Ozarka College has reached yet another milestone during its first week of Spring 2011 classes. Enrollment has exceeded 1,500 students according to initial numbers.

Ozarka President, Dr. Richard Dawe is enthusiastic about the early enrollment data. “Enrollment growth has risen significantly at Ozarka College in recent years and this semester is no exception. After reaching record enrollment of 1,573 students during the Fall 2010 semester, we are pleased to report that the growth has continued this semester. He adds, “Currently, we are 16 percent above last Spring’s enrollment. There is also a 27 percent growth in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, which indicates Ozarka students are taking increased course loads. This enrollment growth rate is among the highest in the state for both four and two year institutions. The need for additional space is a priority for Ozarka, and after the Mountain View location broke ground on a new facility in late summer, construction is on schedule to add over 10,500 square feet to accommodate the growth in Stone County. Parking was added during the Fall semester at Mountain View, and Ash Flat will soon have additional parking space added to the campus.

In the northern part of Ozarka’s service area, in Fulton County, growth has also become apparent as a new location in Mammoth Spring opened its doors to the community in November. There are currently 77 students enrolled in classes from Mammoth Spring and Thayer area and the administration expects that number to rise steadily as more courses are added in the future.

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For more information about Ozarka College and the programs available, log on the website at www.ozarka.edu, or contact the college toll free number at 800-821-4335.

Around Campus

- American Red Cross Blood Drive - Ozarka in Ash Flat
  Tuesday, January 25, 10-3:00 p.m.

- Photography Club Meeting
  Wednesday January 26, 11:00 a.m.
  Admin. Bldg Conference Room.
  Bring your lunch!

- Financial Aid Workshops
  January 25-27 See Page 2 for details.

- Student Government Assn.
  Meeting rescheduled from last Thurs-
  day (snow day) for Thursday, Jan. 27
  at 2:00 p.m. (see article to left for
  meeting room info)

FOR THE MOST CURRENT EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS
CHECK THE ONLINE CAMPUS CALENDAR AT
WWW.OZARKA.EDU UNDER NEWS & EVENTS
Several graduates of Ozarka College’s Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) program begin their student teaching experience during the spring 2011 semester as part of their curriculum to graduate from Arkansas Tech University with their bachelor degrees in education.

Ozarka College began an Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree program in 2002. Arkansas Tech agreed to deliver the upper level courses via Internet, allowing students to stay in this area to obtain a four year degree.

As the program has grown over the past few years, Ozarka College’s AAT Coordinator, Michelle Cooper, has worked diligently to organize the students with area schools. She states, “These students will begin to put what they have learned into practice in a real classroom. I will assist the mentor teachers in each school as they observe and help prepare the students with the practical classroom skills they need to be solid teachers in the future.”

Students beginning their student teaching internships are Jennie Barnett of Clinton, at Mountain View Elementary; Krista Bedwell of Salem, at ICC Elementary; Miranda Branscum of Charlotte, at Batesville West Magnet Elementary; Romona Colwell of Cherokee Village, at Melbourne Elementary; Andrea Davis of Hardy, at Cherokee Elementary; Tammy Gallant of Cord, at Sulphur Rock Magnet Elementary; Misty Gotte of Hardy, at Salem Elementary; Larkin Grabbe of Mountain View, at Timbo Elementary; Randy Holland of Salem, at Melbourne Elementary; Kimberly Hoskinds of Melbourne, at Mt. Pleasant Elementary; Tarah Lopez of Hardy, at ICC Elementary; Donna Matthews of Melbourne, at Mt. Pleasant Elementary; Michelle McCord of Ash Flat, at ICC Elementary; and Courtney Selph of Franklin, at ICC Elementary.

Financial Aid Workshop

The Student Success Center is presenting a workshop next week to help students learn more about financial aid. This helpful presentation will feature Ozarka’s Director of Financial Aid, Laura Lawrence who will be on hand to explain the process, protocol and options available to students. She will also answer questions concerning grants, loans, and scholarships during that time.

The scheduled workshops are:

- Ozarka College - Mountain View Tuesday, January 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 101
- Ozarka College - Melbourne, Wednesday, January 26 at 1:00 p.m. in C104 (Lecture Hall)
- Ozarka College - Mammoth Spring, Thursday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 106
- Ozarka College - Ash Flat, Thursday, January 27 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

For more information regarding this workshop or other upcoming workshops hosted by the Student Success Center, contact Mickey Freeze, Advising Coordinator. 870-368-2056
New Member of Foundation Board Appointed

The Ozarka College Foundation Board of Directors appointed a new member at its quarterly meeting held in December. Fred Holzhauer of Evening Shade was unanimously appointed to serve a five year term on the Foundation Board.

Holzhauer is Vice President of Commercial Lending for First Community Bank in Highland. He is Past President of Quad Cities Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business from University of Arkansas and is an Honor Graduate of the Barret School of Banking at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee. He and his wife Melissa have two daughters, Peyton and Chandler.

Career Pathways Announces Upcoming Dates

Career Pathways staff has announced that students may pick up their gas card paperwork at any time. Gas cards will be distributed February 7 – 11, 2011 at Melbourne; February 7 and 8 at Mountain View and February 8 and 9 at Ash Flat. Paperwork must be completely filled out and turned in during these dates in order to be eligible for a gas card. No late paperwork will be accepted.

Career Pathways is also offering free hot chocolate during the week of January 24, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day. Monday in Mountain View; Tuesday in Ash Flat; Wednesday in Melbourne; and Thursday in Mammoth Spring. Stop by and visit with the staff and enjoy a hot cup of cocoa!

Suttons Complete Phase I of Expansion in Stone County

Ozarka College Foundation Board received a donation to complete phase one of the Mountain View Building Expansion Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sutton. The Suttons (pictured center) presented their check to Ozarka College President, Dr. Richard Dawe (left), and Mountain View Campus Coordinator, Gin Brown (right) this week to sponsor the Lecture Hall in the new Student and Nursing Education Center.

Kenneth and Janice Sutton have been long time supporters of Ozarka College, having made a substantial donation to the Science Lab in the original facility of Ozarka College - Mountain View.

The Mountain View campaign will now focus on phase two of the project, which is the outdoor Amphitheatre. For more information contact Brown at 870-269-5600 or Suellen Davidson, the Director of Advancement at 870-368-2059.
Our Mission is to Provide Life-Changing Experiences Through Education.

ARNEC Students Excel in National Test

In November of 2010, nursing students from across the State of Arkansas preparing to complete the Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium (ARNEC) program took the Assessment Technologies Incorporated (ATI) Comprehensive NCLEX Predictor. Those students scored in the top 1% in the nation on that exam.

Ozarka College is part of this consortium comprised of eight rural community colleges across the State. Also in the consortium are: Arkansas State University Newport, Black River Technical College, Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, Rich Mountain Community College, SouthArk Community College, University of Arkansas Community College Hope, and University of Arkansas Community College Morrilton.

According to Director of ARNEC, Alison DeLong, “this proctored exam is administered across the country to thousands of registered nursing students who are preparing to graduate and take the NCLEX licensure exam. The purpose is to assess students’ comprehensive nursing knowledge base and serve as a predictor for success on the licensure exam.”

The ARNEC program student retention rate is at 95%, which is a phenomenal statistic for any RN program across the state, according to Allied Health Division Chair and site coordinator at Ozarka College, Ruby Johnson. This program has grown considerably since its inception in 2004 with an increase in seating at Ozarka from 10 to 40 students.

A new cohort of ARNEC students will begin in January 2011. For more information about the requirements for this program, or to apply contact Ozarka College Admissions at 870-368-7371; or visit the ARNEC website at www.arnec.org.