

The Signal

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Knight named dean of natural sciences

By **JORDAN CAMPBELL**
Signal Writer

Dr. Joe Jeffers will step down as dean of the Patterson School of Natural Sciences this summer and Dr. Tim Knight, professor of biology, will be taking his place.

"Dr. Jeffers has done an outstanding job as dean of the Patterson School," said Dr. Stan Poole, vice president for academic affairs. "He worked with the faculty to create a strong sense of identity and exceptional programs for the school. In particular, he expanded opportunities for both students and faculty to be involved in research. He has been very deliberate in hiring faculty who understand that teaching comes first but research opportunities are also essential."

Jeffers has been teaching at Ouachita for 40 years and was the founding dean of the School of Natural Sciences.

"In a lot of ways, he is such a legend at Ouachita now because he was a student and spent nearly all of his adult life as a wonderful professor," said Dr. Rex Horne, Ouachita's president. "You can see the growth of the school over the years and the fine standing it has in graduate schools, medical schools and the workplace. No one could have done a better job than Dr. Jeffers has done as our first dean."

Knight is a longtime professor in the School of Natural Sciences. He has also held many leadership roles on campus, including serving as department chair and chairing several university committees.

He is currently the university coordinator of advising and assessment, a program dedicated to helping advisors better communicate with students and to creating a system by which faculty track student success.

He understands and knows his own area very well, but his ability to work with others across campus is also invaluable for a dean, according to Poole.

He received his B.S. in biology from Ouachita in 1984 and both his M.S. in 1986 and his Ph.D. in 1989 from University of Texas in Dallas in Environmental Sciences/Aquatic Toxicology.

"A proven professor, I would say students speak highly of him," Horne said. "They say he gets the material into their hands and in their minds but also wants them to understand why it is important. He is a young man who has years to continue to develop the Patterson School around its strengths."

Jeffers will continue teaching and is looking forward to the fresh ideas a new dean will bring.

"The biggest perk is that I will be spending more time dealing with students as opposed to administration," Jeffers said. "Sometimes you just need new energy in a position, and I have no doubt Knight will deliver that energy and he can take it to the next level."

Knight said he does not expect too many new challenges as he takes over the position.

"Becoming dean is just a different way to serve students and other faculty members," Knight said. "There will be a lot of similarities between the chairs I've held and dean, but it's really just a different position from which to serve." ■



CALLIE STEPHENS/Archive

TRIPP THE Tiger, Ouachita's official mascot, helps the student section cheer during last year's Battle of the Ravine game against the Henderson State University Reddies.

Preparing for battle Campus 'reddies' for annual game

By **ADAM WEBB**
Signal Writer

This year's Battle of the Ravine game is sure to be just as exciting as any in the past, and along with the game comes an entire week of activities.

Each day of the week will be sponsored by a different pair of social clubs. Monday night Beta Beta and Eta Alpha Omega will host Monday

Night Football together on the lawn.

On Tuesday, EEE and Chi Delta will host a flag football game pitting the faculty and staff against students near Grant Plaza. They will also present Mr. Tiger.

Wednesday night Kappa Chi and Chi Rho Phi will host inflatables and dinner at Grant Plaza.

Thursday night will feature a pep rally at 6 p.m. followed by the annual Rho Sigma bonfire around 7 p.m.

After Refuge, Tri Chi will serve hot chocolate at Grant Plaza.

Rally on the Ravine, sponsored by the Clark County Community Committee, will be Friday from 4-6 p.m. Various social clubs will be participating.

Saturday includes a tailgate starting at 11 a.m. on the Henderson intramural fields, followed by the

see **BATTLE**, p. 2

Offering Helping Hands at Thanksgiving

By **NATE PEACE**
Signal Writer

Sodexo and the Elrod Center are sponsoring Helping Hands Across America on campus, asking students, faculty and staff to donate non-perishable foods for Arkadelphia families in need this Thanksgiving.

"For some of our neighbors in Arkadelphia, this is a hard time," said Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center, in a campus e-mail. "There will not be enough food for them to have a Thanksgiving meal. Many are out of jobs, struggling to pay bills and dealing with illness."

In its sixth year at Ouachita, the food drive runs until Nov. 15. Donations can be dropped off in the Commons.

Sodexo, Ouachita's food service provider, is donating 50 turkeys for the baskets and marketing the program.

Volunteers with the Elrod Center will assemble the baskets and distribute them to families on Nov. 21. Sodexo and the Elrod Center will partner with Light-house Ministries and local schools to determine which families receive the baskets.

"We depend on students, faculty and staff to bring the food and assemble and deliver the baskets," Duvall said.

Duvall suggested several ways for students to get involved. She said students could eat out one meal less this week and use the money they saved to purchase several



CALLIE STEPHENS/Archive

A STUDENT loads food baskets into a car to deliver during the Helping Hands Across America food drive last year.

canned food items. She also said anyone can volunteer to help assemble and distribute the baskets. Finally, she said students can talk about the drive, spread awareness and encourage others to participate.

Though Helping Hands Across America provides just one meal to the families over the Thanksgiving holiday, Duvall revealed the importance of that one meal.

"It's just one meal, one time a year but a really nice meal during the holidays can bring comfort and a bit of hope for the future," she said. "Sometimes that's enough."

For more information or to get involved, contact Duvall at duvallj@obu.edu or Jennifer Fuller, Sodexo's marketing coordinator, at fullerj@obu.edu. ■

Items Needed:

CANNED ITEMS

- Corn
- Green Beans
- Sweet Potatoes
- Gravy
- Fruit
- Cranberry Sauce
- Evaporated Milk

BOXED ITEMS

- Instant Potatoes
- Mac & Cheese
- Instant Stuffing
- Cornbread Mix/Rolls
- Jello/Pudding Mix
- Dessert Mix

Home-baked bread or dessert accepted Nov. 21 at 8:30 a.m.