Ozarka College is hosting its second annual Fall Festival in Melbourne from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27th in front of the John E. Miller Education Complex. The last Fall Festival was held in 2006 and was hugely successful, according to Tracy Cone, who is coordinating this event.

Many departments, programs and student organizations will be involved in the event which is FREE and open to the public. There will be contests, fun, food and games for children of all ages.

Some of the activities this year will include: cupcake walk, pick-up ducks, pumpkin toss, obstacle course, fun fortune telling, “do you know where you live,” fishing for goodies, face painting, limbo, fingerprinting, candy jar guessing, checkers, a haunted hospital, and an alcohol awareness activity.

There will also be a **Halloween Costume Contest** at 6:00 p.m. and a **Carved Pumpkin Contest**. Bring a carved pumpkin to the fall festival by 5:00 p.m. to be judged. There will be prizes given for each of these contests.

Hot dogs, popcorn and drinks will also be available. For further information or questions about this event, contact Cone at 368-7371 or tcone@ozarka.edu.
As I was putting forth the effort and working hard at achieving my studies, my instructors made sure I had a good experience.

- Sabra Wood

Ozarka College has seen a growth trend in its service area over the last several years. With a fairly new campus and brand new facility which recently opened in Ash Flat, the Sharp and Fulton County students now have even more accessible and affordable education opportunities. Sabra D. Wood, a twenty year old Sharp County resident, who graduated from Highland High School in 2006 has taken full advantage of the opportunity to continue her education utilizing the convenience of Ozarka College – Ash Flat.

Determination to succeed after having her son Jacob, and getting married at the age of sixteen; Sabra not only graduated from high school, but immediately continued her education by enrolling as a fulltime college student at Ozarka. She acknowledges her husband Jeff, and parents Dale and Selena Corter for their support financially and emotionally while she remained motivated to attain good grades and reach her goal. Her childcare provider, Sha Lynn Lane also played a role in helping her balance her school schedule with her daycare schedule for Jacob.

As she was graduating from Ozarka College in May of 2008 with an Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology and a Certificate of Proficiency in Computer Applications, Sabra’s job search had already begun. “I was getting worried about finding a job locally,” Wood admits. “I saw a listing in the newspaper for State Farm Insurance Agency and decided to apply. I was hired on May 31 and was thrilled to have a job. However, I was a little worried about my lack of knowledge of the insurance business and asking myself what I was getting into!”

Sabra excelled in her State insurance exams and is now licensed in all three insurance areas of property/casualty, life and health insurance. In fact, Sabra’s parents and husband, Jeff were there to see Sabra write her first policy over the summer. “It was a proud moment for their family, who went after this as a team,” according to Sabra’s employer, Rita Spicer, State Farm Agent.

Spicer adds, “Sabra has a great attitude and is eager to take on new challenges. Her education at Ozarka gave her the basic business background she needs to be proficient and that allows her to focus on learning new skills. All of my team members play a big role in the success of my agency and Sabra is an important part of that team.”

Sabra is very complimentary to the faculty and staff at Ozarka College for making her feel welcome and at home during her two year stint as a student. “Everyone knew me by my first name and I really felt comfortable there. It is easy to get overwhelmed trying to juggle being a full-time student, mother, and wife; but Ozarka was supportive and understanding. As long as I was putting forth the effort and working hard at achieving my studies, my instructors made sure I had a good experience.”

Her advice for current or future students is to take one thing at a time and know that "as long as you are driven to succeed, you can do it!” She adds, "I never let myself believe that I could not go to college just because I was a young mother. In fact, I knew that in order to help support my family and our future, I needed an education to lead me to a good job.”

The State Farm Agency Sabra works for is located in Highland on Highway 62/412 across from the North Complex of White River Medical Center. Sabra’s husband, Jeff is employed by McNulty Plumbing. Their son, Jacob will be four in November.

The next issue of Ozarka College Connection will feature another Success Story on Culinary Arts Graduate, Derick Baldridge.
The Ozarka College Drama Club will present the Arkansas Arts Center’s production of “Rumpelstiltskin” on Thursday, October 23, 2008 in the John E. Miller Auditorium on the Melbourne campus of Ozarka College. The production is at 10:00 AM.

Tickets for the show are $2.00, with free admission to teachers and bus drivers. Area schools are invited and encouraged to attend this play. The performance will last approximately an hour.

"Rumpelstiltskin" is an exciting new adaptation of the Brothers Grimm classic for the stage by Keith Smith. When the miller bragged to the King that his daughter could spin straw into gold, and the King imprisoned the girl to try and force her to spin gold, the daughter sat and cried because the miller had lied and she could not spin straw into gold. Then, Rumpelstiltskin, funny little man, appeared and offered to spin all the gold the King desired - for a price. The girl agreed to his terrible demands and things began to go from bad to worse. There are valuable lessons learned throughout this fun musical.

Home school groups, private and public schools are invited to attend this event. Tickets may be purchased at the door, but reservations should be made in advance by contacting Cannady at 870-994-7273, toll free, 800-821-4335, or email jcanndy@ozarka.edu.

Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Students may walk through the Ozarka Dining Room in the Main Building on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and wonder “What is BCM?”

For those who have wondered BCM is Baptist Collegiate Ministry and it is….

- A Christian organization of college students with 36 campuses in Arkansas and more than 700 in the USA.
- A gathering of Christian students of ALL denominations, not just Baptists.
- A forum for developing leadership skills and encouraging collegiate fellowship.
- An opportunity for collegians to study the Bible, to practice its teachings and to share their faith.
- To serve and minister in projects on campus, in the community and around the world
- Guidance for students facing crises and critical choices for their lives.
- An encourager of active church membership.

All students are invited at 11AM each Tuesday and Wednesday. Next time you see the BCM sign, stop and see what it’s all about!

FCB Donates to Ozarka

During the recent open house and ribbon cutting for Community Insurance, a division of First Community Bank, Ozarka College President, Dr. Dusty R. Johnston accepted a $1000 donation on behalf of the Ozarka Foundation.

FCB’s Vice President of Commercial Lending, Fred Holzhauer, presented the check and stated that "First Community Bank was community minded and wanted to support the efforts of the college." He added, "It is evident by the recent opening of the new nursing and student center facility at the Ash Flat campus that Ozarka College is a thriving part of this area and First Community is pleased to support their efforts."
Ozarka College - Mountain View recently hosted University of Central Arkansas graduate student Kerri McCabe who conducted a seminar on restoration ecology in David Mitchell’s General Biology class. McCabe’s seminar took place in the science lab on September 26, entitled “Conservation and Restoration of an Endangered Ecosystem: North America’s Tallgrass Prairie” discussed native prairie plant and animal species and the threats that these organisms face.

McCabe is currently engaged in the restoration of the Jewell Moore Nature Reserve on the campus of UCA which includes a remnant of the tall grass prairies once common in Arkansas. Open to the public, the Jewell Moore Nature Reserve is a unique facility designed to raise awareness of endangered ecosystems. McCabe was very impressed with the enthusiasm of Ozarka’s student body and invited students to visit the Nature Reserve and participate in restoration activities during late October.

There were more than 20 attendees during Kerri’s presentation, including students, and Ozarka faculty and staff. Also on that day, a student brought in two baby squirrels that she had rescued after the babies’ mother was killed.