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OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

For immediate release

Shirley Hardin named Ouachita's 2017 Support Staff Member of the Year

By Sarah Davis

April 20, 2017

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



ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University's Staff Development Committee, along with President Ben Sells, honored Shirley Hardin as the Support Staff Member of the Year. Hardin, the assistant registrar, has worked at Ouachita for 25 years.

"I was surprised when I found out I had won the award. I genuinely appreciate the honor because it recognizes my contribution to the mission of Ouachita," Hardin said. "The award highlights the vital role that all support staffers play at the university. I'm part of an awesome group!"

Hardin's history with Ouachita runs deep. As the daughter of former president and current president emeritus Dr. Daniel R. Grant and granddaughter of former president Dr. J.R. Grant. Additionally, she is a Ouachita alumna, as are many other members of her family. Hardin began working in Ouachita's Office of Development in 1992 and has had many job assignments over her years at Ouachita. In 2012, she began in her current role as assistant registrar.

"Shirley is detail oriented and thorough in every aspect of her job responsibilities. She is committed to Ouachita and gives her best in every aspect of her job," said Susan Atkinson, Ouachita's registrar and director of admissions. "Not only does she take time to prepare a very detailed graduation check for each senior, but she is genuinely interested in them and what their plans are for the future."

Ouachita's chief financial officer, Jason Tolbert, said the award is annually presented to the staff member who demonstrates outstanding performance in job assignments; supports the mission of the university;

and relates positively to the students, co-workers and members of the general public. Co-workers send nominations to the Staff Development Committee, which then makes a recommendation to the president.

“Shirley was nominated by several of her colleagues who spoke to her attention to detail, focus on serving students and long history of dedication to the mission of Ouachita,” Tolbert said.

Tracey Knight, administrative assistant in the Pruet School of Christian Studies, said she nominated Hardin because “she continues year after year to do work above and beyond her job description to better Ouachita. One of Shirley’s greatest strengths is her positive, encouraging personality. She is a wonderful representative of Ouachita to our students, her co-workers and the public.”

For more information, contact Ouachita’s Office of Administrative Services at (870) 245-5410.

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