



# Tiger Serve Day embodies overflow of love

BY AVERY WALKER  
Copy Editor

One of the most important aspects of the body of believers is the way in which they impact their community. So important is this function of the church, in fact, that Jesus defined his disciples by their love for one another (John 13:35). Christians should be marked by the way in which they love each other and their community; however, this love does not come from human strength but from God Himself.

This year’s Tiger Serve Day was characterized by this abundant love. It centered around the theme “Overflow,” which finds its roots in 1 John 4:19: “We love because he first loved us.”

Tiger Serve Day is one of Ouachita’s most beloved traditions. One Saturday each semester, hundreds of students gather to step out in love toward the Arkadelphia community. Even in the midst of Ouachita’s busiest time of year, 87 teams of students spent their weekend serving their community, from yard work to having conversations and building relationships.

However, Tiger Serve Day is much more than just one Saturday. During the first five weeks of school, a group of dedicated students volunteer on the Tiger Serve Day leadership team, helping with preparations and logistics. Mrs. Judy Duvall, the director of the Elrod Center since 1989, described the process behind the day of service.

“Tiger Serve Day starts in the summer where we send out letters



Andre Johnson, Devon Hancock, Ryder McConnell and PJ Neal rake leaves as part of their service project. During this year’s Tiger Serve Day, 87 teams of students completed projects across Arkadelphia, working to embody the theme of an “Overflow” of Christ’s love. (photo by Mckinley Melcher)

to nonprofits and churches,” Duvall said. “We try to find about a hundred projects in the community. Then the Tiger Serve Day leadership team meets for five weeks leading up to the day, with each leader visiting the four projects they’re in charge of.”

On Tiger Serve Day itself, the leadership team remains on campus, organizing supplies and making sure everything runs smoothly.

Zach Moore, a junior Christian studies major and co-teams chair, has loved his experience on the Tiger Serve Day leadership team.

“I love getting to serve and do the hard work,” Moore said. “I love getting to meet everyone and hear how much [the day] means to them. And I love the team; we work really well together, which makes everything run smoothly. The team puts service first, and we couldn’t do it without them.”

Beyond the physical services offered, Tiger Serve Day is all about building connections between the Arkadelphia community and Ouachita’s campus. Even after the day itself is over, the Elrod Center continues reaching out to the

people served, ensuring that a relationship is maintained. Leigh Anne McKinney, the associate director of the Elrod Center, explained this process.

“Our senior adults especially love and look forward to Tiger Serve Day, and we get to serve them again, and again and again,” McKinney said. “I love watching the resources we have meet the community’s needs.”

Tiger Serve Day teams often stay in touch with the people they served, building close connections between Ouachita and the Arkadel-

phia community.

Ultimately, Tiger Serve Day would not be possible without the students and faculty that volunteer to execute the various service projects that the leadership team plans. This year, over 800 Ouachita students and staff signed up to participate in Tiger Serve Day and pour out Christ’s love to the community. Duvall loves this aspect of Tiger Serve Day. “I don’t think you’d find another campus where that many people show up,” Duvall said. “OBU is very unique in that way.”

## Purple Plaza Party gives campus opportunity to celebrate Tiger spirit

BY MARIN MURRAY  
News Editor

The annual Purple Plaza Party will take place tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grant Plaza and the campus lawn as part of Ouachita’s Homecoming and Family Weekend festivities.

Amidst the plaza adorned with purple banners, current and prospective students, families, alumni and faculty can enjoy activities and games planned by various clubs and organizations from around campus. The event will also feature live music, a pep rally and a barbecue lunch served on the lawn.

A tradition that began a few years ago, the Purple Plaza Party aims to promote school spirit and showcase different groups on campus. From social clubs to academic organizations and everything else in between, it is a celebration that unites every group on campus for a common purpose: Tiger spirit.

This year, the pep rally portion of the event will feature the introduction of the homecoming court and performances from different mu-

sical groups such as the band and students studying music.

According to Director of Alumni Relations Anna Roussel, everyone attending homecoming is invited to this event, not just current students.

“It is open for alumni to come, as well as prospective students that are on campus for Explore Ouachita,” Roussel said.

The Purple Plaza Party is a can’t-miss event, providing endless opportunities for people to connect with campus organizations, reminisce on precious college memories while making new ones and celebrate the Tiger spirit that bonds students past and present.

There are several other must-attend events taking place during this spirit-filled week. The beloved tradition of Tiger Tunes will feature five performances during the week. There are several dinner events, including Trucks and Tunes and the Family Reunion Dinner.

Saturday’s schedule is packed with tailgates, alumni reunions, the football game and a street festival. All of these events will make for a busy and festive homecoming season at Ouachita.

## Ouachita reports highest enrollment in school history

BY JACIE SELLARS  
Editor-In-Chief

Ouachita has recorded an enrollment of 1,889 students in Fall 2025. This number is the highest enrollment in university history, breaking the record previously set in 1966.

This number reflects both residential undergraduate students and students in Ouachita’s growing number of graduate programs.

According to a press release from Ouachita News, this number reflects a 10% increase in undergraduate enrollment and a 35% increase in graduate enrollment.

For undergraduate programs, enrollment is nearing full capacity as residence halls fill up. Prospective students are encouraged to apply early for admission.

Lori Motl, senior director of Admissions Counseling, said that growth in student enrollment is promising from a recruitment perspective.

“It is exciting to see our graduate programs growing,” Motl said. “It is exciting to have basically



Graphic by Ouachita Office of Communications and Marketing

reached capacity for residential undergraduate programs.”

According to Motl, this increase in students reflects the hard work of multiple offices at Ouachita. Every student who ultimately chooses to attend is influenced by efforts from faculty and staff.

“No one person or one office is responsible for Ouachita’s enrollment success,” Motl said. “Yes, admissions works really hard, but so do those in financial aid, the regis-

trar’s office and all of the academic schools. Every interaction throughout the recruitment process has an impact on a student’s choice.”

Motl emphasized that the enrollment numbers are more than mere figures, but a representation of the unique environment that Ouachita offers prospective students.

“Our faculty and staff are here because they deeply love both students and Ouachita,” Motl said. “That makes all the difference.”

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SIGNAL ONLINE

#### Tiger Tunes traditions

Several fun traditions which build community will take place across campus as clubs present their Tiger Tunes shows. (pg. 3)

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George and Ouida Peters were married as Ouachita students in 1954. They have learned a lot over 71 years of marriage. (pg. 4)

#### The impacts of social media

Social media has overtaken modern culture. How can we best use it for good instead of letting the negative content control us? (pg. 7)

#### Coach Knight breaks record

Coach Knight now has 163 Tiger wins, breaking the record for most wins by a football coach in the state of Arkansas. (pg. 8)

# Ouachita transitions to Canvas, a new learning management system

BY PHIL BYRD

Staff Writer

After years of using Moodle as its learning management system, Ouachita has finally decided to switch systems to the more popular Canvas.

A learning management system (LMS) is an online program that allows faculty to seamlessly and quickly communicate grades and important information to students and whoever else may need them.

For years, Ouachita used the Moodle system, while most other universities in the region used Canvas, a similar but differently organized and more expensive system.

For the 2025-2026 school year, Ouachita has begun a transition to Canvas.

Dr. Justin Hardin, Ouachita’s Vice President for Academic Affairs, said the transition has been years in the making.

“A couple of years ago we started talking about Canvas, knowing that it is a popular LMS platform in education, and several current faculty were familiar with it and were very interested in our moving to Canvas,” Hardin said.

“After evaluating it in detail, we decided that it could give us an edge in serving students and supporting faculty in teaching and learning, both for on-campus courses and online courses in our graduate programs.”

One of the main differences that drew Ouachita to the new system was its accessibility across all platforms.

“Canvas has a mobile app and gradebook, which makes it easier for faculty and students to navigate and use,” Hardin

said. “We hope it will provide a better experience to support student success.”

While the administration has deemed Canvas the appropriate system for Ouachita, many students are still adjusting to the transition.

“I like the new gradebook,” said senior Sara Jayne Burroughs. “It can predict my grade, which lets me get a better grasp on what I have to do for a class.”

Others commented on the organization of the home screen.

“I really like the to-do list,” said sophomore Gavin Anders. “It tells me what I need to do quickly and efficiently, without having to scour the site.”

Not everything about the new system satisfied student concerns, however. Burroughs commented on the lack of a connection between Google and Canvas, which was a key component of Moodle’s advantages.

“I don’t like that I have to upload files,” Burroughs said.

Meanwhile, some students commented on the slowness of the program on separate platforms.

“It doesn’t load very well on my Macbook,” sophomore Ethan Shadwick said. “Other than that, the platform works well. I just can’t view my grades half the time.”

Dr. Hardin recognized the difficulties of the transition.

“It’s always a learning curve to implement a new system,” Hardin said.

“So, we have invested time and energy to make sure it goes as smoothly as possible. The IT Services team led by Kevin Herrington has done a wonderful job behind the scenes in preparing us for the move.”

# Senior education students attend conference in Atlanta, learn skills to apply in future classrooms

BY CHARLOTTE WOOD

Staff Writer

Senior education majors from Ouachita traveled to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, for a teacher conference highlighting innovative approaches to classroom engagement and behavior management.

The Ron Clark Academy is a nonprofit middle school known for its creative methods and training programs for educators from around the world.

The trip served as a capstone for seniors, giving them valuable classroom advice before they move into classrooms of their own.

Students attended breakout sessions, observed classes and interacted with the academy’s middle school students.

One of the seniors, Allyson Rogers, said her favorite part of the trip was sitting with students at lunch.

“Every conversation that I had with them was such a sweet time,” Rogers said. “It was evident that the students were positively impacted by the way this school runs.”

Rogers said she was surprised by how disciplined and respectful students were in class.

“They hurried into class, got out their materials and were ready for what the teacher would ask of them in less than two minutes,” Rogers said. “They took their learning very seriously, while enjoying how they did it.”

Another senior, Ella Marie Davis, said she was struck by the energy of the school from the moment she walked in.

“There was a student band



Seniors Abby Flora, Ella Claire Brinkley, Ella Marie Davis and Allyson Rogers pose for a photo by the Ron Clark Academy sign. Education majors learned new classroom strategies on the senior trip to Atlanta. (Photo provided by Ella Marie Davis)

playing instruments and singing. It felt like stepping into a live concert,” Davis said. “The students were so kind and welcoming. I don’t think I saw a single one that wasn’t smiling.”

Both Rogers and Davis pointed to the school’s use of creative teaching strategies, such as incorporating music, dance and student-created songs and movements to help with memorization and engagement.

Davis said more schools could benefit from the culture of inclusion and encouragement she witnessed.

“They focus on building relationships, making students feel like they belong and giving them chances to lead, take risks and express themselves,” Davis

said. For Rogers, the experience was a reminder of the influence teachers can have, motivating her for her future as a teacher.

“This trip inspired me,” Rogers said. “It showed me that no matter who my student is, I can make a difference in their life simply by how I teach them and by raising my expectations for them to succeed.”

Davis added that the visit made her more eager to begin her own career in the classroom.

“Seeing how much joy the students had reminded me of why I want to teach,” Davis said. “To create that same kind of environment where students feel excited, supported and motivated to learn.”

## IN THE DELPH

Local spots you can’t miss



### DEGRAY LAKE STATE PARK

For students seeking a breath of fresh air in the midst of a busy academic season, Degray Lake provides a nearby place to hike, swim or relax. “I love going out to the lake when I need to refocus and clear my head,” editor-in-chief Jacie Sellars said. The state park is one of many outdoor locations showcasing the beauty of the Natural State.

## OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

The latest news from around the world

### Conservative activist Charlie Kirk assassinated

On Sept. 10, Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist and close ally of President Donald Trump who played an influential role in rallying young Republican voters, was shot and killed at a Utah college event in what the governor called a political assassination carried out from a rooftop. Authorities did not immediately identify a motive but the circumstances of the shooting drew renewed attention to an escalating threat of political violence in the United States. Investigation led to the eventual arrest of 22 year old Tyler Robinson. Prosecutors have charged Robinson with aggravated murder.

Source(s): AP News, CBS News

### Peace plan for Israel/Gaza conflict awaits acceptance

President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday they’ve agreed on a plan to end the war in Gaza, but it’s unclear whether Hamas will accept the terms. Trump’s plan would establish a temporary governing board that would be headed by Trump and include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The plan does not require people to leave Gaza and calls for the war to end immediately if both sides accept it. It also calls for all remaining hostages to be released by Hamas within 72 hours of Israel accepting the plan.

Source(s): AP News

### Kimmel returns to the air after program suspension

ABC said on Sept. 22 that “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” would return to its airwaves on Sept. 23, ending an impasse that began the week before. ABC had removed Mr. Kimmel “indefinitely” after a top Trump regulator and many conservatives said he inaccurately described the politics of the man accused of fatally shooting the right-wing activist Charlie Kirk. However, some ABC affiliates are hesitant to put “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” back on the air. Sinclair, a television group that owns some ABC affiliates, said that it would not broadcast it.

Source(s): AP News



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# What makes a good Tiger Tunes show?

BY CAMERON SELF  
Staff Writer

Tiger Tunes culture is something unique to the Ouachita community that not many outsiders understand. For example, if you were to approach a random student at the University of Arkansas and thank them for “raiding tombs with you,” tell them that Beta left their glowsticks in JPAC or complain that Kappa was robbed this year, they would look at you like you were insane.

However, at Ouachita, almost anyone would understand exactly what you meant, and a long and opinionated conversation would probably follow. One such opinion that might arise would be the definition of “good” Tunes shows. But what exactly makes a good show “good”?

When asked this question, students responded with various answers, including creative parodies, recognizable costumes, usable themes, clean choreography, clear annunciation and a good attitude.

Allison Hatfield, a junior, was emphatic about the proper use of parody in shows. “You have to keep some of the original lyrics so people understand what you’re parodying,” Hatfield said.

After all, if Tunes was just about singing a story, directors could simply write their own music. How-

ever, at its most basic level, Tunes is a parody battle. Beta Beta Beach Boys from 2022 does this well, with such hit lyrics as “blinded by the white” and “I like big boards and I cannot lie.”

Another common answer was a recognizable costume. If the audience cannot immediately tell what you are supposed to be, your costume is not stage-ready. Generally, “the simpler, the better” is a good rule of thumb, as seen with Rho Sigma Referees and Campus Ministries Marathon in 2022. However, sometimes the details perfect the costume, like in Kappa Chi Robots in 2024, where each robot suit included a giant flashlight in the middle. Either way, these costumes were easily identifiable to audiences.

“Good” Tunes shows also feature simple yet unique themes; they should be broad enough to portray creatively but specific enough that the audience is not confused. Many shows have historically accomplished this task, including Tri Chi Lightbulbs in 1990, Eta Alpha Omega Penguins in 2024 and EEE Sheep in 2013. However, sometimes it is necessary to push the boundaries of theming in innovative ways, as there are only a finite number of Tunes themes out there. Such shows that have done this are Tri Chi The Real Housewives of Clark County, Eta Alpha Omega Eta Clock News in 2011 and Cam-



The Men of Eta Alpha Omega run onstage to celebrate their victory in Tiger Tunes 2024. Each year, clubs work to create Tiger Tunes shows with a winning combination of costumes, storylines and musicality. (Photo by Meghann Bledsoe)

pus Ministries Southern Baptists in 2009.

Many students agreed that good, clean choreography contributes to a Tunes show’s success, including Bailey Mashburn, who commented on the general sharpness over the years from the Women of EEE. Other examples of clear choreography include Tri Chi Space Rescue in 2023 and Kappa Chi Leprechauns in 2019.

Shows could be full of good lyri-

cal parodies and beautiful voices, but the audience would never know if no one on stage is announcing clearly. When participants sing loudly and understandably, they effectively communicate their theme to the audience and the judges. Examples of this include Kappa Chi Egyptians in 2014 and Beta Beta Christmas in 2023.

No matter the technique and skill poured into it, what actually makes a good Tunes show is whether or

not the participants have fun. Erika Johnson, current assistant Tri Chi director, emphasized the need for a positive environment during Tunes season to create a successful show. Past winning shows, such as Tri Chi Matches in 2015, have conveyed this joy on stage through their faces and attitudes, to great reward.

As you enter this Tunes season, you are sure to see a variety of entertaining shows that combine these winning elements.

## CM and Student Life shows build community

BY CAMERON SELF  
Staff Writer

Tunes season is in full swing as clubs prepare their shows for the JPAC stage.

Two organizations in particular, Campus Ministries (CM) and Student Life, undergo a unique preparation process.

Because these shows are not put on by traditional social clubs, their director selection process begins with a campus-wide email. Upperclassmen-independent students can begin the application process as early as the end of the fall semester.

Then, candidates are interviewed by members of the CM and Student Life offices in early spring. By March, the shows’ directors have been chosen and may begin their preparation process.

“It’s honestly a waiting game,” said Cason Barnett, head director for CM.

The interview process varies by applicant, as Matt Murray, head director for Student Life, explained. “It was...about my heart in directing,” Murray said.

The other head director for Student Life, Callie Moore, was a part of their 2024 show’s leadership team and brought that experience to her interview.

“I wanted to change how the show was done,” Moore said.

CM and Student Life shows also allow freshmen to participate, meaning that directors do not know exactly which and how many students will be in their final show as they plan. Even with the estimates of around 100 people per show, planning choreography poses a challenge.

“We only had four people choreographing for what turned out to be 104 students,” Moore said.

According to Murray, the choreography and staging is constantly changing throughout the directing

process.

“It takes a lot of practicing, revising and editing,” Murray said.

Barnett found a unique solution to this challenge of choreographing for such a large group.

“I actually would use a cloning filter on Snapchat so I could see myself dancing to the choreo with eight of me,” Barnett said.

Freshman participation presents another challenge to directors: how will they ensure that these students have a positive first Tunes experience?

For CM, extra time is spent picking a theme and music that not only the audience can understand and enjoy, but also that the participants can get behind and bring to life.

“We are all going to look silly, and there’s nothing we can do about it,” Barnett said.

CM directors also spend their preparation period praying over every aspect of their show, especially over the participants that they have yet to meet. CM shows are also rich in traditions that upperclassmen still fondly remember long after their time with the organization.

For Student Life, directors have been focused on creating a positive environment for their participants.

“We try to keep everything fun while making a good show in the process,” Moore said.

Murray emphasized the importance of creating a welcoming experience.

“If we make our goals to love on the freshmen, to care about them, to be the light of Jesus and to make sure they are having a fun time, we can do our best to make sure they are having a good Tunes experience,” Murray said.

With all of the time and energy these directors have invested into their shows, Campus Ministries and Student Life participants are sure to have a fun and memorable Tunes experience.

## Traditions during Tunes week boost student spirit

BY AVERY WALKER  
Copy Editor

For many people, Ouachita is synonymous with its most famous tradition: Tiger Tunes. At the beginning of the fall semester, clubs and organizations work tirelessly to put on the best Tunes show.

During show week, each organization will perform and compete with one another, all to raise student scholarships.

Tunes season is a time of hard work and late nights for the students involved. However, during show week, everyone gets to enjoy the fruits of their labor by participating in the celebratory Tunes traditions that mark the end of an eventful, exciting time.

One of the most highly-anticipated Tunes traditions is Muggin’, put on by the men of Eta Alpha Omega. At the end of the late-night Saturday show, Eta issues an invitation to each audience member, chanting “come to Muggin’!” as they run off stage. The whole campus then takes part in one of the biggest parties of the year, listening to music, communing with friends and, of course, drinking root beer.

Muggin’ is Eta’s biggest event of the school year. “We usually spend about \$2,000 on root beer,” Drew Knecht, a junior kinesiology major said. “In fact, we have to go outside of Arkadelphia to get it because we buy out the stores here.”

According to Knecht, Muggin’ is not just about drinking root beer and having fun, however.

“Muggin’ is one of the biggest opportunities we have as a club to give back to campus,” Knecht said. “It’s encouraging fun that still glorifies God.”

Muggin’ is not the only party during Tunes week. The men of Kappa Chi do their part on Friday night, hosting Kappa Cookout for



Josh Mott, Brendan Watson and Caleb Cornelius prepare food for the 2024 Kappa cookout. The cookout is one of many traditions during Tunes. (Photo by Joshua Rhine)

all those involved in Tunes.

“Cookout has two main purposes,” Caleb Cornelius, a senior math, physics and mechanical engineering major, said. “We feed the people involved in Tunes, since most of us during show week are barely eating or sleeping, and we get to network and talk to people after the show.”

Kappa Cookout, like Muggin’, is an event that brings the whole campus together in celebration of their hard work.

While most Tunes events are organized by social clubs to build community on campus, Campus Ministries and Student Life have their own traditions to create a sense of camaraderie and fun for participants, especially new freshmen.

Callie Moore, an English and secondary education major and co-director of Student Life, described one of their most iconic traditions. “The main freshman club tradition is the ordeal for reveal,” Moore said.

On the night that participants are sorted into either Campus Ministries or Student Life, the directors of Student Life dress in all black and reveal their Tunes theme in Berry Chapel - a frightening, but fun introduction into the world of Tunes. “It’s sort of their initiation

into Student Life,” Moore said.

As well as initiation, a major tradition in Campus Ministries and Student Life shows is to have a devotional time before each practice.

Matt Murray, an English, secondary education and coaching major, discussed the heart behind this tradition. “It gets everyone in a good mindset before we start,” Murray said.

This devotional time builds the relationships that will be kept alive by fun events like Muggin’ and Cookout for years to come. Murray is also a proponent of freshmen attending Tunes traditions. “These are some of the only things that freshmen can attend,” Murray said, “and root beer is just fun.”

From the established traditions of Muggin’ and Kappa Cookout to freshman community-building, Tunes week is full of events that bring campus together.

Of course, the most important part of Tiger Tunes, raising student scholarships, is not forgotten amidst all the partying, but is instead the heartbeat behind it.

“The work put in and the scholarships raised are worth celebrating,” Knecht said.

Despite being an exhausting week, Tiger Tunes is a purposeful time certain to be full of memories.

## Tiger Tally

How many of these homecoming activities can you check off this weekend?

☐ Watch Tiger Tunes

☐ Eat a barbecue lunch at the Purple Plaza Party

☐ Catch up with an old friend

☐ Attend a tailgate

☐ Take a stroll around campus

☐ Cheer on the Tigers at the football game

☐ Drink a root beer at Muggin

☐ Picture on Cone-Bottoms lawn

☐ Participate in a Tunes show

# Alumni couple reflects on 71 years of marriage

BY JACIE SELLARS  
Editor-in-Chief

Ouachita is known for its sense of community, and the relationships built here can feel like a family for all who attend.

For George and Ouida Peters, however, time at Ouachita marks the beginning of a 71-year family legacy. The pair married on Jan. 30, 1954 during their sophomore year.

George and Ouida both grew up in Texarkana, and they met at a high school Bible camp. Under the guidance of faith leaders in their lives, they were encouraged to attend Ouachita.

“I chose Ouachita because of my church at the time,” Ouida Peters said. “The pastor was such a great man, and he said people should get a Christian education. He encouraged us to go that route.”

The two began their studies, with Ouida majoring in biblical studies and George majoring in history.

“The history program enabled me to be a teacher and preacher and to better relate to people in general,” George Peters said.

Although the couple had already thought about marriage before college, they decided it was time to marry at age 19.

“We had some good examples in both of our families of the marriage commitment,” George Peters said. “Being in a Christian college environment encouraged us both to follow those principles and those examples.”

As they prepared for their wedding, George and Ouida remained dedicated to their studies.

According to Carla Smith, one of their daughters, this dedication led to a funny mishap on the wedding day.

“They were so busy with their studies in the weeks before their marriage that they forgot to go down to the courthouse to get their marriage license,” Smith said. “My



Left: George and Ouida at their wedding in 1954. Right: George and Ouida sitting on their front porch in 2024. The pair married while attending Ouachita. (Photos provided by Eva Bakalekos)

grandfather had to get up early that morning and drive them back to Arkadelphia from Texarkana to get it.”

Fortunately, the marriage license came through in time, and the Peters began married life, moving from dorms into married housing at Ouachita.

“We lived in a bunch of army barracks that had been set up as a little community,” Ouida Peters said. “Each barrack had been divided into a couple of little apartments, and we lived in one of those at the time.”

The Peters had their first son, George, while still at Ouachita. In the coming years, George was followed by their four daughters, Alice, Jamie, Carla and Eva.

Today, the Peters have 12 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. The pair says that being parents and grandparents has taught them about God’s provision.

“I know that we’ve been blessed,” Ouida Peters said. “The blessings sometimes came as little surprises, but the Lord has always provided for us. He’s provided us with the right thinking and the right choices to make.”

Ouida withdrew from college to raise her children, but her Ouachita journey continued in the 1980s when she returned to finish her degree at age 50.

“I didn’t finish my education until 1988,” Ouida Peters said. “Day after day I drove from Little Rock to Arkadelphia just to finish. I drove for two years, but it was well worth it. I wanted to be a graduate from Ouachita.”

Smith is inspired by her mother’s determination to complete her degree, especially as a woman in biblical studies.

“It was quite an accomplishment,” Smith said. “Not only to go back, but to get that degree at

a time when primarily males were studying that.”

Ouida says that she values her degree not because of specific work it led her to, but because of the education that she is able to carry throughout her life.

“Even though the degree has not given me something to grip onto, it’s given me confidence,” Ouida Peters said. “Confidence to have a degree and say it’s from Ouachita, and I’m proud of that.”

Reflecting on 71 years of marriage, George and Ouida are grateful for the lessons they have learned, even during difficult seasons.

“One of the things you do learn is that it’s not always a bed of roses,” Ouida Peters said.

When considering what advice they would give about marriage, the pair emphasized the importance of patience and clear communication.

“It’s important to try to be aware of what your partner in marriage feels like is a priority and for you to be able to patiently express your own priorities,” George Peters said. “If you run out of patience, it makes it hard to communicate.”

Even after many years, Tiger spirit abounds in the Peters household. The two consider Ouachita to be part of what laid a strong foundation for their lives together.

“I’m so proud I can claim Ouachita,” Ouida Peters said. “In fact, I can still sing the song.”

Beyond school spirit, the Peters’ time at Ouachita reflects the faith that has been a constant over their 71 years of marriage.

“Faith has always been a part of our lives regardless of job changes or activity in the church or in ministry of some kind,” George Peters said. “The Christian college background gave us some good examples to follow.”

## How alumni can make the most of Homecoming Weekend

BY JANET CARDEN  
Opinions Editor

There is plenty in store for visiting alumni and students the weekend of Tiger Tunes and Homecoming. Alumni can expect to be entertained with reunions, Tunes Shows galore, homecoming announcements, the Purple Plaza Party and plenty more.

“Homecoming is a super fun time for alumni because so many come back for that and Tiger Tunes,” Alumni Director Anna Roussel said. “It’s hard to separate the two because they’re so intertwined, but there is a lot to do for alumni that’s not just specific to Tiger Tunes.”

Beginning tonight, the alumni relations office has prepared an evening of food trucks before Tiger Tunes. Students and alumni can connect over great food and dessert from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m before the show.

The celebrations will continue tomorrow with the Purple Plaza Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The party will showcase everything Ouachita has to offer, from information on student organizations to club reunions and games.

Later in the evening, alumni are invited to the Family Reunion Dinner at 6 p.m in Tiger Alley on Fifth St.

“The dinner is open to all alumni, but we’re specifically celebrating the milestone classes of 1995, 2005 and 2015,” Roussel said.

The dinner will feature several speakers, including a speech from President Ben Sells. Roussel encourages any visiting alumni, even those who aren’t from one of the milestone graduating classes, to make an appearance at the reunion dinner.

“We’d love for any alumni that’s here and in town to come and hang

out with people at the reunion dinner,” Roussel said. “Odds are, you’ll know someone who’s there.”

Saturday will wrap up homecoming and Tiger Tunes celebrations, but not until after a busy day of events.

Starting in the morning, alumni will be able to reconnect at a leisurely pace. Most separate and reunite with their groups and athletic teams before the football game at noon.

“It’s not just social clubs,” Roussel said. “It’s a good way for alumni to come back and see who’s in the groups that they were in when they were on campus and connect with them.”

Groups such as the swim team, softball team and the band all host events where alumni can connect with current students. From breakfasts to group swims to playing as a band together, students and alumni have plenty of opportunities for fellowship throughout the weekend.

After the football game, alumni can attend a lawn party at Cone-Bottoms Hall and a fajita dinner before the final Tiger Tunes shows.

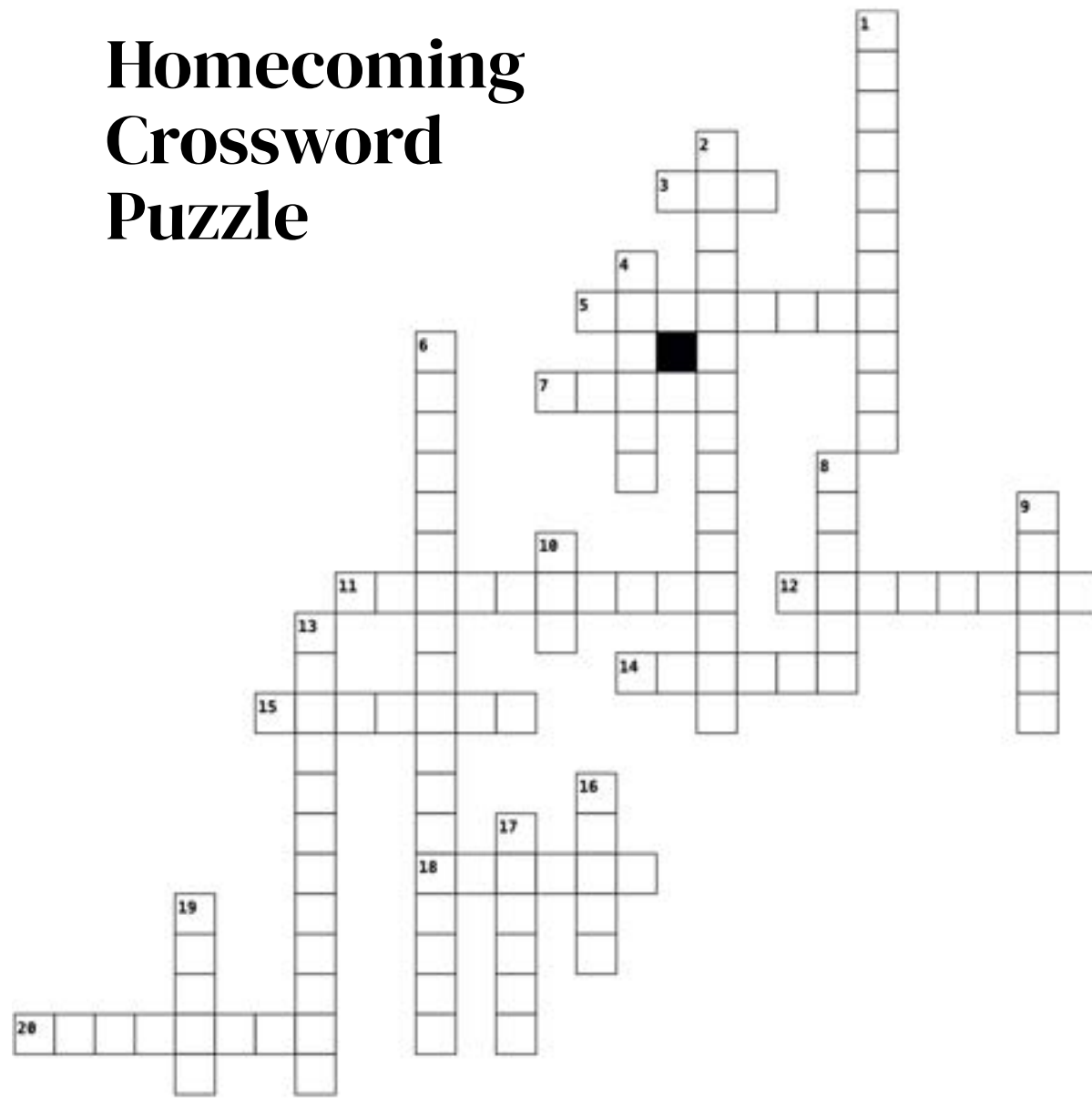
According to Roussel, homecoming is a way for alumni to see legacies continued, often within their own family.

“So many alumni have kids or nieces or cousins in the show, so it’s neat for them to see their family doing the same thing that they did before,” Roussel said.

Traditions passed on from parent to child, aunt or uncle to niece or nephew provide families with ways to further bond even when students are away from home. A home shared by many creates Tigers for life.

Alumni, young and old, love to visit the home that changed their lives, and Ouachita promises to offer the best homecoming and Tunes visit every year.

## Homecoming Crossword Puzzle



- Across**
- 3. Man’s best friend
  - 5. Saddle up for this Tunes show
  - 7. Annual \_\_\_\_\_ crowning.
  - 11. A heavy metal Tunes theme.
  - 12. Hanging out before the game.
  - 14. \_\_\_\_\_ Plaza Party.
  - 15. \_\_\_\_\_ on the green.
  - 18. Who’s coming back home.
  - 20. Cards, board games, etc.

- Down**
- 1. Who you call for a critter.
  - 2. Since 1776.
  - 4. Tripp and Tally.
  - 6. Cheering fans gather here.
  - 8. Tickets and prizes.
  - 9. Alfred in Batman.
  - 10. Students helping students.
  - 13. This show makes you smile.
  - 16. Skin and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 17. A refreshing end to Tunes.
  - 19. Singing Tunes announcers.

# Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations raise cultural awareness and foster community

BY JACIE SELLARS  
Editor-in-Chief

Banners and traditional decorations filled the hallway, and students crowded around tables. Music played as vendors sold Mexican corn and pupusas, a stuffed flatbread from El Salvador and Honduras. Lile Hall had been converted into a plaza as part of a series of celebrations across campus for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed across the nation from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year. Its goal is to celebrate the history and culture of people with Hispanic and Latino descent. This year, the Spanish program worked to bring these celebrations to Ouachita’s campus.

Spanish professor Jerusa Carvajal wanted to have these events in part to honor the Hispanic students and faculty at Ouachita.

“There are many students on our campus that come from Hispanic families or have Spanish-speaking parents,” Carvajal said. “We want these students to feel pride in their Hispanic heritage.”

Although representation is one of the goals of Hispanic Heritage Month, Carvajal hopes that each event will help everyone on campus to better understand Hispanic culture.

“It’s important that everyone on campus gets to know, at least on a small scale, our cultures,” Carvajal said. “The music, the food, the dress- it’s all distinct.”

The celebrations began with a kick-off lunch on Sept. 15 where the dining hall served popular foods, including fajitas, quesadillas and churros.

Next, Spanish faculty showed a documentary on Sept. 17 titled “Hispanic Myths and Challenges.” This showing helped students to gain cultural understanding and

learn more about the history behind Hispanic Heritage Month.

Celebrations continued with the Plaza Latina on Sept. 21. This event took place in Lile Hall and attempted to replicate a traditional marketplace. Different faculty members set up tables of traditional decorations from their countries. Student artists sold artwork and handmade jewelry, and local vendors sold food.

Senior Elizabeth Hahn, president of the Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honor Society, said that she was very pleased with the event.

“Looking back on the Plaza Latina, I’m so thrilled with how it turned out and the number of people who showed up,” Hahn said. “We had music, dancing, amazing vendors and tables with items from several Spanish-speaking countries. The event brought so much culture and life to Ouachita’s campus and really represented the spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month.”

According to Carvajal, the plaza event provided an opportunity to connect with the wider Spanish-speaking community through outreach to local vendors.

“We want to open these events for the community, for people who want to come here,” Carvajal said. “It’s important to be integrated because we are part of this community. We can serve them, and we can also bring them here for these experiences.”

Next, the Spanish program partnered with the School of Natural Sciences to host a conversation about “Science Beyond Borders.” The event took place at Dr. Jack’s coffeehouse and featured guest speaker Dr. Patrycja Krakowiak-Valdivia.

Krakowiak-Valdivia spoke about how to work with linguistic and cultural barriers in medicine and research, showing students the practical benefits of understand-



Left: Students enjoy the Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff lunch. Right: Dr. Carvajal speaks at a documentary event. The Spanish program hosted events all month to spread cultural awareness and respresent Hispanic culture. (Photos by Noah Gulley)



ing more than one language and culture.

Fernanda Carillo, Ouachita’s campus visit coordinator, has helped to plan the events and believes that each one has increased student awareness of different backgrounds.

“Everyone has been very receptive,” Carillo said. “We’ve talked about traditional food and dancing, for example, and people are interested.”

The celebrations continued with several events focused on fun ways to bring historical education and cultural immersion to campus.

The history department hosted a History of Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on Sept. 25 in Lile Hall. The history faculty aimed to teach students more about Hispanic culture.

On Sept. 29, a game of lotería, or Mexican bingo, brought students together to create community over

a new game.

Finally, the Spanish department will host a cooking class in the Ouachita Commons on Oct. 6. Participants will learn how to prepare arepas, a corn cake commonly served in Venezuela and Colombia.

There is another important event remaining for Hispanic Heritage Month: La Alabanza. This time of worship in Spanish will be held in Berry Chapel on Oct. 15. Carvajal said that she believes this event has the potential to deeply resonate with students.

“For me, this event is very important,” Carvajal said. “When students sing in English and praise in their own language, that’s one thing, but I want them to know that for Spanish-speakers and other cultures, we sing and praise the same way in our own languages.”

At the heart of each event is the desire to welcome every student to learn more about Hispanic heri-

tage, regardless of background. Carvajal hopes that attendees can better understand the many different countries and cultures represented.

“It’s very important to understand other cultures during the difficult times we are living in,” Carvajal said. “Every culture is singular, and it’s important to bring each culture to campus.”

Carillo hopes that the events will increase compassion and understanding, further connecting the student body.

“Everyone is welcome at these events,” Carillo said. “Just showing a little bit of interest will mean a lot to Hispanic and international students.”

Through music, food and thoughtful discussions, these events have joyfully highlighted diversity on campus and brought forth unity among all of those who call Ouachita home.

# Roussel reflects on work with alumni and OSF

BY MARIN MURRAY  
News Editor

Never did she imagine that she would hold a job like this, not in a million years. But now, it’s a dream come true.

In January, Anna Roussel, who graduated in 2022, took over the roles of Director of Alumni Relations and Director of the Ouachita Student Foundation (OSF), working with two groups within the Ouachita community that are close to her heart.

“Even when I was in leadership at OSF as a student, I don’t think I ever imagined that I would be in this job now,” Roussel said. “It’s a dream job and just an answer to a prayer. I’m really thankful that Ouachita trusts me with this.”

Following in the footsteps of her mom, Roussel joined OSF during her freshman year. As she learned more about its mission of “students helping students,” she became more involved before becoming president her senior year.

“I was the president when I was a student here, so I kind of had a little bit of an idea of what the job was like because I worked so closely with the director who was here

before me,” Roussel said. “But, I think it’s the kind of role that you really don’t know what to expect until you’re in it. So, there’s been a lot of learning, but also a lot of growth. It’s just a super fun and creative job that really lets me work closely with students, which is the whole reason I wanted to work at Ouachita.”

As part of her job, Roussel works directly with students in OSF to help them with fundraising, special events, student recruitment and their philanthropy efforts.

“She has always had such a love for this organization, for the students involved and for pouring into and bringing up leaders within OSF,” senior OSF special events chair Ashleigh Estes said.

“So, when she got this job, I just knew that she was the absolute most perfect person for the job because of how much she loves it and how much she has carried that love into her whole life.”

Though Roussel’s position with OSF has changed from member to director, the defining characteristic of the organization, its student leadership, has remained the same.

However, her new perspective has only increased her appreciation

for this organization.

“I loved my time at OSF,” Roussel said. “It was my favorite thing that I did when I was on campus. It taught me a lot about being a leader, being flexible and learning how to overcome challenges.”

One of OSF’s main fundraising endeavors that Roussel is responsible for overseeing also happens to be one of Ouachita’s most beloved traditions: Tiger Tunes.

For the last 47 years, OSF has worked with groups on campus to put on a show full of songs and dancing, becoming the cherished homecoming tradition it is today. All proceeds from tickets for the performances go directly into scholarships for Ouachita students, making it all the more special.

“I think she’s doing a really great job,” senior OSF president Anderson Jones said. “Anna has taken over so gracefully, and it’s been such a smooth transition. I think a big part of that is because she was the OSF president a few years ago, and so she really understands the inner workings of OSF and Tiger Tunes. And so it’s really great to have that full circle moment where we have all been here before, and we know what to do. I think it’s just



a really great team.”

However, Roussel is more than just involved in OSF. Her job also includes working with alumni, finding ways for them to keep involved in the Ouachita community even though their chapter as students has closed.

“I am a third-generation Ouachita student, and so I have been around Ouachita alumni my whole life,” Roussel said. “It’s been really neat to be able to pour back into a group of people that poured into me so much when I was growing up.”

Roussel surely is no stranger to Ouachita. With a family legacy and an undergraduate and graduate degree connected to this place, Anna’s

love for Ouachita runs deep. This job is just another way for her to serve this school, which has come to mean so much to her.

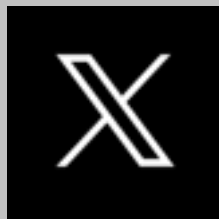
“I think Anna is one of the biggest fans of Ouachita and the Ouachita Student Foundation that you will ever find,” Estes said. “She is just a big supporter and really is an embodiment of what OSF strives to be, to pour into the Ouachita community.”

Her love for Ouachita, its community and OSF make Roussel a perfect fit for this role, allowing her to pour into and work alongside people that mean so much to her at a place that has greatly shaped the person she is today.



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# Refuge provides time of rest and worship

BY MARIN MURRAY  
News Editor

A refuge is defined as something that provides shelter. It is a place where people feel safe and free of fear. It is a place where one does not have to worry about the stress of Tunes season or that big exam coming up or that one hard thing that you can’t stop worrying about. So, every Thursday night, students at Ouachita press pause on their daily schedule to spend time with God, finding refuge in Him.

Refuge is a weekly campus gathering led by students serving on the Campus Ministries team that meets at 9 p.m. on Thursdays, which allows the Ouachita community to come together to grow closer to the Lord through worship, preaching and fellowship.

“Throughout the year, I hope that Refuge is a place where people come and feel like they can slow down, be with the Lord and be in community,” senior Refuge speaker Gracie Campbell said. “The heart of what we hope to accomplish through this ministry is to be a place that fosters community. I hope that people feel like they come to a place where they have community and that they feel like they can be honest and raw and open.”

While Refuge is a place for students to find safety and rest in the presence of Jesus, escaping the

busyness of their daily life, even more so, it is a place where they can belong and grow in their walk with God.

“I think what is so cool about Refuge is that it is completely voluntary,” senior Refuge speaker Tate Goodrum said. “Refuge is late at night. It is completely free for everybody who wants to come. And everybody is coming not to hear somebody speak and not to hear the songs that we are singing, but to experience God. I think it’s just something very beautiful that people are coming freely from all different backgrounds and coming together.”

Coming into this school year, the focus of the Refuge team has primarily been on going back to the simplicity of the gospel, reminding students and even themselves of the simple yet profound truths found in God’s word, which will serve as the foundation for the rest of the year.

“The vision has just been about reaching the new believers and reaching people who are ready to take simple steps in their faith,” Campbell said. “It has been really neat just to see how even our friends who are a lot more mature in their faith have still benefited from coming back to the simple aspects of the gospel.”

This first series that the speakers have put together has placed an emphasis on going back to the basics of what the gospel is. From what it means to encounter Jesus to how



Junior Eli Smithson leads worship at Refuge. Student leaders in Christian Studies and Worship Studies prepare a weekly time of worship and Scripture, hoping to provide the student body with rest and Christian community. (Photo by Jenna Case)

that affects your life and the lives of others, the central focus of the first four weeks is summed up in a single word: simplicity.

“I hope that students take away how to wrestle faithfully with the Lord and how to understand truth in a simple way,” Campbell said.

This year, eight seniors comprise the team leading Refuge; four, including Campbell and Goodrum, are speakers, along with Noah Terry and Braden Wagley. The other four members rotate leading worship each week. Each student went through an application and interview process before being selected for the team.

For all of them, especially Goodrum, it is something they cherish

greatly, leading the ministry that has impacted their time at Ouachita.

“I went to my first ever Refuge with my brother when I was a junior in high school,” Goodrum said. “I remember sitting in the pew at Second Baptist and thinking that this is really cool. I hadn’t experienced this or been around a community of believers like this before. So, now, fast forward to today, and getting the chance to serve and help lead, it’s such a blessing and such a cool full circle moment.”

While leading Refuge is a significant honor for these seniors, it also comes with a platform of sorts. However, one of the team’s focuses for the year is to remind other students that they are no different than

anyone else.

“Something that we are all reminded of daily is that ultimately it’s not about us,” Goodrum said. “I think that’s just the main heart, and I want that to be communicated. We are some normal people with everyday struggles, but we are serving the same God. We are all the same, just trying to become more like Christ. And so, I think that’s a huge thing that also goes into the heart of Refuge.”

“There are two main things that come to mind when it comes to what we want students to leave with,” Goodrum said. “One is that they find refuge in God, and two is to cultivate a community that is centered on that idea of refuge.”

# Hosts and hostesses prepare with rehearsals and team-building

BY EMERSON THOMPSON  
Staff Writer

Tiger Tunes is a popular time of year at Ouachita with so much history behind it. As the Ouachita Student Foundation puts on this production every year, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes.

One of the biggest attributes of Tiger Tunes is the hosts and hostesses of the production. There are a total of eight hosts and hostesses, four men and four women.

The hosts practice for four to five weeks before show week to nail down choreography, costumes, lyrics and overall chemistry with one another.

Being a host or hostess comes with a lot of responsibility, but with the benefit of long-lasting friendships and relationships within their small circle. Junior Xander Dalton is a host for this year, and he is beyond excited to participate in Tiger Tunes in this way.

“I think our group has been strong in the community aspect since the very beginning,” Dalton said.

Dalton believes that the hours of rehearsal have created a deep bond between the hosts.

“Our community as well as the culture we’ve developed has made going to Tunes rehearsal actually something enjoyable,” Dalton said. “We are more than ‘the hosts,’ we’ve become family.”

Tiger Tunes hosts carry a long legacy and impact on those who love the show. Along with the hon-



Graceanne Ashlock, Xander Dalton, Hadley Gilmore, Nathan Price, Ava Weeks, Braden Burger, Carleigh Jean Himmelsehr and Aaron Washburn pose for a photo. The group will serve as Tiger Tunes hosts, singing between club acts. (Photo by Tyler Rosenthal)

or of the position, there can be some pressure attached to it.

Senior Carleigh Jean Himmelsehr is entering her second year as a host, and she is head hostess for this year.

“Before coming to OBU, I had no clue what Tiger Tunes was or even what a host was,” Himmelshe said. “Since then, I’ve submerged myself into the Tunes culture, and have truly come to understand how important my role is. It is a true blessing to be able to represent the students that perform in Tiger Tunes and to help in OSF’s saying of ‘students helping students.’”

Himmelsehr hopes to set an example of God-honoring leadership this year.

“Although the legacy of Tunes host may not be a long-lasting one, I only hope that I leave it better than it was,” Himmelsehr said. “God gave me the opportunity and abil-

ity to perform, and I want to honor Him through it all.”

When asked what excited her about this year’s performance, Himmelsehr looks forward to seeing audience reactions. “We have a certain set in our show that includes a recently well-known song, so I am excited to see the initial reaction,” Himmelsehr said. “I am also just excited for them to see how much fun we have on stage.”

Dalton is excited for the new songs that the hosts will present. “There is a song that implements the hosts in a way that I have yet to see them implemented, or at least not to this extent,” Dalton said. “I don’t think y’all are ready for what we’ve got cooking.”

Whether it is their first year knowing about Tiger Tunes or their 47th year, audiences can fully immerse themselves in it because it is an event like no other.

# New fall television shows gain popularity, providing plenty of cozy viewing options

BY JACIE SELLARS  
Editor-in-Chief

As autumn arrives and the weather grows colder, many people turn to cozy indoor activities, including watching more movies and television shows.

Between live television, streaming and familiar favorites, there are plenty of TV options as you curl up on your couch this fall.

When it comes to live television, several reality programs are back on the air. “Dancing with the Stars” has started its 34th season, bringing a new cast of celebrities onto the ballroom dance floor. The show has recently gained newfound popularity on social media, with reactions and scoreboards frequently posted on X and Tiktok.

Other current reality shows include “Survivor” and “The Amazing Race.”

Sports fans will be glad to hear that football season is back. A mix of NFL and college football games will play across multiple channels this fall, creating potential for gameday viewing with family and friends.

Along with live television, streaming services are also offering up a fresh batch of shows this season. Netflix has released the third season of “Wednesday,” an Addams family inspired program that’s perfectly timed for the Halloween season.

Netflix has also received acclaim for “Adolescence,” a British

miniseries that covers crime and the challenges younger generations face. Each of the four episodes is uniquely shot in one take, and the acting from all cast members has been praised, with multiple cast members receiving Emmy awards.

Another popular crime show is “Only Murders in the Building”, which recently released its fifth season on Hulu. With comedic performances from Steve Martin, Martin Short and Selena Gomez, “Only Murders” puts a fun twist on the conventional whodunnit mystery story.

Along with these new releases, there are many television shows that regain popularity every fall.

One of the most popular fall shows is “Gilmore Girls,” which follows a mother and daughter in small town Connecticut. Although “Gilmore Girls” episodes are set in every season, the show’s combination of cozy small town events and comfort food make it ideal autumnal viewing.

Other shows commonly rewatched in the fall include “Friends,” “Gossip Girl” and “Friday Night Lights.” Each of these shows highlights character-driven episodes focusing on beginnings such as the back-to-school season or new stages of life.

Shows with an element of mystery such as “The Vampire Diaries” are also popular during the fall season.

With so many different viewing options this fall, you are sure to be entertained.

# Media Mix

What we are reading, watching and listening to



“The Life of a Showgirl”  
Taylor Swift

Maddie Cox  
Staff Writer



“The Parent Trap”

Madelyn Tullios  
Online Editor-in- Chief



“Piranesi”  
Susanna Clarke

Jacie Sellars  
Editor-in-Chief



“New Girl”

Cameron Self  
Staff Writer

# Has social media made us angrier?

BY ASHLYN KINLEY  
Staff Writer

Social media has seemed to completely take over our generation. People have different opinions about social media as a whole, and most of the time, it is perceived as a negative concept.

The reason this view is common has a lot to do with the people that run social media accounts: what they comment, what they share and how they portray their thoughts about certain topics.

The negative methods people use to express their views, in turn, make people angry at the concept of a media platform that allows for conversation, posts and information. Social media platforms are often negatively perceived because angry people are naturally fed “ragebait” content. Posts that demand something opposite of what we may feel is true will naturally provoke anger.

Negative comment sections and demeaning posts do nothing but stir up conflict and anger within readers. Often, controversial posts will include comment sections full of arguments and cruel words typed out to others online. Posts that are degrading towards a certain group of people or a particular subject will naturally cause distress and rage within communities. These factors all contribute to a negative view of social media as a whole.

However, social media is not inherently bad. There is nothing wrong with it as a concept. There is just a lot wrong with people online who have no limitations or restrictions.

People can (and do) voice controversial opinions, causing anger for those who hear them, even if they don’t hear them in completion or fully understand them.

To avoid this negative mindset toward social media as a whole and recognize it for the good and bad it offers people, it is essential

to see social media as a framework, a place for people to speak their minds, communicate with friends or receive information.

Content creators, however, shouldn’t be surprised when they undergo consequences for speaking their opinion to a diverse public population and posting it online.

Despite the abundance of hate, people can absolutely use social media for inspiration and kindness rather than opinions or “hot takes.”

When focusing on real-life relationships, social media can be a good thing.

For example, when a dear friend moves far away, social media is a good way to keep up with them and stay in touch. While often negative, comment sections can also be used to encourage friends.

Ultimately, social media platforms have the potential to uplift people, giving encouragement and wise advice to those who may need it.

Influencers have also become very popular in this generation, and many have a reputation of being shallow or fake.

However, there are some genuinely hardworking influencers, and a healthy relationship with an on-line influencer can lead to success and personal growth.

In short, social media might fuel anger, but it also inspires and can be used to foster an environment that allows people to grow. The real issues are not with the platforms themselves, but with the people who misuse them.

As the reader, it is important to consider who we follow on social media and how we present ourselves.

There will be negative posts on the Internet, but it is our job to stay out of arguments in the comment sections and be slow to judge the posts we do see.

Using a media platform for good can uplift and encourage those online, and can bring a little bit more light into the world.



# How majoring in Christian Studies has impacted my faith

BY TATE GOODRUM  
Guest Writer

My name is Tate Goodrum, and I am a senior Christian studies major at Ouachita with an emphasis in both biblical studies and Christian ministry.

Looking back on my time here, I can say with confidence that choosing this program has been one of the most rewarding decisions I have made in college.

One of the highlights of my experience has been the variety of classes I’ve had the opportunity of taking. Some of my classes have focused on theology and biblical interpretation, while others have given me practical ministry training.

Two courses that stand out are Introduction to Christian Ministries with Prof. Bill Newton and Revelation with Dr. Duvall. Both challenged me in unique ways and helped me connect what I was learning in the classroom to my personal calling and ministry.

What truly sets the Pruet School of Christian Studies apart from other Christian studies pro-

grams are the professors. The majority of them have served in ministry themselves, which gives them a perspective that goes beyond the textbook. They don’t just pass on information, but they teach us how to live it out.

Being their student means receiving both theological depth and practical wisdom which prepares us for the real challenges of ministry.

When I was in high school, I felt a call to ministry, though I wasn’t entirely sure what that would look like.

To any student considering a Christian Studies major, I would encourage you to take at least one class.

During my time at Ouachita, that calling has become much clearer. I’ve grown in my passion

for pastoral ministry and discovered gifts I didn’t fully recognize before.

The tools and training I’ve received through this program have been invaluable in shaping not just my career goals but also my faith and character.

To any student considering a Christian studies major, I would encourage you to take at least one class.

If you have room in your schedule for a minor, foundations or even a full major, the investment is absolutely worth it.

The program is not easy; you’ll read more books than you thought possible, write exegetical papers, study Scripture in depth, and be intellectually stretched in every way, but it is deeply rewarding.

For me, the experience has been humbling and transformative. If my knowledge of Scripture when I began college was the size of a quarter, the Pruet School has expanded it into the size of a dining room table.

More importantly, it has instilled in me a lifelong love of learning and a deeper desire to know our Triune God.

# Fun ideas for a local fall break in Arkadelphia

BY MADDIE COX  
Staff Writer

Fall break is rapidly approaching and will be here before we know it. With all of the excitement surrounding the break and making plans, it can be overwhelming to try and find things to do.

If you plan to stay local during the break, you may find yourself wondering how you can stay entertained.

While Arkadelphia certainly is a small town, there are plenty of activities to keep you occupied and energized throughout the break, keeping both restfulness and fun in mind.

Something that students can look forward to is cooler temperatures. Summer has ended, and it would appear that the weather is finally getting the memo.

If you are an outdoorsy person, you will be pleased to learn that there are several beautiful hiking trails to take advantage of while still staying local.

One of these beautiful trails is Desoto Bluff Trail. Sometimes referred to fondly by students as just “The Bluff,” it is a short hike spanning only 1.1 miles. It is across flat ground and only takes around 25 minutes to complete. The end result of the hike is a beautiful overlook over the river from above a cliff.

Another great outdoor recommendation is Feaster Trail. A slightly longer but still relatively easy hike, this trail stretches 2.7



The sun sets at Desoto Bluff Trail. This trail is one of several outdoor activity spaces in Arkadelphia, providing students with places to hike. (Photo provided by Maddie Cox)

miles. There are convenient access points for the trail from Baptist Health Hospital, 26th St., 15th St. and Ouachita.

Nearby Feaster Trail is the Feaster Park. This park spans 68 acres and includes four softball/baseball fields, a skatepark and a playground.

An added bonus for all animal lovers is the Barkadelphia Dog Park. All of these amenities are within a short distance of each other, so your dog can get some fresh air too.

The DeGray Lake Resort also offers beautiful views and a restaurant. Along with being a resort, they also offer sunset cruises, guided hikes and snorkeling trips.

While activities offered vary each week, it is worth at least driving by to see the sun setting over the water.

If all of these options fail and

you’re willing to take a little bit of a drive, Hot Springs also has several unique attractions.

One such attraction is the Arkansas Alligator Farm and Petting Zoo. Here, you can see many different alligators and witness feeding demonstrations. The petting zoo also includes animals such as goats, rabbits and other gentle animals to interact with. While this experience is great for children, seeing alligators is bound to be memorable for anyone.

You are also sure to have fun dining or shopping in Hot Springs’ historic downtown area.

Whatever you decide to do over Fall Break, I encourage you to do it safely and with joy. The busyness of classes will be back before you know it, so it is important to take this time to rest and recharge.

# Why fall is the best season of the year

BY EMERSON THOMPSON  
Staff Writer

When you think of fall, what usually comes to mind? Is it the leaves changing colors or maybe the comfort foods you make? Is it the nostalgia that comes with the season or even the coziness of change right around the corner? Whatever reason you come up with, or even if you’re struggling to come up with a reason, there is something for everyone to enjoy during this great time of year.

Fall is my favorite season. There are so many great things to do and enjoy. Outdoor activities become more fun with the cooler weather.

Activities that aren’t possible during the other seasons become possible, such as visiting pumpkin patches and apple orchards, hiking to see the pretty fall leaves and other foliage, bonfires and hayrides and fall festivals.

Indoor activities are also made perfect with baking seasonal treats, decorating your home with autumn decor and drinking hot apple cider or pumpkin spice lattes.

Enjoying seasonal events can be one of the best parts of autumn, but there’s even more fun with a big holiday around every corner throughout the season.

Halloween is such a nostalgic holiday for me because my family would dress up every year, and we’d have fun with friends. Thanksgiving in the same token is a great holiday to share with family and friends.

Autumn weather comes with film and TV favorites. There are so many great options. A few of my favorites are the first season of “Stranger Things,” “Good Will Hunting,” “Harry Potter,” “Twilight,” “Fantastic Mr. Fox,” “Little Women” and “The Parent Trap.” If you like spookier movies, a few that I love watching include “Scream,” “The Nightmare before Christmas,” “Heffalump Halloween,” and “Goosebumps.”

Fall is so much more than just a season. Senior Sydney Babb explained a little about her love for the autumn season.

“My favorite things about fall are the leaves changing, bonfires and the air feeling crisp,” Babb said. “It reminds me of memories from when I was a kid because my family loves Halloween. I always start the year off by decorating and watching ‘Halloweentown’ or an old spooky black and white movie. Autumn is the best time for fashion, weather and memories to be made.”

Autumn invites us to slow down, enjoy life’s simple pleasures, and create lasting memories. The vibrant colors of the leaves, the cozy comfort of seasonal treats, and the nostalgic feelings in the crisp air all come together to make this season truly special.

Take time to embrace the beauty around you. Watch a favorite movie, spend time outside or share moments with family and friends.

It’s the little things that make fall such a memorable and magical time of year.

ALUMNI ISSUE

Bill Vining Sr. remembered for legacy of greatness

BY ISAAC BOURNE  
Sports Editor

There are those enshrined into a university’s hall of fame, people who are honored for their exceptional devotion and commitment to an athletic program’s success, and then there are the very few people, who exceed the ranking of merely just “hall of fame” status.

For Ouachita, while many names stand out among the growing number of hall-of-famers that have been named over the years, three of them shine above all.

Buddy Benson, the former wins leader in the state of Arkansas, known for this success on the gridiron as head football coach at Ouachita, establishing the culture that fans still today celebrate at Cliff Harris Stadium.

Next is Bob Gravett, who brought cross country and track and field to OBU, establishing success in both.

The last: Bill Vining Sr. A man known for his love of basketball, his love of Ouachita and his love of the Lord, and who has been honored with being the official name of the stage that his former Ouachita men’s basketball team takes weekly during the basketball season.

“[He was] kind and compassionate, yet intense and competitive, and he expected and commanded the best and was a great tactician,” said David Sharp, Ouachita director of athletics.

“As a coach, you have it or you don’t have it, and he obviously had it, but he was a great family man, and above all of that, everything I just described, his faith was the most important thing to him, and he lived that daily and displayed it, openly.”

Vining was head men’s basketball coach at OBU from 1954 to 1989, bringing the Tigers through multiple eras as a team, and serving as director of athletics from 1965 to 1996.

As coach for the Tigers, he experienced the breaking of

the color barrier, bringing in Ouachita’s first-ever African-American basketball player, Robert Cornelius, out of Lincoln High School in Camden, Arkansas.

“He coached during a time where there was segregation, and so to bring student athletes that are diverse to an institution, and to see that, it was great, and it broke barriers, and they were very good athletes, very good players,” said Sharp. “He brought in people of character, no matter what skin color.”

Beyond his time in Arkadelphia, Vining was also well-respected for his basketball knowledge around the world.

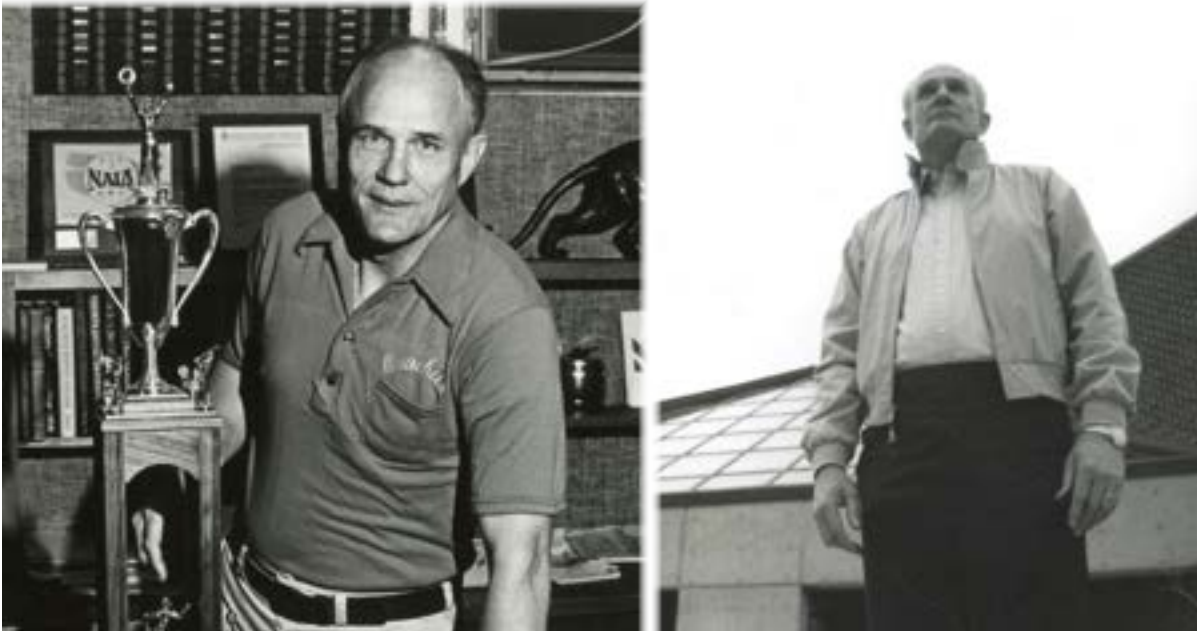
He gained a spot as an assistant coach for Team USA for the 1977 World University Games in Bulgaria, and picked up a spot as head coach for the U.S. national team in 1978 that won a silver medal in the Soviet Union at the Yuri Gagarin Cup.

Over his time coaching at the national level, Vining coached future basketball hall-of-famers such as Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Larry Bird and Sydney Moncrief.

“Back then, we didn’t have instant access to stuff like that, so you might read it, but we didn’t even have the internet,” said Sharp. “We didn’t have instant news. You got your news through Sports Illustrated and newspapers, but, but it was definitely a feather in the hat for him, and honestly, when you have things like that, that you do personally, it’s a reflection on your career and what he did from a Ouachita standpoint.”

As coach at Ouachita, Vining was able to mentor Tiger NAIA-All Americans Leon Clements, Tommy Patterson and Johnny Jenkins, who all have been enshrined in the OBU Hall of Fame in their own right.

Clements has been widely recognized as the greatest basketball player in program history, much of that being credited to the development and mentorship from the five-time NAIA District Coach of the



Year, 1979 NAIA Hall of Fame and 1986 Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

Things almost did not happen that way, though.

Vining found his way to Arkadelphia in an unusual way in the Fall of 1947, hitching a ride on the back of his friend’s truck from Eudora, Ark. and riding all the way to the small town of Arkadelphia without even submitting an application to the school.

With no room assignment or even a hint of his name on school records, Vining begged the then OBU president, James. R Grant to allow him

enrollment into the school, and his efforts worked, leading to almost 50 years of his involvement at Ouachita.

“The school has always been that way, and should always be that way,” said Sharp. “That’s who we are. Ouachita is not about any one person. It’s about all of us, and that includes the students.”

With a family spanning six children, three stepchildren, 22 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren, Vining’s impact on the community of Arkadelphia has been unmatched.

“I spent many nights with the Vining children, with them

at their house, and would play in this gym as a kid, and then I was on his campus [as a student],” said Sharp. “I saw the relationship he had with my dad, and what they had, and it was pretty special.”

The relationship that Bill Vining Sr. had with so many people throughout Ouachita’s history has made him, his family and the university the way they are today.

Through the people impacted, the lives changed and stories told, Bill Vining will be a name that outlives many of the players that had the honor of being coached by him.

Knight vaults into first in Arkansas all-time wins

BY ISAAC BOURNE  
Sports Editor

After 329 games, 32 years and 191 wins notched, Ouachita football head coach Todd Knight still hasn’t forgotten a single person that’s helped him along the way.

“Coach Derby has been with me,” said Knight. “He was a GA for me at Delta State, and we’ve been together ever since...Brett Shockley has been here now 19 years...you go back and we’ve had so many great defensive coordinators. J.R. [Eldridge] was here for 11 years. What an impact he had, really setting the base philosophy for who we are. Deke Adams defensive coordinator, Paige Anders. I mean, I can just go on and on and on.”

Knight, now in his 26th season with the Tigers, has still always focused on the next game no matter which season it has been.

After starting off his tenure at Ouachita with nine seasons without a winning record, he hasn’t looked back, posting 16-straight winning seasons at the helm of the Tigers. This record is the longest in the state of Arkansas.

“Three two-win seasons in those first five years...it just shows that it doesn’t just hap-

pen,” Knight said. “It takes a lot of work and a whole lot of nasty from a lot of people to get it done.”

A 1986 graduate of Ouachita, Knight played under the late Buddy Benson, who held the wins record prior to the 2025 season.

Following his time at OBU, he gained a graduate assistant role at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mis. where he would work his way up into an assistant coaching position in 1989.

After a brief two-year stint at division I UT-El Paso as an assistant, the statesmen would bring him back as head coach in 1993.

From there, Knight found a five-year home that would conclude with a Gulf South Conference (GSC) championship (the school’s first in its history) and a GSC Coach of the Year award.

In the year 1999, newly-minted athletic director David Sharp welcomed Knight as the replacement for retired football coach Jimmy “Red” Parker.

Even with a slow start, Knight would turn his first winning season in 2008 into, currently, the longest streak of winning seasons for a college football program in the state of Arkansas.

Serving as the president of the

American Football Coaches Association back in 2023, Knight has displayed his ability to be among the top of college football coaches at any level, but his love for Ouachita and the university in general keeps him coming back.

“Rex Horne, his involvement in Cliff Harris Stadium, and building those relationships and being able to maintain our scholarships with Dr. Sells, you know, those have been important too, so there’s a lot that goes into it, not just me, for sure,” said Knight.

“Then also the players. I mean, I’ve been around here a long time...some of these guys, just, first of all, super football players, but even better human beings. We’re so blessed here to have the quality of young men that we do, and they play hard. They’re loyal to the school, loyal to each other, and it’s just been a fun place to coach, and I mentioned the faith based education as well, to have a place to recruit, where you can be open about who you are and what it really means to be a man. That’s been fun as well.”

No matter what the team looks like or how the program has been in the past, Todd Knight has established a culture not easily broken for the Ouachita Baptist football program.

