

Then & Now: Internet's evolution

By LEAH GARAVELLI
Editor-in-Chief

With "The Social Network" being nominated for the best picture Oscar, it is easy to see how the Internet has crept into the everyday lives of billions.

Sometimes it is easy for people to forget how recently the Internet became available. In fact, it arrived on campus in 1992, only 19 years ago.

"[The University of Arkansas at] Fayetteville wrote for a grant from the National Science Foundation to get Internet connections for all colleges and universities in Arkansas," said Bill Phelps, director of Information Technology Services who was a programmer for Ouachita at the time. "Back then there was no web browsing and no web browsers."

The first computer lab was located where the foreign language lab in Lile Hall is now, and Phelps said the way they used computers back then is archaic compared to the way they are now used.

"They consisted of a terminal with a grey screen and keyboard, and you had to type in commands," Phelps said. "Everything was text-based."

Phelps has helped Ouachita adapt to the changes in technology throughout the years including text-based commands, the university's e-mail system and web browsing.

The growing pains continued as Ouachita expanded the Internet connection to include the student dormitories. Phelps recalled how the Internet firewall had problems during this time and would periodically crash on weekends.

"I once received a note from a student – and it was nicely worded – and she said, 'Could you please leave the Internet on this weekend,'" Phelps said. "She had a big project due on Monday, and she thought that I just had a switch where I could turn the Internet on and off whenever I wanted to."

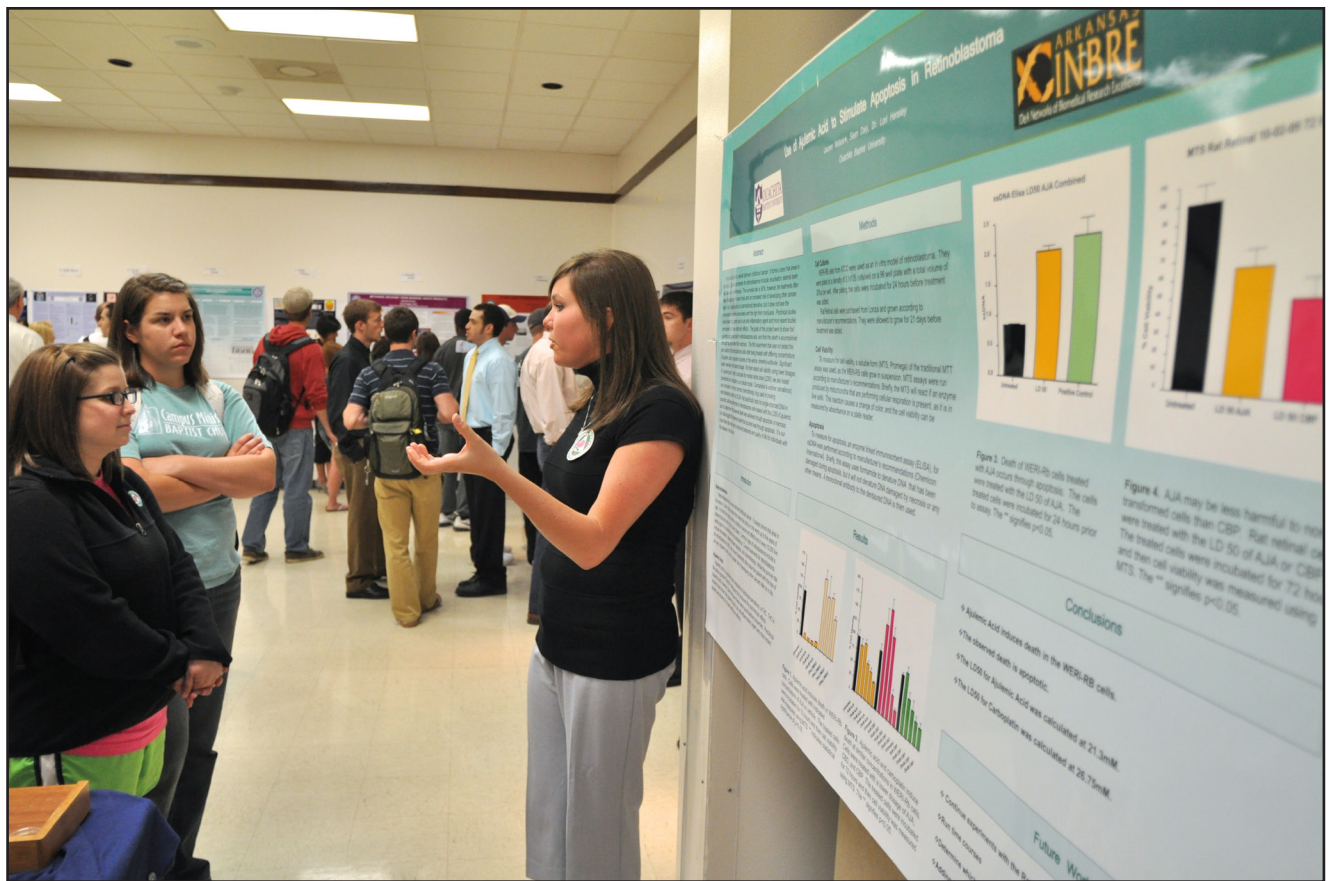
Although there were problems with the Internet service at times, most students were just glad it was available.

"High-speed' Internet was put into our dorm rooms during my freshman year, and I thought it was the best thing ever," said Lynn Lavis, a 2001 graduate. "No more dialing up and tying up the phone line or having to share the Internet connection with my roommate."

This revolutionized the way many students completed homework and projects because it was no longer necessary to go to the library to do every assignment requiring research.

"I can't imagine not having the Internet to do research," said Mary Anne Lattanzio, a 2001 graduate. "It was so

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CALLIE STEPHENS/TheSignal

LAUREN NELSON presents her project for Scholars' Day last year. Presentations for this year's Scholars' Day take place Wednesday, April 27, beginning at 1:25 p.m., in honor of Ouachita's 125th anniversary.

Scholars' Day promotes independent research

By JORDAN CAMPBELL
Signal Writer

The work of students across the academic disciplines will be featured with presentations and exhibits at the 10th annual Scholars' Day on April 27.

Scholars' Day began in 2001 and featured 56 presentations. The J.D. Patterson School of Natural Science hosted Scholars' Day for the first two years, and then Dr. Bryon Eubanks was appointed director of the Honors Program in 2003, and he began organizing Scholars' Day. The most recent Scholars' Day featured 127 presentations.

"Scholars' Day is Ouachita's undergraduate research symposium," said Barbara Pemberton, associate professor of Christian missions and director of the honors program. "All year long, behind closed laboratory doors, inside practice rooms, tucked away in corners of the library, out of sight on the top floor of the art build-

ing, Ouachita students are experimenting, rehearsing, reading, writing and creating. Some of the work created by students is so good that it needs to be seen by all students. And that is what Scholars' Day is for, celebrating the best academic work happening at Ouachita in order to kindle afresh the excitement of discovery and learning."

Scholars' Day now attracts students and faculty of all fields of study due to the wide variety of topics and presentations.

"This change in the way Scholars' Day was administered was crucial for the liveliness of the Honors Program," Pemberton said. "Before, the attendance at honors thesis presentations was underwhelming. Now, the thesis presentations are the overwhelming attraction, with peers and faculty seeing the final product of two years worth of research with multiple revisions."

Students present on a wide variety of material on Scholars' Day. When

it first started, Scholars' Day was intended to showcase information students discovered when working in the natural sciences all summer. Today, students present everything from business plans to studio art.

"Last year, I went to a presentation on the history of some general store in a small town in Texas," said Mary Smethers, a junior Christian and biblical studies major. "While that doesn't seem insanely exciting, it actually opened my eyes to how fascinating local history can be."

According to Smethers, it is simple to become involved in Scholars' Day. If there is a particular subject that interests you, find a professor and conduct an independent study under his or her supervision. After writing a proposal for the presentation itself, all you have left to do is present the findings.

While Scholars' Day helps students present information that is interesting

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NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

LJ BROOKS, Marcus Bush and A'Laeshia Adams, panelists from a previous ROMS discussion earlier this semester, talk with students about race issues on campus.

ROMS plans round table talk, students discuss racial issues

By ALLISON CORNELL
Signal Writer

Various racial issues at Ouachita were brought to the surface during a recent panel discussion about issues facing the black community and students have decided to follow up with further conversation.

Students of all cultural backgrounds are encouraged to attend the second panel, a Racial Issues Round Table Discussion, hosted by Reaching Out to Multicultural Students (ROMS) on Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in Hickingbotham Hall room 200.

ROMS is an organization dedicated to spreading diversity and cultural awareness on campus, and the discussion will serve that goal.

"We have noticed different issues among the different races at Ouachita," said Kristen James, a sophomore kinesiology major and president of ROMS. "So we decided to hold this event in order to try and change those issues

for the better."

James and ROMS sponsor T.J. Nelson will be moderating the event and anyone is welcome to be part of the discussion.

"We will be discussing racial issues that are apparent at Ouachita," James said. "Not just black and white issues but also the racial topics of all cultures represented here."

Instead of these issues remaining underground, ROMS hopes that having a public discussion will bring truth to the surface and affect change at Ouachita. Bernita Pearson, a sophomore business major, has been a ROMS member for two years and encourages students to take advantage of this opportunity for discussion.

"ROMS has impacted me by giving me long lasting friendships which helped me be comfortable and feel even more welcomed here at Ouachita," Pearson said.

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-Kristen James

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In the Bubble:

•The School of Fine Arts will present a concert honoring Dr. George Keck's 42 years of service at Ouachita in light of his upcoming retirement. The concert will be held Monday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in McBeth Recital Hall and will feature music from David Allen Wehr, Dr. Andrew Granade, the Ouachita Singers and the Women's Chorus.

•Housing sign-ups will be Tuesday, April 19, from 3-6 p.m. in the Evans Student Center Banquet Rooms. Students' appointment times will be e-mailed to them by Monday afternoon. Only one group representative has to be present to register, but any members of the group may attend. For more information, contact Michael Cox, at coxm@obu.edu.

•The Target Corporation will conduct on-campus interviews on Monday, April 18, for several full-time positions and summer internships. Interested students should submit a resume to the Career Services Office by tomorrow at noon. Contact Mallory Modellmog at modellmog@obu.edu for more information.

•Outdoor Recreation is planning a 7.5 mile Earth Day canoe trip on Caddo River. The group will leave from the SPEC lower parking lot at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 22, and will return at 4 p.m. The cost for the trip is \$5.

•Natalie Carroll and Jessica Hardy will present their senior music recitals tomorrow at 11 a.m. in McBeth Recital Hall. Alissa Hill and Adam Chastain will present their senior recitals tomorrow afternoon at 2 p.m. in McBeth Recital Hall.

•Dr. Raouf Halaby, professor of English and art, has had a sculpture accepted for inclusion in the Hot Springs 2011 Invitational Juried Sculpture Competition, which marks the Centennial Celebration of the Hot Springs National Park. An unveiling ceremony will be held tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. The sculpture will be displayed along with the 13 other sculptures accepted for the exhibit in the pedestrian park area that runs adjacent to the historic bathhouses on Central Avenue. They will be on display through July 24.

•There will be no classes on Friday, April 22, for Good Friday. Campus offices will also be closed. Dorms will remain open.



SENIOR JACOB Watson performs at the dress rehearsal of "Bye, Bye Birdie," the spring musical. Watson plays Albert Peterson in the musical, which will be performed in Jones Performing Arts Center tonight through Saturday with performances at 7:30 p.m. and closes Sunday with a 2:30 p.m. show. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available online at www.obu.edu/finearts or from the Box Office. Ouachita students can receive one free ticket with their student ID.

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much more convenient than having to dig through multiple libraries for different resources."

As more students began using the Internet on campus, the school had to expand the budget for Internet bandwidth to meet the growing need.

"Think of our Internet access as a pipe," Phelps said. "It is only so big and can only hold so much before it can't support any

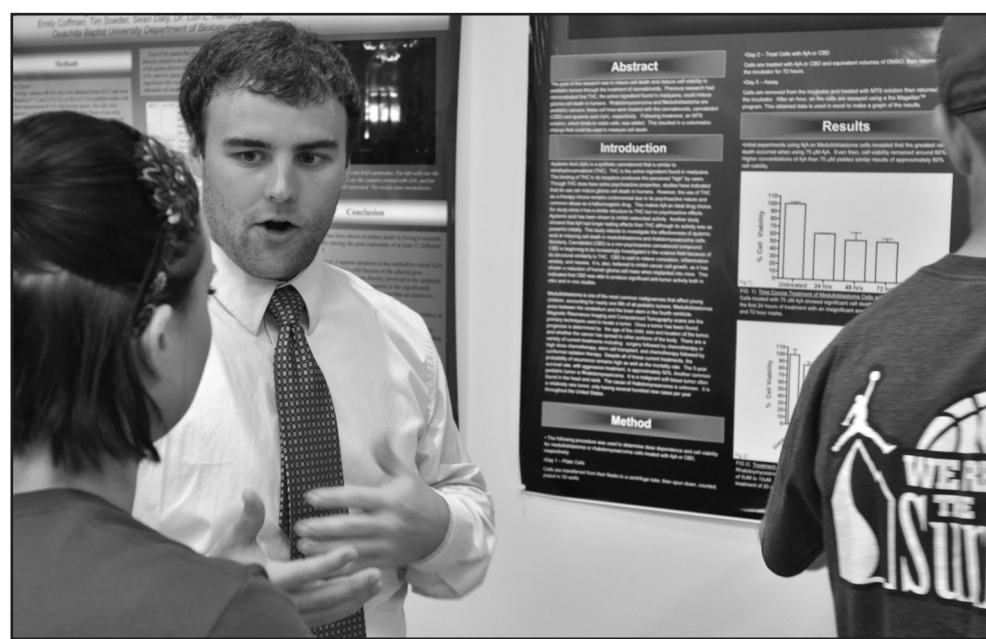
more. The more bandwidth people are accessing, the bigger the pipe you have to get. Right now, Ouachita's pipe is 40 meg and costs \$54,000 a year."

Phelps said Ouachita is planning on installing another "50 megs" this summer.

"I knew it wasn't a passing fad, but I don't think I visualized the Internet being what it is today," Phelps said.

He has watched it grow from being strictly text-based to supporting vivid graphics and video streaming of TV shows.

"I just hope that all students understand we want to provide the best service we can," Phelps said. "Sometimes money and the amount of people we have gets in the way of that, but we always try to provide them with the best service." ■



A STUDENT explains his Scholars' Day project at last year's event while his fellow students take in the information on the poster.

SCHOLARS' DAY, continued from page 1

to them, according to Abby Dekle, a senior biology major, it also assists in preparing students for the "real world" work of researching and presenting.

"Presenting a poster, paper or performing on stage prepares Ouachita students for graduate school and life 'outside the bubble,'" Dekle said. "In any job situation, we may be asked to present our ideas, a progress report or our latest findings from the laboratory. Scholars' Day gives us a chance to practice our communication skills and general presentation etiquette. It also gives something for underclassmen to look forward to and ideas for what they can research/present in their years at Ouachita. Besides looking great on resumes, students learn how to be professionals in our comfort zone. We become confident individuals, capable of holding our own in a high-paced professional world."

According to Pemberton, Scholars' Day is also a great way for students to explore their interests in a particular field, and professors say they enjoy seeing students excited about the work.

"By communicating discoveries, challenges, processes and products to persons out-

side of their own disciplines, students actually begin to make connections between their own major and those of others," Pemberton said. "As a university, departments actually need the viewpoints of other departments to see the big picture. If a student has convinced himself that school is all about grades, Scholars' Day reminds them that college is all about learning. And learning enlivens one's soul."

Students researching topics they find interesting and others supporting their projects is ultimately what Scholars' Day is about.

An added benefit is that it provides an opportunity to practice real world presentation techniques in a comfortable, controlled setting.

"There is no other opportunity on campus like this for students," Smethers said. "Not only do we get to present research that we are passionate about, but we are also learning skills that will definitely help us in post-grad life. What better environment is there for gaining experience presenting in front of a group than actually doing it in college with your friends about a subject of your choosing?" ■

Top 5

Pet peeves

Answers provided by Facebook contributors

- 1 When I am listening to my iPod and yet people still want to talk. I clearly don't want to talk if I have headphones in my ears.
-Andrea Lock
- 2 People driving 45 mph in the left lane of a 55 mph major highway. Reason is obvious; they should be taken out of their car, license confiscated and car crushed to the ground because they irritate me!
-Paula Garavelli
- 3 People writing definitely instead of definitely! Drives me crazy! Oh, and their is not they're or there!
-Cassie Harrell
- 4 People that read a quiz/test out loud.
-Nathan Huff
- 5 When people say that they can do something when they don't know what they're doing.
-Becca Watts

Alumni magazine recognized, named national merit winner

By NEWS BUREAU

Ouachita has been honored with a national Merit Award for The Ouachita Circle in the 26th annual Educational Advertising Awards.

The annual recognition, sponsored by the Higher Education Marketing Report, is the largest educational advertising awards competition in the nation. This year, more than 2,500 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several nations.

The Ouachita Circle, the university's 12,000-circulation alumni magazine, previously has been honored on the state and national levels by the Arkansas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators and by Baptist Communicators Association. The university also recently was named among the Top 100 Social Media Colleges by StudentAdvisor.com.

"As we seek to provide news and information of interest to alumni and other friends of Ouachita through the pages of The Ouachita Circle, we are extremely pleased to be recognized by professional communication organizations for those efforts," said Trennis Henderson, vice president for communications.

"Our goal is to produce a quality publication that reflects Ouachita's commitment to excellence," Henderson added. "This latest recognition affirms that we remain on track in fulfilling that goal for the benefit of our readers."

The 2011 Merit Award is based on The Circle's 2010 spring, summer and fall issues, which highlighted the themes of faithfulness, creativity and tradition. Major articles focused on such topics as Ouachita's named academic schools, alumni volunteer relief efforts in Haiti, 2010 alumna Alyse Eady being named Miss Arkansas, the dedication of Heflin Plaza and the university's inaugural Stepping Up for Ouachita luncheon.

Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards included a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report. Among schools honored with Best of Show awards in this year's competition were Emory University, Purdue University, the University of Missouri and the University of Notre Dame. ■

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VIDEO

•POTS: Why do Betas make the best dates?

Chinese Christians detained

By ANANDA BOARDMAN
News/Features Co-Editor

The U.S. Department of State released the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010 last Friday. Two days later, police arrested more than 170 Chinese Christians for holding church in a public place.

According to an Associated Press article, China was listed in the report for a strengthening of limits on critics and for increasing government control and censorship of its citizens by limiting freedom of speech and Internet access in 2010.

The same day that the members of Shouwang Church in Beijing were detained for up to 24 hours, the Chinese government released a counter human rights report which claimed the U.S. government was also violating its citizens' rights and should stop interfering with how China runs China, according to an article by Xinhua News Agency.

Shouwang is one of the largest house churches in Beijing, with membership numbers reported at up to 1,000. However, church leadership made the decision in January to be open about their beliefs and worship services, according to a January article posted by the blog Faithandthelaw. In China, churches must register with the government, and those that do not comply are considered illegal and may be shut down without warning.

There are an estimated 60 million Chi-

nese Christians who worship at independent churches in China, compared to the 20 million registered Christians who worship in the state church, according to the Associated Press article.

Shouwang church had been holding services in a restaurant, but government pressure forced the owner to ask them to move elsewhere. Unable to come to an agreement to purchase or rent property due to similar pressure, they decided to hold services in an open-air venue. This information was posted on the church's website as well as their Facebook page.

On Sunday, roughly 1,000 people showed up for the service, though some are believed to have attended merely to watch the reaction. Cell phone service was disrupted at the location, and Police were waiting to load congregation members into vans to be moved to detention centers. They reportedly sang hymns and prayed aloud while being arrested, according to an article in the The Irish Times. Witness accounts recounted in an article by United Press International say that the police appeared to move in and out of the crowd, arresting certain groups of people.

As of Wednesday evening, all of the Christians had been released from custody, but pastor Yuan Ling, his wife and several other church leaders were reportedly under house arrest, according to the United Press article.

The Christians were urged by police to

sign statements pledging their loyalty to the state run church, but pastor Jin Tianming said in an interview with United Press that most of the members did not answer questions or sign the statements.

Tianming also told United Press that they will continue to meet until the government agrees to allow them to rent property and grants them a permit for indoor activity.

"If the government cannot give us the keys or give us the permission we need, we have no choice," Tianming said. "We can only meet outdoors again."

The incident is just part of a larger crackdown taking place in China which many believe as an effort to prevent the spread of riots akin to those taking place in the Middle East and Africa, said The Irish Times article.

Dr. Ray Franklin, associate professor of Christian missions, said that officially the Chinese government has taken a moderate stance toward Christianity, but it is up to regional governments to enforce or alter this stance.

Moreover, their view of "being moderate wouldn't be tolerated in the United States," Franklin said.

Shouwang Church's openness about when and where they would be meeting, suggests that they believed there was a certain tolerance for their beliefs in their region of Beijing.

"The fact that they were so open about what they believed says something about

their perception of their region [of China]," Franklin said.

Ouachita has partnered with Peking University in Beijing in the past to send professors on an exchange program to teach English. Dr. Kevin Brennan, professor of political science, spent the spring of 2007 in China, and had visited China twice before, in 1999 and 2001.

Brennan said the China he experienced was more open than he had expected.

"On Peking University's campus, the atmosphere is more open than one might think in a dictatorship," Brennan said.

While the China Brennan saw was open on the surface, he said he thinks "there is a real effort among the Chinese government to put forth a good image of the country," which may not be true for all areas of the country, especially the rural interior.

During his time in Beijing, which extended through the summer of 2007, he said he was "able to move around more freely than I had thought I'd be able to do."

As far as church in China goes, Brennan said there were churches that foreigners could attend freely, though it was harder for Chinese citizens to openly attend.

Despite the recent crackdowns, Christianity in China is expected to continue to spread, according to the Faithandthelaw article.

"It does seem like God is doing something in China," Franklin said. ■

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"It's easy to judge on the outside, but judging shouldn't be done. We are giving the opportunity to come hear the truth about issues in the African-American community. It's a great learning experience. It's a great chance to get to know people that you may have not even held a conversation with."

Students of all racial backgrounds can benefit from the upcoming discussion.

"Students should come to the discussion because this is something that directly affects each and every student on Ouachita's campus," James said. "Even though it might not seem like there are issues concerning this subject on campus, there are. As a community, we should try to make our Ouachita community a better place, not just for the majority but for the minority as well."

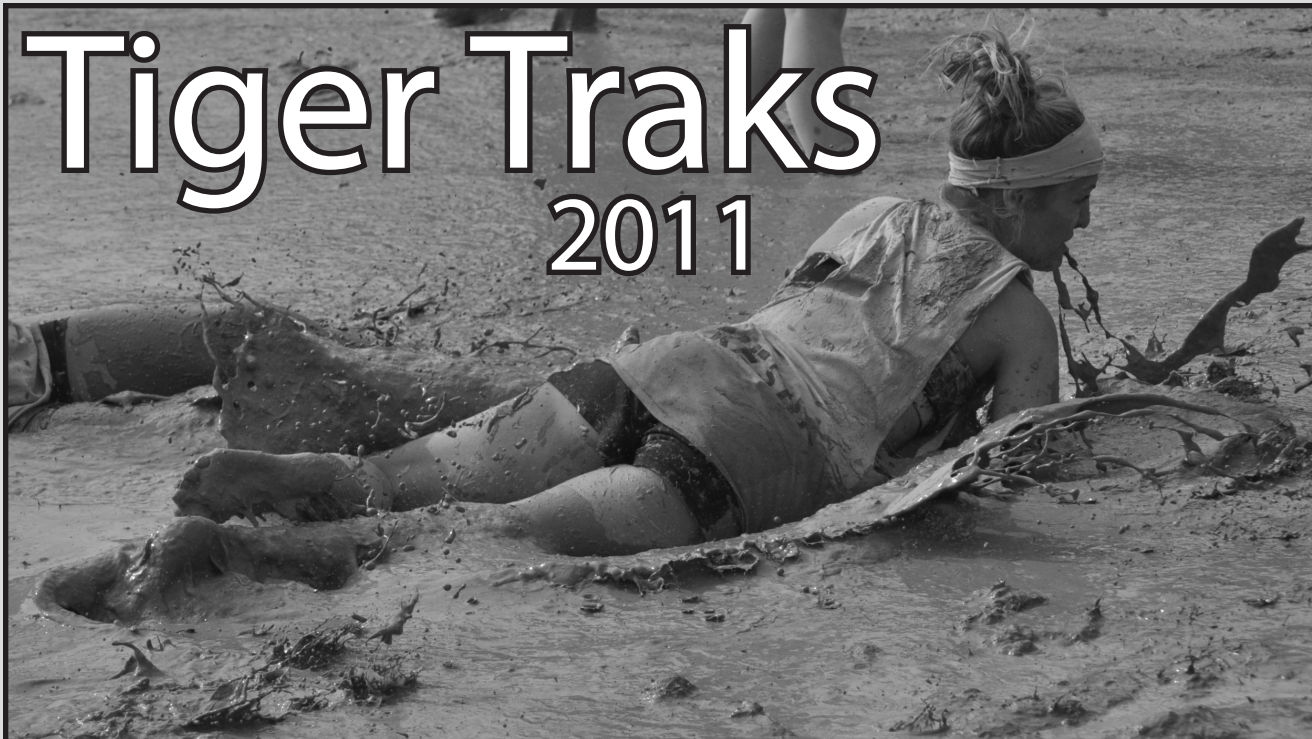
For more information about ROMS or the round table discussion, contact Kristen James at jam47431@obu.edu or follow ROMS on Twitter at ROMSobu. ■



CALLIE STEPHENS/TheSignal

PANELISTS DISCUSS racial issues at a recent ROMS-sponsored round-table discussion group. The success of the first discussion has prompted the group to host a second discussion Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m.

Tiger Traks 2011



NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

A STUDENT falls in the mud during a volleyball game at Tiger Traks. "Arkansas Most Exciting College Weekend" was April 8-9 and featured 32 teams competing for cash prizes.

Results:

First Place
Extremely Processed
Sandwich Meat

Second Place
Jehovah's Fitness

Third Place
The World Changers



CALLIE STEPHENS/TheSignal

DR. AMY Sonheim and Dr. Doug Sonheim help sophomore Jason Curlin during a water relay in Tiger Traks.



NICOLE MCPHATE/TheSignal

FRESHMEN KRAMER Schuereberg and Marissa Selden wash off mud after Tiger Traks.



CALLIE STEPHENS/TheSignal

JUNIOR JESSICA Winston yells instructions during an activity in Tiger Traks last weekend.