Summer 2007

The Ouachita Circle Summer 2007

Ouachita Baptist University

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Inauguration of Rex M. Horne Jr.

Alumni office launches new online community
Greetings from Ouachita!

June has arrived and with it the beginning of my second year as president of this wonderful university. It is a natural time to express my deepest appreciation to the faculty, staff, students, trustees, churches, and all alumni and friends of Ouachita who have encouraged me in this year. I have a sense of satisfaction for the foundation we have laid, yet greater anticipation of building upon the mission and possibility of Ouachita.

The week of my inauguration will never escape my mind and gratitude. To quote from that timeless work, “The Three Bears,” it was “just right.” My hope is that the impact of the week would be felt by all our publics and especially our students. There are no limits to what our students can accomplish in this ever-shrinking and needy world.

Your university is strong, but must become stronger. Without apology I ask for your prayers, your gifts, your influence with people who need to know Ouachita and the introduction of potential students to our people here. Our strength comes from the gratitude of those who have come before and in establishing new friends who would love to be a part of our kind of institution.

We are pressing forward with exciting plans for the fall. Stay tuned. If you are able to attend the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in Van Buren this November, I will preach the annual message on that Wednesday morning. I would be encouraged by your presence.

I closed my inaugural address with these words: “At the end of the day we are not about curriculum, accreditation, endowment, or budgets, but impacting lives. We want to produce students who are grateful to God for an education from a place called Ouachita, where they interacted with students from Arkansas and all over the world, learned from committed men and women, and found a deeper faith. That is the beauty and duty of Ouachita.”

May the Lord continue to bless us all along this journey.

Rex M. Horne, Jr.
Senior Keith Barrett pitches for the Tigers during an NCAA Tournament game against Angelo State. Ouachita set a school record with 50 wins this season, won its first-ever GSC West Division title and hosted its first NCAA Tournament appearance. photo by Lannie Byrd
The inaugural convocation service for Ouachita's 15th president, Dr. Rex M. Horne Jr. on March 29 featured a processional involving members of Ouachita's faculty and staff in full academic regalia, as well as delegates from other universities and higher education organizations.

“Two former Ouachita presidents had a special role in the ceremony, demonstrating the remarkable continuity and stability in the university’s leadership over the last 35 years,” said Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs and chairman of the inauguration committee. The two former presidents, Dr. Daniel R. Grant and Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, participated in the presentation of the presidential medallion and chain of office, along with Horne’s son Truett; Dr. Ken Shaddox, vice chair of the board of trustees and chair of the presidential search committee; and Mike Vinson, chair of the board of trustees. Former president Dr. Ben Elrod was unable to attend the convocation but watched the service via the Internet broadcast.

Following the inaugural convocation, the university hosted a reception in honor of President and Mrs. Horne in Grant Plaza.

Horne became president of Ouachita in June 2006. He served as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock for nearly 16 years.

Horne is a professor of Christian ministries and teaches a class in the Pruett School of Christian Studies.

“What kind of president have you selected? One who admires and appreciates the Ouachita legacy, community and possibility. What kind of president? One who affirms academic freedom in the context of one’s expertise and a Christian community. One who affirms there is one infallible Book unlike any other that guides us daily, prepares us eternally and reveals the way of salvation for all who would believe in Jesus.”

—Dr. Rex M. Horne Jr. in his inaugural address
“It is hard for me to express in words what an incredible man of God Dr. Horne is. He is a true man of virtue, leadership and outstanding character. I challenge you to take the opportunity to get to know this awe inspiring man, who has a heart for those around him, follows Christ, seeks God’s will and who has so greatly impacted my life.”

—Rachel Wait, junior Christian studies major from Little Rock and member of the inauguration committee

“It is our prayer that under Dr. Horne, Ouachita will continue to promote the cause of Christ and higher education around the world.”

—Dr. Bob Agee, executive director of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities

“Ouachita is fortunate to have Dr. Horne pick up this charge. Just as higher education is that door that opens opportunities for us all, so too the leadership of those higher education institutions is key to their success.”

—Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe

photo by Stephen Carter
Former president Bill Clinton was the guest speaker for the Birkett Williams lecture on March 27. The lecture was held as part of the activities honoring President Rex M. Horne, Jr. during inauguration week.

Horne has known Clinton for 16 years, serving as his pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock. The two men remained close during Clinton’s presidency and in the years that have followed.

Horne told the audience Clinton had been invited to speak because of his love for his state, education and “your president.”

“He’s a man who was born, grew up and spent much of his life less than an hour from this campus,” Horne said. “We want to have difference-makers on this campus.”

Clinton was the second former president to visit Ouachita, and the first to make a speech before the student body. He said he had been visiting Ouachita’s campus since the 1960s and mentioned the influence of emeriti faculty Francis McBeth and Paul Root.

Clinton told an audience of more than 1,600 how students could make a difference in their world. He said that understanding the contemporary world is crucial for people who strive to make an impact on the world around them.

Before answering questions from students, Clinton issued a challenge to the audience. “Everyone of us can make a difference,” he said. “And because we can, we should.” • by Myra Houser

“We want to have difference-makers on this campus.”

—Dr. Rex Horne

Even college students, Clinton said, can make a difference, despite their perceived lack of money and time. • photo by Lannie Byrd

photo by Stephen Carter
Inauguration Week

An inauguration committee consisting of 35 faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends were given the responsibility of planning a week of activities in honor of the investiture of Ouachita’s 15th president, Dr. Rex M. Horne, Jr.

Dr. Stan Poole, vice president of academic affairs, was the chairman of the committee, and former trustee William H. “Buddy” Sutton was vice-chairman.

Poole said that the committee sought to involve all of Ouachita's constituencies in the activities. “We had activities for students, a luncheon for emeriti faculty and a lecture and musical production open to alumni and the broader community.”

Activities for students included a movie and midnight breakfast, a luncheon for student leaders and a “Party in the Plaza.” The party, which featured inflatables and a fish fry, was actually moved to Sturgis Physical Education Center (SPEC) because of rain.

On Monday night, the campus community, alumni and the general public were invited to attend “The Rock and the Rabbi,” an off-Broadway musical and Celebrity Attractions production. The musical was produced by Larry Payton, who once served as Student Activities Director for Ouachita. Payton is married to Kay (Moore ’75). The cast and crew presented a shorter encore performance for students during chapel on Tuesday.

Other inauguration week activities included a Birkett Williams Lecture by former president Bill Clinton and an inaugural prayer service for faculty and staff. • by Jennifer Byrd

(Above) Faculty emeriti Tom Murphree, Margaret Wright and Charles Wright, along with Murphree’s wife Pat, visit during the faculty emeriti luncheon. (Inset) Trustees pray for Dr. Horne during the inaugural prayer service. • photos by Stephen Carter

(Above) Dr. Horne takes a moment to play with his new granddaughter, Abby Anne, and daughter Holly (Horne) Carlisle ('02) during a luncheon for student leaders. (Right) Dr. Horne meets actor Gary Richardson, the storyteller for “The Rock and the Rabbi.” The off-Broadway musical production was part of the inauguration week activities. • photos by Stephen Carter
Alumni who attended May graduation were greeted with a new feature in the center of campus. Members of Ouachita’s physical plant staff have been busy creating a Senior Walk in the sidewalk that runs from the new Rachel Fuller and Ouachita Singers Amphitheatre to Ouachita Street.

The names in the Senior Walk begin with the Class of 2000. The classes of 2001-2006 will be added this summer, and subsequent classes will be added each year.

The idea for a Senior Walk originated several years ago, but at the time Ouachita did not have the equipment needed to etch the names into the sidewalk. Former president Dr. Andy Westmoreland asked John Hardman, director of the physical plant, to research other schools with similar sidewalks.

“I visited UA [the University of Arkansas] twice to get a better measure on the equipment needed and to see exactly what the process involved time-wise,” said Hardman. “Kevin Sullivan [of the physical plant staff] and I made a third trip so he could see exactly what secondary equipment was needed and to see a freshly finished production of one of their walks.”

Hardman and Sullivan then designed equipment with the same principles that was more efficient and less costly than the equipment they had observed. “I found a company on the east coast that had what I wanted; they just weren’t using it for the same application,” said Hardman. “It wound up working better than we thought.”

Hardman said that Sullivan built the trailer and assembled the equipment. “My main goals were to purchase something that would do the job, last for years, make the process affordable and, most of all, be safe during operation.”

A bonus to the equipment they purchased was that the digital software could be used to make signs and banners for the university. Kris Treadway, who owned A-1 Quality Signs in Arkadelphia before working at Ouachita, used the equipment to make the new purple and white signs that appear in front of each building on campus.

Shirley Hardin, director of annual giving, said that those classes who gave to the Senior Walk as their class gift will soon be able to see their gift come full-circle. “For a number of years, classes have been giving toward this Senior Walk, and I’m thrilled that they will now be able to see it when they visit campus,” said Hardin.

Each graduating class now works with Hardin to raise the $3000 needed for the Senior Walk. “We now have a tangible, visible example to show the senior class when they give their first gift to the university,” said Hardin.

David Goodman, director of alumni and special events, said that he hopes that alumni would look forward to bringing their children to campus to see the Senior Walk for years to come. “Their names will be permanently etched in the sidewalk,” said Goodman. “It becomes part of the footprints of the history of Ouachita.” • by Jennifer Byrd

“It becomes part of the footprints of the history of Ouachita.”

—David Goodman

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83% of those we emailed about taking the survey responded! We listened to you, and we hope you like the Circle redesign.

49% of you would like to see the Circle published three times per year. As a result, you will receive three Circles this year.

55% of you rated the overall design of the Circle as “very good,” but many of you wanted to see more color for a more modern look and feel. We have added 8 pages of color.

63% of you “Never Read” or “Read Occassionally” the development news and donor lists. That information will now be included in a separate publication, coming later this summer.

* If we didn’t email you, we don’t have your email address. Please send us a note at alumni@obu.edu.
Masses Man

In February, the cast and crew of “Masses Man” advanced to the regional level of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Tulsa, Okla.

The invitation to advance was based on their performance at the state festival in November. The performance earned both the Respondents’ Choice and the Director’s Choice awards. Seven productions from Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico were presented at the regional festival.

Student researcher

Emily Boeving, a psychology major from Sherwood, attended the Chimpanzee Cognition Conference titled, “The Mind of the Chimpanzee,” at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. The conference, which has been held once every 10 years since 1987, featured top scientists and primatologists from around the world, included noted primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall.

Birkett Williams speaker

Sir John Walker, 1997 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, will present the Birkett Williams Lecture on Thursday, October 25, 2007. Walker shared the prize with Paul Boyer (USA) and Jens Skou (Denmark) “for their elucidation of the enzymatic mechanism underlying the synthesis of adenosine triphosphate (ATP).”

Walker was a senior scientist at Britain’s Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge at the time of his prize. He is now the director of the MRC Dunn Human Nutrition Unit in Cambridge and a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University.

Walker was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1999.

Television segment

Ouachita will be featured in a segment titled “Planning for Your Future” for “Today’s Family,” an educational television series produced by New Line Media Solutions.

The segment will feature interviews with Dr. Rex M. Home Jr., president of the University, as well as junior Whitney Swindler and Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the school of humanities.

The entire segment may be viewed on the University Web site at www.obu.edu/broadcast.

The program will air throughout the summer on ION Television (formerly PAX) affiliates in various markets.

A programming guide is listed on the University Web site at www.obu.edu/news.

Film producers

Several students produced an original movie which premiered to a student audience in March.

“The Figured Out” was directed by Josh Burk, a mass communications major from Hurst, Texas, and written by Angela Harger, a mass communications and theatre arts major from Sugar Land, Texas. It was produced by the motion picture production class, a fall 2006 course taught by Dr. Dave Ozmun, professor of mass communications.

Burk started working on the film a year ago, choosing it over writing a paper for his honors senior thesis. The student producers began making plans for the film during the summer of 2006 and began shooting the film during the fall semester.
1935 **Deaths**  
J. Austin Capps, April 14, Gurdon. Survived by sons Dr. James Austin Capps, Dr. William R. “Billy Roy” Capps and several grandchildren.

1936 **Deaths**  
Frances (Swaim) Crabtree, December 5, 2006, Heber Springs. Survived by children Larry Crabtree, Mike Crabtree, Jay Crabtree and Sandra Wheeler and 11 grandchildren.

1937 **Deaths**  
Dr. David and LaMena (Nichols) Browning celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary and were featured in an article, “73 Years and Still Going Strong” in the Opelika-Auburn News.

1938 **Deaths**  
Ruth (Meador) Davis lives at West Shores in Hot Springs and is active in her local church.

1939 **Deaths**  
Helen “Juanita” (Leggett) Litzelfelner, March 16, Bald Knob. Survived by daughter Molly Goforth Kircher ('64) and husband Larry Kircher ('65).

1940 **Deaths**  
Sara Lee Preddy Mitcham (f/s), March 1, Pulaski County. Survived by son Robert Max Mitcham, daughter Kay Mitcham Urbani, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

1941 **Deaths**  

1942 **Deaths**  
Walter and Martha (Whiteley) Ramsey celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on January 3 with family on a Caribbean cruise.

1943 **Deaths**  
Al (f/s) and Mercedes (Ball) Wheeler (f/s) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2006. They are retired and live in Oklahoma City. They have five children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

1944 **Deaths**  
P. Todd Landes, Jr. (f/s), April 6, Magnolia.

1945 **Deaths**  
Mary Ellan (O’Cain) Puckett (f/s), February 28, Mobile, Alabama.

1946 **Deaths**  
Nellie Jean (Bailey f/s) Webb, April 23, Hope. Survived by husband Joe Don and son Bruce.

**Deaths**  

1947 **Deaths**  
Mary Nell (Jernigan) Seaton was diagnosed with macular degeneration but is traveling while her vision is still strong. Recent trips include Israel, Greece and Russia. Mary Nell has lived in Georgia for three years.

1948 **Deaths**  
Betty Jo (Patterson) Burnett lives in Oklahoma City. She recently lost her husband of 51 years, Leon.

1949 **Deaths**  
Calvin C. Ussery, January 11, McKinney, Texas.

1950 **Deaths**  
Oscar Golden is a retired minister and is leading interim ministry at Old Union Baptist Church in Benton.

1951 **Deaths**  
Norvin T. Jones leads Jones Bible Ministries, Inc., and preaches and speaks across the country. He lives in Rose Hill, Kansas, near daughter Gracia Burnham.

1952 **Deaths**  
Preston Taylor recently published *The Eleven Commandments* through Xulon Press.
1950

Deaths
L. Reed Hill, July 1, 2006, El Dorado.

Jo Ann (Joyner) Spinks is retired from a career in social work and lives in Columbus, Mississippi, with husband Heyward.

Deaths
Margaret (Yates) Mundie (f/s), January 10, Little Rock. Survived by children David Mundie, Sherrill Cooper, Ally Goodson, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mamie Ruth (Stranburg) Abernathy has served as church organist for 56 years. She is morning organist for Central Baptist Church in Hot Springs.

Jack J. Bledsoe is the emeritus director of missions for the Carey Baptist Association. He celebrated his 58th wedding anniversary to wife Myrta on January 15.

Dr. Irma Helen (Hopkins) Collins was honored for contributions to the new Graves County High School Performing Arts Center in Kentucky. She is an adjunct professor at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

Agga Mae (Overton) Sanders is a retired music teacher in Malvern. She has been married for 53 years to Clinton, and they have one son, David, and two grandchildren.

Robert Eubanks retired as pastor of First Baptist Church in Diamond City in 2005 and now lives in Caddo Valley.

Deaths

Leroy Summers, December 13, 2006, Dallas, Texas. Survived by wife Carolyn (f/s '54), daughter LeCarole Moore and two grandchildren.

Marvin Reynolds is pastor of First Baptist Church in Judsonia. He is married to Cora (Haley '56).

Jim and Joyce (Weatherly) Brown celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 24 with a reception at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock.

John Floyd is chairman of trustees for the International Mission Board. He recently chaired the building committee for Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn.

1957

Deaths
Ernest E. Banton, December 3, 2006, Benton. Survived by wife Joann, stepdaughter Donna, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Charles D. Cheatham, February 6, McRae. Survived by wife Nona (Johnson '59) and children Susan Cheatham ('83) and Karla Tarkington ('85).

James Vaughan Coston (f/s), December 31, 2006, Bryant. Survived by wife Pat and daughter Angelina Finley.

1958

Deaths
Dwight and Ann (Salter '58) Clark lead in ministry at Besonia Baptist Church in south Kansas City, Missouri.

John Freeman retired as president of the Bank of McAlester in Oklahoma. He owns and operates United Country Real Estate.

Deaths
Nathan Barrett, January 25, Warren. Survived by wife Mary (King), daughters Edie Coleman ('82) and Laurie Moore and four grandchildren.

Betty (Pogue) Garner, April 29, Rison. Survived by husband Herschel, four children and five grandchildren.

Louise (Edwards) Johnson, December 27, 2006, Blytheville.

Andy Kerr, February 1, Little Rock. Survived by wife Alice (Moran), one son, two daughters and four grandchildren.


Jim Maxwell retired in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from a career in nonprofit management. Jim was named co-chair of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra’s 75th Anniversary celebrations.

Gerald Perry is the associate pastor at West Side Baptist Church in El Dorado. He lives in Smackover with wife Betty (Holloway).

Deaths
Jerry P. Johnson, February 13, Hendersonville, Tennessee. He is survived by wife Cindy, son Lance, daughter Julie Johnson Jernigan, stepson Dan Furmanik and two grandchildren.

1959

Dr. Norton Pope is enjoying retirement with his wife Jerry (Carter '57 f/s), his five children and ten grandchildren.

Deaths
Marilyn (Sawyer) Briggs, December 9, 2006, Houston, Texas. Survived by husband Clint, son John, daughter Rebecca (Briggs '96) King, son Andrew and 3 grandchildren.

Bobby Duffer retired as Director of Missions for the Neighbor Islands Baptist Associations in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. He and June (Zimmerman) plan to travel following his treatment for melanoma cancer.

Richard Rogers retired from the North American Mission Board and is now living in Jacksonville, Michigan. He has four children and nine grandchildren.

Patsy (Caughman) Schlueter retired after 25 years with the Huntington Beach City School District in California.
1961  Deaths

1962  Mary Ahn and husband Song Pak retired from 35 years of medical practice. They are enjoying their six grandchildren.

Charlie Doggett retired from LifeWay and IMB and lives in Nashville, Tennessee. He has a Nature Photography business, including arts & crafts fairs and online sales.

Rhea E. McKinney retired after 25 years as Director of the Polk Science and Engineering Fair. He teaches physics at the International Baccalaurate World School. Wife Linda (Sanders) retired as administrator of Florida’s largest law firm and continues to consult with the firm.

Rev. Don Reed is interim director of missions in the Honolulu Windward Baptist Association. Don and wife Wanda (Stephens) plan to live in Honolulu for one year.


Pat (Key) and Charles Chambliss (’60) retired to Arkadelphia. Pat taught French at Little Rock Central High School, and Charles was an education professor at OBU for 38 years. They have one son, Kevin (‘94).

1964  Don Duren authored Boiling Out at the Springs, a history of Major League Baseball’s spring training in Hot Springs from 1886-1940.

1965  Marcus Everett retired from a career in education in both Texas and Arkansas and is now teaching math at National Park Community College in Hot Springs. He lives in Hot Springs Village.

Ellajane (Inman) and Cecil (professor emeritus of religion) Sutley celebrated their 65th anniversary in February with a reception at First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia.

1966  Ken and Jean Ann (Melton ’68) Andrews live in San Antonio, Texas. Ken works with the University of Texas Health Science Center. Jean Ann is retired from the local school district.

Freddie Gay is the pastor of Gillett First Baptist Church.

Thelma (Hardcastle) Hopkins retired and is traveling with husband John. She taught elementary school for the Pattonville (Mo.) School District for 30 years.

Deaths
Mary Frances (Hayes) Pogue, January 15, Heber Springs. Survived by husband James (’60), daughters Rebecca, Leah (Pogue ’93) Beets, Jennifer and three granddaughters.

Ken and Jean Ann (Melton ’68) Andrews live in San Antonio, Texas. Ken works with the University of Texas Health Science Center. Jean Ann is retired from the local school district.

Freddie Gay is the pastor of Gillett First Baptist Church.

Thelma (Hardcastle) Hopkins retired and is traveling with husband John. She taught elementary school for the Pattonville (Mo.) School District for 30 years.

Deaths
Eula Mae (Thomas) Hobgood, January 19, Arkadelphia. Survived by husband John (’63), son John M. “Mac” Hobgood, daughter Mary Willmon and two grandchildren.

Clayburn and Jessie (Hice f/s) Bratton celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 7, 2006.

Charles Hatch is a substitute teacher in the Avondale School District in Arizona. He lives in Goodyear, Arizona, with wife Theresa and son Brandon.

Alan K. Rawley has worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Kansas City for 39 years. His wife of 42 years, Beverley, recently passed away after a long bout with cancer. He has two children Brian and Sarah and three grandchildren.

Dwight Weaver retired from Lockheed Martin in January and relocated from the Washington D.C. area to join wife Sharon in North Carolina.

David L.C. Lau teaches mathematics (adjunct) at North Lake College in Irving, Texas. He is also active with his church’s music missions.
1969 Sheri (McFall) Hardman and husband Billy Bob retired to Hot Springs from Arkadelphia, where they lived for 35 years.

Jay Miller was featured in the NW Arkansas Morning News for winning the 2006 Master Interpretive Manager Award at the National Interpreters Workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Jay serves as the chief of interpretation for the Arkansas State Department of Parks.

Judith (Kuykendall) Stone retired in June 2005 after 33 years in education (six in Home Economics, 27 as a Media Specialist). Most of her career was spent in the Fort Smith Public School system.

Marilyn Turney is teaching Family and Consumer Science (FACS) courses at Greenbriar Junior High School.

1970 Mickey DeLemar retired from the Mesquite Independent School District, where he rose from freshman football coach to athletics director. He is married to Beth (Garner).

Correction: Vickie (Toland) Gill is the manager of the Arkansas Cancer Research Center Gift Shop in Little Rock. She has three sons and three granddaughters.

Deaths
Clyde Waldo Coleman, December 15, 2006, Little Rock. Survived by wife Vera, son Curtis, daughter Janice Jobes, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Patsy (Hill) Dickens, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, March 30. Survived by husband Dr. Douglas M. Dickens ('67) and daughters Kristen and Lori.

Dr. Tom E. Ward, April 2, Sulphur Springs, Texas. Survived by wife Lynn and son Aaron.

1971 Lin Gamble is a retired high school math teacher. She plays Senior Olympic basketball.

Euodias Goza was promoted to senior vice president and director of internal audit for Southern Bancorp in Arkadelphia. Euodias was also elected to the Board of Directors of the WP Sturgis Foundation.

Bill Morgan is the director of missions for the Autauga Baptist Association in Prattville, Ala. Dianne (Heard) retired from teaching and now keeps two of their four grandchildren and is a Discovery Toy consultant.

Dr. Lee McGlone is the new pastor of Arkadelphia’s First Baptist Church, moving from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is married to Brenda (Vowan ’73) and has three children: Chris (f/s), Ashley and Nick (current student).

Sandy (Hughes) Peoples retired after 28 years of teaching. Husband Steve (’71) coaches track and football at Southside High School.

Deaths
Thomas Dundee (f/s), October 15, 2006, Texarkana. Survived by his wife Mary Lou (Herrera ’68).


Anthony Powell is the design team leader at the ConocoPhillips Refinery and lives in Sugarland, Texas, with wife Marcia (Majors ’75).

LTC(R) Eddy “Wormy” Watson directed “God’s Trombones: The Baghdad Cast” in November 2006. He said he had worked with “God’s Trombones” several times, “But this is by far the most rewarding.”

Pam (King) Young recently achieved National Board Certification. Pam is a teacher at G.R. Taylor Elementary School in White Hall.

Deaths
Davie Elaine (Coffey f/s) Allen, March 11, Camden. She is survived by husband Charles, son David David Allen, daughter Caryn Allen Lender and one grandson.

Mac Stroud was promoted to chief operations officer at Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods in Little Rock.

Deaths
Ernie Romero, January 11, Paducah, Kentucky. Survived by wife Marianna and daughters Olivia and Karina.

1973 Dr. Cathey (Sparkman) Powers received the Magdalene McKinnon Ingram Professorship in Geriatric Education from UAMS. She will develop and expand curriculum for medical trainees related to the care of aging adults.

Marriages
Stephen Cox (f/s) married Elaine Martin in June 2005.

Deaths
Wallace Austin Tarpley, November 19, 2006, Little Rock. Survived by wife Frances (Shackelford ’80), son Richard, daughter Carol Fran Rangel and five grandchildren.

1974 Mark Baber was promoted to agency manager for Cross County Farm Bureau. He and Janie (Hankins) live in Wynne.

Doug Badertscher and wife Jamie recently relocated to Sarasota, Florida, from Denver, Colorado.

Carol (Miller) Gresham was named vice chancellor for development at Arkansas State University at Mountain Home.

Diana (Edmondson) Lewis was featured in the Arkansas Baptist News for her work with the “Mississippi River Ministry,” which encourages churches to support missions in the lower Mississippi River region.

Debbie Montavon is the program director for the Dalit Freedom Network and leads ministries with the “untouchable” caste in India.

1976

Deaths
LTC(R) Eddy “Wormy” Watson

1977

Deaths
1978: **Lynn (Brooks) Hargis** received the Joan of Arc Medallion from the National Guard Bureau. The nomination and presentation were made by General Ronald Chastain, adjunct general of the State of Arkansas.

Brenda (Ingram) Klockenga accepted a position at Trinity Oaks Christian Academy in Cary, Illinois, as Technology Instructor/Curriculum Development.

**Carol (Young) Pinkston** is chair of Fine Arts at Cincinnati Christian Schools and was the 2005 Cincinnati Teacher of the Year. She has two sons, Luke and Morgan.

Ken Sutterfield is the chief development officer at Subiaco Abbey and Academy in Subiaco, Arkansas.

1979: **Daniel and Janet (Robertson f/s) Berry** live in Cape Girardeau, Missouri with children Daniel, David and Rachel. Dan is vice president of legal affairs at Southeast Missouri Hospital, and Janet is a special education teacher. Dan plays "all that great stuff we were blasting in Daniel South in the '70's" for his band "Midlife Crisis."

**Garth Smith** is the worship and arts director of First Baptist Church in Winter Garden, Florida. He and his wife **Vickie (Garrison f/s '76)** have three sons: Garin (22), Ben (20) and Alec (13).

**David Uth**, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida, was highlighted in a *National Geographic* spread featuring the city of Orlando.

1980: **Tim Shrader** is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Litchfield, Illinois. He is married to **Debbie (Grisham '80)** and has three children: Elizabeth, Rachel and Nathaniel.

**Andy Pierce** is the associate pastor of worship at Comite Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Wife **Laurie (Murfin '82)** is the national sales director for Clear Channel Communications.

**La Juana (Terrell) Warner** was named Distinguished Director of 2007 by the Northeast Arkansas Choral Directors Association. She is choral director at Annie Camp Junior High School in Jonesboro.

**Deborah (Runyan) Caddy**, director of Rape Crisis and Victim Services at the Women’s Center of Tarrant County, won the Vivian Miles Lifetime Achievement Award by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA).

**Jill (Jones) Holland** moved to Denver, Colo., from Shawnee, Okla., where she worked for First Baptist Church for 25 years. She and husband Travis have two children, Tyler (23) and Bryce (19).

1981: **Robbie (Clifton) Pinter** received the Belmont University Presidential Faculty Achievement Award in May 2006 for her work with students outside the classroom.

1982: **John Gary Brown (f/s),** January 20, Little Rock, was killed in the line of duty while serving his country in Iraq. Survived by wife Donna, step-daughters Brandy and Crystal, and grandchildren Christian and Joshua Edmondson.

**Deaths**

1983: **Lt. Col. Joey Cunningham** is the director of the Information Management Support Center in Arlington, Virginia. He was previously the director of space and networks at the Headquarters Department of the Army. Joey and his family live in Ashburn, VA.

**Maj. Doug Keeton** is the consulting practice manager for Oracle Corporation’s National Security Group in Washington D.C. He and wife Pam recently celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary and have two children, Chelsea and Joshua, and one granddaughter.

**Mark Stallings** co-led the writing and photography for *The Season, A Photographic Look at the Sport of Duck Hunting* with alumnus **Steve Bowman ('86)**.

1984: **Mary Ann (Wasson) Brinkman** moved from Van Buren to Springdale, where she teaches first grade at Lee Elementary School. She and husband Dave have four children. Daughter Leanne will attend Ouachita this fall.

**Alan Moore** is the worship pastor at the International Baptist Church of Singapore. He and his family left Conway on January 9, and plan to serve their new church for three years. *See feature article, p. 24.*

**Nathan Rose** was promoted to president at Texas Mortgage Hunter located in McKinney, Texas.

1985: **Julie (Benafield) Bowman** was elected secretary-treasurer of the southeastern zone of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. She is the insurance commissioner for the state of Arkansas.
1985 Denise (Leverett) Elliott is an anesthesiologist at Parish Anesthesia in St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, Louisiana. Denise had worked at Anesthesia Associates of Ruston since 1993 and was managing partner.

Gerald Harkins lives in Laurel Springs, New Jersey and is preparing to return to Senegal, West Africa under a new mission board (WorldVenture). He will help translate the Bible into the Wolof language. Gerald and wife Alice have one son, Nathan (9).

LTC Steve Russell was featured in *American Thinker* for his role in capturing Saddam Hussein. He commanded the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, recognized as the operational core of the effort to capture Hussein.

Deaths
Deborah Elaine Lacy, February 27, Benton.

1986 Lance Cansdale is the head provincial coach of Swim Nova Scotia in Canada and was formerly the head coach of the Halifax Trojan Aquatic Club. He is married to Patricia McGrath and has three daughters, Jillian (12), Lauren (9) and Grace (2).

Keldon Henley was appointed to the State Board of Examiners of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors. He is vice president for student services and dean of students at Ouachita.

Philip Prime is coordinating a ministry to bring a bookmobile from Little Rock into Mexico. He and his family are missionaries in Mexico through the Barnabas Project International.

1988 Todd Bagwell was featured in *Inviting Arkansas* for his leadership with Little Rock’s 2007 Heart Ball. Todd owns Delaney T. Bagwell Associates, an event planning business headquartered in New York City.

Sam Caery joined the staff of Mount Carmel Church of Cabot as adult pastor, moving from Walnut Street Church of Jonesboro.

Janet (Rico) Everett is a composition and literature instructor for SAU-Tech in Camden. She has one son, Ian (3).

1989 Andy Allison is the Kansas State Medicaid Director and Deputy Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority. He was recently quoted in a *New York Times* article. He and Susan (Shell) ’91 have four children, John (13), Caroline (12), Mark (8) and Michael (6).

Dr. Joseph Cathey is pursuing a master’s degree in Library and Information Science at the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in classical archaeology at the University of Leicester in England. He is a square supervisor at the Tel Gezer dig in Israel.

Morris Mayers was activated by the U.S. Army to serve in Iraq throughout 2007.

1989 Ricardo Escobar is president of the Escobar Company, a small general contracting firm. He is also the lay pastor for The Fellowship of Memorial in Houston, Tex. He and wife Amy have two sons, Sammy and Ricky.

Chris Taylor is the Teaching-Pastor of Legacy Baptist Church in Rogers, and wife Wendy (Johnson ’91) is teaching kindergarten at Life Way Christian School in Centerton. The Taylors have three children: Caleb (12), Nathan (10) and Anna Kate (7).

1990 Heath Mitchell recently accepted a position as a tax accountant at Hix & Associates CPAs, P.A. in Little Rock.

Marriages
Karla Sue Stainaker (f/s) married Michael Andrew Shoemaker on June 2.

Future Tigers
Paul and Jennifer (Easter) Harrison, daughter Chloe Faith, April 25, 2006. She joins sisters Kelsey Grace (11) and Ashley Hope (7).

1992 Ashley (Ahrens) Davis joined the Axiom Corporation as a communications manager. She works in Little Rock’s Rivermarket branch.

Jason and Jennifer (Taylor) Petty live in Dallas, Texas, where Jason is president of his own company. They have three sons: Luke (9), Logan (6) and Lawson (2).

Randy Sikes serves as the Worship/Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church in Mexico, Missouri. Randy and wife Rachel (Bishop ’90) have three children, David, Jedidiah and Caleb.

Marriages
Stephanie Jeni (Freeman) Howell married Brian Mark Kubacak on October 21, 2006. They live in Little Rock.

Future Tigers
Curtis and Nancy Arnold, daughter Claire Patrice, January 16 in North Little Rock.

Kelly (Upchurch) and Todd Bailey, daughter Erin Elizabeth, September 27, 2006 in Barrington, Illinois. She joins brothers Ty and Trevor (3)

Dennis and Jody (Roberson ’93) Janz, daughter Melody Kavelynn Janz, October 25, 2006 in Johannesburg, South Africa. She joins two brothers and one sister.

Chuck Dumas is an Environmental Health Specialist in Garland, Texas. He recently participated in training exercises across the country and lives in Caddo Mills, Texas, with wife Michele and son Garrett (2).

Holly (Futrell) Melton lives in Cherry Valley with husband Mark and children Holland (7), and Carson Jo (4). She works for the Wynne School District as a 6th grade Language Arts teacher.
1993: Trent Ogle (f/s) is the videographer for the the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's ArkansasOnline Web site. He was formerly the chief photographer for KLRT/Fox affiliate.

Cindy (Waller) Stalnaker, husband Dan and children Emma (7) and Evan (3) moved to Cabot after living in South Carolina for six years. Dan is director of engineering at KARK (Channel 4), and Cindy home-schools Emma.

Future Tigers
Larry and Amanda Dice, daughter Lottie Elizabeth, June 16, 2006, in Little Rock.

1994: Tony Ranchino married Adiel (Looney) on April 28 at his parents’ home in Arkadelphia.

Future Tigers
Bryan and Erin (Berry f/s) Bolton, son Keith Andrew, June 20, 2006, in Whitesburg, KY. Joins sister Kaitlyn Elizabeth (6).

Heather (Brandon) Spruill and husband Kenny, son Jake Thomas, April 1 in Hot Springs. Joins sister Kenley.

Dwayne and Leslie (Tipton ’96) Whitten, son Coby Lynn Asher, February 15. Joins Dacey (8), Braeden (6) and Addison (5).

Joy (Mayfield) Amason earned an M.S. in Communication Disorders from Baylor University. She works for Harmony Grove School District in Haskel and lives in Benton with husband Andy and daughters Jessi (6) and Meg (5).

Jason Cunningham and wife, Rebecca live in Frankfort, Kentucky, where Jason is a social insurance specialist for the Social Security Administration. They have one daughter, Lucy Kathleen (3) and have a second child due this summer.

Travis Nash completed orthodontic training and service to the Navy and is buying a private practice in Charleston, South Carolina. He and wife Allison (Robert ’92) have three children: Jansen (13), Jacob (9) and Isabelle (6).

Carrie (Rinehart) Roberson was promoted to Clark County Community Development Officer for Southern Financial Partners.

Future Tigers

Julie (Snider) Ramsey and husband Scott adopted son Aidan Cesar from Guatemala, born September 11, 2005, and home June 12, 2006. They live in Fayetteville.

Brandi (Byrd) and Richard (’97) Womack adopted Reid (3) and Ross (4) from Medellin, Colombia. They join brothers Richard (8) and Rhett (6). The Womacks are also foster parents to twin girls (2).

1995: Drew Bledsoe accepted a doctoral fellowship from Rice University in Houston and will begin this fall.

Angela Lynn (Griffin) Gabel moved from Texas to Colorado in 2006 and married Mike Gabel. They live in Grand Junction with daughter Caitlynn McCollum (9).

Matt Pryor is pastor of First Baptist Church of Wooster, moving from South Side Baptist Church of Pine Bluff where he was associate pastor of youth and education.

Future Tigers
Penny (Erion) and Stuart (’97) Ray, daughter Allie Jane, October 17, 2005, in Bartlett, Tenn. Joins sister Maggie Rose (4).

Angie (Bond) and Tyler Vance, son Nate Andrew, January 25. Joins brothers Jared (7), Seth (5) and Ian (3). Tyler is vice president at Bank of the Ozarks in Little Rock, and the Vance family lives in Little Rock.

Elten Briggs received a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Oklahoma in August 2006. He was married in March 2006 to Andrea Ferguson and is an assistant professor at the University of Texas-Arlington.

Dana (Campbell) and Steven (’07) Cole have four children: Maleah Elizabeth (2), Ethan (3), Sara Kate (5) and Weston (7).

Yanci (Grady) Gibson is the market development account manager with Boston Scientific Cardiac Rhythm management division for the Arkansas region. Husband Brandon (’95) is a sales representative with Takeda Pharmaceuticals. They welcomed daughter Scarlett Conley on November 12, 2006, and live in Conway.

Marc and Charity (Feemster ’99) Verlander were appointed by the International Mission Board as Career Missionaries. They will return to Wales, where they served a three-year ISC term.

Future Tigers

Scott and Meggan (Bauer ’99) Bell, son Tyler Christopher, April 21, 2006. Joins sister Lauren Elizabeth (3).


Sarah (Beal) Watts and husband Herb, son Daniel Caleb, October 29, 2006, in Colorado Springs, Colo. Joins sisters Hannah (3) and Ella (2).

Richard “Rix” and Susan (Jordan f/s ’01) White, son Simon Jordan, February 26, 2006, in Manhattan, New York. After five years in New York, they moved to Fayetteville, where Rix works in database development and is pursuing a career as a high school teacher.
1997  
Jeff Williams and wife Kim, daughter Allison Paige, January 3 in Indianapolis, IN. Joins sister Lizzie (2).

1998  
Robert Bader was promoted to senior vice president for Morgan Stanley’s Global Wealth Management Group.

Liz (Smith) Evan and husband Tim are stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama, while Tim is in flight school. Liz is a stay-at-home mom to Nathaniel (infant).

Sarah (Stanley) Henry is the director of Children’s and Art Ministries for Mission First in Jackson, Mississippi. She teaches Pilates and helps husband Patrick lead worship at First Baptist Church. Their son, Max, is 2.

Layne Johnston joined Lockheed Martin Simulation Training and Support on the Little Rock Air Force Base as a CBT Specialist. Layne will design computer-based training modules for C130J pilots, including animation and visuals for C130J flight simulators.

Kerri (Newborn) Jones finished course work in Educational Administration at Texas A&M Commerce. She passed the Principal Certification TEXES Exam and is a middle school Assistant Principal in the Richardson Independent School District.

Marriages  
Jeremy Wyllia (f/s) married Elizabeth McInturff on May 12.

Future Tigers  

John Kirtley and wife Melanie, son Jack Henderson, January 11 in Little Rock.

Sandra (Scucchi) Kleinert and husband Shorel, son Schafer Ewald, December 30, 2006, in Hong Kong.

Jay Baker joined FBC Ponchatoula, Louisiana, as Minister of Students. Michelle (Vaughn ’00) stays at home with Samuel (2) and Abigail Grace (1).

Chie Konishi is a cost accounting manager for Tyson Foods in Council Bluffs.

Jeff Williams and wife Amy were appointed as Apprentice missionaries by the International Mission Board.

Marriages  
Sarah (Clements) married Brian Smith on March 24 at Geyer Springs First Baptist Church. They live in Sherwood.

Future Tigers  
Rebekah (Spencer) and Doug (current student) Bryant, daughter Elisabeth Grace, July 16, 2006, in Little Rock.

Laura (Crow) Copeland and husband Chad, daughter Abigail Leslie, August 5, 2005, in Little Rock.

1999  
Jamie (Hopper) Garner and husband Lane, daughter Alexandra Reese (Alexee), February 2. Joins brother Rhett (3).


Jenny (McKissack) and Jed (’01) McGuirk, twins Malcolm Douglas and Naomi Diane, October 25, 2006, in Birmingham, Ala.

Stephanie (Risker) and Brad (’99) Purtle, son Simon Joseph, December 1, 2006, in Dallas, Texas. Joins brother Jackson (2).

Alicia (Gee) and Derek Spicer, daughter Chloe Grace, October 30, 2006 in Little Rock. Joins sister Paige (2).

2000  
Jay and Molly (Higginbottom ’01) Davis relocated to Rogers, where Jay is teaching elementary ESL. Molly is an assistant principal at Kirksey Middle School. They recently purchased their first home.

Lora (Brown f/s) and Jon Mark (f/s ’99) Parker live in Bryant with sons JT (4) and Michael (1). Lora is a registered nurse and unit instructor for the 3-Gold cancer unit at Arkansas Children’s Hospital. Jon is an insurance salesman and musician at First Southern Baptist Church.

Signe Vang is the assistant director at Fuller Theological Seminary Southwest in Phoenix, Ariz. She received a M.S. in Human Resource Management from the Texas A&M Mays School of Business on December 16.

Marriages  
Ashley (Mediton f/s) married Shay Robbins on December 9 at Kanakuk Kamps in Branson, Mo. They live in Branson.

Future Tigers
Sarah (Thompson) and Ryan (f/s) Alexander, daughter Holly Grace, November 28, 2006, in Lawrence, Kansas. Joins brothers Zach (4) and Payton (2).

Beth (Stubblefield) and Jason Davis, son Sawyer Aaron, May 5, 2006, in North Africa. Joins big sister Lee Anna (2).

Corey and Somer Gilbert, son Gray Command, January 8.

Gina (Carroll) Golden and husband Grant, daughter Addison, July 13, 2006.

Karlynn (Hughes) and Ryan (’99) Hillman, son Sawyer Joseph, January 11. Ryan works on his family’s farm in Almyra and operates a farming business with brother Jonathan (’98). Karlynn stays home with Sawyer and is an independent consultant with BeautiControl.

Rachel (Winston) and Jonathan (’98) Hillman adopted daughter Jada Kathryn from Lebanon, January 2007. They are expecting a son in July.

Kay (Denny) and Casey Holland, son Wyatt Andrew, November 21 in Rowlett, Texas. Joins brother Walker.

Kathy (Stawitz) and Robert (’99) Sproles, son Jackson Samuel, January 15 in Little Rock.

Peggy Itschner is an academic advisor at the University of North Texas. She is moving to Seattle in September to pursue doctoral study at the University of Washington.

Jon and Cristen (Curtis) McClure live in Dallas. Jon is in dental school at Baylor College of Dentistry. Cristen graduated from Baylor with her master’s degree in community counseling in 2005 and works as a Certification Advisor at a university in Dallas.

Sean Michel advanced to Hollywood and passed the first three rounds of American Idol during the 2007 season.

Krista Smith joined Baptist Health Medical Center in North Little Rock as a Pharmacy Tech.

Emily (Harness) Young was featured in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette for her starring role in “Smokey Joe’s Café” at Murry’s Dinner Playhouse.

Marriages
Molly (Darden) and John Telford (’04) were married on April 28 in Little Rock.

Future Tigers
Tracy (Krueger) and Jake Allred, son Declan Jace, April 5.

Justin and Ashley (Fincher ’03) Franz, son Bradley Clark, May 25, 2006.

2001  Ashley (Carroll) and John (’01) Beller adopted daughter Emelia Louise from Guatemala in May. Joins Esther (1).

Johan and Candace (Crouse ’01) Eriksson, son Elias Andrew, November 19 in Johnson. Joins Emelia (2).

Kris Jayroe and wife Zan Allison, daughter Belle Kristine, February 4 in Carrollton, Texas.

Chad and Amy Melton, son Caleb Michael, January 6, 2005, in Durant, Okla.

Kelly (Krueger) and Ray (’01) Miller, son Brayden James, March 8. Joins sister Kaelynn (2). They live in Texarkana.

Danielle (Patricio) and Dennis Waterman, daughter Natalie, January 27.

Mitch (f/s) and Lindsey (McKenzie, current student) Plyler, son Noah James, February 28.

Sean Culpepper is the area director for ABCHome in Little Rock. Sean was a chaplain for the USMD Hospital in Arlington, Tex. and a NAMB missionary in Cleburne, Tex.

Mark Vaughn works for Sentry Insurance as a commercial representative. Wife Erin (Pitman ’02) is in her third year of medical school at UAMS in Little Rock.

Marriages
Lauren (Adams) married Luis Arguelles on December 30, 2006, at St. James Church in Orlando, Fla. They live in New Britain, Conn.

Kara (Dexter) married Todd Bradford on July 1, 2006, in Allen, Texas. They live in Allen.

Jennifer (Karber f/s) married William Siffford on February 3 at First Baptist Church, Batesville. They live in Batesville.

Sabra (Walker) married Garrett Hensley on January 6 at First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. They live in Little Rock.

Future Tigers
Richard and Chrystal (Edwards ’03) Ball, son Ethan Michael, October 26, 2006, in Little Rock.

Kimberly (Musgrove) and Jason Bates, son Alex Steven, March 15. Joins sister Natalie Jane (2 ½).

Melanie (Ross) and Jason Carlton, daughter Riley Catherine (“Riley Cate”), October 5, 2006, in Searcy.

Chris and Brandyn Frenley, daughter Aspen Brooke, November 19, 2006.

Lindsey (Lefler) and Josh Pounders, daughter Jordyn Riley, October 31, 2006, in Tacoma, Washington. Joins sister Lily Carolyn (2).

Heidi (Klarhorst) and Wilfried Rolfsmeyer, son Florian-Heinrich, October 17, 2006. Joins sister Eva-Maria.
2002

Jenny (Chung) Tsai and husband Jason, son Tyler Caleb, August 2, 2006. They live in Allen, Texas.

Ryan and Amanda (Aldridge ’04) Bush are houseparents for Promise House in Little Rock, where Ryan is taking seminary classes. They recently served as missionaries to Lima, Peru, as part of the IMB’s Service Corp program and have one daughter, Sophia (infant).

Michael and Terese (Purkaple) Cox are pursuing master’s degrees in Biblical exegesis from Wheaton College. Michael is a G.A. for residence life at Wheaton.

Josh Floyd, athletic director and head football coach at Shiloh Christian School in Springdale, received two statewide “Coach of the Year” awards. His team won the state football championship.

Robert Ramsey is worship pastor at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Cabot.

Hall and Natalie Reynolds live in Little Rock, where Hall is an advertising account executive for Dillard’s corporate office. He recently received his MBA from UALR.

Matt Turner is the nightly news anchor at KNWA (NBC) in Northwest Arkansas. He was featured in Celebrate Arkansas. Wife Julee (Bell ’05) works at Metropolitan Hair Salon in Fayetteville. Matt and Julee married on January 13 in Arkadelphia.

Holly (Willett) Walker works for Smackover State Bank in El Dorado. She is also the bookkeeper for her family’s oil company.

Jennifer Waters was featured in the Dallas Morning News for her work in Dallas-area schools through the 180 Degrees program, an abstinence education program.

Stacie Winkler received a MM from Texas State Degrees program, an abstinence education program. for her work in Dallas-area schools through the 180 News

Jennifer Jerles accepted a position as a programmer at Carlson Capital in Dallas.

2003

William Francis was selected by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette as one of the “Twenty to Watch in 2007.” Billy is the Career Pathways administrator at Ouachita Technical College in Malvern. He is married to Martina (fls) and has three children.

2004

Erin (Turner) Hogue joined the University of Arkansas’s College of Education and Health Professions as assistant director of development. She received her master of arts in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Matt Morgan is children’s pastor at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Cabot, moving from Heber Springs.

Nathan Smith represented the University of Arkansas Law School in “Moot Court Trials.” The team won the New York Region for the first time in school history and competed in the National Finals in Chicago in March.

Marriages

Jean-Michel Hatton and Hannah (Brown ’07) were married on July 29, 2006, near Tyler, Texas.

April (Reeder) married Richard Smith on July 29, 2006, in Geyer Springs FBC. They live in Rogers.

Rebekah Britt (Willis) married Michael Wallace (’05) on November 4 in Parkway Place Baptist Church. They live in Little Rock.

Future Tigers

Laura (Bryant) and Gary (’03) Keene, daughter Jamie Camille, November 17, 2006, in Hot Springs.

Jennifer (Perkins) and Steven Adkins, daughter Anna Elisabeth, February 1 in Richmond, Ky. Joins brother Simon McKenzie (3).

Wes Benjamin is a district executive for the Boy Scouts and wife Melanie (Jones ’06) is searching for a speech pathology assistant position.

Sheila (Samantha) Hadikoesoemo received an M.S. in communication sciences and disorders from Baylor on December 16. She recently worked as a speech language pathologist at Blessed Changes, Inc., in Little Rock.

Ashlee Hill lives in El Dorado, where she works with Families and Children Together (F.A.C.T.) Inc. as a family service advocate for preschool children.

Jennifer Jerles passed the exam to become a registered dietician and is a clinical dietician at LeBonheur Children’s Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

Kristen Johnson joined Grant Thornton in Dallas, Texas, as assurance associate, moving from the Shreveport Convention Center, where she was a staff accountant.

Kayla (Sandifer) Lance is pursuing a graduate degree as a licensed professional counselor at Texas A&M-Texarkana.

David Nelson accepted a position as a programmer at Carlson Capital in Dallas.

Jennifer Patton is a creative artist at Onyx Laboratories in North Little Rock.

2005

• 17 •
Mandy Pierce lives in Fayetteville and works for J.B. Hunt Transport as a pricing administrator in the finance department. She served as executive director of the 2007 Miss OBU Pageant.

Scott Sanders is an assistant store manager for Walgreens in Longview, Tex.

Shannon Stewart works for the Chickasaw Nation’s video department. She lives in Ada, Okla., and recently bought her first home.

Sean Townsend works in Houston, Texas as a biology teacher/soccer coach at Cypress Ridge High School.

Amanda Suzanne (Millender) married Justin Robert Dreyer on October 28, 2006, in the Church at Rock Creek. They live in DeValls Bluff.

Melissa (Miller) married James Spurlin ('04) in June 2005. They live in Benton and work in Little Rock.

Sheila (Samantha) married Willy Hadikoesoemo on August 12, 2006, in Eureka Springs. They live in Little Rock.

Rebecca Akin received the “Thunderous Applause” award for customer service during her internship at Disney World. She is head of marketing at Akin Industries in Monticello.

Mary Lynn Burns accepted a position as a Ouachita admissions counselor in January.

Meredith “Murph” Holder is pursuing a career in musical theatre, performing locally while she saves money to move to New York City in August.

Princella Smith is a consultant for a lobbying firm and is working on an education initiative funded by Bill and Melinda Gates. She is a visiting fellow for the Independent Women’s Forum, where she writes articles and makes speeches and media appearances.

Laura (Gathright) married Luke Woodward on August 5, 2006, in Conway. Luke is the assistant manager at Whitley’s Floor Coverings in Benton and coaches a Future Panthers football team. Laura is a graphic designer for Dillard’s Corporate Headquarters.

Gary Ross Grant married Julie Katherine (Jenkins) on January 13 in Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock. They live in North Little Rock.

Melanie (Jones) married Wesley Benjamin ('05) on June 17, 2006, in Berry Chapel. They live in Texarkana.

Sarah (Lowrie) married B.J. Brooks on September 9, 2006, in Fort Worth, Texas. They live in Whiteface, Texas, where B.J. is pastor of First Baptist Church.

Brandon Millar married Amy (Corley) on February 3 in Lamar Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas. They live in Euless, Texas.

Jennifer (Walla) married Robert Furrey on December 30, 2006, in Cedar Heights Baptist Church in North Little Rock. They live in North Little Rock.

Dr. Paul and Mary Root celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 7 in Arkadelphia. Paul is professor emeritus of education and Mary worked in the education department as a certification officer.

William “Bill” Clark, May 15, Little Rock. Survived by wife Margaret and children William Clark and Mary Catherine Conner and five grandchildren. Bill was a Ouachita trustee.

Rev. William Lloyd Cloud, Sr., February 7, Arkadelphia. Survived by children Bill, John David Cloud ('70), Mary Ellen Jackson ('66), and James Andrew Cloud ('78), 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Lloyd was a Ouachita trustee and development officer.

George H. Dunklin, May 5, Pine Bluff. Wife Mary Elizabeth died May 15. Survived by two children, George H. Dunklin, Jr. and Deborah Dunklin Tipton. He was a Ouachita trustee.

Dr. James G. Haggard, April 29, Conway. Survived by wife Sarah (Cerauolu '69), son James Haggard, Jr. and daughters Jinny Lind Allen, Nan Keathley and Cynthia Haggard, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was dean of students (1968-70).

Juanita “Manook” Williams, February 2007, Arkadelphia. Survived by son William Owens, daughter Charlotte Neal and 11 grandchildren. “Mom” Williams was a dorm parent.

Dr. Hal Bass, dean of the school of social sciences and professor of political science, was elected president of the Southwestern Social Science Association for 2007-08.

Dr. Trey Berry, professor of history and director of the Pete Parks Center for Regional Studies, received the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) History Award Medal at the Arkansas Division DAR Convention for his impact on the public understanding of regional history.

Dr. Wayne H. Bowen, associate professor of history, wrote a book titled *Undoing Saddam: from Occupation to Sovereignty in Northern Iraq*, published in January by Potomac Books, Inc.

Dr. Stephen Garner, assistant professor of music, delivered a lecture titled “The Life and Legacy of Clarence Dickinson” at William Carey University (WCU) in March.
Dr. Craig Hamilton, the Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music and director of bands, received a surprise presentation during the Ouachita Wind Ensemble concert in March, when the charter members of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma gave him a commissioned composition by Dr. David Gillingham of Central Michigan University. The band members kept the commissioning a secret from Hamilton for four years. Robert Hesse, instructor of music and director of athletic bands, led practices for the Wind Ensemble during odd hours, sometimes off-campus, so that Hamilton would not discover their secret. The composition read, “Commissioned by the Lambda Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi and the Theta Beta Chapter of Tau Beta Sigma in recognition of Dr. Craig V. Hamilton and his years of dedication and service to Ouachita Baptist University and the Ouachita band.” The band played the composition, Mansions of Glory, which is based on the hymn My Jesus I Love Thee, under the direction of Gillingham, the composer, as the closing number for the Wind Ensemble concert. Several alumni members of the Wind Ensemble returned to perform the new composition.

Dr. J. Daniel Hays, the Elma Cobb Professor of Biblical Studies, spoke at Interact 2007: a Conference on Racial Harmony. He also presented a paper titled, “The Role of Cush in Isaiah” to the Southwest region meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. He will begin serving as dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies this summer.

Dr. Ouida Keck, professor of music, and Dr. Lei Cai, assistant professor of music, performed in a duo piano recital in March. The recital, titled “East Meets West,” featured American, American style and Chinese music. Dr. George Keck, the Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music, presented the program commentary. An exhibit titled, “Just Moments: Images and Words from China,” featuring photography by Larry Thompson, associate professor of visual arts, and poetry by Dr. Johnny Wink, the Betty Burton Peck Professor of English, was featured in conjunction with the East Meets West recital. The recital and the exhibit were dedicated to the memory of Dr. Tom Greer, the Clarence and Bennie Sue Anthony Professor of Bible and the Humanities and the chair of the department of English, who passed away in November 2006. Greer promoted study and travel to China among students, faculty and staff, and established a relationship between Ouachita and Beijing University.

Dr. Mary Beth Long, assistant professor of English, was accepted to the Cathedral and Culture: Medieval York National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, held June 18-July 13 at the University of York and York Minster, England.

Dr. David Ozmun, professor of mass communications, received an Award of Distinction at the 13th annual Communicator Awards. His video, “Visit Historic Arkadelphia,” was commissioned by the Clark County Historical Society.

Dr. Mike Reynolds, associate professor of kinesiology and leisure studies, made two presentations at the National Association of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education (NAKPEHE) 2007 National Conference in January.

Dr. Jeff Root, dean of the school of humanities and professor of mass communications, was recently elected chairman of the Arkansas Humanities Council. Root is in his fourth year of service on the council.

Dr. Amy Sonheim, associate professor of English, presented a paper at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association annual conference at Susquehanna University in March. The conference was titled, “A Forum on Race and Ethnicity in the Nineteenth Century.”

Three faculty members were granted tenure by the Board of Trustees in March: Dr. Lei Cai, assistant professor of music; Dr. Tim Hayes, assistant professor of chemistry; and Margaret Reed, assistant professor and director of instructional media services.

Eight faculty members were granted promotions by the Board of Trustees in March: Misti Clark (from instructor to assistant professor of mathematics and computer science), Dr. Tim Hayes (from assistant professor to associate professor of chemistry), Bryan McKinney (from assistant professor to associate professor of business law), Dr. Barbara Pemberton (from assistant professor to associate professor of Christian ministries), Eric Phillips (from associate professor to professor of theatre arts), Dr. Jeff Root (from associate professor to professor of mass communications), Dr. Margo Turner (from assistant professor to associate professor of education) and Tona Wright (from associate professor to professor of kinesiology and leisure studies).

Ouachita hosted a retirement reception for eight faculty and staff members in May. Anne Selph, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, and staff member Larry Sparks were unable to attend. The other retirees are pictured with Dr. Rex Home, president of Ouachita (left to right): Paul Bass, Dr. Bill Downs, Judy Green, Mike Kolb, Joe Franz, and Ronnie McMillan.

photo by Lannie Byrd
Dr. Bill Downs makes an impression on journalism students for more than four decades

One of Ouachita’s longest-tenured faculty members, Dr. William D. Downs Jr., chair of the department of mass communications, retired this year after 41 years of teaching.

On May 5, over 100 of Downs’ former students returned to Ouachita to honor him with a dinner in the Walker Conference Center.

In the weeks leading up to his retirement, alumni and former students sent samples of their work to be displayed during the dinner. They also sent tribute letters, thanking Downs for things that he taught them while they were journalism students at Ouachita.

“For the kind words I’ve received about my photos, I give you the praise,” said Brenda (Dierker) Walker (‘73), who works for Maritz Learning in Fenton, Mo. “We’re here to tell the story, you would say to us. Tell it with words, tell it with pictures.”

Many of the alumni pointed out that Downs had taught them key concepts that helped them to succeed as journalists. “You have taught countless journalists to never forget that our subjects and audiences are, in the final analysis, human beings who deserve to be treated as such,” said Jeff Porter (‘80), data library director of Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. in Columbia, Mo.

Downs said that one of the most memorable things he was able to do as a professor was to take two groups of students on trips around the world, through the help of a grant from Dr. J.D. Patterson (‘47), a Ouachita trustee and dentist from Searcy. Kelly Tonti (‘99) was a member of Downs’ 1998 travel group. “I was chosen to visit Time magazine news bureau offices in 13 different countries around the world,” said Tonti. “It’s something I will never forget and never lose, and I have Dr. Downs to thank for that.”

Several alumni mentioned that they had opportunities to interact with Downs after leaving Ouachita. “Nearly 20 years after leaving the Flenniken office and OBU came a great opportunity—the chance to interview my mentor on my television show about his new book, The Fighting Tigers,” said Melinda (Dodds) Mayo (f/s ‘86), who interviewed Downs on her KATV (Little Rock ABC affiliate) morning program Daybreak to promote the release of his book in 2004.

Downs, who was 75 in January, said that after retirement, he plans to pursue a new research project for a book about farmers in Arkansas during the Great Depression. He is also serving his third term as chairman of the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) Commission. His term expires in 2014. • by Jennifer Byrd

Mass communications and journalism alumni hosted a retirement dinner for Dr. Bill Downs on May 5. Over 100 alumni representing each decade that Downs has been at Ouachita attended the dinner, traveling from New York, Tennessee, Missouri and Little Rock to pay tribute to Downs. (Right) Downs visits with members of his original 1998 “Around the World” trip: Aaron Black (‘98), Kelly Tonti (‘99) and Chris Babb (‘99). photo by Lannie Byrd
The alumni office launched a new online community, www.obualumni.org in May.

The online community is powered by Blackbaud, which supports Ouachita’s current database system, Raiser’s Edge. “Whatever is updated in our alumni community is automatically updated in the alumni profile in our database,” said David Goodman, director of special events and alumni. “Alumni can update their contact information, and they can also decide to make any of that information public or private so that other alumni can contact them more easily.”

Goodman added, “Alumni can easily search for friends and classmates on the enhanced alumni directory. Not only can they search by name and class year, they can also search by city, academic major, social club, sports team and more.”

The alumni staff, along with members of the Former Students Association (FSA) board, decided to pursue other options for the online community when their contract ended in February. “Our former system was basically just a directory of names,” said Goodman. “We wanted to pursue other options.”

The new options for the online community will include personal Web pages (with photos, a blog and a news feed), enhanced online class notes, an event calendar and email for life. Other options coming soon will include online event registration, discussion groups, career networking and alumni chapter pages.

“We worked with a team of alumni for testing and feedback,” said Lauren Land, associate director of alumni and special events. “We did an online survey in the fall and based a lot of our decisions on the features that they wanted to see. We also had a test group that used the community features before we rolled it out widely.”

Goodman said that they explored options from 6-8 companies across the country before choosing Blackbaud. “The FSA board directed us to move forward with a more interactive community, and they tested it before we showed it to the test group,” he said.

Beginning in July, the event registration will be “paperless” for alumni, thanks to another new feature from the online community. Rather than using paper forms that must be mailed to alumni, completed and returned, the alumni office will have online registration forms for each of their Homecoming events. “We wanted to make event registration easier, instantaneous and something alumni can do on their own time,” said Land. She added that alumni would also have the option to call the alumni office to make reservations or to request more information. • by Jennifer Byrd

www.obualumni.org

Talk to Us!

The Ouachita Online Community is built for alumni, by alumni. The more detailed the information posted within the site, the stronger the site will be for everyone.

Please take a few moments to register. Be sure to regularly update your current contact information in the “Alumni Profile” section so both Ouachita and fellow alumni can maintain communication with you.
Following the Gold Tigers luncheon, Athletic Director David Sharp presented Billy Dunn ('52), above center, with a letterman jacket for basketball. Dunn said that after he played for two years (1948-50), all of the basketball scholarships were discontinued due to campus-wide budget cuts. Pictured with Dunn are Chris Babb ('99), athletic development officer, and Rex Nelson ('82).

When you think of Ouachita, what comes to mind? Is it classes, professors and social activities? Is it games, concerts and intramural sports? Is it making new friends or even meeting a spouse?

When I think of Ouachita I remember all these things, but most of all I think of friends and what Ouachita gave to me. In addition to an outstanding education presented in a Christian atmosphere, Ouachita gave me a strong sense of commitment. So now, my thoughts have shifted to “What can I do for Ouachita?”

First and foremost, pray for our university. Pray that God will protect, nurture and guide students. Pray for the faculty and staff, the administration and the Board of Trustees. Pray that God will grant the university the wisdom to lead under His direction. Pray that lives will be changed. Pray.

Second, become involved in the life of Ouachita. Go online to www.obu.edu and cruise around. Attend Homecoming, Tiger Traks or an athletic event. Bring a prospective student to campus.

Finally, give back to Ouachita, both financially and in other ways. Form an alumni chapter in your area. Ask your church to periodically sponsor a “Ouachita Day.” Take up a designated offering.

Reflect upon your time at Ouachita—it might have been one of the best times in your life! Pray that God will direct every facet of the university. Become involved and get reacquainted with Ouachita.

My prayer is that God will be with each and every one of you, and with Ouachita.

The Former Students Association (FSA) recently elected new officers for 2007. The current FSA Advisory Board nominated alumni for a ballot that was sent via email to Ouachita alumni and former students. The FSA members voted for a first vice president, to replace Doug West ('73) of Sheridan, who recently became president of FSA. The members also voted to fill the second vice president position and five advisor positions.

“With a fantastic group of alumni serving on the FSA Advisory Board,”

—David Goodman

Tiffeny Thompson Crow ('95) of Conway was elected first vice president. Jeff Teague ('78) of El Dorado was elected second vice president. Crow and Teague will each serve a two-year term. Sheri McMullan Swindler ('78) of Little Rock, Sharon Francis Pfyer ('93) of Royal and Rebecca Meggs Harris ('84) of Little Rock were each chosen to serve a three-year term as Arkansas advisors for the FSA Advisory Board.

Rick Briscoe ('83) of Allen, Tex., and Christine Roberson Street ('85) of Duncan, Okla., were each chosen to serve a three-year term as out-of-state advisors.
Ouachita dedicated the Rachel Fuller and Ouachita Singers Memorial Amphitheatre on Tuesday, April 10. The service was held in the outdoor amphitheatre, despite a light rain that fell all morning.

The amphitheatre is located in front of McClellan Hall and serves as a permanent tribute to the 25 students, faculty and family members who were involved in the 1999 crash of American Airlines Flight 1420. The members of the Ouachita Singers were on the final leg of a return trip from Europe where they had presented concerts in churches, schools and concert halls in Germany and Austria. Their flight crashed in Little Rock on June 1, 1999. Two members of the Ouachita group, James Harrison and Rachel Fuller, were fatally injured in the crash. Harrison was a senior church music major, and Fuller was the 14-year-old daughter of the Singers’ director, Dr. Charles Fuller, and his wife Cindy, who served as the accompanist for the group.

During the dedication service, the current group of Ouachita Singers performed a piece that was written in memory of Rachel and James. The music for the piece was written by Craig Courtney, with lyrics by J. Paul Williams.

Speakers for the dedication service included Dr. Rex M. Horne Jr., president; Mishasha Perkins Parker, a 2001 graduate who was a member of the 1999 group of Ouachita Singers; Dr. David Ozmun, professor of mass communications who also accompanied the 1999 Singers tour; William H. “Buddy” Sutton, former trustee and lead patron for the building project; and Fuller, dean of the school of fine arts.

Earlier in the semester, Fuller announced that he would step down as dean in June. He plans to pursue a master’s degree in theology from Truett Seminary and eventually become a chaplain or crisis counselor.

Fuller’s wife Cindy said that she believes that God is using the loss of their daughter Rachel to prompt Fuller’s decision.

“This decision has been a long time coming,” she said. “We’ve both prayed for God to use our lives, our struggles, our pain and loss for His good.”

Mrs. Fuller said that she believes that God is at work in this career decision even though it has been a “difficult decision” because of Fuller’s “love for Ouachita.” Fuller has served at Ouachita for 14 years—three years as dean and 11 as choral director.

“I think my experience as dean and choral director, and my earlier experience working in public schools and churches have given me a wealth of experience in dealing with lots of different kinds of people,” he said.

“I will no longer be at Ouachita, although Mrs. Fuller will continue,” Fuller said. “I’ll be traveling to Waco and staying there only during the week. We would love to stay in Arkadelphia after my school work, but we won’t know about that until that time comes.”

His wife said that she was excited about Fuller’s new ministry. “I hope to be a part of this ministry as well,” she said. • by Jennifer Byrd and Holland Powell
Global Impact
Three alumni minister to a myriad of cultures in Singapore

Alumni often comment about how they find other Ouachita friends wherever they go. Three alumni serving in Singapore discovered Ouachita’s influence reaches to the other side of the world.

Hua Kee “Matthew” Lim (’82), Alan Moore (’84) and Mark McGowan (’00) serve together at International Baptist Church in Singapore.

“I told God I would go wherever he would send me,” said McGowan, who has served as pastor to youth and young adults at IBC for five years. “I was not thinking that it would mean going halfway around the world.”

McGowan met his Canadian wife MySan in Singapore in 2004. He was able to help Moore’s family adjust to their move in January by serving as youth minister to Moore’s oldest children, Austin (17) and Emily (15). “I was able to explain some of the differences and similarities of life in Singapore and Arkansas,” said McGowan.

Moore served as a minister of music in Conway before coming to IBC as worship pastor. He said that his wife Lynda had been an encouragement. “If it wasn’t for her willingness to follow God’s leading, we wouldn’t be here,” he said. He added that his youngest child Hannah (7) had made the easiest adjustment. “With all things considered, I think we are settling quite well,” said Moore. “Our new church has been very gracious in making us feel welcome here.”

Having a few familiar faces also helped. Lim, who joined the staff of IBC in 1996 and now serves as pastor for members’ care, sang with Moore in the university choir at Ouachita. The accompanist for the sanctuary choir was another music major at Ouachita, Hwaikhee Seow (’75).

“Most expat [expatriate] staff adjust well to Singapore,” said Lim. “It is the easiest place to settle in Asia. There are many international schools and fast-food places, like Burger King and McDonald’s.”

More than 40 nationalities are represented at IBC. “In Singapore, you cannot go anywhere without seeing many different cultures,” said McGowan.

All three alumni said that their experiences at Ouachita had helped prepare them for ministry in Singapore. “Being at Ouachita helped me relate to Americans at IBC,” said Lim. He and his wife Lydia have a son, Wesley, who will graduate from Stanford University this summer.

“I consider OBU an important step in my journey to Singapore.”

—Mark McGowan

(Clockwise, from left): Mark McGowan with his youth group, Matthew Lim and family and Alan Moore and family.
Events:

Thursday
- TIGER TUNES BEGINS

Friday
- 4-Person Golf Scramble
- Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet

Saturday
- Club and Organization Alumni Drop-ins
- NEW! Alumni Tailgate Party!
- Homecoming Football Game

Look for more information coming this summer.

Homecoming
Ouachita Baptist University
October 8-13, 2007
From the Archives: Homecoming 1979

Evelyn Bowden ('30), Hazel Rogers Cooper ('19), Maude Wright ('28) and Frances Crawford ('18) re-enact their “glory days” during an alumni reunion for Homecoming 1979. The picture originally appeared in the February 1980 alumni newsletter. In response to several requests through our Ouachita Circle readership survey, we will once again feature pictures from our archives on the back cover of the Circle.