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### **Ouachita student achievers honored during May 5 ceremony**

Felley Lawson

Ouachita News Bureau

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OUACHITA  
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS



Photo 1 Photo by Abby Blankenship

For immediate release

**Ouachita student achievers honored during May 5 ceremony**

*By Felley Lawson*

May 10, 2022

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at [newsbureau@obu.edu](mailto:newsbureau@obu.edu) or (870) 245-5206

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University students were honored for scholastic achievement Thursday, May 5, in Jones Performing Arts Center during an academic awards ceremony sponsored by Ouachita's Student Senate.

Cora Saddler, a senior English and Spanish double major from Cabot, Ark., was named Overall Academic Achiever, the university's highest academic honor. She also earned distinction as top academic achiever and Outstanding Senior English Major in the School of Humanities and as a Blue Ribbon Finisher in the Carl Goodson Honors Program.

Ouachita's Outstanding Senior Woman and Outstanding Senior Man are chosen by the university's faculty and staff. Kayla Whittington, a chemistry, biology and Spanish triple major from North Little Rock, Ark., was selected to be Outstanding Senior Woman. She is also one of two students named Outstanding Graduate in Chemistry. Outstanding Senior Man is Sam Youmans, a music industry major from Siloam Springs, Ark., who was also the top academic achiever in the School of Fine Arts. Whittington and Youmans are Carl Goodson Honors Program Blue Ribbon Finishers, as well.



Photo 4 Cora Saddler



Photo 4 Kayla Whittington



Photo 4 Sam Yumans

Top academic achievers in other schools are:

- Frank D. Hickingbotham School of Business—Keith Matthews, a senior finance major from Carrollton, Texas
- Chesley & Elizabeth Pruet School of Christian Studies—Jael Winterholter, a senior Christian studies/Biblical studies and theology major from Fort Wayne, Ind.
- Michael D. Huckabee School of Education—Grace Loftin, a senior kinesiology & leisure studies/pre-professional studies major from Shreveport, La.
- J.D. Patterson School of Natural Sciences—Sebastian Bustillo, a senior engineering physics, applied mathematics and computer science triple major from Tegucigalpa, Honduras
- W.H. Sutton School of Social Sciences—Josie Collins, a senior psychology and sociology double major from Little Rock, Ark.

The Mrs. J.R. Grant Endowed Award for freshman and senior women students was given to Georgia Richards, a freshman communications & media/strategic media major from Farmington, Ark., and MacKenzie Hall, a senior communications & media/strategic media major from Bolivar, Mo.

The Mrs. Betty Oliver Grant Endowed Award for sophomore and junior women students was given to Isabella Bejarano, a sophomore elementary education and Spanish double major from Bogotá, Colombia, and Maria Urbina, a junior nutrition & dietetics major from Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Students selected Dr. Barbara Pemberton, professor of Christian missions and director of the Carl Goodson Honors Program, to be the Most Inspirational Professor.

Ouachita Baptist University, a private liberal arts university in Arkadelphia, Ark., is in its 136<sup>th</sup> year as a Christ-centered learning community and is ranked the No. 2 “Regional College in the South” by *U.S. News & World Report*. Learn more about the university’s highly personal approach, reflected in a student/faculty ratio of 13:1, at [www.obu.edu](http://www.obu.edu).

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Students recognized in each of Ouachita’s seven academic schools and in the Carl Goodson Honors Program include:

#### **HICKINGBOTHAM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

- Lera Kelly Outstanding Senior in Business Administration Award—Michaelyn Ferrell
- Margaret Wright Outstanding Senior in Accounting Award—Gage Hill
- Eddie Ary Outstanding Senior in Finance Award—Chris Bryan
- Johnny Heflin Excellence in Leadership & Academics Award—Carter Wade
- Outstanding Business Scholar Athlete—Lilia Clark, Sydney Parker

## **PRUET SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

- Outstanding Student in Biblical Studies—Lucas McCann
- Outstanding Student in Christian Ministries—Joy Covington
- Outstanding Student in Christian Missions—Addison White
- Don Harbuck Award for Excellence in Philosophy—Alex Moore
- Preben Vang Award for Christian Theological Studies—Sara Patterson
- Biblical Hebrew Award—Emma Smith
- Robert Stagg New Testament Greek Award—Mason Campbell

## **HUCKABEE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

- Alice Searcy Award—Taylor Bass
- Outstanding Current Education Sophomores—Anna Katherine Green (elementary), Ethan Kailey (secondary) and Grady Jones (K-12)
- Sylvia Gates Webb Award—Anna Hudson
- Maude Wright Memorial Award—Lauren Gaharan
- Phi Delta Kappa Teachers in Training Award—Hannah Dwiggins (elementary), Lindsay Jefferson (middle) and Ethan Gasaway (K-12)
- Charles Chambliss Distinguished Educator Award—Michelle Phillips
- Bob Gravett Outstanding Kinesiology Teaching Award—Caleb Woodfield
- Tona Wright Outstanding Kinesiology Fitness Award—Asha Samson
- Outstanding Kinesiology Sports Ministry Award—Hayden Waller
- Outstanding Kinesiology Pre-Professional Studies Award —Jessi Bennett
- Outstanding Kinesiology Sports Administration Award—Terrell Gibson

## **SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS**

### **Division of Applied Arts**

- Francie Phelan Outstanding Senior—Tehya Hinkson
- Raybon-Berry Outstanding Freshman Visual Arts Major—Hannah Schulze
- Russell Shad Memorial Art Award for Outstanding Junior —Jill Parsons
- Theatre Arts Outstanding Design/Tech Student Award, Freshman—Thomas Lilley
- Theatre Arts Outstanding Student Award, Freshman—Amaya Hardin
- Alpha Psi Omega Senior Award—Kinsey Potts

### **Division of Music**

- Sigma Alpha Iota College Honor Award—Danielle Frick
- Sigma Alpha Iota Scholarship Award—Danielle Frick
- The Presser Scholar—Craig Crawford
- Rachel Fuller Scholarship—Avery Stahl
- James Harrison Scholarship—Michael Pasman

### **Friends of Fine Arts Scholars**

- Art—Addie Chumley
- Instrumental—Hailea Eubanks
- Piano—Jenna Barnes
- Theatre—Shelby Tripcony
- Voice—Cordell Hufstedler

## **SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES**

### **Department of Language and Literature**

- Outstanding Senior English Major—Cora Saddler
- Outstanding Junior Louise Searcy Bennett Scholarship Award—Lauren Bridgeman
- Outstanding Sophomore Herman Sandford Scholarship Award—Sydney Motl
- Outstanding Freshman in English—Hannah Smith

- The Sharpest Speer Award—Elaina McKenzie
- Bugtruck Gumption Award for Outstanding Service—Emily Blair
- Outstanding Junior Spanish Major—Karlee Kindy, Jack Webb
- Outstanding Senior Spanish Book Award—Jacob Cates and Victoria Martin
- El Tigre Award—Pietra Gois Camargo
- Outstanding Student in Latin—Lizzie Horton

#### **Rogers Department of Communications**

- Melissa and Denver Peacock Outstanding Sophomore Mass Communications Student Award—Chase Hartsell
- Matt Turner Outstanding Junior Mass Communications Major Award—Caroline Derby
- William D. Downs Outstanding Mass Communications Graduate Award—Abby Blankenship and Matthew Branch
- Roy Buckelew Outstanding Speech Major Award—Gracen Goudy
- Publications Awards—Anna Roussel and Gracen Goudy (*Ouachitonian*), Sara Patterson (*Signal* and *Signal Online*), Abby Blankenship and Levi Dade (photo lab) and Matthew Branch (Ouachita Sports Digital Network)

#### **SUTTON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

- Everett Slavens Award to Outstanding Sophomore—Landon Denman
- Lavell Cole Award to Outstanding Future Teacher—Katie Henry
- Fran Coulter Award to Outstanding Junior—Natalie Moore
- C. Daily Award to Outstanding Senior —Nick Herrington
- Bob Riley Outstanding Graduate in Political Science Award—Maddie Bailey
- Psychology Faculty Award—Annika Jostad
- Zeitgeist Award—Pietra Gois, Karigan Clay
- Weldon Vogt Outstanding Psychology Senior Award—Josie Collins
- Outstanding Graduating Senior Sociology Award—Cole Edrington, Madelyn Filla and Kiki Youmans

#### **CARL GOODSON HONORS PROGRAM**

- Ben Elrod Scholar—Andrew Tarlton
- Garrett Ham Scholar—Mason Campbell
- Blue Ribbon Finishers—Hyland Alfonso, Maddie Bailey, Luke Brinkerhoff, Cori Clower, Josie Collins, Rylie Davis, Emma Gregory, Gwyneth Hadasa, Dane Jester, Anna Leicht, Langley Leverett, Grace Loftin, Elysian Majeske, Allison Martin, Victoria Martin, Lauren McCann, Lucas McCann, Emily McMaster, Jonah Mears, Sara Patterson, Lacey Pettigrew, Cora Saddler, Rachel Sansano, Brennan Saunders, Haddon Smead, Katelyn Still, Brianna Taylor, Jacob Thomas, Kayla Whittington, Jael Winterholter, Isabella Wood and Sam Youmans
- Most Valuable Professors—Dr. Jay Curlin, Kathryn Maddox Professor of English; Dr. Scott Duvall, J.C. and Mae Fuller Professor of Biblical Studies; and Carrie Sharp, assistant professor of education