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OBU's Ouachitonian yearbook earns national Gold Medalist award

Ouachita News Bureau
Ouachita Baptist University

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OUACHITA
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NEWS

For immediate release

OBU's *Ouachitonian* yearbook earns national Gold Medalist award

By Sarah Davis

January 30, 2018

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ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University's 2016-2017 *Ouachitonian* yearbook earned a Gold Medalist award and All-Columbian Honors from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in its annual College Yearbook Critique.

The CSPA critiques and offers instruction on how to improve student newspapers, magazines, online media and yearbooks by recruiting adviser-judges from across the U.S. These advisers judge publications on three categories: reference, verbal and visual. The CSPA is housed at Columbia University and is considered one of the premier student publications organizations in the nation.

"Our students produce outstanding work, and we have a strong reputation among the best college yearbooks in the nation," said Dr. Deborah Root, faculty advisor for the *Ouachitonian* and chair of Ouachita's Rogers Department of Communications. "I'm proud of our students and their hard work in producing a quality publication. It provides a learning experience for our students, and their perseverance and dedication paid off."

"I was thrilled to receive the gold medalist award," said Robert DeSoto, co-editor-in-chief of the *Ouachitonian*. "To me it's a validation of all the hard work our staff put into designing and creating the book. It was a fun, exciting and, at times, difficult endeavor, but the fact that it has been praised and received such a high critique means our work has paid off."

Gold Medalist awards are presented to publications earning a total score from 800 to 1,000 points. All-Columbian Honors are given to those who earn more than 95 percent of the points possible in an individual category. The *Ouachitonian* received a total of 916 points and was awarded All-Columbian Honors for its reference and visual sections.

"The book is very solid in its content, and the photography and the profiles really bring the book to the next level," said the judge-adviser for Ouachita's yearbook. "You did a great job here." The judge-adviser also praised the overall theme and noted that the yearbook had "great opening photos that set the stage."

Robert DeSoto, a 2017 mass communications and Spanish graduate from Sheridan, Ark., and Amber Easterly, a 2017 mass communications and business administration/marketing graduate from Bryant, Ark., served as co-editors-in-chief of the book. Andy Henderson, a senior mass communications major from Royse City, Texas, served as photo editor.

Section editors included Victoria Anderson, a senior mass communications and English double major from Blytheville, Ark.; Taryn Bailey, a senior mass communications and speech communication double major from Kyle, Texas; Grace Ballard, a sophomore graphic design major from El Dorado, Ark.; Ian Craft, a 2017 mass communications graduate from Celina, Texas; Addy Goodman, a sophomore communications & media/communications studies and political science double major from Arkadelphia, Ark.; Abbey Little, a 2017 mass communications and political science double major from Percy, Ark.; and Brooke Woessner, a sophomore communications & media/strategic communications and Christian studies/Christian ministries double major from Springdale, Ark.

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