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OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita Professor Emerita Virginia Queen remembered for life of music and service

By Trennis Henderson, OBU Vice President for Communications

April 5, 2017

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



LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Miss Virginia Queen, Professor Emerita of Music at Ouachita Baptist University, died Wednesday, March 29, at age 96.

Miss Queen, who graduated from Ouachita in 1944 with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees, also earned a Master of Music degree from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. She taught at Prescott High School and the Tennessee College for Women before joining the Ouachita music faculty in 1946. She retired in 1986 after 40 years of service at Ouachita. In recent years, she resided at Parkway Village in Little Rock.

The Virginia Queen Piano Competition, which is named in her honor, will hold its 40th annual competition May 5 on the Ouachita campus. Miss Queen established the competition to encourage piano students to excel in their area of study.

“Virginia Queen had a long and successful career teaching piano at Ouachita,” said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of Ouachita’s School of Fine Arts. “Her love and devotion to her students, the faculty and the school made her a hallmark of Ouachita. The naming of the annual Virginia Queen Piano Competition is representative of the admiration Ouachita had for her and her teaching.”

Dr. Charles Wright, Professor Emeritus of Music and retired dean of the School of Fine Arts, noted that “it has been my honor and blessing to know Virginia Queen for 62 years. She will be missed by all of us who had the privilege to know her and to serve with her.

"I first met Miss Queen when I was a freshman at Ouachita Baptist College in 1955," Dr. Wright recalled. "From that time forward she has been my friend, my music professor and my colleague for 32 years. She was an outstanding teacher who loved Ouachita and gave many years of her life in exemplary service to her students and to the university."

A memorial service will be held Thursday, April 6, at 10 a.m., at Parkway Village Chapel with Dr. Rex Horne, former president of Ouachita, officiating. Memorial gifts may be given to the Queen Piano Award Endowment Fund at Ouachita Baptist University.

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