The Ozarka College academic and technical departments have named their Students of the Semester for Fall 2004. To be eligible for this honor, students must be enrolled full-time, earn a "B" average or better, and exhibit a positive attitude, good work habits, and a willingness to help others. Other criteria include quality of classroom performance and the ability to get along with peers. The individuals selected for student of the Semester are considered at the end of the academic year for Student of the Year for each department.

Those selected include:

- **John Gardner** of Melbourne, Associate of Arts in Teaching;
- **Debra Blanton** of Smithville (Lawrence County), Automotive Service Technology;
- **Theresa Trammell** of Mountain View, Business Technology;
- **Selmer Marie Vines** of Timbo, Associate of Arts/College Transfer;
- **Kimberlee Bledsoe** of Searcy (White County), Culinary Arts and Hospitality;
- **Charles Kellogg** of Norfork (Baxter County), Information Science Technology;
- **M. Dianne Drinkard** of Sidney, Senior Practical Nursing;
- **Ellen Gann** of Cherokee Village, Junior Practical Nursing;
- **Pam Matteson** of Horseshoe Bend, Freshman Practical Nursing;
- **Ronda McLelland** of Hardy, TRiO/Student Support Services.

If you know or see any of these students, congratulate them on their achievements.

**Attention Transfer Students**

Another opportunity for students planning to transfer to meet with a four-year college representative will take place on January 27 from 11AM until 2PM in the Miller Building.

Representative from Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge will be available to meet with Ozarka students about the opportunities available, such as their admissions policies and procedures, academic programs, and financial aid.

There are many transfer scholarships available to attend State colleges and universities, including WBC. For information regarding these financial opportunities, contact Ozarka’s Student Services.

Watch the Ozarka College Connection for other opportunities to meet with college and university reps.
Non-Traditional Student Realizes Dream

Ozarka College student Eleanor Westinghouse began her education later in life than most college students but says that she has always been interested in education. Now through Ozarka’s Education Center in Ash Flat, Eleanor is able to pursue her dream of getting a college degree.

Westinghouse, who lives in Cherokee Village, completed the seventh grade and was married at the age of sixteen. After her husband’s passing a few years ago and while her grandson was taking GED preparation classes, she decided to attempt GED classes herself. According to Westinghouse, “I completed the entire series of preparation classes and had a case of ‘testiphobia,’” a word she coined for being petrified to take tests.

Sharp County GED instructor, Joann Counts, was Eleanor’s instructor throughout her preparation classes and gave Eleanor a practice GED test, which is customary prior to taking the actual GED test. Counts, knowing of Eleanor’s fear of test-taking, gave her the actual test, while leading her to believe it was for practice. “I was so surprised and excited when I found out that I had passed the real GED and not the practice test on the first try,” says Eleanor.

Westinghouse passed her test during the 2000-2001 academic year and received her GED diploma during Ozarka’s Graduation in May of that year. She attended the Ozarka Adult Education Springfest and was introduced to the idea of furthering her education by attending college. She expressed her surprise when realizing that by being over the age of 60, her college tuition would be waived. “I jumped at the opportunity to be able to go to college. It was a dream I always had, but never thought it would be possible for me.”

Currently, Eleanor attends classes at Ash Flat on a part-time basis and is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree. She says she wants to use her knowledge to help the elderly learn how to use computers. She is known at the Ash Flat Education Center for her humor and positive attitude. According to Business Technology Instructor, Brad Holloway, “Eleanor is a wonderful student and an inspirational person to be around.”

Holloway recollects Eleanor’s first semester as an Ozarka student when she had his Keyboarding I class. “Eleanor is truly a dedicated student. She had fallen off of her porch, sustaining multiple bruises and cuts, and was admitted to the hospital. On class day, she signed herself out of the hospital, drove to school, and attended my Keyboarding I class with oxygen bottle in tow. After class, she returned to the hospital and signed herself back in.” He concludes, “She still says she ‘Has no recollection’ of that day in class!”

Westinghouse has done many different things in her life from being a clown to private investigative work. She is on the local Board of Hospice and enjoys arts and crafts. In fact, she donated several hand-made treasures to be auctioned off during the Ozarka Foundation’s First Annual Benefit Auction which took place in October of last year.

“My whole heart is dedicated to education. Education is a privilege that so many people, young and old, take for granted,” Westinghouse conveys and adds, “My friends at Ozarka, from instructors I have had to my fellow students, have become like a family to me and I appreciate Ozarka College for what they have allowed me to accomplish.”
LPN Apps & Asset, Wonderlic Testing in February

The ASSET and Wonderlic tests will be given on Friday, February 4, beginning at 8AM. Anyone planning to enroll during the Summer and/or Fall terms of 2005 must take the ACT or the ASSET Placement Test and/or the Wonderlic Test. ASSET test scores are required for placement in English, reading, and mathematics. The Wonderlic Test is required for applying to special application programs such as Licensed Practical Nursing. The LPN program will begin taking applications on February 1st and continue through Noon on April 1st. The Culinary Arts and Hospitality program will take applications through May 1st.

Anyone interested in registering for the tests in Melbourne should advise Gin Brown at least 15 minutes prior to testing time. Her office is located in the Main Building on Ozarka’s campus in Melbourne. There is a fee of $10.00 for taking the ASSET and a $5.00 fee for the Wonderlic, which can be paid the day of the test. Acceptable identification, such as a driver’s license or other current official photo ID, must be presented at the time of testing in order to be admitted to the test.

Further information regarding the ASSET or Wonderlic tests can be obtained by calling Gin Brown, at 870-368-7371 or 1-800-821-4335 outside Izard County.

GED Testing for February

The GED Test will be given at Ozarka College in Melbourne, Arkansas on February 9 & 16 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 516 of the Wyth Duke Adult Education Building.

The test will also be given at the following locations in February:

- Salem, AR Courthouse 9:00 a.m. Feb. 3 & 23
- Ash Flat, AR Courthouse 9:00 a.m. Feb. 7 & 28
- Mountain View, AR Stone County Education Center 9:00 a.m. Feb. 8 & 22
- Mammoth Spring, AR Simmons First National Bank 9:00 a.m. Feb. 14 & 28

You must present an Arkansas photo ID, a Social Security Card, and proof of passing Practice Test scores dated after January 1, 2002. There is no cost to take the GED Test. However, if you plan on taking the test at any of these locations, you MUST register by calling Ozarka College at 368-7371 or 1-800-821-4335 before the day of the test. Because of increased demographic information needed, it will be necessary to allow two days for the testing.

ICARE to Host Rummage Sale

ICARE is having its second annual PAWS & CLAWS RUMMAGE SALE Friday, February 18th (11am - 6pm) and Saturday, February 19th (9am - 3pm) at the Izard County Fairgrounds.

With Spring on the way, please consider donating your items to ICARE as you clean out those closets, attics, basements and garages. Donated items may be dropped off at the Izard County Fairgrounds on these dates and times:
- Sunday, February 13, 2-4pm
- Monday, February 14, 5-7pm
- Tuesday, February 15, 5-7pm

If you are unable to drop off your items, please contact Delories Brown at 368-4900 or 368-7888 or Leanna Hoskinds at 368-4638 by February 9, 2005 to arrange a pick-up of your items. Pick-up date will be Sunday, February 13, 2005.
Governor Announces New Board Members

Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee recently appointed Mr. Ben Cooper of Melbourne to serve on the Ozarka College Board of Trustees. Cooper, a strong advocate for education and the progressive development of North Central Arkansas, has owned and operated Cooper Realty in Melbourne for more than thirty years. Upon receiving this appointment, Mr. Cooper expressed enthusiasm about the services and programs offered by Ozarka College and said he was honored with the designation to serve on the board of directors.

Mr. George Thomas of Salem was recently appointed to the Ozarka College Board of Trustees by Governor Mike Huckabee. Thomas, who has lived and operated as a certified public accountant in Fulton County for twenty years, will serve on the board through June 2008.