

The Signal

Ouachita Baptist University www.obusignal.com

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Volume 120, Issue 3

Arkadelphia, Ark.

Then & Now: Homecoming

By **TANNER WARD**
News/Features Editor

Homecoming week now is synonymous with Tiger Tunes, OcTiger Fest and the homecoming football game — much different from Homecoming weeks of years past, which were celebrated with a parade down Main Street and the Battle of the Ravine football game.

"The parade was a big deal in the 50s and 60s," said Lauren Land, internal alumni director. "We had it until [the late 80s], when Tiger Tunes joined Homecoming week."

Land said the parade was discontinued because clubs did not have the time to prepare for Tiger Tunes and build a float at the same time.

"The parade was great, but with Tiger Tunes and the expense of building the floats and the time it took to build, it became obvious that the clubs' time and efforts were better invested in Tiger Tunes than trying to do both," said Dr. Deborah Root, chair of the department of

mass communications and an EEE alumna.

The parade route was along Main Street through downtown. It was held the Saturday morning before the football game and featured the marching band along with floats.

"We spent the week before the parade building the floats at night at the fairgrounds," Root said. "And these floats weren't just a sign on the side of a flat-bed trailer. They were huge, with moving parts. We hand-made everything, just like you see in the parades on TV."

Each club's nominee for Homecoming queen rode on the floats before making their way to the stadium for the Homecoming ceremonies.

"The sad years were the years that it rained," Root said. "You had worked so hard on your float, and then you didn't even get to show it off. Plus it's cold in November, so those nights at the fairgrounds weren't too fun."

The parade preceded the football

see **HOMECOMING**, p. 3



NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

GOV. MIKE Huckabee, Ouachita alumnus, speaks in chapel Tuesday morning. The former governor of Arkansas and presidential candidate and current Fox News television personality was a featured speaker in the university's 125th anniversary celebration. While on campus, Huckabee attended several classes and a luncheon and spoke to groups on campus.

Children's production 'Rocks' theater

By **LACEY BROOKS**

News Bureau

The Ouachita Theatre Arts Department will present the children's show *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.* as its first production of the 2011-2012 season. Performances will be held in Verser Theater Sept. 22-24 and 26-27 at 7 p.m. with a matinee performance Sept. 25 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 each.

The stage version of the Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning cartoon series follows a young teacher named Tom who nervously anticipates his first day in the classroom. When he turns on his TV for a few minutes, he is swept away by a flood of his own "Schoolhouse Rock" memories. Tom says, "In all my years of serious training to be a teacher, they forgot one important thing ... that learning should be fun."

"I'm thrilled that we have the opportunity to bring the fun-filled, exciting and educational experience of *Schoolhouse Rock* to a new generation," said associate professor of theatre arts Mary Handiboe, who is directing the production. "I'm also excited that my generation will have an opportunity to revisit the music that made learning so much fun in the 70s."

"I'm thrilled that we have the opportunity to bring the fun-filled, exciting and educational experience of *Schoolhouse Rock* to a new generation.

— **Mary Handiboe, DIRECTOR**

Handiboe has been involved with nearly 60 productions at Ouachita as an actor, director, designer or faculty mentor. Mary Worthen, assistant professor emerita of music, will partner with Handiboe to serve as music director for *Schoolhouse Rock*.

A free show will be performed for Peake Elementary students on the mornings of Thursday, Sept. 22, and Friday, Sept. 23.

"I feel they will definitely enjoy it," said Heather White, a junior musical theatre major from Houston, Texas, who plays Dori in the play. "Even if the children we perform for have never heard [the songs], they will immediately love the energy behind them."

Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr. was originally conceived and directed by Scott Ferguson in Chicago. The book is also by Ferguson along with Kyle Hall and George Keating.

Tickets may be purchased at the Jones Performing Arts Center Box Office weekdays from 1-5 p.m. and one hour before show times. Tickets may also be purchased with credit card by phone or

online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice.

Each current Ouachita student may receive one free ticket to the show by presenting his or her ID card at the box office. ■

Freshman group latest Tunes addition

By **SAM CUSHMAN**

Signal Writer

Tiger Tunes is one of the most anticipated events in Ouachita campus life. Not only does it provide a medium to raise funds for student scholarships, but it allows students to work together to practice and perform shows for the cause. This year, Tiger Tunes will be marked by the addition of a freshman group, something that has not happened in the show for a long time.

"The idea originated in a conversation last fall after we realized we had so much interest from freshmen and limited opportunity for their participation," said Rebecca Jones, the Ouachita Student Foundation (OSF) sponsor for the group and instructor of speech communication.

"Because it seemed that the interest was so high last year, Student Services, Campus Ministries and OSF staff and students met to consider the possibility of adding a freshmen group to Tunes. We thought there would be a strong response and we

were really excited by the number of students who decided to participate."

The freshmen will be allowed to compete in Tunes because they are officially recognized as a campus entity and they have a university sponsor, unlike the Fourth Floor Guys group in the 2009 show. Their theme will be the Oregon Trail.

The group includes about 70 freshmen and they practice Monday through Wednesday on campus from 8-11 p.m. and on Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. They also have a weekend work day.

"I think it's incredible for more freshmen to be able to participate," said David Sypult, a sophomore business major and member of Kappa Chi. "It gives the Kappas more competition and cause to make our show even better."

Although Sypult did not sign up last year, two of his friends did and were unable to participate because of the limited opportunities available for freshmen.

Brandon Vining, a freshman his-



JASON PULLANO/TheSignal

JUNIOR SAM Cummins helps lead choreography for the freshman Tiger Tunes group in Walker Conference Center. About 70 freshmen are in the group.

tory and secondary education major who is participating in the freshman group, has never been to a Tiger Tunes show.

"After talking with people from Ouachita and seeing it online ... I couldn't resist [the opportunity]," he said.

Vining also felt compelled to participate after he learned that OSF uses the money for other students.

"As someone who is here because of very generous scholarships, I know the value of things like Tiger

see **FRESHMAN SHOW**, p. 3