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Ouachita finance students win national G.A.M.E. Forum competition for management of Ary Student Investment Fund

By Rachel Moreno

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ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Twelve Ouachita Baptist University finance students were named first place winners at the ninth annual Quinnipiac Global Asset Management Education (G.A.M.E.) Forum held March 28-30 in New York City. Ouachita was awarded first place in the intercollegiate competition's undergraduate value investment category for the group's management of the Ary Student Investment Fund, a Ouachita stock portfolio of approximately \$1.2 million.

The Quinnipiac G.A.M.E. Forum is the largest conference in the world for student-managed fund teams. Each spring, the three-day forum gathers world-renowned industry leaders to share their expertise and discuss financial best practices with undergraduate and graduate students. This year, there were 1,500 college students participating, representing 50 countries and 154 colleges and universities.

Ouachita's Ary Student Investment Fund team is responsible for the investment of a stock portfolio of \$1.2 million, most of which is funded by the university's endowment funds. The team meets each week to discuss current holdings, with each analyst monitoring and recommending alternatives to existing holdings, in order to match or exceed the return on the market benchmark.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team," said Dr. Chris Brune, faculty advisor for Ouachita's Ary Fund, associate professor of finance and holder of the George Young Chair of Business. "They're smart, they work hard and they take their responsibility seriously. But I'm most proud of who they are and how they represent Ouachita and the Hickingbotham School of Business."

"Winning this award was such a great opportunity and powerfully reinforced that hard work and teamwork does have wonderful results," said Chandler Ferrell, a senior finance major from White Hall, Ark., and portfolio manager for the team this year. "I would like to thank Ouachita for giving students an opportunity to manage and apply their classroom skills to part of its endowment."

The student investment fund competition was based on risk-adjusted performance for 2018 which means last year's Ary Student Investment Fund team also played a role since membership shifts as seniors graduate each May.

"After all of our work together, winning this award was a symbol of being a part of something bigger than us," said Lauren Lovelady, a senior finance major from Hot Springs, Ark. "This award is not just for our team this year, but all of the past Ary Fund teams that have contributed and worked to make our portfolio strong."

Ouachita's student investment fund was first established in 2000 by Ouachita professor Eddie Ary, who raised funds to provide a hands-on experience for students in his Investments class. It was later renamed the Eddie and Phyllis Ary Student Investment Fund in 2012 in honor of him and his wife.

"Students obviously gain real experience in analyzing stocks and managing a portfolio, but they are also forced to form an opinion, defend their ideas and work as part of a team, and those are skills that will benefit them throughout their lives," Brune said.

"We're especially grateful to Ouachita's president, Dr. Ben Sells, and the endowment committee for giving us a chance to manage part of the endowment; to our dean, Bryan McKinney, for his constant support; and to our Executive Advisory Board for making it possible for us to travel to New York," he added. "And most of all, we're thankful to God for the opportunity to be a part of such an incredible experience."

Ouachita's 2018-2019 Ary Student Investment Fund team includes: Josh Altenbaumer, a senior finance major from Texarkana, Texas; Madison Brittain, a senior finance major from Bentonville, Ark.; Abigail Brizuela, a senior finance and business administration/management double major from San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Colton Eldridge, a senior accounting and finance double major from Bentonville, Ark.; Mollie Eldridge, a senior accounting and finance double major from Whitehouse, Texas; Chandler Ferrell, a senior finance major from White Hall, Ark.; Stormi Leonard, a senior finance, Spanish and mass communications triple major from Decatur, Texas; Lauren Lovelady, a senior finance major from Hot Springs, Ark.; Halley Ryburn, a senior finance and accounting double major from Monticello, Ark.; Emma Shortes, a senior accounting and finance double major from Fort Smith, Ark.; Shannon Stribling, a senior accounting and finance double major from Rogers, Ark.; and Matthew Ward, a senior accounting and finance double major from Fort Smith, Ark. Tom Calhoun, adjunct professor for the Hickingbotham School of Business, is also a faculty advisor.

Additional students who were members of the 2017-2018 team include: Amanda Abbud, a finance and business administration/management double major from Searcy, Ark.; Jonathan Arosemena, a finance major from Bedford, Texas; Chandler Blake, a finance and business administration/entrepreneurship double major from Frisco, Texas; Chris Clark, a finance and business administration/entrepreneurship double major from Arkadelphia, Ark.; Sarah Coles, an accounting and finance double major from Van Buren, Ark.; Carlos Garcia, a finance and business administration/marketing double major from McKinney, Texas; Nathan Loftin, an accounting and finance double major from Colorado Springs, Colo.; Lennart Lonnemann, an accounting and finance double major from Vechta, Germany; Braden Lunday, an accounting and finance double major from Sheridan, Ark.; John Franklin Matros, an accounting and finance double major from Arkadelphia, Ark.; Brady Thompson, a finance and business administration/entrepreneurship double major from Hensley, Ark.; Jontavis Willis, an accounting and finance double major from Strong, Ark.; and Ben Worley, an accounting and finance double major from Camden, Ark.

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