

The Signal

Ouachita Baptist University www.obusignal.com

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Volume 120, Issue 16

Arkadelphia, Ark.

Healthy Relationships Week more inclusive

By **LEAH GARAVELLI**
Editor-in-Chief

Healthy Relationships Week is the new, more inclusive name for Dating, Engagement and Marriage Week. The name was changed to be more open to single students, some of whom felt the week was for couples only.

"We've changed the name three times," said Ian Cosh, vice president for community and international engagement. "We went from Marriage and

Family Week ... to Dating, Engagement and Marriage Week ... but people still thought it wasn't free enough because dating sounds a lot more formal."

Judy Duvall, assistant director of the Elrod Center, said dating has not always had this connotation.

"The 'dating culture' at OBU has certainly changed from the time my husband Scott and I were going to school here," she said. "At that time, it seemed like girls and guys went on dates

without the fear of being labeled 'in a relationship.'"

The name is not the only thing that has changed about the week. In another effort to be more inclusive, an interracial couples panel has been added to the schedule. Six students will share their experiences of being in an interracial relationship.

"We had feedback from the ROMS [Reaching Out to Multicultural Students] group who made

see **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WEEK**, p. 2



NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

SIXTEEN MISS Ouachita Baptist University contestants pose with their awards at the pageant on Feb. 25 at Jones Performing Arts Center.

Thomson crowned Miss OBU Represents Ouachita at Miss Arkansas in July

By **STEPHANIE HAMPTON**
News Bureau

MaryLacey Thomson, a sophomore musical theatre major from Plano, Texas, was crowned Miss Ouachita Baptist University 2012 on Feb. 25 at Jones Performing Arts Center. She will represent Ouachita at the 2012 Miss Arkansas Pageant July 8-14 in Hot Springs, Ark.

"I am absolutely humbled and honored to represent Ouachita as Miss OBU 2012 on this campus, as well as at Miss Arkansas this summer," Thomson said. "It is amazing to be able to give back and serve a school that has done so much."

Thomson is a member of the EEE Women's Social Club where she serves as co-Tiger Tunes director. She is also a member of the Ouachita Sounds vocal ensemble.

"It is so exciting to have the opportunity to share my platform, BrainPOWER, a fundraising organization associated with the Brain Aneurysm Foundation," Thomson said. "I am looking forward to the many opportunities that will be available as Miss OBU to do so, including planning and hosting a one mile fun-run in September, which is Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month. I

see **MISS OBU**, p. 3



NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

MARYLACEY THOMSON is crowned Miss OBU 2012 by Miss OBU 2011, Kristen Glover.

Biology students travel to D.C., present research to Congress

By **KELSEY KEARNEY**
Signal Writer

Three Ouachita students, along with Dr. Lori Hensley, assistant professor of biology, will travel to Washington, D.C., in April to present research to congressmen and senators on Capitol Hill at the annual "Posters on the Hill" event, sponsored by the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR). Ouachita's team is among 74 presenters selected from a pool of 850 applicants.

The CUR is a group of affiliated colleges, universities and individuals whose focus is to provide and influence research opportunities for faculty and students at all institutions that serve undergraduates. CUR believes faculty members enhance their teaching and contribution to society by remaining active in research and involving undergraduates in research.

The event will allow the students to display posters with their research findings at the Capitol and explain the importance of this research to the country's lawmakers and other federal government officials.

"It's kind of like Scholar's Day, but for Congress," said Cara McKinney, a senior biology major.

McKinney, along with Vikki Bennett and Nolan West, have been conducting research on Ewing's Sarcoma, an aggressive childhood bone cancer. The students worked last summer and this school year with Hensley, continuing years of research between Ouachita and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

"Ewing's Sarcoma is a childhood bone cancer," said West, a senior biology major. "The drug we're testing, Ajulemic Acid, has been shown to kill these cancer cells without negatively affecting surrounding tissues. My research was to see whether the drug could slow or stop the metastasis (movement) of the cancer to other parts of the body."

Each student had their own branch of research for the disease.

"My research was to see whether the drug

see **POSTERS ON THE HILL**, p. 2

Baptist Missionaries Banquet marks 40th year

By **SAM CUSHMAN**
Signal Writer

Ouachita held the 40th Annual Arkansas Baptist Associational Missionaries Banquet in Walker Conference Center on Feb. 22, hosted by President Dr. Rex Horne and his wife Becky. Established in 1972 by then-President Dr. Daniel R. Grant and then-Vice President for Development Dr. Ben Elrod, Ouachita holds the banquet to show appreciation for the work of associational missionaries who serve in the 42 regional associations of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"The first banquet was begun when the forerunner of the Pruett School, the department of religion, had a meeting where the associational missionaries were invited to come, and they were promoting the beginning of a pastor's conference," said Phil Hardin, assistant to the president for administration. "The Pruett School puts on a pastors conference every September. And when that was being initiated and the associational mis-

sionaries were being told about it, they were invited to campus to learn about it. In combination with that meeting, Dr. Grant and Dr. Elrod sponsored the dinner at which time they made this first award and began the program in 1972."

There are 42 of these associations in the state of Arkansas, and an association missionary is hired to help guide and lead their efforts. They are regional groupings of churches who cooperate together to do local missions in their area and are affiliated with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. They will often sponsor ministries in their area for the local churches to be involved in collaborative efforts to host backyard bible clubs, vacation bible schools, disaster relief programs, area wide revivals and training for people in those churches.

"The purpose of having the banquet is for Ouachita to tell these people that we appreciate what they're doing," Hardin said "Their work with the associations, and by extension all the churches of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, strengthens their work and their ministries. One feature

of the banquet is to present an award to one of the associational missionaries who has been identified as doing outstanding and exemplary work in recent years. This is our way of saying thank you."

At the banquet, Horne spoke to the group of associational missionaries and commended them for their efforts for the state of Arkansas.

"This is such an important time to be serving the Lord in the way that he calls us and directs us," he said. "And he has called all of you [associational missionaries] to have a particular ministry and a close relationship with the local church. There is no organization in God's Kingdom more important than the local church, and you've had the opportunity to deal with a number of [them]. So, the responsibility that you bear is a burden that you share that not many people can understand, so we thank you for the work that you do, and we commend you for continued service in God's kingdom."

see **BANQUET**, p. 2