

# **OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

## **Mission Statement**

Ouachita Baptist University is a church-related, liberal arts university whose aims are to meet the educational needs of students and to prepare them for places of leadership and service. To achieve these aims, Ouachita Baptist University seeks to combine the love of God with the love of learning. The University provides the students the opportunity to experience growth in Christian ideals and character, to develop their intellectual and physical abilities, to think critically and creatively, to mature in their understanding and appreciation of their world, to communicate effectively and to accept their obligation to be of service to God and mankind. This mission has been found to be consistent with faithful stewardship to the parent body, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

We affirm that life is lived most abundantly when it is lived in response to the love of God through Jesus Christ.

We affirm that we need to know about all areas of knowledge and that such breadth of learning should be both personal and vocational.

We affirm that good teaching requires interaction between student and teacher and that learning is most effective where there are both challenge and encouragement.

We affirm that education involves the whole person and that growth is intellectual, physical, spiritual and social. (Luke 2:52: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and Man.")

## **Origin**

Ouachita Baptist College was authorized by a vote of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention as its higher educational institution in November, 1885. In April, 1886, the trustees of the University voted to locate the institution in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Classes began on September 6, 1886, and the institution has operated without interruption in the same location since that date. On January 14, 1965, the Board of Trustees voted to change the name from College to University.

While Ouachita's primary obligation is to her parent body, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, the University has no restrictions as to belief or geographical location of persons whom it serves. The presence of students from many religions, states, and nations helps instill appreciation for other points of view and enriches the academic community. Ouachita welcomes students of all races.

As a Christian institution, Ouachita is more than a nominally church-related school. She takes seriously the person and teachings of Jesus Christ and seeks to relate these to the many disciplines and activities on the University campus. Nor does this orientation impose restrictions or deny academic freedom in the search for truth, for Jesus himself said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Fourteen presidents have guided its development: Dr. J.W. Conger, 1886-1907; Dr. H.S. Hartzog, 1907-11; Dr. R.C. Bowers, 1911-13; Dr. S.Y. Jameson, 1913-16; Dr. C.E. Dicken, 1916-26; Mr. A.B. Hill, 1926-29; Dr. C.D. Johnson,

1929-33; Dr. J.R. Grant, 1933-49; Dr. S.W. Eubanks, 1949-51; Dr. Harold A. Haswell, 1952-53; Dr. Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., 1953-1969; Dr. Daniel R. Grant, 1970-1988; Dr. Ben M. Elrod, 1988-1998; Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, 1998 to date.

## **Liberal Arts Education**

For the purpose of this statement, liberal arts education is defined in terms of the characteristics associated with an educated person and the kind of curriculum that might impart these characteristics.\* The person educated in the liberal arts tradition possesses not only knowledge and intellectual skills, but also, the inclination and ability to apply them to appropriate ends. Ideally, the knowledge is both deep and broad. In practice, depth derives from sustained work in a single discipline or area of study as one would obtain in a major or minor. Breadth results from serious engagement with all the major domains of knowledge and human endeavor and can be addressed through a program of general studies. A liberal arts education encompasses all the scholarly disciplines that inquire into the natural world and the human conditions as well as the fine arts and the practical arts. At a church-related university such as Ouachita, the development of rational inquiry into these disciplines reflects an expression of faith, hope, and love addressed to God and embodied within a community of faith. The interrelationships, multiple perspectives, traditions, and significance for contemporary society of these disciplines are the conceptual links that integrate the educated person's knowledge into a coherent whole.

Many writers have essayed definitions of the intellectual skills that characterized the educated person. Those skills most commonly identified with and most pertinent to this statement are the intellectual skills that make possible self-reflection and articulate communication.

Self-reflection – that is, consciousness of one's opinions, judgments, and the role of humans in the natural world – derives from the ability to analyze one's arguments, determine the factual basis of information, evaluate the quality of evidence, and identify and assess one's premises and values. Self-reflection can free the individual from egocentrism, intellectual provincialism, and an anthropocentric view of the world. Self-reflection may also lead to the assumption of responsibility for the solution of problems, self expression and artistic endeavors.

Articulate communication – the ability to present ideas in a clear, effective way – derives from skills in information gathering, conceptualization, abstraction, logic, the use of language, the ability to understand the positions of others, and in appropriate instances, to accommodate them.

The person educated in the liberal arts tradition exhibits certain dispositions. The person is inclined to serve the common good, to continue learning after formal education has ended, and to seek meaning in life. At Ouachita this search for meaning extends into all areas of life where one's commitment to God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ becomes an integral part of the search. The lifelong quest for knowledge of self, others, nature and God is the ultimate goal of liberal arts education at this university.

\*Adapted from: *The Liberal Art of Science, Agenda for Action*, 1990, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Inc., 133 H Street, Washington, D.C.

## **Location**

Ouachita Baptist University is located in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, about sixty-five miles southwest of Little Rock on Interstate 30 and thirty miles south of Hot Springs. There is frequent bus and Amtrak service to and from the city. Facilities for air transportation are available both in Hot Springs and Little Rock. Arkadelphia has a population of over 10,000, including the student bodies of Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University.

## **Status and Facilities of the University**

Ouachita Baptist University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission. (The Higher Learning Commission: A Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois, 60602-2504. Telephone: 312-263-04546)

The Teacher Education Program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education on the elementary and secondary levels. (National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education: 2010 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036-1023. Telephone: 202-466-7496)

The Division of Music is accredited for the baccalaureate degree by the National Association of Schools of Music. (National Association of Schools of Music: 11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21, Reston, Virginia, 20190. Telephone: 703-437-0700)

The Vocational, Family and Consumer Sciences Department is approved for the teaching of family and consumer sciences by the Arkansas State Board of Education and is approved by the American Dietetic Association as a Didactic program to meet the academic requirements for registered dietitian eligibility.

The undergraduate degree program in business offered by the Frank D. Hickingbotham School of Business is accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The University is a member of the National Commission on Accrediting, the Association of Southern Baptist Schools and Colleges, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

More than thirty permanent buildings are located on the campus, most of which are red brick and modern or colonial styles of architecture. A beautiful interconnecting megastructure consisting of Evans Student Center, J.G. Lile Hall, Mabee Fine Arts Center, R.A. Lile Hall and McClellan Hall, brings together in harmony the Ouachita River, the Ravine, and the heart of the campus. Apartments to house student families are located near the main campus.

The Roy and Christine Sturgis Physical Education Center is one of the finest multipurpose facilities of its kind in the region. It contains an olympic-size pool, racquetball, weight, and tennis facilities, classrooms, offices, the varsity basketball arena, and two multipurpose courts.

The Harvey Jones Science Center, opened in 1997, provides over 60,000 square feet of space for the Department of Biology, Chemistry, Family and Consumer Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, and Physics. As the

newest facility on campus, Jones Science Center provides students and faculty with a beautiful and functional space in which to study and work.

The Harvey and Bernice Jones Performing Arts Center consists of a 1,500-seat auditorium, makeup rooms, prop storage and construction rooms, faculty offices and a ticket office. The facility contains more than 37,000 square feet of functional space and includes a large working stage, an orchestra shell and pit, a state-of-the-art sound system and seating divided into orchestra, mezzanine and balcony sections. Jones Performing Arts Center is connected to Verser Theatre to create one of the most versatile and beautiful theatre arts facilities in the region.

The market value of the endowment fund as of May 31, 2001, was approximately \$47,286,892. The cost basis of buildings and grounds was valued at \$51,689,410.

### **Riley-Hickingbotham Library**

The Library serves the University and the community as a learning center, supporting the educational process with varied types of media. It accomplishes that task through the main library, which offers group study rooms, individual study space, typing and computer rooms, Internet facilities, and ease of access to materials, and through branches located in Mabee Fine Arts Center and Harvey Jones Science Building.

Riley-Hickingbotham Library houses a number of different collections. The main book collection, in easily accessible open stacks, holds approximately 140,000 volumes. The Library offers patrons over 280,000 selected federal and numerous state government publications. The Periodicals collection provides approximately 1,000 current serial titles to patrons: popular and academic offerings in addition to local, state, and national newspapers.

Special Collections include those of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Clark County Historical Association, University Archives, and Rare Books section of the main library. Housed in the building named for him is the Senator John L. McClellan Collection.

In addition to its traditional holdings, the Library contains approximately 400,000 non-book items. These include microform collections such as the complete ERIC (Educational Resource Information Center) file, the American Culture Series (pre-1874 American publications), the Black History Collection, the Literature of Theology and Church History in North America, the University Music Editions reprint series, and the Eastman School of Music's collection of early music writings. Through its Instructional Media Services Department, the Library provides campus-wide access to approximately 9,000 media items for classroom use. In addition to microform and audio-visual holdings, the Library offers patrons a glimpse of the past through memorabilia displays concerning persons and events connected with Ouachita. McClellan Hall contains a static display interpreting the late Senator's fifty years of public service. Displays in the Library contain memorabilia of Baptist missions and missionaries, student life and organizations, and rare printed materials from the past of Baptists and their first four-year college in Arkansas.

The key word in the Library's lexicon is service. In keeping with that philosophical commitment, the Library offers patrons a variety of services. Materials not contained here are available through extended service. ALIS,

a computerized union catalog with Henderson State University, offers access to both libraries in the building and via dial access, the Internet and the campus network. Through membership in OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), the Library accesses the holdings of more than 30,000 libraries worldwide. Items in those libraries are available to patrons through interlibrary loans, some made via the Internet and facsimile transfer to render the swiftest service possible. The Library provides reference and reserve service in the building and access to ALIS and some basic reference materials and databases through the campus network. Patrons find facilities for photocopying and for producing paper copies of microform materials at appropriate points throughout the building. Finally, through the CORE program, the Library faculty provides all patrons with an understanding of and experience in the information-gathering strategies and processes which will enable students to make the best use of this or any other library's resources.