Dear OSF Alumni,

The 40th year of the Ouachita Student Foundation has been met with great success, building upon past accomplishments while striving to reach new goals in terms of scholarships and continuing to positively impact the Ouachita community. It is a unique time to be a Ouachitonian as well as a member of this distinguished organization whose dedication to “students helping students” is as strong today as in 1974, when the vision of a student organization to simply help their peers came to be a reality.

We just recently held Tiger Tunes 2014, perhaps the most famous Ouachita tradition, which was a huge success and through which we were able to raise thousands of dollars for student scholarships. You will find Tunes 2014 as well as the mud slinging fun (and record number participants) of Tiger Traks 2014 recapped by OSF members later in this newsletter.

We appreciate your past service to OSF as well as your continued support of our mission, “students helping students.” We hope you find the information in this newsletter informative as well as encouraging about the positive difference continuing to be made by the Ouachita Student Foundation, building on the successes of the last 40 years.

Finally, we ask that you continue to support Ouachita students through gifts to OSF or the Annual Fund. Your support does make a difference in the lives of students like ourselves, and we cannot express enough thanks and sincerest appreciation.

Sincerely,

Dylan Haney and Sydney Bratton
Co-Chairs, Communications Committee
Ouachita Student Foundation

OSF scholarships make a difference in students’ lives

Beyond the hype of Tiger Tunes and Tiger Traks and even the public ambassadorial role OSF students take around campus as tour guides, event ushers and more, the heart of the Ouachita Student Foundation is truly to make a tangible difference in the lives of Ouachita students. Through all of these very public efforts, OSF raises funds and awareness for scholarships that enable current Ouachita students continue their journey at Ouachita.

In OSF’s 40-year history, more than $1.1 million dollars in scholarship money has been awarded. In recent years, OSF’s annual goal of $100,000 has been met and exceeded. Last year, more than 70 scholarships were awarded, ranging from $500 to $4,500. Students from all academic disciplines, through the gifts of donors and the work of students, are able to stay at the university because people were willing to give of their time and money.

“Getting an OSF scholarship has been such an awesome blessing,” said Grace Finley, a junior scholarship recipient from Bryant, Ark. “It shows God’s provision for me, and I’m really grateful for all of you supporting OSF.”

Any junior or senior may apply for OSF scholarships, but special attention is paid to three areas: academic achievement, campus leadership and financial need. So many students come to Ouachita and enjoy the community and academic excellence offered them, only to find that gift threatened due to unforeseen financial circumstances. The mission of OSF is to help as many of these students stay at the university as possible.

“Last year I had three heart surgeries, two of which implanted pacemakers,” explained Richard Burke, a junior scholarship recipient from Hot Springs, Ark. “As you can imagine, it was a really stressful time for my family. OSF helped bear that burden by giving me the scholarship to help me to continue here.”

Thank you for your contributions that make these and many more stories possible each and every year.
he Ouachita Student Foundation's mission of "students helping students" has been at work for 40 years, with service at its core. Dr. Ben Elrod, then-president of Ouachita and current chancellor, led a group of students to found OSF in 1974. They visited Baylor University to learn about their student foundation and returned to build OSF, an organization specifically suited to Ouachita's students and circumstances. Since its inception, OSF's members have taken the phrase "students helping students" to heart and have been committed to serving their peers and the Ouachita community.

"While some things have changed throughout OSF's 40 year history at Ouachita, the goal has remained the same - 'students helping students,'" said Jon Merryman, OSF staff sponsor and alumnus. "It is a prestigious thing to be chosen for membership in OSF - which is why I still have my acceptance letter, signed 1974. They visited Baylor University to learn about Tunes and Tiger Traks during my years at Ouachita. It is of alumni and other donors, OSF would not have donors and alumni have made OSF's mission possible and the Ouachita community.

"As the Ouachita Student Foundation's primary spring event, Tiger Traks plays an important role in not only raising scholarship funds but also continuing to keep the organization and its mission fresh on the minds of current Ouachita students. Thanks to the efforts of OSF members, Tiger Traks 2014 saw an increase in competing teams and, therefore, visibility among current students. Community sponsors also broadened the scope of the event while lightening the load of the cost to execute the weekend's festivities.

"This past year was especially challenging to plan due to the sheer number of teams that signed up," said then-OSF President Kirby Von Edwins, a 2014 Ouachita graduate. "The logistics were difficult to hammer out, but I think it ended up being one of our more successful years! Hopefully, it will continue to get more popular every year!"

While the additional participants proved to be a challenge to event coordinators, the increase in participation was seen as a plus for those competing.

"My favorite part of Tiger Traks was that so many students got involved," said Bekah Davis, a sophomore business administration major from Benton, Ark. "I got to spend two full days on a team with my best friends going crazy and trying to prove to everyone that even though we were an all freshmen girls team, we still could be good."

While classes are starting to wind down and students are beginning to prepare for finals, Tiger Traks comes at an ideal time to reenergize students for the end of the year. The teams come together and compete in old favorites such as mud volleyball and raft races as well as recent additions like quad-team dodge ball and the game center. Thanks to the hard work of OSF members, competitors could focus on having fun, competing for first and contributing to a great cause.
Tiger Traks 2014 sees increase in participation, visibility

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