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For immediate release

Dr. Steven Garber to present lecture “Meaningful Work for the Common Good” Nov. 1 at Ouachita

By Rachel Bruton

October 30, 2018

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.— Ouachita Baptist University will host author Dr. Steven Garber for a guest lecture titled “Meaningful Work for the Common Good” on Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in McBeth Recital Hall, located in Mabee Fine Arts Center. This lecture is free and open to the public.

Garber is the author of “Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good,” which seeks to inspire readers’ understanding of life and the meaning of vocation. The lecture is a continuation of Ouachita’s campus-wide focus on “Lives of Meaningful Work,” a phrase from the university mission statement.

In June of 2018, Ouachita was awarded a professional development grant from the Network of Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). Ouachita’s funded proposal, “Articulating Vocation as Story for the Common Good,” brings Garber to Arkadelphia. Through the lecture, he will encourage Ouachita students, faculty, staff and other attendees to see their work, no matter the field, can help others flourish.

“Garber encourages everyone to consider working as more than pulling a paycheck,” said Dr. Amy Sonheim, professor of English and leader of the grant project. “Especially for college students in the audience, Garber wishes they regard their present coursework as intrinsically valuable. He claims that the work of ‘knowing’ and ‘being known’ is one of the chief purposes in this life. In that light, studying in college could be more than preparation for a future occupation. Studying could be the discovering of multiple ways to relate and collaborate with others.

“While the work at Ouachita diversely takes place in laboratories, practice rooms, gymnasiums, offices and pulpits, some students might judge some professions as more significant than others,” Sonheim said. “Dr. Garber, however, offers his view of meaningful work as less compartmentalized, allowing for ‘those who serve the marketplace of ideas and commerce [and] . . . those whose creative gifts nourish us all’ to claim their callings with zest.”

Garber is professor of marketplace theology and leadership at Regent College in Vancouver, where he also serves as director of Regent’s new graduate program, the Master of Arts in Leadership, Theology and Society.

Garber completed his Ph.D. in the philosophy of learning at Pennsylvania State University. His dissertation led to the publication of his first book, “The Fabric of Faithfulness: Weaving Together Belief and Behavior.” During his service as a faculty member of the American Studies Program in Washington, D.C., he contributed to the book, “Faith Goes to Work: Reflections from the Marketplace.” Garber’s work at the Washington Institute and years of thinking about the nature of calling and career inspired him to write “Visions of Vocation: Common Grace for the Common Good.”

This lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Amy Sonheim, professor of English, at sonheima@obu.edu.

