

The Signal

Ouachita Baptist University www.obusignal.com

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Volume 120, Issue 23

Arkadelphia, Ark.

Ravine Day project to clean beneath bridge

By **NOAH HUTCHINSON**
Signal Writer

The ravine between the Commons and the Student Village is full of weeds. The bridge over the ravine is new, clean and well kept, but underneath it lies a chasm of untended foliage. Ravine Day, a student work day scheduled for tomorrow at 2 p.m., hopes to change that by recruiting student volunteers to retool it altogether.

"The ravine is an eyesore," said

Dr. Wesley Kluck, vice president of institutional advancement. "You've got this really pretty walkway, and then you look down and see weeds and debris. It's not very attractive. Last year, Dr. Tim Knight coordinated with Arbor Day and started Ravine Day to help develop the ravine into an educational location, as well as something of aesthetic beauty."

Knight, chair of biological sci-

ences, organized this event for the first time last year, and put his Tiger Serve Day team to work on a similar project in the ravine.

"Last year we tied Ravine Day into Arbor Day, and planted a lot of trees down there," said Knight. "Unfortunately, most of them were killed off by the drought. The goal is to turn the ravine into something that we as a campus can be proud of. If

it looks good, and it's something that people will use, maybe people wouldn't throw trash over the side of the bridge."

Kluck, Knight and other faculty members got together and drew up a plan for how they would like the ravine to be laid out.

"We want a student-friendly place that is nice, would be something nice to drive by and look at and just be a good place to hang out and grill

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JUDITH BRIZUELA/Courtesy

JUDITH BRIZUELA works with an orphan at Casa Hogar Luz in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Brizuela was the project leader for SIFE's partnership with the orphanage this year, which included creating a sponsorship program for the children.

SIFE partners with orphanages, entrepreneurs in Honduras

By **EMILY TERRY**
Signal Writer

In January, one dean and three students embarked on a journey to Latin America's third-poorest country — Honduras — with hopes of taking Students in Free Enterprise's (SIFE) mission of service and sustainability across national boundaries.

Dr. Bryan McKinney, dean of the Hickingbotham School of Business and the university's legal counsel, began exploring options to connect in Honduras last year.

"We'd previously focused our efforts within Arkansas, but it seemed that most of the most competitive teams at SIFE Nationals had a meaningful international project," McKinney said.

As plans unfolded, Honduras became not only a possibility, but also a sensible choice for the international project. Ties between Honduras and Ouachita were already in place and a flight to Honduras is relatively accessible, according to McKinney.

The first of the three SIFE projects in the third-world nation is through a larger organization, the World Gos-

pel Outreach (WGO) in Tegucigalpa. WGO operates Rancho Ebenezer, an orphanage that aims to pay for itself through the production and sale of Cloud Forest Coffee. However, the orphanage has not been able to sell much coffee and is currently losing money producing it.

"We're helping them turn that into a more profitable business and market their coffee better and hopefully sell it in the U.S. eventually," said Justin Young, a sophomore business management major and SIFE's Honduras project leader, said.

SIFE has been in contact with several coffee shops and distributors in the United States who have expressed interest in selling Cloud Forest Coffee, and is currently working with WGO and those companies to help set up sales.

The second part of SIFE's involvement is helping local entrepreneurs operate their businesses more efficiently. The team is starting with two carpenters who graduated from the orphanage and started their own business.

"They're really good at what they do, but they don't

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Students present chemistry research

By **SAM CUSHMAN**
Signal Writer

Students from Ouachita's American Chemical Society (ACS) student chapter went to the 243rd ACS National Meeting at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, Calif., from March 25-29. There, students presented the research they have done and participated in a Chemistry Demonstration Exchange (Chem Demo Exchange) as well as present an annual report on the student chapter's activities during the past academic year.

"The American Chemical Society is a very large professional organization," said Dr. Joe Jeffers, dean of the Patterson School of Natural Science. "Every spring we take students who have done research — as we've for 15 years now. The average attendance of those meetings will be 15,000-16,000. So we're looking at academic chemists, industrial chemists, chemists of every type that attend these meetings."

The meeting also hosts a large undergraduate symposium. Eleven Ouachita students who attended presented their research on a poster.

"In essence what they do is they stand by their poster, and as people come through they explain what they're doing and answer questions — that's the typical pattern," Jeffers said.

In addition to the students, several

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School work to real work Selph's class blog becomes Beretta job

By **NOAH HUTCHINSON**
Signal Writer

More and more people are being discovered on the Internet these days — from YouTube series like EpicMealTime to every day people immortalized via Internet meme. Beretta Firearms recently decided it was time to tap into the Internet's near infinite talent pool with a writing competition posted on its Twitter page. That is how they found Ouachita's Austin Selph, who is now on his way to being a confirmed contributor to their official blog.

"I follow Beretta on Twitter," said Selph, a junior mass communications major. "Their director of social media was asking for a guest contributor and asked to send a writing sample. I already had a blog running for my online media class, so I sent him the link to that. He replied in about a week

saying that I was in."

Tiffany Eurich, instructor of communications, assigned Selph and his classmates to write a blog about something they cared about, which he used as his writing sample in Beretta's contest.

"I try to make my students aware of the opportunities available to them if they master the multifaceted skill set of writing on the Internet," said Eurich. "I'm so proud of Austin. He asked me to proof the series he's currently writing, and I was completely blown away. That's what we hope for in this department. Students using their skills, even while they're still in college, to make a name for themselves."

Selph is currently on a several week long trial period so that Beretta can make sure his writing goes along with their guidelines. However, he's

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NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

AUSTIN SELPH works on his blog during Tiffany Eurich's Online Media class in Speer Digital Lab.