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For immediate release

Ouachita's annual Elrod Center service awards banquet honors Phil Hardin and student volunteers

By Sarah Davis

April 23, 2017

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5802.



ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – The Ouachita Baptist University Ben M. Elrod Center for Family and Community held its annual community service awards banquet on Tuesday, April 17. Phil Hardin, assistant to the president for administration emeritus at Ouachita, was honored with the Elrod Center's Community Service Excellence Award. Several students, faculty and staff were also recognized for their service during the academic year.

"We have a huge volunteer base at Ouachita, and each spring, we like to take the time to express our gratitude for all the wonderful work that is accomplished by them," said Judy Duvall, associate director of the Elrod Center. "They serve willingly and humbly in so many capacities, and it is inspiring to bring them together and celebrate all the ways they have made an impact on others through their service."

Phil Hardin is an alumnus of Ouachita and has worked at the university for almost 26 years alongside the past five presidents. In addition to his work at Ouachita, he has provided worship music both for the residents of Twin Rivers Nursing Home and The Plaza at Twin Rivers on Sunday mornings before joining the choir at his own church. Hardin has involved several students in the nursing home ministry and, with donor support, established a student internship. He has served as a deacon, trustee and member of key committees at First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia. He and his wife, Shirley, join three other couples on Sunday night to provide a home-cooked meal and devotion to about 45 college students throughout the academic year.

"It is a true honor to award Phil the Elrod Community Service Excellence Award this year for what I think is a true example of being a servant leader," said Ian Cosh, Ouachita's vice president for community and international engagement. "I have always been a great admirer of his because I get to see a lot of what he does, and he never seeks any recognition. He is a powerful member of this community, and Ouachita should be proud of him."

The Elrod Center for Family and Community was established in 1977 by Ouachita to promote community service as a way of life for the students, faculty and staff. For more information about the center or the awards banquet, visit www.obu.edu/elrod or call (870) 245-5320.

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FOR A PHOTO OF PHIL HARDIN AND A FULL LIST OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED AT THE BANQUET, VISIT <https://obu.edu/news/2018/04/23/ouachitas-annual-elrod-center-service-awards-banquet-honors-phil-hardin-student-volunteers/>.