Student Government Association Announces Officers

Ozarka College Office of Student Services recently announced election results for the newly restructured Student Government Association (SGA). Elections were held online through myOzarka last month and officers met for the first time on Friday, October 16th.

SGA President: Wesley Campbell
Melbourne Officers:
Vice President: Joseph W. Smith
Secretary: Maggie Campbell
Liaison: Veronica Indish

Mountain View Officers:
Vice President: Kellie Traylor
Secretary: Caitlynn Casey
Liaison: Blair Tinkle

Ash Flat Officers:
Vice President: Amber Moore
Secretary: Rebecca Stamm
Liaison: James Oyler

All Ozarka College students will have the opportunity to join Student Government and are encouraged to do so by Ozarka President, Richard Dawe, Ph.D. “Student Government Association will be the vehicle for students to have a voice in the college’s governance. This organization can be what students make it. I appreciate the efforts of those students who have stepped up as officers and I anticipate great ideas to come from this group.”

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Ozarka Nursing Students to Assist with Flu Vaccines

The practical nursing students at Ozarka College have volunteered to assist the Arkansas Department of Health with administration of flu vaccines in several area school districts.

Senior practical nursing students will also be assisting with the mass flu clinic in Izard County on October 30th. Those interested in getting a flu vaccine are encouraged to go to this mass clinic or one in the county in which you live.

Ash Flat’s practical nursing students will be giving flu shots at the Mass clinic for Sharp County on October 29th from 8 am until 6 pm at the First Assembly of God.

Mountain View’s practical nursing will be assisting the local health department with the flu injections at the Mountain View School on November 4th.

In exchange for the amount of volunteer manpower for these clinics, the Health Department will be providing a free clinic for seasonal flu shots to the students, faculty, and staff of Ozarka College sometime after the mass clinic on the 30th. Those interested are encouraged to watch the Ozarka College website for more information on dates and times.

For more information regarding flu vaccines or available clinics contact the local Health Unit office.
As a member of the Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges (AATYC), which is comprised of two year colleges across the State, Ozarka College participated in the annual conference, which is held every October. This year’s conference with the theme Educating Arkansas’ Workforce: Ready, Set, Go! was held October 18-20 in Hot Springs at the Convention Center.

As part of the conference, there is an Awards Dinner to honor outstanding faculty and staff members from each of the 22 community colleges represented in the association. This year’s Awards Dinner was sponsored by Arkansas Capital Corporation.

Joanna Fulbright of Melbourne was selected by her peers as Outstanding Faculty member for 2009-2010. Joanna is a member of Ozarka’s English faculty and has been teaching at Ozarka for eight years. She is currently serving as co-chair for Ozarka’s self-study for the college’s upcoming visit from the Higher Learning Commission’s North Central Association. Vice President of Academic Affairs, Michael DeLong, Ed. D. states “Joanna has a true passion for education and making a difference to the students in her classroom. Her attention to detail and thoroughness is second to none.”

Ozarka College Admissions Secretary, Wanda McConnaughhay of Oxford, was selected 2009-2010 Outstanding Staff for Ozarka College. Wanda is no stranger to being honored at AATYC, as she served as the Academic All-Star in 2004. According to Wanda’s supervisor, Director of Admissions, Zeda Wilkerson, “Wanda is always quick to assist students, faculty, and staff with any task, whether it is her responsibility or not. She provides outstanding service and compassion with a generous spirit of volunteerism to everyone she encounters.”

The Outstanding Alumnus for 2009-2010 is Chaney Coleman. Coleman began as a work-study at Ozarka while he was a student right out of high school. He took a fulltime job in 2002 and has been in Ozarka’s Information Systems Department since that time. His work ethic, kind spirit, and technical skill are second to none. When colleagues have a software issue, Chaney is considered the “go-to” guy. Chaney and his wife, Andrea live in Melbourne. Andrea is an insurance agent at North Central Insurance.

Several Ozarka administrators, faculty and staff members also attended the conference. Administrative Assistant to the President, Nancy Dust, served the first of her three year term as Vice-Chair of the Classified Staff Division of the AATYC Board of Directors. Career Pathways Secretary, Charlotte Knox was elected by her peers attending the conference to the AATYC Board of Directors as a representative for the classified staff division.

Left to right: Joanna Fulbright, Dr. Richard Dawe & Wanda McConnaughhay.

Chaney Coleman and Dr. Richard Dawe.

SGA Officers continued

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Richard Williams.

SGA officers are currently collecting ideas from their fellow students via Ozarka’s student message board online and suggestion boxes around campus and will be announcing meetings and other activities soon.

For information regarding SGA contact Helm or Wilkerson at 870-368-7371 or via email rhelm@ozarka.edu or zwilkerson@ozarka.edu.
In honor of Constitution Day on September 17th, the Ozarka College Paul Weaver Library hosted a writing contest open to all Ozarka College students. Students who submitted were eligible to win $50 cash prizes. One was given for an essay and one for poetry. Winners were announced after judges, which included English faculty selected the winners.

Eric Carr of Melbourne submitted the winning essay:

**A Republic is Born**

The windows of the Pennsylvania State House were firmly closed against prying eyes and the airless space within was stifling during that summer in 1787. The room was permeated with the wholesome smell of dust and timber, the dull roar of earnest discussion, and the scratching of feathered pens on parchment. Gathered together in that historic place were many of the greatest minds the world had ever known, men so ardently devoted to the ideas of sovereignty and equality that they sacrificed their own safety so that every American, for generations to come, would have the benefit of liberty and justice for all. The room grew quiet as every eye fell on General George Washington. They waited in solemn anticipation as he held a quill pen in his calloused hand and scrawled the first of thirty-nine signatures on the Constitution. With that single act of treason and patriotism, General Washington set in motion the destiny of what would become the greatest nation on Earth: The United States of America.

The heavy wooden doors of the State House swung open, and as the champions of American liberty emerged, a woman quietly approached Benjamin Franklin, one of the last to sign the Constitution. “Well, doctor,” she inquired, “what have you given us, a republic or a monarchy?” The patriot thoughtfully replied, “A republic, madam, if you can keep it.” It is impossible to put into words the magnitude of such a gift.

People have often wondered why the Constitution is so vitally important to Americans, so significant that the U.S. military, law enforcement, and politicians swear a solemn oath to support and defend it against all enemies, including our own government. Our Constitution is the unyielding foundation upon which America’s great republic is formed, a document which is not only brilliant and thorough, but eloquent and deeply meaningful. Though it is a legal document, it is in no way a dull or dreary manuscript. Upon reading the Constitution, whether for the first or fiftieth time, one is filled with a sense of wonder at comprehending the amount of profound wisdom poured into every evocative word. With no pre-existing knowledge of history, a reader can immediately feel the countless hours of forethought given to each expression of freedom, from the flowing elegance of the preamble to each promised amendment. The Constitution is, in fact, so well structured, so carefully worded, that while protecting the rights of the American people, it also guards itself. Throughout centuries, no self-serving politician has been able to pervert or diminish our basic rights, though many have tried. The single greatest advantage of the Constitution is that it was created not by politicians as we know them, but by scholars, patriots, freemen.

Brian Crabtree of Hardy submitted the winning poem:

**Freedom Rings**

*Common Sense* ripples through the town with talks of independence from the crown.

Quiet conversations reverberate, stirring the masses to invigorate.

As soldiers scramble, I hear the Preamble.

George Washington with his story.

Betsy Ross and her new-found Glory.

Men among millions with a unified voice, scream, “liberty, free will, and freedom of choice.”

The fight for freedom in the land of the brave sent many a soldier to an early grave.

“Give me liberty or give me death,” minutemen shouted until their last breath.

John Dickinson and his dedication submitted the Articles of Confederation.

The Constitution of the United States

One by one the delegators sign,

a beautiful document in its pure design.

Dreams become reality with Federalist formality.

The gratification of ratification amended with the Bill of Rights, candle wax, and sleepless nights.
Ozarka All-Star Honored During Brunch

As a member of the Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges (AATYC), which is comprised of two year colleges across the State, Ozarka College participated in the annual conference, which is held every October. This year’s conference with the theme Educating Arkansas’ Workforce: Ready, Set, Go! was held October 18-20 in Hot Springs at the Convention Center.

At the conclusion of the AATYC conference each year, there is an awards brunch to honor of the Academic All-Stars and Outstanding Alumni selected by each of the 22 community colleges throughout the State. This year’s awards brunch was sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Keynote speaker for the event was Arkansas Speaker of the House of Representatives, Robbie Wills, who gave an inspiring address entitled “Accomplishments are Something to Build on…Not Rest on.”

Ozarka College student, Jessica Wolford of Melbourne, was selected as the 2009-2010 Academic All-Star. Jessica is a single mother and cancer survivor who is pursuing an associate’s degree and plans to transfer and major in journalism. She says her “enjoyment in life will come from giving back to a community and school that has done everything they could” to help her succeed. Her involvement includes Phi Theta Kappa, Career Pathways, TRiO SSS, and Relay for Life. She has also proven her community dedication by helping to organize “Christmas for Kaylee” to help a local family through a holiday time accident.

Upon receiving her honor during the Academic All-Star Brunch, she and the other All-Stars and the more than 700 people in attendance heard an 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.

Jessica Wolford & Dr. Richard Dawe at the AATYC Conference.