

TheSignal

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More than 500 freshmen join campus

By **AMANDA LIKE**
Signal Writer

Ouachita is showing that though it may be getting older, it is not missing a step when it comes to bringing in freshmen. In the last two years, Ouachita has seen a significant increase in the number of freshmen enrolled, filling up dorms, classrooms and chapel seats.

"Our first chapel brought about a pleasant problem — there were no more chapel seats," said Dr. Keldon

Henley, vice president for student services and dean of students. "I'm not asking for volunteers to skip chapel, but it is wonderful to see a chapel filled with students."

This year's new students exceed 500. Many returning students wondered if Ouachita could house all the incoming students, but Henley said the university had it well in hand.

"We watched the applications carefully as they trickled in over the summer," he said. "It was a close call, but we were able to fit every-

one from chapel seats, classrooms and dorms. We noticed the trend in applications and were able to anticipate a much larger freshman class."

Even with a larger freshman class, students have not noticed much change, except a few longer lines at mealtime.

"My biggest class is diction, and that's only 15 people," said freshman musical theatre major Bethany Gere. "I haven't felt lost in the crowds, and it's fun hanging out in one another's dorm after classes. Even lines in the

Caf or Chic aren't bad if you can hit them at the right time."

Bigger freshman classes seem to fit the campus's ambiance for this fall's celebration of Ouachita's 125th anniversary.

"This fall we have 1,587 students on campus, many being freshman and transfer students," said Lori Motl, director of admissions counseling. "That many students on campus shows that Ouachita is on the

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HEATHER ELLIS/TheSignal

PRESIDENT DR. Rex Horne speaks during the annual convocation chapel on Tuesday. This year's convocation chapel was part of Founder's Day.

Organizations offer students various service opportunities

By **SAM CUSHMAN**
Signal Writer

Service is an idea to which every Ouachitonian commits themselves to. President Dr. Rex Horne often speaks to the student body about being difference makers, and Ouachita's dedication to service is something that often makes a difference in the lives of students and community members.

"We commit to service by enrolling as students here," said Reuben Cash, a senior accounting and business administration major. "We have been extremely blessed to attend this institution and we have a duty to give back to others because of it."

Cash, a member of the Tiger Serve Day (TSD) leadership team, believes the best thing about TSD is it empowers the students to give back to the community.

"TSD is the most visible and effective day of servant leadership in Arkadelphia," he said. "On this day, the campus comes together as a team with the goal of service in mind, which exemplifies the spirit of OBU in a special way."

According to Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center for Family and Community, TSD is "hands down the signature event." On Saturday, Sept. 24, and Saturday, March 31, 2012, Ouachita students, faculty and other staff will hit the streets of Arkadelphia and engage in a variety of tasks from house cleaning to landscaping.

Jenna Lindsey, a senior kinesiology major who participated in last spring's TSD, wanted a way to reach out and get involved in the community. With a group of fellow students, she went to a widower's home and scrubbed the outside of his house, raked leaves, moved large branches and cleaned up his property.

"The best part of my day was when we went into Mr. Hickman's house and had a gospel worship hour," Lindsey said. "A few guys were on guitar, one was on the bass and Mr. Hickman played his harmonica and sang hymns. It was truly a [testament] to his love for the Lord."

As is seen with Lindsey, the relationships Ouachitonians establish in their commitment to service are what truly bless and reward them.

And there are more ways than just TSD in which students can do their part for the community. America Reads/America Counts is one such opportunity, where students meet with an elementary student in either first or third grade and tutor them in either math or reading.

"In our lessons the children and I read books, practice spelling and writing and we do lots of fun activities together," said Katelyn Mustain, a senior dietetics major who tutors at America Reads.

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Founder's Day celebrates Ouachita's beginnings

By **CHELSEA BYERS**
Signal Writer

September brought beautiful weather and saw students getting back into the world of school-work and studying. But something else was brewing around campus; a group of faculty members gathered to plan a momentous occasion called Founder's Day. The committee organized an inventive agenda to make it a memorable day on campus.

Founder's Day was held Tuesday as part of a year-long celebration of the 1886 founding of Ouachita. The goal of this gathering was to honor those who brought the school into existence, as well as celebrate Ouachita's 125th anniversary.

The day's schedule included activities so both alumni and students could get involved. The Blog-A-Thon returned after its debut last year. Current students and alumni are able to write blogs about Ouachita during September and link them to the school's webpage. The committee also is asking everyone to put the Founder's Day blog graphic as his or her profile picture on Facebook to spread the word about the blog event.

Also, people are able to use Twitter as a means

to acknowledge the event. This year, a new idea was to use a tweetfall, a live stream of tweets related to the 125th anniversary. The tweetfall was run in Cone Bottoms during Founder's Day.

"I'm excited to see how [the Blog-a-Thon] increases from last year," said Lori Motl, director of admissions counseling. "I want to see a lot more participation this year. I'm excited about the tweetback, to see what kind of neat conversations we can get started about Ouachita."

Part of the commemorative day was the annual convocation chapel in Jones Performing Arts Center (JPAC). Special guests included family members of former Ouachita presidents. A special appearance was made by family members of the university's first president, J. W. Conger.

The service emphasized the school's legacy and academic mission and goals. Afterwards, members of the Ouachita Student Foundation hosted a luncheon and gave campus tours to the special guests.

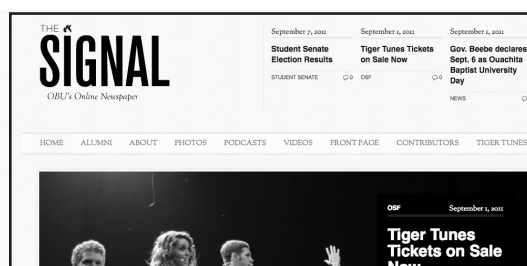
The Jones Performing Arts Center lobby hosted several displays. The first was a historical display with memorabilia from



NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

GRACE JOHNSON, a senior vocal performance major, performs during the Founder's Day Musical Showcase.

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