



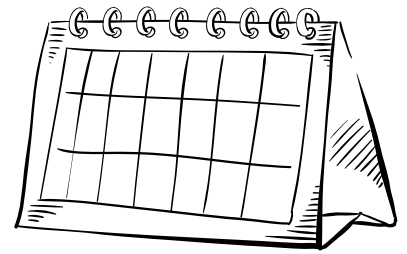
# CONNECTION

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**MARTY MCFARLIN EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER**

We are so pleased to announce Marty McFarlin as our employee of the Quarter! McFarlin is the Director of the Physical Plant for Ozarka College. "Marty is an exceptional employee who is always willing to assist in any area that is needed," commented Tina Wheelis, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration. "His dedication to the College has been proven many times. This recognition is well deserved." When asked what he liked about Ozarka College the most, Marty said, "The people! My coworkers make this a great environment to be

in." Marty has been working at Ozarka College for 7 years. Before Ozarka, Marty worked as an HVAC contractor, but made the move for greater stability. Marty said he loves his job. Congratulations again Marty!



## Mark Your Calendars

5/25/20 MEMORIAL DAY

5/26/20 SUMMER I  
BEGINS

6/2/20 ORR  
DEDICATION

7/4/20 INDEPENDENCE  
DAY

7/6/20 SUMMER II  
BEGINS

8/10/20 FALL IN-SERVICE

8/12/20 NSO- MS  
NSO- AF

8/13/20 NSO- MV  
NSO- MEL

8/17/20 FALL CLASSES  
BEGIN

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am so very proud of our faculty, staff, and administration for their caring and thoughtful approach as we have dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. This created new and unforeseen challenges for us all and I believe we met every challenge with empathy and consideration for our stu-

dents, and one another. We anticipate being back to a somewhat normal routine in the fall semester, but we will all be mindful of some of the social distancing and sanitation measures that have now become somewhat routine. I wish health and happiness to all, and we look forward to con-

tinuing to serve our wonderful students!



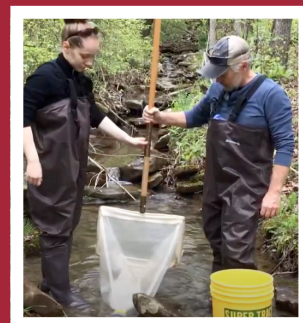
# Great job!

We are experiencing unprecedented times, no doubt! But, even amidst the chaos, the Ozarka team's commitment and dedication to providing life-changing experiences through education, never waivers. During these times of uncertainty, Ozarka College faculty and staff are taking extraordinary steps to maintain a quality education experience and provide services to students when they need them.

## ACADEMICS GOING ONLINE AND CRUSHING IT!

Faculty at Ozarka College were recently required to move their in-class, in-person courses to online for the safety of our students in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although they had little time to prepare for such a monumental shift in instruction, they embraced the technological tools available to them to ensure there was no interruption in student learning. Many of our instructors have incorporated Google meet to not only continue to conduct live courses, but also to meet with

students regarding course progress and registration. In addition, they are using creative means to instruct students, from going outside of the classroom to conduct and film labs for science courses to setting up their own whiteboards at home. We are so fortunate to have faculty that are willing to put students first and get outside of their comfort zones to ensure that students have access to quality learning experiences," said Dr. Chris Lorch, VP of Academics.



## Serving Students Where They Are; When They Need It

The Admissions and Financial Aid teams have demonstrated their dedication to serving students during the COVID-19 pandemic by being flexible and creative, communicating with students more via telephone, email, and virtual meetings. In fact, the Admissions office conducted their first virtual tour this week through Google. Both departments have increased their social media presence to relay important dates and information to students, and the Admissions Department and Registrar's Office have been assisting with summer and fall registration through various forms of communication. "We miss serving students in person, but are striving to ensure they are still receiving the assistance they need," said Zeda Wilkerson, Senior Director of Enrollment Services.

## THE CRISIS & THE CARES ACT

As the federal government coordinates the disbursement of the largest economic relief package in US history, college students can rest assured some help is on the way. The US Department of Education notified colleges and universities that over the next few weeks, federal funding will begin to flow to institutions so they can disburse relief funds to students

most adversely impacted by the national COVID-19 crisis. This comes at a desperate hour for many Ozarka students affected by the novel virus. Moreover, there may be hope in sight as Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson unveiled an economic transition plan this past week which projects a phased re-opening of the State economy in the coming weeks.





# OZARKA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

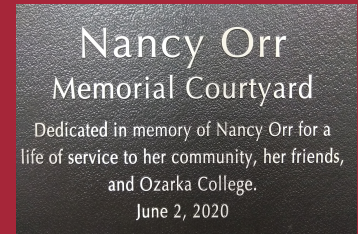
## ORR PROJECT

### FOUNDATION TO DEDICATE COURTYARD

The Ozarka College Foundation Board will dedicate the Nancy Orr Memorial Courtyard on June 2, 2020. Nancy was a model community member who selflessly supported the people of Sharp County. She served on numerous boards including the Ozarka College Foundation Board. A member of the Foundation Board for 12 years, Nancy will forever be remembered for her compassion and service to her community, her friends, and Ozarka College. The Foundation

Board and College leadership chose to honor Nancy with a dedicated outdoor courtyard on the Ash Flat campus of Ozarka College. According to Matt Rush, Ozarka College Foundation Board Chair, "Nancy loved her community and would be honored for students and community members to remember her in this way. She was especially passionate about helping students and encouraging them to attend Ozarka College." The Foundation Board will host a dedication

ceremony on June 2 at the Ash Flat Campus. Given the current COVID crisis, updates regarding the dedication ceremony will be posted at [www.ozarka.edu](http://www.ozarka.edu) under Campus News.



## LADIES' LUNCHEON

### OZARKA COLLEGE MOUNTAIN VIEW CAMPUS 2020

The Ozarka College Foundation hosted the eighth annual Ladies' Luncheon and Fashion Show on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Ozarka College in Mountain View. This year the event featured food, fashion, and fun! The Ozarka Culinary Arts Department provided an amazing lunch for the ladies in attendance. Local vendors and community members provided items for the silent auction, as well as the fashion show. We would like to thank our event sponsors that included Centennial Bank, First Service Bank, Farm Bureau, Gammill Oil, Stone Bank, Stone County Leader, TD

Home Center, and The Dulcimer Shoppe. We also had great table gifts donated to us by Babycakes Bakery & Gifts, Fringe Salon, and Stone County Medical Center. Mary Parker, Crystal McCool, and Lillyanne McCool provided the attendees with music while they had lunch, and during the fashion show. The event was a huge success that benefits the Ozarka College Mountain View students. We would like to thank everyone that helped make this year's Ladies' Luncheon so successful!



*Cheers*



# Alumni Spotlight

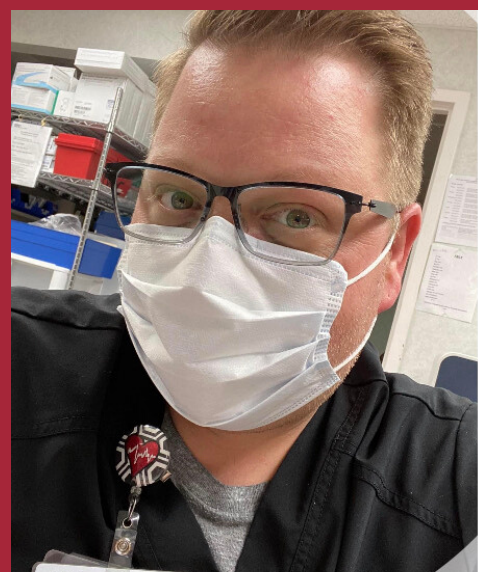
## JAMIE YATES

OZARKA ALUMNUS, FRONTLINE WORKER FOR CORONA VIRUS

Ozarka College would like to recognize an outstanding student! Jamie Yates is an Ozarka Alumni from Cherokee Village who is currently on the frontlines at WRMC fighting the Coronavirus. Jamie, who was previously a hairstylist for 20 years, decided he wanted to go to nursing school so that he could be in a more rewarding career where he could make a difference. When asked what his experience at Ozarka was like, Jamie said, "My experience at Ozarka was wonderful. I am so grateful for the instructors that prepared us for the real world."

Jamie was the recipient of the Florence Nightingale award for the Ash Flat program in 2018.

Cheryl Ekenes, Jamie's instructor, said "Jamie Yates represents the highest qualities of a professional nurse in both his intellect and his bedside manner. I can think of no one more capable to be at the front lines of the current medical crisis." Jamie is currently an RN in the ICU at White River Medical Center where he says that he is trying to make a difference one patient at a time. Thank you for all the hard work, and for being such a great representative of Ozarka College!



#OzarkaApplauds

Ideas for our next issue?  
We love feedback!

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