4-6-2017

Ouachita senior wins runner-up Sigma Tau Delta International Convention

Sarah Davis
Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita News Bureau
Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases

Part of the Creative Writing Commons, Higher Education Commons, Organizational Communication Commons, and the Public Relations and Advertising Commons

Recommended Citation
http://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/372

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Communication at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.
ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University senior Shelby Spears won first runner-up for Best Creative Non-fiction Essay in the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention’s Isabel Sparks President’s Awards. The convention was held March 29-April 1 in Louisville, Ky.

Spears, a senior English and Spanish double major from El Dorado, Ark., is a member of the Sigma Tau Delta international English honors society. His creative essay titled “Do You Make Your Own Tortillas?” tells the story of his grandmother’s passing.

“I was just really flabbergasted. I knew people had liked my essay when I presented it at my panel, but it still came as a surprise when they called my name,” Spears said. “It’s pretty validating to win an award like this because it lets me know that people don’t secretly think everything I write is complete and utter garbage.”

The annual convention gathers hundreds of scholars from around the world. It allows members the opportunity to engage with speakers, presenters and texts while also presenting their scholarly essays, creative non-fiction, fiction, poetry and other papers and discussing their ideas with peers.

“Shelby came to us as a very good writer, and he’s gotten better because we have a strong faculty who push students to improve,” said Dr. Doug Sonheim, chair of Ouachita’s Department of Language and Literature. “He’s an excellent student of language, and the award will help him in a job search or grad school applications. Employers want good writers.”
Sigma Tau Delta international English honors society includes more than 880 active chapters in the U.S. and abroad, and about 9,000 members are inducted annually. The Isabel Sparks President's Awards are given for best presentations by active student and alumni members at the convention. Thirty-seven President’s Awards were given this year in seven categories.

For more information contact Dr. Doug Sonheim at sonheimd@obu.edu or (870) 245-5554.

-30-

PHOTO OF SPEARS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD