November 7 Election Will Include Act 1

Registered voters will have an opportunity on November 7th to voice support for Arkansas’ colleges and universities. Referred Question 1 - The Higher Education Facility and Technology Improvement Act of 2005 - proposes to issue $250 million in bonds to finance facility, infrastructure and technology improvements at Arkansas’ two-and-four-year public institutions.

From this $250 million, Ozarka stands to gain $1.1 million. It’s important to note that this proposed bond measure would NOT create new taxes or raise tuition for Arkansas students. The measure would allow academic facilities for future generations of students to be built with today’s dollars, which would actually save money in terms of inflation. Issuing bonds for construction, renovation and technology improvements worked in the past when the College Savings Bond Act of 1989 was approved by voters, and it can work again if citizens vote “Yes” for the higher education bond initiative on November 7th.

These bonds are an investment in the future, and investing in higher education will not only see an immediate impact at Ozarka College, but at college and university campuses throughout the state, and boost the economy and growth of Arkansas for years to come.

Ozarka Welcomes DeLong to Administrative Team

Dr. Michael DeLong has been named the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Ozarka College. He and his wife, Allison were honored at a reception to welcome them to Ozarka.

DeLong’s credentials include a doctoral degree in adult education from Oklahoma State University, a masters of arts degree in management from Webster University, a bachelor of arts degree in human resource management from Southern Nazarene University and an associate degree in avionics technology from the Community College of the Air Force.

Ozarka College President Dusty R. Johnston states “We welcome Mike DeLong to Ozarka College where we know he will provide exemplary leadership for quality instructional programs.” Prior to accepting the position at Ozarka College, DeLong was the associate vice president for academic affairs at Oklahoma State University in Oklahoma City.

Around Campus

- Collegiate Ministry Meetings are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., in the Dining Hall with Brother Bob Stewart.
- College Planning Day Nov. 1st 8AM-Noon Miller Complex.
- WOW - Walking Ozarka to Wellness will begin Nov. 1 in front of Miller Complex. MWF - meet at Noon TTh - meet at 4:45 PM Walks will last 20-30 min.
- Red Cross Blood Drive Nov. 7th Mountain View center. 10AM - 4PM

Attention Students Need $$$$$$ ? Work Study Positions are now paying $6.25 an hour. (See Financial Aid for Details)
First Annual Fall Festival Proved Fun for All

The Ozarka College Student Services Department hosted the first annual Fall Festival in Melbourne on October 12th. Many departments, programs and student organizations were involved in the event which included food, fun, and games for children of all ages. Director for Student Support Services, Deltha Shell, took the lead of organizing this successful event.

The Fall Festival took place in front of the John E. Miller Education Complex. There was also a bake sale in the culinary arts department. Some of the student organizations were able to utilize this event as a fundraiser for their clubs, but many of the activities were free. The Student Services provided hot dogs, popcorn, and sodas at no charge. They also had a bean bag toss, duck pond and water gun shoot contest, as well as a t-shirt giveaway.

Other games at the Fall festival included a dart throw by student council, an obstacle course by the Paul Miller Fitness Center, Karaoke by the Adult Education and Advancement, golf putting by information systems, cupcake walk by the kids academy, grab bags by PTK, beanie babies and free throw shoot by PBL, and the popular Jail and Bail by the nursing students. Nursing had scheduled a dunking booth, but opted for hot chocolate sales after the weather turned chilly.

Vice President for Student Services, Ron Helm expressed his appreciation to everyone who was involved with the Fall Festival. “Along with Deltha Shell, there were many people responsible for organizing and carrying out this fun event and we are grateful for their hard work. This was the first time Ozarka College has held a Fall Festival and although we were not certain how it would turn out, we were extremely pleased with the attendance. It is estimated that more than 200 came out for the festivities and we will look forward to doing this again next year.”

Left: Nursing students and other Fall Fest attendees sing along with the Karaoke performance of YMCA. Above: John Peterson helps kids at the bean bag toss

October 7th, was the Ozarka College Foundation annual fall golf tournament. Twenty-five teams of golfers assembled at Coopers Hawk Golf Club in Melbourne to play an 18-hole scramble with proceeds benefiting the Ozarka Foundation. Again this year, First National Banking Company served as corporate sponsor for the event.

The Championship Flight winners were: 1st – Skeeter Beene, Eric Harris, Tommy Duncan, Matt Haley; 2nd – Tim Dockins, Jesse Dockins, Rick Fowler, John Shelton; 3rd – Ben Cooper, Joe Cooper, Doyle Cooper, Daniel Taylor.

First Flight winners were: 1st – Ron Patterson, Jimmy Jones, Kevin Patterson, Larry Dun- can; 2nd – Nick Davidson, Sam Cooper, Levi Taylor, Cody Moser; 3rd – Joe Russell, David Cantrell, Rocky Morgan, Jesse Whitmire.


Individual hole contest winners included Daniel Taylor, Abby Cooper, and David Cantrell. Mike Cone won the cash prize in the putting contest.

Event sponsors for the tournament were Centurytel and former board member, Gwenn Lea of Horseshoe Bend. Other tournament sponsors included: Automotive Unlimited; Bank of Salem; Brad Wheels, DDS; Bradley Sipe, Attorney at Law; Campbell’s Auto Sales; Clark Services; Dillard-Fowlkes Motor Company; Eddie’s Family Funeral Home; Eric Bray, Attorney at Law; Hatfield Ready Mix, Howard Funeral Home; J & R Supply; Inkspot; John Teague Sales; Matthew Dellinger, Attorney at Law; NAEC; North Central Insurance; Oral Henderson; Ozark Wireless-Alltel; Quality Floor Coverings; Sharp Realty; Skeeter’s; Sonya Wiles Dental Clinic; State Farm Insurance, Fred Lamb, Agent; Unique Business Forms and Systems, Inc.; and Zook’s Possum Trot.
Ozarka Recognizes Outstanding Student, Staff, Faculty and Alumnus

Ozarka College is a member of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year College (AATYC), which is comprised of two-year colleges across the State. The AATYC holds an annual conference every October with each college selecting an outstanding student, staff member, faculty and alumnus to be recognized at the conference.

Ozarka College student, Cheryl Ekenes of Horseshoe Bend was selected by the faculty of Ozarka as the 2006-07 Academic All-Star. Ekenes is pursuing her life’s dream of becoming a nurse. She is currently a student in the practical nursing program and hopes to transfer to a four year institution to obtain a BSN. Her excellent academic record has led her to being named to the National Dean’s List. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Arkansas Licensed Practical Nurses Association.

Upon receiving her honor during the Academic All-Star Brunch, Cheryl, along with the other All-Stars throughout the State were surprised to hear the announcement by the Director of AATYC, Dr. Ed Franklin, that every Arkansas public four-year institution was offering a full scholarship to the all-stars to continue their educational pursuit.

Chosen as Outstanding Alumnus, Betty Eash of Hardy, graduated with her Associate of Arts degree from Ozarka College in 2003. She continued as a fulltime student on scholarship at Williams Baptist College, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Psychology in May of 2005. Betty currently works for Health Resources of Arkansas as an Intervention Specialist. As a paraprofessional in mental health, her job entails working with children and their families to implement treatment plans set forth by their clinician.

Betty was in her fifties when she started college at Ozarka. A former instructor says, “She exemplifies what Ozarka and other two year colleges are about; access for all, help and encouragement from staff and faculty, hard work by students, and ultimate success.” Betty has plans to begin work on her graduate level coursework at UALR.

Rex Whitfield of Calico Rock was selected by his peers as Outstanding Faculty member for 2006-07. As Division Chair for Math, Science and Education, Whitfield began teaching math at Ozarka College more than thirteen years ago. He taught math and some science courses on the junior high and high school levels prior to being a fulltime faculty member at Ozarka. Rex says he never knew how much he would enjoy teaching on the college level. He claims the time spent one-on-one outside of the classroom and seeing the “light” come on when a student understands is the true joy of teaching.

James Spurlock of Viola was selected to serve as Outstanding Staff Person for the college. Spurlock often single-handedly, manages the day to day operations of the Ozarka College education center in Ash Flat as Administrative Assistant II. James multi-tasks very diligently to maintain excellent services to an average of 200 students, to assist the faculty and staff, and also serves as the point of contact for community events held on the Ash Flat campus. Until recently, James was a viable member of the college foundation team. By utilizing the training in business that he received from Ozarka, he helped to organize and maintain accounting for fundraisers, endowment and other foundation records.

The AATYC 18th Annual Fall Conference was held at the Hot Springs Convention Center in Hot Springs on October 15-17. Each of the representatives was honored at an Awards Ceremony during the conference. Several other Ozarka College faculty, staff and administration participated throughout the conference.

Child Care Training in November

Ozarka College will offer a course in child care orientation training (CCOT) in November at the main campus in Melbourne. This training is being offered in partnership with the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Arkansas Department of Human Services and the University of Arkansas. This program is recommended for childcare personnel with little or no training in a child care setting. Graduates from the CCOT course are also eligible to apply for Child Development scholarships applicable for further training offered by Ozarka College. Classes meet November 9, 14, 21, and 28 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Amy Pinkston, Director of Ozarka Kids Academy, will be the instructor for the CCOT course. Even though this training is provided free of charge, enrollment is limited. To register, call 870-368-7868.
The Honorable John Dan Kemp, 16th Judicial District Circuit Judge, visited Ozarka College - Mountain View to present information on filling out Orders of Protection for victims of domestic violence to members of the Coordinated Campus Response Team, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice grant awarded the College.

Judge Kemp began with the history of the law concerning domestic violence that dates back to 1991 in Arkansas and also spoke about the update in the law that allows for dating relationships in the definition.

Judge Kemp also explained that the law defines the persons involved in domestic violence as follows: “Family or household members” means spouses, former spouses, parents and children, persons related by blood within the fourth degree of consanguinity, any children residing in the household, and persons who have or have had a child or children in common, and persons who are presently or in the past have been in a dating relationship together.

If you are in need of the assistance of a victim’s advocate, information can be obtained by Ozarka students from the victim advocate on each campus (368-2006), by Stone County residents from Stone County Abuse Prevention (269-9941), by Sharp County residents from Spring River Adult and Child Services (856-4119), by Izard County residents from Safe Passage (368-3222), by Independence County residents from Family Violence Prevention (793-4011), and Fulton County residents may contact the agencies for Izard or Sharp County.

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