."

However, it was still hard for Castillow to play for her team knowing that it was once easier for her to do so. She had ways to mentally prepare herself and stay in a good mindset during practices and games.

"It can be really frustrating sometimes because I can remember a time when I didn't have to wear the brace, because I had two kneecaps," Castillow said. "I try not to think like that, because there's obviously nothing I can do to go back and change that. Before games, I usually write something on my wrist for who I am playing for during that game. I think that helps me to get rid of those frustrations."

Just how Castillow would think about one person to play for during every game, she enjoyed using her story to impact others' lives in a positive way.

"I don't want people to feel sorry for me, just want them to use my story to better glorify Him," Castillow said. Along with telling her story to others, Castillow gave some words of encouragement for anyone that has to face a hardship like she had to.

"Keep God as your center and your rock," Castillow said. "No matter what situation you're going through, or how you feel, He's always going to be there in the end."

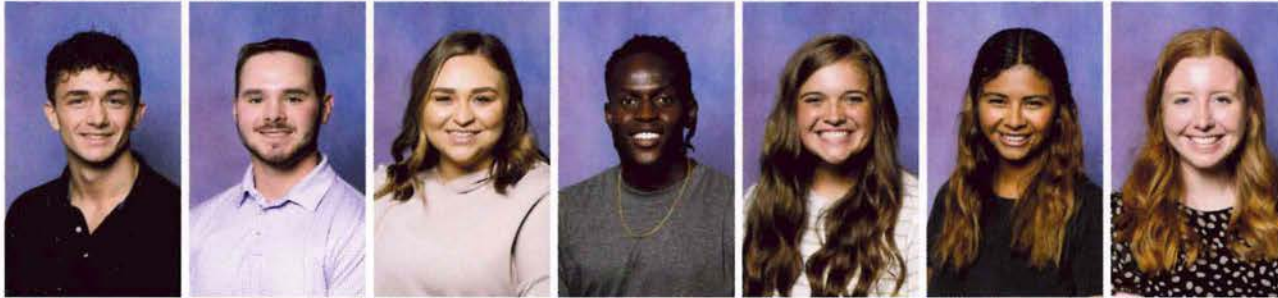
By // Hayden Wylie



Emily Stover // RISON, AR  
 Andy Strauss // EULESS, TX  
 Erin Strautman // CYPRESS, TX  
 Kennedy Stringfellow // BENTON, AR  
 Abbigale Sullins // BENTON, AR  
 Ana Summerville // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Sidney Sundberg // BISMARCK, AR



Joshua Sutton // LONE STAR, TX  
 Zane Swayze // HOT SPRINGS, AR  
 Ashley Sweeney // SHERIDAN, AR  
 Andrew Tarlton // VAN ALSTYNE, TX  
 Maddi Terry // BOYD, TX  
 Amanda Thomas // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Kaleigh Thomas // BENTON, AR



Alex Thyes // CONROE, TX  
 Carson Tillery // LONSDALE, AR  
 Kathryn Totty // CAMDEN, AR  
 Morris Tsuma // ARLINGTON, TX  
 Hannah Tullos // PARIS, TX  
 Maria Urbina // TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS  
 Rebekah Van Namen // LITTLE ROCK, AR



Gracie Vaughn // LITTLE ROCK, AR  
 Anna Kate Velasquez // PEARLAND, TX  
 Sam Vickers // SHREVEPORT, LA  
 Vanessa Vives // BOGOTA, COLUMBIA  
 Faith Vondran // JONESBORO, AR  
 Brock Wade // PLANO, TX  
 Josh Wallace // ARKADELPHIA, AR



Sophia Ward // FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
 Emily Waters // TEXARKANA, AR  
 Drew Webb // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Jack Webb // ARLINGTON, TN  
 Graca Webster // FRISCO, TX  
 Sophie Weghorst // ROCKWALL, TX  
 Mary Charles West // NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR



Addison White // QUITMAN, AR  
 Katie White // SPARKMAN, AR  
 Erin Williams // HUMPHREY, AR  
 Kyla Williams // WEATHERFORD, TX  
 Wade Wilson // SPRINGDALE, AR  
 Jillian Woodruff // HOPE, AR  
 Nick Yates // HOPE, AR



Noah Yeamans // ARKADELPHIA, AR  
 Josh York // TEXARKANA, TX

# WHO'S WHO

AMONG AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



**Izzy Baughn**

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA & POLITICAL SCIENCE  
JONESBORO, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
OSF special events director, Student Senate internal vice president, Women of EEE social chair, College Republicans president & communications director, Pre-Law Society secretary & treasurer, cross country, Model United Nations, President's Leadership Circle

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law



**Karigan Beckwith**

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS  
DONALDSON, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of EEE president & t-shirt chair, discipleship group leader, NSSLHA

**NEXT STEPS**  
Become a Speech Language Pathologist



**Kesley Bester**

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA & BIOLOGY  
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

**INVOLVEMENT**  
International Club vice president, Tiger Serve Day leadership team, President's Leadership Circle, Theta Alpha Kappa, resident assistant

**NEXT STEPS**  
Become an Audiologist



**Connor Bjerke**

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE  
OAK LEAF, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Men of Beta Beta treasurer & chaplain, Ary Fund equity analyst

**NEXT STEPS**  
Audit Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers



**Emma Bynum**

BIOLOGY  
TROUP, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Academic Success Center peer mentor, International Club, Tiger Serve Day leadership team, Carl Goodson Honors Program academic co-chair

**NEXT STEPS**  
University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine



**Mason Campell**

CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
HINTON, WV

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Refuge speaker, CFW leadership team, Men of Eta Alpha Omega president, Women of Tri Chi beau, Theta Alpha Kappa, Carl Goodson Honors Program

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend Seminary



**Chaney Campbell**

MUSIC INDUSTRY  
ROGERS, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of Tri Chi, Ouachita Worship, OBU Choirs, Tiger Tunes Hostess

**NEXT STEPS**  
Work in Ministry





**TJ Cole**

KINESIOLOGY  
TYLER, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
football team  
2x All American and  
Male Athlete of the Year

**NEXT STEPS**  
NFL Training Camp



**Joy Covington**

BIBLICAL STUDIES &  
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES  
CHEROKEE VILLAGE, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of EEE chaplain,  
Pruet Sisterhood, Campus  
Ministries Noonday leader  
& Refuge teaching team

**NEXT STEPS**  
Junior High Girls Pastor  
at Fellowship West  
Little Rock



**Seth Curl**

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE  
& PSYCHOLOGY  
RUSSELLVILLE, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Men of Beta Beta vice  
president & secretary,  
senior class vice  
president, junior class  
senator, Carl Goodson  
Honors Program,  
American Chemical  
Society

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend Louisiana State  
University School of  
Dentistry



**Levi Dade**

CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
SENATOBIA, MS

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Tiger Serve Day  
leadership team,  
Campus Ministries  
communications team,  
Men of Eta Alpha  
Omega, photo lab editor,  
President's Leadership  
Circle

**NEXT STEPS**  
Work in Ministry



**Madi Darr**

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA  
SPRINGDALE, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Student Senate  
external vice president,  
assistant editor of the  
Ouachitonian, Tiger  
Tunes Hostess, Women of  
EEE, Men of Rho Sigma  
sweetheart, Gridiron Girl  
vice president, football  
manager

**NEXT STEPS**  
Student Financial Aid at  
Ouachita



**Caroline Derby**

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
MEDIA & POLITICAL SCIENCE  
ARKADELPHIA, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
OSF president, Student  
Senate external vice  
president & secretary,  
sophomore senator,  
freshman senator,  
Women of EEE rush  
chair, Ouachita News  
Show founder & director,  
The Signal advertising  
coordinator, OSDN, Model  
United Nations, Gridiron  
Girl, Miss OBU

**NEXT STEPS**  
Broadcast Journalist at  
KARK 4 News



**Jade Dorman**

BIOLOGY & SPANISH  
BENTON, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
OSF philanthropy chair,  
WOW steering, Women  
of EEE, Carl Goodson  
Honors program, Tri-Beta,  
American Chemical  
Society, Campus  
Ministries life group  
leader, Sigma Delta Pi

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend UAMS College of  
Medicine



# WHO'S WHO

AMONG AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



**Aidan Doss**

BIOLOGY MAJOR  
VAN BUREN, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Tri Beta president, Campus Ministries leader, American Chemical Society, Carl Goodson Honors program, Theta Alpha Kappa

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend Medical School

**Sabaoot Esho**

GRAPHIC DESIGN  
ERBIL, IRAQ

**INVOLVEMENT**  
International Food Festival coordinator, Art Club vice president & treasurer, Juried Show chair, Elrod Center intern

**NEXT STEPS**  
Graphic Designer & Print Specialist at Ouachita Baptist University, Office of Communications and Marketing

**Karli Ferguson**

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION  
CONWAY, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
volleyball team captain

**NEXT STEPS**  
Teaching Elementary School

**Katelyn Pietra Goix Franzke Camargo**

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES  
SPRINGDALE, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of EEE, Ouachita Worship

**NEXT STEPS:**  
Masters of Counseling at John Brown University

**Valeria Gomez**

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA  
ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of Tri Chi, Men of Eta Alpha Omega sweetheart, International Club, apartment manager, Sigma Delta Pi, Psi Chi, Dr. Jack's Barista

**NEXT STEPS**  
Masters in Behavioral Psychology

**INVOLVEMENT**  
The Signal online editor, Women of Tri Chi social media chair & t-shirt chair, Ouachitonian staff writer, Tiger Serve Day leadership team publicity leader, International Club social media chair, Academic Success Center tutor, Campus Ministries outreach leader and communications leader

**NEXT STEPS**  
Work in the Creative Industry





## Wes Guerra

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING  
BENTON, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Ary Fund portfolio manager, Men of Beta Beta president, Tiger Serve Day leadership team logistics chair

**NEXT STEPS**  
Tax Staff Accountant at HoganTaylor

## Caroline Johnson

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA & POLITICAL SCIENCE  
OZARK, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Editor of the Ouachitonian, Arkansas Federation of College Republicans finance director, Ouachita College Republicans president, treasurer & communications chair, WOW steering, Women of EEE induction chair & historian, Pre-Law Society vice president, president's leadership circle, OSF fundraising and finance chair, Pi Sigma Alpha

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attending Oklahoma City University School of Law

## Julia Letcher

MUSICAL THEATRE  
PLANO, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of Tri Chi Tiger Tunes director, Alpha Psi Omega president, Ouachita Singers, Campus Ministries Leader

**NEXT STEPS**  
Pine Cove Camps

## Emily Pease

ENGLISH  
RICHARDSON, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
International Club president, Sigma Tau Delta editor & treasurer, Alpha Chi vice president, Campus Ministries outreach

**NEXT STEPS**  
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

## Savannah Pierce

CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
DOVER, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Homecoming queen, women of Tri Chi sisterhood chair, chaplain, & keeper of the beaus, men of Kappa Chi little sister, Campus Ministries Refuge speaking team, resident assistant, Color Guard, Symphonic Band

**NEXT STEPS**  
Pursue Vocational Ministry

## Eryn Riley

VOCAL MUSIC EDUCATION  
FORT SMITH, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Ouachita Singers president, Women of Tri Chi Tiger Tunes director & alumni correspondent, OSF, Kappa Delta Pi, Concert Choir

**NEXT STEPS**  
Choir Teacher



# WHO'S WHO

AMONG AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



**Kinley  
Ritter**

MATHEMATICS MAJOR  
BENTON, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of Tri Chi  
spirit chair, secretary  
& chaplain, Campus  
Ministries missions  
leader, OSF

**NEXT STEPS**  
Ministry/Teaching



**Noah  
Sanders**

CHRISTIAN STUDIES &  
POLITICAL SCIENCE  
LITTLE ROCK, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Tiger Serve Day  
leadership team, Honors  
Program executive team,  
Campus Ministries life  
group, Noonday, Refuge  
speaker, New Student  
Ministry, Men of Eta  
Alpha Omega Tiger Tunes  
director, social chair,  
WOW Steering, Theta  
Alpha Omega president,  
College Republicans  
chaplain, Student Senate

**NEXT STEPS**  
Work in Politics



**Kallen  
Smith**

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES MAJOR  
JONESBORO, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Student Senate class  
president, Campus  
Ministries Tiger Tunes  
director, Tri-Beta, Carl  
Goodson Honors program,  
OSF, Tiger Serve Day  
leadership team

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend University of  
Tennessee Health Science  
Center School of Dentistry



**Kathryn  
Totty**

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
MEDIA & POLITICAL SCIENCE  
CAMDEN, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
student body president  
and events chair, Women  
of EEE historian, OSF,  
Elrod Center social media  
intern, Ouachitonian  
section editor, Pi Sigma  
Alpha, Pre-Law Society,  
Model United Nations,  
College Republicans  
secretary

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend the University of  
Arkansas School of Law



**Morris  
Tsuma**

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
ARLINGTON, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
resident assistant,  
International Club,  
Women of Tri Chi beau,  
soccer team

**NEXT STEPS**  
Technology Marketing



**Maria  
Urbina**

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS  
TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

**INVOLVEMENT**  
resident assistant,  
assistant resident  
director, Women of Tri  
Chi fundraising chair,  
photography chair and  
social chair, International  
Club president &  
treasurer, SDA social  
media chair, Carl  
Goodson Honors Program

**NEXT STEPS**  
Clinical Dietitian



**Rebekah  
Van Namen**

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION  
LITTLE ROCK, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Women of EEE sisterhood  
chair, Kappa Delta Pi  
president, Campus  
Ministries freshman  
orientation team

**NEXT STEPS**  
Teaching





## Anna Kate Valasquez Vanessa Vives

CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
PEARLAND, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
swim and dive team captain, residence life, Pruet sisterhood

**NEXT STEPS**  
Pursue a Masters of Divinity

## Josh Wallace

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION  
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Campus Ministries Nooday leader, International Club, Women of Tri Chi Panhellenic member, Men of Eta Alpha Omega sweetheart, Kappa Delta Pi induction chair, Academic Success Center tutor, Elrod Center tutor, WOW leader, Carl Goodson Honors Program, Alpha Chi

**NEXT STEPS**  
Teaching and International Missions

## Jack Webb

SPANISH  
ARLINGTON, TN

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Men of Eta Alpha Omega, Women of Tri Chi beau, Sigma Delta Pi, resident assistant

**NEXT STEPS**  
Work with Students

## Wade Wilson

CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
SPRINGDALE, AR

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Tiger Serve Day leadership team, Refuge music leader & speaker, Alpha Chi, Theta Alpha Kappa, Tiger Tunes Host, Christian Focus Week team leader, WOW leader, Women of Tri Chi beau, Campus Ministries Tiger Tunes, life group leader

**NEXT STEPS**  
Attend Seminary

## Clark Yarbrough

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
ROWLETT, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
football team All-Great American Conference and co-defensive player of the week, residence life, outstanding resident assistant award, Multicultural Student Programs

## Josh York

CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
TEXARKANA, TX

**INVOLVEMENT**  
Campus Ministries life group leader, Ouachita Worship & travel team, Refuge worship team, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Women of Tri Chi beau

**NEXT STEPS**  
Youth Pastor and Attending Seminary







# Chris BABB

**S**ports memorabilia dating back 20 years lined the walls of Chris Babb's office along with the monthly schedule of the local high school's games. Babb, a 1999 Ouachita graduate and communications instructor and director of sports media production, had a love for sports that began when he was a child. Every Saturday morning during the fall, he would wake up to study the latest high school sports news, either through the newspaper or radio.

"My dad was an elementary principal, and my mom was a teacher. One specific time, my dad was locking up the school, and I hopped on the secretary's typewriter and typed out a game story of the high school game for that night. I've always been interested in writing about, talking about and watching sports," said Babb. After graduation, Babb continued to work in various jobs surrounding sports, including the Athletic and Communications Director for the Arkadelphia School District. In 2019, Babb received a call from Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the School of Humanities and Huckabee School of Education and professor of communications, who informed him that the sports media program was being expanded and the position was open for someone to head the program. Babb accepted the offer, and the Ouachita Sports Digital Network was born.

"Every job I had was a direct result of my time here as a student, whether it was the experience I had, the skills I learned or the people I met. I wanted to give back to the place that gave me so much," said Babb. Ouachita had given him many opportunities, and it was only right for him to end up back on this campus.

"Before we started, we wanted to give it a brand other than student sports media. We came up with Ouachita Sports Digital Network. Like anything else, you brand it, and hopefully, it becomes its own. People say OSDN, and in our world, they know what you're talking about,"

said Babb. Babb's first goal for OSDN was to provide students the opportunities to gain experience in all aspects of broadcast production, which in turn, served as a benefit to the athletic department. Students were able to gain practical experience, whether behind the camera, directing, behind the microphone or in front of the camera. This year's seniors were the first group that Babb mentored through OSDN.

"After the first year, we learned what we needed to go to the next level. That's when the idea of a trailer came in where we could move around to other places and broadcast out of that. Thankfully, donors and supporters helped make that possible," said Babb.

The ultimate vision was to provide opportunities for students to put together a broadcast of professional quality in a place where they can learn and grow from mistakes.

"In the real world, if there are mistakes, you might lose your job, but our goal here with students is to put together a professional broadcast but let students know they're still learning and give them space to learn from their mistakes," said Babb.

In an effort to recruit students in the sports media field, Babb helped plan the OSDN Sports Media Conference. Over 400 students and teachers from 30 different high schools in three different states traveled and heard from industry professionals where they learned and took the knowledge back to their program. Students were also able to learn about the sports media emphasis and OSDN.

"We expected 85 to 100 students. Once we realized we were expecting 175 students, I worked with Dr. Jones and four students in her Event Planning class to regroup when it started getting big, which was a great problem to have," said Babb. Babb hoped to expand the network and make the conference an annual event after the turnout. The market for sports media was needed, and students learned from their experience.

By// Addie Woods



**Candice Aipperspach** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC  
**Ian Aipperspach** // LECTURER IN MUSIC/ACCOMPANIST  
**Andy Almand** // VISITING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING  
**Genie Ashcraft** // ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
**Susan Atkinson** // REGISTRAR AND DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS  
**Mike Ayres** // DIRECTOR OF PRINTING DEPARTMENT



**Chris Babb** // INSTRUCTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF SPORTS MEDIA PRODUCTIONS  
**Tammy Barnes** // OFFICE MANAGER, STUDENT LIFE  
**Jill Batson** // LECTURER IN ENGLISH AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR DEAN OF HUMANITIES  
**Brenda Bradley-Philson** // DIRECTOR OF TRIO PROGRAMS, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH  
**Joe Bradshaw** // BURCH PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND PRE-MEDICAL STUDIES  
**Matthew Branch** // ASSIST. DIR. OF ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS



**Detri Brech** // HOLT PROFESSOR OF DIETETICS AND PRE-MEDICAL STUDIES  
**Kevin Brennan** // PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
**Russell Breshears** // ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH  
**David Brown** // ASSISTANT BASEBALL COACH  
**Erica Brown** // ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND EDUCATIONAL ADVISOR, EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH  
**Joshua Brown** // ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES



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**Beau Burson** // BASEBALL ATHLETIC ASSISTANT  
**Hallie Bustillo** // ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR  
**Jennifer Byrd** // ADJUNCT IN ENGLISH  
**Lei Cai** // PROFESSOR OF MUSIC  
**Ashley Carozza** // GRAPHIC DESIGN COORDINATOR



**Fernanda Carrillo** // OFFICE MANAGER, ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER  
**Jackson Carter** // INSTRUCTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS  
**Terry Carter** // VAUGHT PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS  
**Jerusa Carvajal** // ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPANISH  
**Jimmy Castro** // IT HARDWARE TECHNICIAN  
**Mary Chung** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

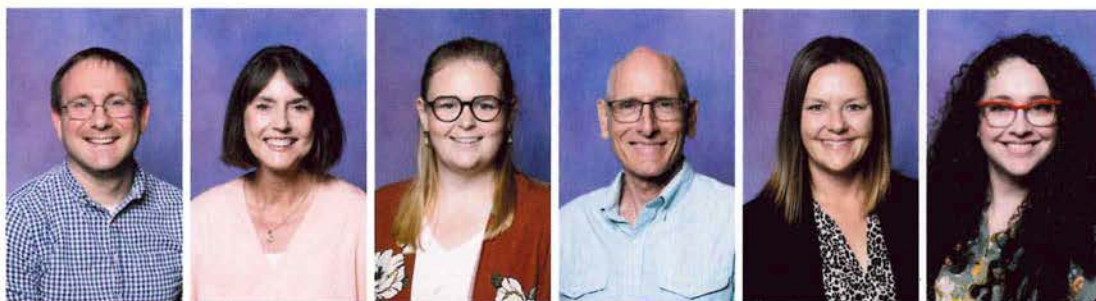


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**Kathy Collins** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION  
**Jobeth Compton** // ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES  
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**Kevin Cornelius** // PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS



**Debra Coventry** // PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS  
**Natilan Crutcher** // VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC  
**Vickie Davis** // CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR  
**Terry Dewitt** // PROFESSOR OF KINESIOLOGY  
**Dana Dixon** // ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING  
**Angela Douglass** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

**Matt Douglass** // ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, ASSISTANT TO THE VP OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH ANALYST  
**Judy Duvall** // DIRECTOR OF THE ELROD CENTER, COORDINATOR OF ELDERSERVE  
**Roxanne Easter** // ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR  
**Byron Eubanks** // PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND DIRECTOR OF THE SUTTON CENTER FOR INTEGRITY  
**Courtney Eubanks** // ADJUNCT, OUACHITA ONLINE  
**Jennifer Fayard** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY



**Craig Flanagan** // ROTC  
**Akane Forbes** // ADJUNCT IN JAPANESE  
**Debbie Francis** // LECTURER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
**Ray Franklin** // PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS  
**Stacy Freeman** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF DIETETICS  
**Allison Frizzell-Kizer** // HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH



**Margaret Garrett** // PROFESSOR OF MUSIC  
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**Tina Gray** // BUSINESS SERVICES  
**Larry Grayson** // INSTRUCTOR OF MUSIC AND DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS PROGRAM  
**Jason Greenwich** // DIRECTOR OF GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
**Jeremy Greer** // DEAN OF THE PRUET SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES



**Merrilee Greer** // HEALTH SERVICES MEDICAL ASSISTANT  
**William Haleii** // ROTC  
**Craig Hamilton** // TRIMBLE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AND DIRECTOR OF BANDS  
**Sharon Hamilton** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY  
**Brook Hanna** // ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR  
**Justin Hardin** // VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, DEAN SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES



**Nancy Harrell** // ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
**Tim Harrell** // DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE  
**Tim Hayes** // PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND HOLDER OF E.A. PROVINCE CHAIR OF CHEMISTRY  
**Scott Haynes** // AREA COORDINATOR FOR OUACHITA APARTMENT COMPLEXES  
**Nicolas Hazlett** // BOX OFFICE MANAGER AND ARTS ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR DIVISION OF MUSIC  
**Keldon Henley** // VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF



**Katie Herring** // STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST, ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER  
**Rob Hewell** // DIRECTOR OF LEARNING FOR GRADUATE AND ONLINE EDUCATION  
**Bethany Hicks** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
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**Micah Hitt** // ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF GRANT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
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**Myra Houser** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
**Luke Howard** // HEAD BASEBALL COACH  
**Sara Hubbard** // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND HOLDER OF NELL I. MONDY CHAIR OF CHEMISTRY  
**Gail Hughes** // PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION  
**Laurie Huneycutt** // ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SCHOOL OF MUSIC



**D**r. Ray Franklin retired at the end of the 2022-2023 academic school year after 20 years of teaching at Ouachita. With a background of being a missionary in Japan with his wife for 23 years, Franklin served as Professor of Christian Missions for the Pruet School of Christian Studies.

"I'm having a great time, but it's time to step aside and let somebody else do this for a while. I want to save some time at the end of my active years and I have a few active years left to just be free to do what God wants me to do," Franklin said. Franklin recalled what it was like for him during his transition from the mission field to the classroom.

"Every time I walked onto a college campus, I could sense that energy. And I was a little bit jealous because other missionaries got to teach on college campuses. They had a really exciting job. I never thought I'd be teaching here," Franklin said. "It was like God was calling us somewhere else and we didn't know where else because we'd been in Japan for 23 years, so we didn't know what to do, and during that time, the School of Christian Studies had revamped their Christian Studies degree and they decided they needed another missionary with some good practical missions experience."

Franklin reflected on his favorite memories from Ouachita as well. "I've got great memories of interactions with students in the classroom, mission trips and day trips, football games, Festival of Christmas, Tiger Tunes, and just getting to watch our students do what they love to do. Walking in the classroom at the beginning of every semester

always gives me an adrenaline rush. You don't know them; they don't know you. They don't know what's about to happen; you don't know how they're going to react to you and your teaching. It's been a great experience for me," said Franklin.

After retiring, Franklin had a lot to look forward to, especially free time.

"I feel like I'm a college senior, like I'm about to graduate. And what do I do now? I'll still be pastor of my church until God gives us somewhere else to go," said Franklin. "I look forward to the free time more than anything. Free time to do ministry without schedules and so many deadlines and time to spend on the grandkids."

Franklin's calling to teach missions at Ouachita started with his experience in the mission field.

"There's the academic side of things, but there is also practical experience. That's what really got me here. So, we have tried to get students to take the academics that we teach them here, and go out and get real life experience," Franklin said.

Franklin also has a lot to miss about teaching at Ouachita. "I'll miss the classroom. I will miss students coming into my office, sharing their academic struggles, their daily love life struggles, or lack thereof. I've just been lucky to be a part of students' lives," said Franklin. "Part of my calling here was to know that I'm doing my part in raising up the next generation of leaders out in the real world, especially leaders on the mission field."

*By // Levi Dade*

# Dr. Ray FRANKLIN





# Dr. Sharon HAMILTON

**D**r. Sharon Hamilton was a chemistry professor with a very intriguing journey. She had a major interest in research including discovering something to speed up the healing process of wounds. She started her journey while teaching at Auburn University, located in Auburn, Alabama, where another professor proposed a research project for them to do involving wound care. The idea they had in mind was to create a study to one day have a tangible item to speed up the healing process of an external wound. Overtime, they started to mentor students and offer hands-on experience. Eventually, she moved over to the University of Mississippi, in Lafayette County, Mississippi, where she started her first lab. Once finished at Mississippi, she came to Ouachita and started doing her cell studies. Dr. Hamilton's research used big chain molecules that were manipulated into small fibers according to the nanoscale.

"You can use nano fibers and tailor them to have different components on the chain," Said Dr. Hamilton. "You can make them have small antibiotics and use these tailorable materials to help cure wounds." Dr. Hamilton went through a long process to get a grant of over \$615,000 from the government, who was funding her research. This research was very expensive, and took several long nights of staying up working on writing the grant to get to that point.

"I had gotten smaller grants through the Arkansas INBRE (IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence program). But along the way INBRE introduced me to a collaborator from UAMS who wanted to build a grant with me," Dr. Hamilton said. Her involvement in both the collaboration with the UAMS workers, and her own experience and the knowledge she has, has offered her experiences that helped her grow. She was able to see different parts of the science that she had never seen before.

"I helped provide an application to the collaborator and he had data on what he's done and capability on ways to expand the research in ways we aren't able to here at OBU," Dr. Hamilton said. Hamilton was making progress, but money was still an issue. And the process of creating a new grant was very tedious. She and her collaborators spent

a lot of time working on the grant.

"We made a first proposal for the grant together and got a lot of others to look at it to make sure it looked good from different perspectives. Letting the experience of this shine rather than just the research was important in the proposal," she said. Dr. Hamilton was given four years of funding from 2022-2026. The money was given to her over time, and this funding also allows her to pay her student workers who have helped her. One of the main things she wanted to do with this, whether she got to it before or after the funding ended, was to put in a particular protein coming out of the fibers and going into the body.

"Even though the funding ends in 2026, throughout the research, the collaborators and I will have gotten different ideas to apply and have spin-offs of it," Dr. Hamilton said. She has been able to look over all that she and the collaborators have done with the research and explore new ways that can help them see new parts of it to advance the ability to cure wounds. Hamilton had two main areas she was focused on with her research: surface wounds and internal wounds. The research helped diabetes or even chronic wounds.

"We started making materials that will degrade over time for internal use, because we see this being useful on the battlefield and with EMTs to help stop the bleeding. The idea is that this material that degrades over time won't have to be removed and it will continue to help with the whole healing process," she said. When asked what her favorite part throughout this entire journey was, she said it was getting the opportunity to continue her research with the help of the government.

"All the students that were helping with the research got so excited when they found out that we got the grant. They were all celebrating together," said Hamilton. They knew that when this funding was approved that it opened so many doors for them to learn with different experiences that we didn't have access to at Ouachita.

"Everyone was so excited about the funding, but also all the opportunities that had just opened to them. That was my favorite part," said Hamilton.

*By // Rosalyn Decker*



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**Will Johnson** // COMMUNICATIONS WEB DEVELOPER  
**Bruce Johnston** // VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC  
**David Johnston** // ADJUNCT IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
**Adam Jones** // VISITING INSTRUCTOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES



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**Jeduthun Kim** // VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC



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**Sherry Kuhn** // BUSINESS SERVICES CASH MANAGEMENT  
**Josh Kwekel** // ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY



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**Jim Lloyd** // INSTRUCTOR OF MUSIC AND ATHLETIC BAND DIRECTOR  
**Kelsey Looney** // VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEATRE



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**Brant Matros** // DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING  
**Karen Matros** // DIRECTOR OF STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES



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**Austin Motley** // ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC  
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**Javon Nash** // LIBRARY COPY CATALOGER

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**Nicole Porchia** // DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

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**Nathan Reyna** // PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY



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**Jeff Root** // DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, DEAN OF THE HUCKABEE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

**Tyler Rosenthal** // ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Jim Rothwell** // ASSISTANT DEAN OF THE HICKINGBOTHAM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ASSIST. PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING

**Diane Runyan** // ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ELROD CENTER



**Angie Schleiff** // ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR FOR GRADUATE AND ONLINE EDUCATION

**Saundra Schultz** // COUNSELOR

**Kristi Seals** // STUDENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER, CHEER COACH

**Hannah Seaton** // COUNSELING SERVICES

**Shane Seaton** // DIRECTOR OF RECREATIONAL LIFE

**Ben Sells** // PRESIDENT



**F**rom selling cookies in his neighborhood, to working for Walmart's corporate office, Johan Eriksson always had a strong passion for business. Born and raised in Sweden, Eriksson learned about the up-and-coming powerful corner on Ouachita's campus, the Hickingbotham School of Business. With an encouraging push from his dear friend, roommate, and future teammate, Eriksson set forth to begin life in Arkadelphia. He moved to Arkansas ready to begin his journey of being a collegiate tennis player, as well as a dedicated student studying business.

"Fresh out of college and newly married, I began my first job as an HR and Account Manager for a manufacturing company in Harrison," Eriksson said. Building his résumé, Eriksson moved to Bentonville where he and his family lived as he pursued a corporate office job for Walmart. In Fall of 2021, Eriksson endured a full-circle moment as he became a visiting instructor and the director of entrepreneurship at Ouachita. Over the course of two years Eriksson began new entrepreneurship programs that helped students to excel more than ever. "We had a great history of entrepreneurship at Ouachita. My goal was to build on this rich legacy, as well as incorporate what I've learned in my doctoral degree," Eriksson said.

Eriksson aimed to build on the firm foundation that makes up the walls of Hickingbotham as he tested new ideas and tried new things concerning entrepreneurship. The focus of his research was entrepreneurship and family business. An event that the business school was known for was the Business Plan Competition. Every fall, a class was offered where students prepared to compete where they would showcase a business idea. In the spring, students had the opportunity to go on to compete in the Governor's Cup.

"Entrepreneurship is interesting, and I'm trying to add some experimentally learning experiences into the program," Eriksson said. "In an attempt to add some practical pieces, we tested a few things—such as a new venture challenge."

Eriksson's idea behind this challenge was to give students the chance to learn the ways of networking, take new risks, and all-in-all come up with innovative ideas for fundraising for the entrepreneurship program. In addition to students getting hands-on experience and raising \$4,600, the profit would be used to build a house in Honduras. Eriksson orchestrated the venture challenge in the fall, and a social venture challenge in the spring. Within the social venture challenge, students were encouraged to partner with non-profit organizations to explore how they could come alongside them. Whether it be from a marketing perspective or constructing a business plan, Eriksson's students were challenged to see how much funding or volunteer hours they could attain to support their non-profits. The goal was to have students maintain an entrepreneurial thought process as well as learn business techniques along the way, all while getting real world experience.

"I think I was always an entrepreneur at heart. I always liked to sell things and coach people, and being a teacher was a dream come true," Eriksson stated. In the midst of waking up at 4 a.m. to do his daily Bible study, preparing lectures, meeting with prospective students, and pursuing his doctoral degree, Eriksson has taken on some rewarding opportunities along the way. Eriksson's passion for business may have started on a corner of his street selling cookies to his neighbors, but has influenced not only businesses, but students to come.

*By // Rose Robinson*

# Johan ERIKSSON







# Brooke ZIMNY

**A**fter nearly 20 years, Ouachita Baptist University's visual identity system was updated in the Fall of 2022. The last logo was created in the early 2000s following an in-depth research initiative, and this year's process sought to retain much of that work. Brooke Zimny, chief marketing officer, worked closely with Ashley Carozza, graphic design manager and René Zimny, assistant professor of art and design, to lead the design and research process.

Brooke Zimny said, "It was a good time to undertake this process as it was time to update recruitment materials, physical signage and other pieces on campus where the brand is front and center. It was also a good time to take a close look at how the university's visual identity reflects our institutional mission as we move into strategic planning for the next several years."

The process of updating the logo included meeting with various leadership groups on campus and learning more about Ouachita's visual history. This was an extensive process as the team didn't want to take away any meaningful aspects of the design.

"While we were rebranding the logo, we wanted to preserve all the hard work done to create the logo in the past and be very careful about

each little detail we tweak to make it better. So, our process turned into refining the logo rather than recreating it," Zimny said.

This looked like adjusting design elements to create a more cohesive design and changing the typeface used in the logo. The team also built brand standards to support consistent implementation of the new look.

Some of the adjusted aspects of the logo included making the cross in the torch bigger as it is a big part of what Ouachita stands for and adjusting design elements for better viewing on social media and other platforms that didn't exist when the previous logo was created.

"The new mark refines familiar torch and shield elements that have been part of Ouachita's visual language back to the early 1900s and creates branding system to bring us in line with industry best practices," Zimny said. "We believe it even more clearly represents Ouachita as a Christ-centered learning environment with the cross as a central icon on the torch of knowledge."

The overall response to the rebranding was a positive one.

"Everyone we talked to about the ideas of rebranding the logo was super supportive and excited to watch this process unfold," said Zimny.

*By // Addie Woods*



**Carrie Sharp** // ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION  
**David Sharp** // DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS  
**Lewis Shepherd** // VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNITY AND INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT  
**Kevin Smead** // IT ASSISTANT NETWORK SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR  
**Anna Smith** // INSTRUCTOR OF BIOLOGY



**Sarah Smith** // INSTRUCTOR OF ENGLISH  
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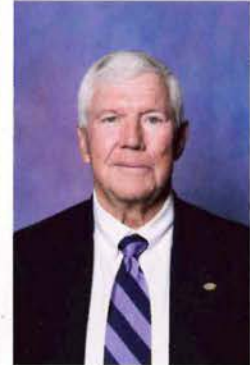
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