College and Career Planning Day

The Ozarka College Admissions Department hosted another successful College and Career Planning Day on November 1st in John E. Miller Education Complex. College, university, financial and armed forces representatives were set up to offer information to local high school students throughout the morning.

There were 543 high school seniors from seventeen area high schools in attendance at the Ozarka hosted ArkACRAO (Arkansas Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers) College and Career Planning Day. Those schools included, Calico Rock, Cave City, Cushman, Evening Shade, Highland, Izard County Consolidated, Mammoth Spring, Melbourne, Mount Pleasant, Mountain View, Norfork, Rural Special, Salem, Shirley, Timbo, Viola, and Williford.

Representatives and recruiters from colleges, universities, the armed forces, and lending institutions had information and materials available from their institutions for interested high school seniors.

The Admissions Department, with help from Ozarka’s remarkable Student Ambassadors and many other Ozarka faculty and staff assisted with the entire program to make the event a success. Student Ambassadors who assisted with the event were: Shera Bailey, Nichole Connor, Ashley Fulks, Rebecka Gibbons, Brady Johnson, Anthony Shipman, Kristine Simmons, Lea Whited, and Ian Williams.

Ozarka staff and faculty members, Mary Ellen Hawkins, Ron Helm, Sandra Miller, Judy Sharp, Kim Whitten, and the Maintenance Department also played a big role in assisting with the event. Ozarka’s Director of Admissions, Zeda Wilkerson and Admissions Assistant, Laura Lawrence, coordinated the program with advanced planning and preparation by Gin Brown and Wanda McConnaughhay.

A key element of the success of Ozarka’s College and Career Planning Day each year is the hospitality room provided by Culinary Arts for the high school counselors, bus drivers, college representatives and other guests who attend the event. Instructors, Linda Taylor and Mimi Newsome, along with the dedicated culinary students offered first-rate food and service throughout the event.
Cake Decorating with Gum Paste

The Continuing Education department at Ozarka College will offer a new and unique cake decorating course in the Administration Building on the main campus in Melbourne. The course will be based on the new Wilton technique of cake decorating using mixed gum paste and fondant icings.

Julie Gosser, Wilton Method Instructor, will teach this non-credit class which is scheduled to meet on December 4 and 11 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for a total of four hours. Cost for the class is $75.00 and includes cake decorating kit with all the tools needed, including fondant, gum paste, fondant cutters, decorating sugar, cookie stick, and candy cups.

No cake decorating experience is required for this unique course. Gosser says "students will learn to make a calla lily, carnation, fantasy flowers and more designs for those wanting to decorate a cake for birthdays, holidays or other special events."

Limited enrollment is available and pre-registration is required. The deadline to enroll is November 21. To register for this class, call Kim Lovelace at 870-368-7371 or email klovelace@ozarka.edu.

November Lunch N’ Learn

The Ozarka College Paul Miller Fitness Center will be hosting another 45 minute Lunch N’ Learn seminar at 11:30 AM on November 9th in the Small Dining Room at Ozarka College in Melbourne.

In recognition of November being National Diabetes Month, the topic of: "Nutrition: A Practical Guide to Meal Planning, Diabetes, and Weight Management" will be presented by Ma-Linda Coffman, registered dietician and Fulton County Extension Agent. Included in the discussion will be meal planning tips, diabetes and weight management, and general nutrition education.

According to the American Diabetes Association website www.diabetes.org, there are 20.8 million children and adults in the United States, or 7% of the population, who have diabetes. While an estimated 14.6 million have been diagnosed, unfortunately, 6.2 million people (or nearly one-third) are unaware that they have the disease. Nutrition and exercise is important for the control of diabetes. By eating well-balanced meals in the correct amounts, blood glucose levels can be regulated as close to normal as possible.

Although this opportunity will offered free of charge and open to anyone, including community members, students, faculty, and staff, pre-registration is appreciated by calling the fitness center at 368-2090 or emailing Director of the fitness center, Holly Ayers, hayers@ozarka. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch or lunch may be purchased at the Ozarka Cafeteria. For more information contact Ayers.

Ozarka’s MV Beanfest Team

From left, instructor, Cindy Conley; instructor, Jeremy Nicholson; instructor, Cheri McKee-McSwain; and MV Coordinator, Gin Brown, participated in the Annual Mountain View Beanfest on October 28th. The Ozarka team cooked and served 60-70 pounds of beans, serving approximately 500 bowls.

All in all it is estimated that more than 30,000 people attended Beanfest this year.
Ozarka Receives Big Read Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) today announced that 72 organizations will receive grants to support Big Read programs between January and June 2007. The Big Read is a new national program by the NEA, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arts Midwest, that encourages literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss one book. The organizations selected to participate in the Big Read will receive grants ranging from $5,000 to $40,000 to promote and carry out month-long, community-based programs.

Modeled on successful “city reads” programs, the Big Read is meant to address the national decline in literary reading as documented in the NEA’s 2004 landmark survey Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. The survey showed that less than half the American adult population now reads literature.

"With the Big Read we want to get everyone in a community -- from high school kids and office workers to public officials and senior citizens -- reading a great book together," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia. In addition to direct grants, the NEA also will provide participating communities with a library of free materials, including reader’s and teacher’s guides for each of the Big Read novels, an audio guide for each novel featuring distinguished actors and writers, an online organizer’s guide for hosting a Big Read program, a customized television public service announcement, Big Read display materials, and a comprehensive program Web site. The Boeing Company will support the Big Read in communities with a military base.

In the proposal submitted by Ozarka College, The Grapes of Wrath was the book of choice and some of the activities planned by Ozarka College for its four-county service area including Fulton, Izard, Sharp and Stone Counties are:

- Showing the video in area nursing homes
- Videoing comments from nursing home residents
- Big Antique Hunt where Ozarka will trade copies of the book for remnants of the Dust Bowl Days in area antique shops in order to prepare a traveling display for the Big Events
- Big Month of Reading with the book introduced in area high schools, Ozarka College, local libraries, domestic violence shelters, and area bookstores
- Big Events with guest speaker appearances in all four counties by Nancy Steinbeck
- Big Discussion Round Table held at Ozarka College following the reenactment of a scene from the movie
- Big Book Giveaway
- Big Listen Walk at the Ozarka Paul Miller Fitness Center
- The Big Eat at the Ozarka cafeteria hosting a menu of thrifty fare while diners watch the Big Eat Fashion Show

Director of Planning and Special Projects, Joan Stirling who coordinated the grant proposal, expresses her appreciation to the individuals and groups who have agreed to participate. “We are so thankful to have Mrs. Nancy Steinbeck on board for the activities, and we deeply appreciate the area high schools, libraries, nursing homes, bookstores, Izard County Judge Rayburn Finley, the grant proposal steering committee, and many of Ozarka’s personnel for their willingness to be a part of the Big Read. The high degree of the proposed participation in Ozarka’s four-county service area, along with Mrs. Steinbeck’s notoriety, is what made receiving the grant possible.”

Most of the events will take place during the month of February with the Big Antique Hunt and showing of the video at the nursing homes taking place during January. Keep informed by READING your local newspaper or listening to your local radio station!
Gear up for Spring Registration

Any new or returning student to Ozarka College may begin registering for Spring classes on November 13th and continue registering through the first day of classes which is January 8, 2007.

Current students may currently register online until the first day of classes after meeting with their advisors to plan their Spring class schedule.

Anyone interested in becoming a new Ozarka College student during the Spring 2007 semester will need to first fill out an admissions application, provide official transcripts of all previous high school and/or college level work; or an official GED transcript or score report. New students should also either take the ASSET or Compass test or provide an official copy of ACT scores as well as measles and rubella immunization records.

The Asset test will be given at Ozarka College in Melbourne on December 1 at 9AM; Ozarka in Mountain View on December 5 at 9AM; and Ozarka in Ash Flat on December 6 at 9AM. The Compass is a computerized placement exam which is available by appointment. Contact the Testing Coordinator at 870-368-2049 to schedule an appointment.

For more information about degree programs and/or classes available for the Spring Semester 2007; or questions regarding the ASSET test, call 870-368-7371 or toll free 800-821-4335.