

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Press Releases

Office of Communication

4-19-2021

Telling your COVID story: A message from the university archivist

Lisa Speer

Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita News Bureau

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Speer, Lisa and Ouachita News Bureau, "Telling your COVID story: A message from the university archivist" (2021). *Press Releases*. 1252.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/1252

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Communication at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS



Telling your COVID story: A message from the university archivist

By Lisa Speer

April 19, 2021

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – 72 weeks. 504 days. 12,096 hours. The amount of time since COVID-19 quickly and dramatically changed life at Ouachita in the spring semester of 2021. We all have very clear memories of the week ending March 13.

For some of you, those memories are of anxiously saying goodbye to roommates and friends as you embarked on “an extended spring break,” conscious of the fact that you might not be returning to campus at all in the spring. Faculty and staff members scrambled to transfer classes and support services to an online environment to make the transition for students as seamless as possible. We have experienced a lot over the last 13 months, as individuals and as a community.

These last two semesters we have been incredibly blessed to be able to be on campus together, even though so many of our ways of interacting remained changed. New words seem to have permanently entered our lexicon: social distancing, quarantining, masks, Zoom. Some of you have experienced

COVID-19 firsthand while others have lost loved ones to the virus. In so many ways, this global pandemic has touched us all.

As the semester winds to a close at Ouachita, I ask for your help in documenting COVID-19 at Ouachita. This project is part of a university-wide commemoration. Through the [Chronicling Covid-19 at Ouachita](#) website you can share your stories, photographs, videos, social media posts and other documents to tell YOUR story of the pandemic.

These stories will be collected and permanently housed in Riley-Hickingbotham Library's Archives and Special Collections so generations of future Ouachitonians can understand what life was like during the COVID-19 pandemic. All members of the Ouachita community are invited and encouraged to contribute to the site.

If you'd like to write a new reflection for your submission, here are some questions you might consider in thinking about how your life has been affected by the many changes of the last year:

- What have you learned about yourself and others during the pandemic?
- What have you done or discovered to be most helpful to your ability to manage stress during the pandemic?
- How has the pandemic helped you to grow spiritually?
- How has your faith sustained you during the challenges of the last year?

Whatever your experiences and however you choose to reflect on the events of the last year, your observations and memories will play a vital role in documenting how the pandemic affected Ouachita in 2020-2021. Thank you for your willingness to share your stories with Ouachita and future generations of Tigers!

By Dr. Lisa K. Speer, professor and university archivist