

# The Signal

Ouachita Baptist University [www.obusignal.com](http://www.obusignal.com)

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Volume 120, Issue 22

Arkadelphia, Ark.

## SIFE team wins fourth regional competition

By **EMILY TERRY**  
Signal Writer

Ouachita's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team traveled to Dallas, Texas, last Friday to compete in the SIFE Regional Competition. Ouachita, one of 45 schools competing in Dallas, was named a Regional Champion, advancing to the national competition in Kansas City in May.

The competition assesses teams based on their presentation of projects their SIFE organization sponsors throughout the year. Teams were divided into leagues of five or six schools each. The top two to three teams in each league were named Regional Champions and advanced to nationals.

The teams competed against each other based on presentations given for a panel of judges.

Ouachita's team of six presenters and its director showcased the 11 projects SIFE has been involved with in the past year, including working to open a pregnancy resource center, "Go Green or Go Home" and "Servant's Heart for Honduras."

"We've practiced [our presentation] since February," said Britta Stamps, a senior management, marketing and political science major and the SIFE president. "Our presentation is scripted and memorized by six presentation team members, and we have a DVD video that shows us working with the kids in Honduras and teaching classes that plays on screen and is timed

perfectly with our presentation."

After the presentation, the judges asked team members specific questions about the projects.

"They would ask us questions about different things they learned during our presentation," said Stephanie Batsel, a senior marketing and music major and another one of the presenters. "And we designated ahead of time who would answer the specific questions."

Other members of the presentation team include Michael Crowe, a sophomore finance and biology major, Brittney Jones, a sophomore finance and management major, Judith Brizuela,

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HEATHER ELLIS/TheSignal

BETHANY SWIONTEK rehearses choreography for her role as Janet Vand de Graaff in "The Drowsy Chaperone," which opens tonight at 7:30 p.m.

## Comedy set in 20s, 'Drowsy Chaperone' parodies musicals

By **SAM CUSHMAN**  
Signal Writer

Ouachita's Theatre Arts Department and Division of Music will present "The Drowsy Chaperone," a musical comedy set within the 1920s. Performances will be held in Jones Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 19-21, and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 22. Tickets are \$10 each, and students may receive one free ticket with their student ID.

"The whole idea behind the musical is that it's in some ways a parody of what a musical really is," said Daniel Inouye, assistant professor of theatre arts and director of the production. "So because of that, everything is a little bit over the top. The characters are a little bit over the top and all the songs are a little bit over the top because it's really making fun of what musical theatre actually is. It's taking that normal musical theatre experience and pushing it a little bit past the line."

The musical surrounds the story

of Janet Vand de Graaff, played by senior musical theatre major Bethany Swiontek, who is a Zeigfeld Follies show girl. Janet Vand de Graaff has decided to leave her show girl career to get married to Robert Martin, played by freshman musical theatre major Ben Stidham.

"The characters in the show are probably the first thing that I enjoy," Inouye said. "The show is a comedy that's really pushed to the extreme. We have a lot of stereotypical characters that show up. It has been fun playing with those characters and helping the actors sort of find them. And then the music is great. Some of the songs are really fun and you leave with that tune in your head."

One of the challenges of this production has been dealing with the over the top aspects of parodying musical theatre. Inouye described it as being difficult not to fall into the trap of having characters so over the top that they are not believable to the audience.

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## Scholars Day showcases student research

By **NOAH HUTCHINSON**  
Signal Writer

Spectator sports are huge in our country. Basketball, baseball and especially football can draw in a crowd on any level of competition. The Alpha Tau Honors Society and the Carl Goodson Honors Program give art and academics their own day to shine where they can receive a similar amount of attention. On Wednesday, April 25, from 1:30-5:30 p.m., Scholars Day will give students and faculty the opportunity to appreciate the artistic and academic endeavors of its contributors through a campus-wide event.

"Scholars Day is one afternoon during the spring semester in which students present their independent research in a professional setting on Ouachita's campus," said Abby Dekle, senior biology major and Alpha Tau chair. "Academic papers, posters and performances occur throughout the afternoon all throughout campus."

Different types of presentations will be displayed around campus.

"The presentations are not set up by department necessarily," Dekle said. "We do try to group similar disciplines in the same room, but it

doesn't always work that way. Senior thesis presentations will be in Walker Conference Center. Posters will be in McClellan 100. Business presentations, political science, music, musical theatre, English, art and history will be in Hickingbotham 200, Young Auditorium, McBeth Recital Hall, Verser Theatre and McClellan."

There will be programs showing where the different presentations will be taking place to make the event easier to navigate. The event will be enormous and, according to Dekle, exciting to watch.

"I'm looking forward to the senior Honors students to present their senior thesis papers," Dekle said. "We have 75 poster presentations this year, which is also quite exciting."

Scholars Day is a long standing tradition at Ouachita. In its twelfth year, Scholars Day is very important not only for those giving the presentations but also for those who come to watch.

"Scholars Day is important for all Ouachita students and faculty," Dekle said. "It allows students to have the experience of presenting their research in a professional setting that prepares them for presentations at other universities around the



NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

MEMBERS OF the AD/PR Campaigns class answer questions following their Scholars Day presentation last year in Hickingbotham Hall's Young Auditorium.

United States and perhaps even globally. Students encourage their peers. Our professors push us because they want us to succeed. It is an amazing feeling when your professor comes to hear your research and gives you a pat on the back. That's what Scholars Day is all about."

Students are encouraged to come

out and support their friends as they give their presentations and to check out any projects they might find interesting.

"Talking to an empty room isn't easy," said Dr. Barbara Pemberton, director of the Carl Goodson Honors

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