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MALLORY GROSS/TheSignal

PAUL HUENEFELD, Trey Baldwin and Kelly Boggus participate in a previous 10-Minute Play Festival.

Ten Minute Plays

Festival is student written, directed, acted

By **NOAH HUTCHINSON**
Signal Writer

Ten minutes is not enough time to listen to “Bohemian Rhapsody” two times through, although it is about the average time for a Las Vegas drive through wedding. Most movies have close to 12 times that amount of time to tell a story, but come March 10, the casts of All Night Theatre’s 10 minute plays will try to tell several equally great stories in that small amount of time.

A select number out of 17 student written plays will be performed by casts who will audition on Thursday, March 8, rehearse the next day and be on stage that following Saturday.

“Our annual 10-Minute Play Festival, also known as All Night Theatre, is a student-led event that showcases

original plays written, directed and acted primarily by OBU students,” said Mary Handiboe, associate professor of theatre arts. “The festival is organized and run by a student triumvirate, which currently consists of Garret Whitehead, Jordan Miller and Blaine Surber.”

The word triumvirate comes from ancient Rome, meaning a group of three equally powerful leaders all working together. The triumvirate will be the ones running the event, doing everything from casting the shows to picking the scripts that will be performed. Seventeen student-written scripts were submitted, but not all of them will make the cut.

“The triumvirate calls for original scripts to be submitted by late February. Identity of the play-

wrights are removed from the scripts, which are then judged on a point system by a secret panel of faculty and staff,” Handiboe said. “After each judge returns his or her play package to the triumvirate, all scores are calculated to determine the top five to seven plays to be performed at the festival.”

The fact that multiple plays will be performed that evening helps it cater to a wider audience by offering some diversity in the kinds of stories being told.

There will be lots of different kinds of plays. There will be anything from fantasy to slapstick to even one very dramatic one.

— **Garret Whitehead, PRODUCER**

moment.’ The directors are not chosen until the week of the event, auditions are not held until two days before the event and the actors will not even meet the directors until the night before they perform.

“Every year during the week of the festival, student directors are chosen from a pool of applicants, with our theatre majors given first preference,” Handiboe said. “The triumvirate then holds auditions on the Thursday evening before the festival and posts a general cast list. Students and directors arrive at the theatre on Friday evening to find out who is specifically cast in which plays and to start rehearsals. The plays are pro-

see **10-MINUTE PLAYS**, p. 2

McBeth family donates artifacts to library archive for research

By **NOAH HUTCHINSON**
Signal Writer

It is not often that someone turns away the Smithsonian in favor of a small Baptist college in Arkansas. However, when it came time to decide the fate of musical giant and former professor Dr. William Francis McBeth’s manuscripts, notes and research materials, that was the choice he made. After McBeth passed away this year, a collection of materials concerning his life and work was donated to Ouachita’s archives so future students would be able to look not only at the work he produced, but also get a sense of the man it took to produce it.

“The significance of the collection is related to the great importance of Dr. McBeth as an American composer and as one of the most distinguished professors OBU ever had,” said Dr. George Keck, former chairman of the music division. “The materials wouldn’t be significant if not for McBeth’s importance in music.”

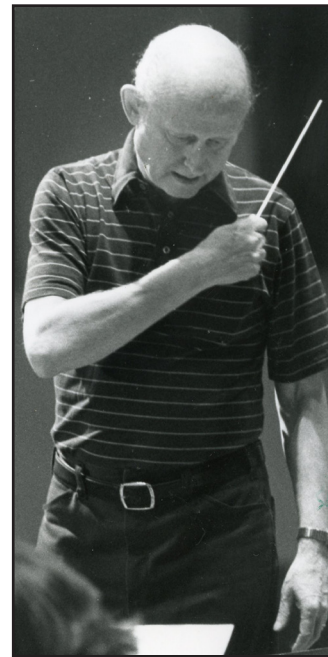
In his time, McBeth was one of the few serious composers who wanted to write music for bands. The popularity of televised collegiate football was growing and so was the demand for music composed for wind ensemble.

“When Dr. McBeth was in school, almost nobody who was composing was doing anything for bands,” said Dr. Ray Granade, professor of history and director of library services. “Mac was thoughtful about his music. He and his friends saw that this was almost virgin territory and decided to write band music.”

McBeth wrote music for America’s best collegiate bands, and many high school bands began to pick up his music. He quickly began to make a name for himself. Eventually, he was traveling around the world to conduct his music.

“People knew his name, and through his name, they knew Ouachita,” Granade said. “He didn’t use OBU as a rung on a ladder. He stayed here, and his music grew out of this environment. When it came time for him to retire, I approached him about the archives.”

Because McBeth had stayed at Ouachita and because Ouachita would allow access to future researchers that would not be allowed if it were at a larger institution, Granade suggested that McBeth



ARCHIVE/TheSignal
Dr. William Francis McBeth

see **MCBETH**, p. 3

Biology research may help treat tuberculosis, leprosy

By **SAM CUSHMAN**
Signal Writer

A group of Ouachita freshmen biology students are participating in a lab isolating and characterizing bacteriophages. The lab and class is part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Alliance grant, a program designed to enhance the undergraduate biology experience of students by providing them with an authentic research experience. The freshmen enrolled in this program captured these phages from samples they took from soil and by isolating and characterizing their DNA, they are able to analyze it to find its genes.

“At the beginning of last semester, we went out and collected a soil sample,” said Dustin Walter, a freshman biology major. “We were looking for a phage that infects a certain type of bacteria called microbacteria. And what we were doing throughout last semester was trying to isolate the phage

from the soil and purify it until we had just one type of phage that reproduced really well.”

The research done in this lab will be used to help combat diseases that are growing increasingly resistant to antibiotic treatment.

“This is the little cousin to the bacteria that causes leprosy and tuberculosis,” said Dr. Nathan Reyna, assistant professor of biology. “The idea behind it is that these phages are killing this organism. If you can understand how viruses kill this particular bacteria, you can use it as a treatment for tuberculosis and leprosy.”

This program requires students to be actively engaged, though they are mostly responsible for their own work.

“Howard Hughes [designed] this lab to have a lot of self involvement” Walter said. “You have to be in charge of what you do. [Dr. Reyna and Dr. Plymale] are there to oversee the lab, and if you have any questions you can ask them and they can point you in the right direction, but ultimate-

ly, you’re the one who chooses what you have to do each day and how much you have to work and what you have to do to meet your deadline.”

According to Reyna, the process is an “active inquiry based lab.”

“The students are actually doing their own thing with one goal in mind,” he said. “That is to identify a new bacteria phage. [These phages] live in the soil, and there are literally billions of them that haven’t been discovered. So there’s a good chance that a student can go out and get a piece of soil, isolate it, go through the processes to characterize and learn what’s there and it’ll be a phage that no one has discovered before.”

Last year, Reyna — along with Dr. Ruth Plymale, assistant professor of biology — went to a Howard Hughes Medical Institute facility to receive training for this lab. They learned the necessary procedures to conduct the lab and teach the

see **SCIENCE**, p. 2