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Recommended Citation

Hurst, Anna, "2015 “Ouachitonian” yearbook earns recognition in national critiques" (2015). *Press Releases*. Paper 198.
http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/198

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NEWS

For immediate release

2015 "Ouachitonian" yearbook earns recognition in national critiques

By Anna Hurst

December 15, 2015

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. — Ouachita Baptist University's 2015 *Ouachitonian* yearbook recently received recognition in two national critiques of college yearbooks. The *Ouachitonian* received the All-American rating from Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) and the Gold Medalist rating from Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA).

"When you pour your heart into a project, it is a wonderful feeling to receive validation that others enjoyed your vision as much as you did," said *Ouachitonian* Editor-in-Chief Aly Smith, a 2015 graduate from Sherwood, Ark.

The All-American rating is the highest award given by ACP in its critique of college yearbooks. Yearbooks are scored based on how a publication technically compares with other yearbooks. A second scoring recognizes liveliness, appeal, personality, imagination and creativity in a publication. This scoring is recognized by Marks of Distinction in each of the judging categories. Yearbooks that score a First Class in judging and receive at least four Marks of Distinction are awarded the All-American rating. The *Ouachitonian* yearbook scored First Class and the Mark of Distinction in all five categories judged: Concept/Essentials, Content, Writing and Editing, Photography/Art/Graphics/Typography and Layout.

The Gold Medalist rating is the highest award given by CSPA in its annual critique of college yearbooks. The critique scorebook provides constructive feedback in areas including writing and design. All-Columbian honors are given for special merit in a specific category. In addition to the Gold Medalist rating, the *Ouachitonian* received All-Columbian honors in the visual category.

"I am extremely proud of the *Ouachitonian* staff and grateful for their hard work and dedication," said Dr. Deborah Root, chair of OBU's Rogers Department of Communications and faculty adviser to the *Ouachitonian*. "The students take seriously the task of producing a quality yearbook that records the people and events of Ouachita. A yearbook is a history book, and the elements of writing, design and photography come together beautifully to reflect the year at Ouachita."

"The 2015 *Ouachitonian* is a very special book to me not only because it was a dream come true to be able to serve as editor-in-chief but because it was my senior book," Smith explained. "My goal was to capture the essence of Ouachita and life in 'The Bubble' through this book. From the first night of TWIRP to all-nighters in the science building, from the passion displayed at Battle of the Ravine to midnight cinnamon rolls in the caf during finals week, there is a story to be told around every corner at Ouachita."

Other staff members who contributed to the 2015 yearbook include: Amber Easterly, a junior business administration and mass communications double major from Bryant, Ark.; Zach Parker, a December 2015 graduate from Shreveport, La.; Abbey Little, a junior mass communications major from Hot Springs, Ark.; Taryn Bailey, a sophomore mass communications major from Kyle, Texas; Robert DeSoto, a junior mass communications and Spanish double major from Sheridan, Ark.; Blaine Surber, a Dec. 2015 graduate from Sulpher Springs, Texas; and Tyler Rosenthal, a 2015 graduate from Little Rock, Ark.

"To receive both these honors reflects the quality of students we have," Root added. "They take pride in what they do, and it shows."

For more information, contact Dr. Deborah Root at rootd@obu.edu or 870-245-5510.