

# The Signal

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## Spring Swing provides dance instruction, competition

By **NOAH HUTCHINSON**  
Signal Writer

What the average person would see fit to call "dancing" has changed a lot over the years. However, on April 10 at the Alpha Tau Honor Society's Spring Swing, students will get the chance to learn how it was done back in the day. The event costs

\$3 per person and \$5 per couple and will be held at First United Methodist Church from 7-9 p.m. The event will include lessons and a competition among couples from each group or club on campus.

"Spring Swing is the Alpha Tau Honor Society's first large fundraiser," said Dani Moses, a sophomore history major and co-chair elect.

"There will be instruction, a time for mingling and practicing and competition for people who want to come. In the past few years this has become a very popular activity on our campus, so we wanted to give those who have become passionate about it a chance to show off their skills."

Swing is a type of dance that developed in the 1920s around the

swing style of jazz music.

"Swing is just a really fun way to interact with music," Moses said. "It is typically done to swing music, which is a looser form of jazz. The jazz band will be performing live for both the competition, instruction and practice."

see **SPRING SWING**, p. 2

### Tiger Serve Day



HEATHER ELLIS/TheSignal

RALEIGH HANSEN and Kyle Smith scrape paint off a porch rail during Tiger Serve Day. About 970 volunteers completed more than 100 projects in Arkadelphia at the Elrod Center's bi-annual community service event on Saturday morning.

## Graduates reflect on life after Ouachita

By **KELSEY KEARNEY**  
Signal Writer

In six weeks, a group of Ouachitians will take part in a tradition that is the culmination of their academic lives: graduation.

Graduation comes with its fair share of joys and challenges. Regardless of its ups and downs, the "grad life" can be full of wonderful memories and lessons learned, and some of Ouachita's recent graduates are living just that life.

Ouachita cultivates community, and 2011 graduate Ashley Young said losing that is what she has missed most about life here.

"The hardest thing about leaving Ouachita was leaving the people I'd made such great connections and relationships with," she said. "You feel a sense of community, closeness and camaraderie with these people you see every day, and it's hard to let that go."

Even in the loss of the Ouachita community, 2010 graduate Trinkia Newman has used her experiences to create new relationships in her life as a graduate.

"Life is good, even outside of the bubble," she said. "The Lord led me to my husband a year after graduation, and I have been able to get involved in so many activities in Little Rock. Thanks to the community I was a part of at OBU, I have been able to network and experience so much because of the OBU connection."

While the comfort of community surely gets many through the years, beginning again is said to be another major obstacle of graduating.

"Leaving and knowing that you'd be back at square one trying to get set in the real world and being on your own with minimal family help was the hardest part for me," said Marvin Gilmore, a 2011 graduate.

"When August rolled around, part of me wished I would've been coming back; knowing that I had to start all over somewhere new and not know anyone," said Alyssa Pickett, a 2011 graduate.

In this life after, these post graduates have had realizations of what they wish they had known in college.

"I wish I had known what professors not to take and more about other majors," Gilmore said.

Through many a major change, Young, a dietetics graduate, wished to know that grad school is where you can really prepare for your goal career, as "most people now don't even work in their undergraduate field."

"I wish that I would've known to enjoy every minute of college and not freak out about things that don't matter," Pickett, a psychology graduate, said. "Looking back, there is very little that I stressed about that really matters now."

The post-graduate experience will render new experiences and surprises along the way; and

see **GRADUATES**, p. 2

## Revitalizing Main Street

### Arkadelphia leaders discuss creating downtown preservation network

By **SAM CUSHMAN**  
Signal Writer

The Leadership Clark County Class IV (LCC) is leading a group project that intends to create an Arkansas Downtown Network in Arkadelphia through the Main Street Arkansas (MSA) program. In becoming a Main Street community, Arkadelphia would be given additional opportunities and expertise to revitalize and preserve the downtown area, provide promotional events for visitors and residents to increase foot traffic and sales to downtown businesses and connect the universities and their students to the downtown district. Currently, LCC is going through the application process to become an Arkansas Downtown Network with Main Street Arkansas.

"Main Street Arkansas is a statewide organization over downtown revitalization," said Lauren Land, the career services director at Ouachita and an LCC project member.

In having Arkadelphia become a partnered Arkansas Downtown Network community and establishing its downtown network, the LLC project is given more formality and guidance in their revitalization efforts by the MSA organization.

"In becoming a part of that program, you get to become a part of this formalized umbrella and you take on the methodology they suggest," Land said. "Instead of us doing something on our own we've got the support of a statewide organization that has worked with other communities, and we think that's going to be a lot more beneficial. They've got interior designers, exterior designers

and people who know about historical preservation. Those folks will be able to come down and consult with our businesses and other downtown entities. It's a really great opportunity to get some great advice for our project."

The LCC is a one year program sponsored by the local economic development alliance and the chamber of commerce. According to Land, each class has approximately 25 members who are young professionals, and the program is designed to educate those individuals about Clark County, the services, industries and offerings of the community.

As a part of the program, members work on a project to help improve the community. The two Class IV projects are Rally on the Ravine and downtown revitalization.

"Our group took more of a look at our community and what defines Arkadelphia," Land said. "People say it's a college town, but it doesn't always feel like a college town. We have Walmart and stuff around the interstate but there's not a whole lot going on within walking distance and to really make this a true college town. We need more for college students to do."

Land said one of her group's main focuses is trying to rebrand Arkadelphia as a true college town. Doing so would serve to make the city of Arkadelphia an asset for recruiting.

"I go to too many meetings where people say that 'we're only an hour away from Little Rock,' or 'we're only 30 minutes away from Hot Springs,'" she said. "And that's one of the ways we recruit — based on our proximity to these communities."

see **DOWNTOWN**, p. 2

We found, overwhelmingly, that people were interested in wanting the downtown to do better.

— Deborah Sesser



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