On Tuesday, February 28, 2006, the World Famous Platters will be in concert at the John Miller Auditorium of Ozarka College in Melbourne.

According to Son Lamb, organizer of the concert and chair of the Ozarka Foundation Special Events Committee, “The Platters will be bringing a great show to Melbourne. Their music is timeless and we expect the audience to be very satisfied with the show. We want everyone to come out and support the college and enjoy the entertainment.” Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Ozarka College Foundation Scholarship Fund.

The Platters are best known for great hits such as “The Great Pretender”, “Only You”, “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes” and many others. In 1990 The Platters were inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame in recognition as one of the top vocal groups of the 1950’s.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. on February 28. Tickets are $10 for general admission with limited reserved seating available for $15. To purchase tickets, visit one of the following ticket outlets: First National Banking Company locations; Bank of Cave City; Mountain View Chamber of Commerce; First National Bank of Izard County in Calico Rock; Perryman Realty in Viola; Batesville Music Center; and Ozarka College in Melbourne.

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Around Campus

- **Collegiate Ministry Meetings**
  are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., in the Dining Hall with Brother Bob Stewart.

- **Student Council Meeting**
  - Tuesday, Feb. 14th 11AM in C116 (Miller Compressed video room)

- **Phi Beta Lambda RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**
  February 16th / Miller Auditorium Lobby 10AM - 4PM.

- **Paul Vitale** - Feb. 14th
  (SEE PAGE 2 for Details)

- **SAEA** - Thursday, Feb. 23rd
  11AM in C116 (Miller Compressed video room)

- **PTK** - Tuesday, Feb. 28th 11AM in C116 (Miller Compressed video room)
Nationally Known Motivational Speaker at Ozarka

Ozarka College in conjunction with the Carl Perkins Grant is hosting nationally renowned motivational speaker, Paul Vitale on February 14th at 11AM in the John E. Miller Auditorium. Through the Perkins Grant, there is no cost to attend this event for Ozarka students.

A native of Russellville, Arkansas, Vitale graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in 1995 with a degree in Mass Communications & Journalism. He has become one of America’s most sought-out training and motivational speakers and was named one of the “40 under 40” by Arkansas Business.

According to Director of Planning and Special Projects, Joan Stirling, this program, entitled, A Hero Within will explore that within each of us lies the capacity for heroism. “Through Paul Vitale’s energetic and enjoyable presentation style, he will demonstrate how to find expression for the capacity of being a hero. Whether you think of yourself as a hero or not, Paul shows through his personal experience how we all can liberate our own inner heroism.”

She adds, “One of Vitale’s best-selling books, Are You Puzzled by the Puzzle of Life?, explores Paul’s experiences with people from the corporate board room to a homeless shelter. He encountered the seeds of heroism, and this seminar will show how to achieve heroism on many levels.”

Some of his clients include ESPN Outdoors, the United States Postal Service, Dillard’s Department Stores, Southwest Airlines, the Washington Redskins, ALLTEL Communications, Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals, the Antiques Roadshow, and Dole-Hong Kong Ltd.

Students, staff and faculty are invited to attend this event. Each participant will go away with information that will help at work and in everyday events as well.

My Valentine Dream (fiction by Don “Larch” Loedding, Ozarka Adjunct Instructor)

As a young child, I would dream of toys a had and those beyond my reach. As I grew older, I dreamt about my parents who loved me and started me down the paths of life and identified the perils. They never left my dreams after all these years. The materialistic dreams were of success and jobs which brought creature comforts such as cars, clothes, houses, eating out - - - merely items, hardware.

Happiness was a nebulous, elusive dream that came and went like the wind over the Montana prairie. Vacations were dreams that sometimes materialized, then became dreams again. And the gold dreams were about my friends - - - the true wealth of being. Money and power in their various forms could never achieve the wealth of a true friend.

But the real dream is someone you love.

The wild flowers in the field, the birds flying hither and yon, the graceful ducks and geese flying past in formation with their smooth, rhythmic approach to landing on a pond are a reflection of your graceful body. When I see the bees flitting between flowers performing their pollinating task and smell the sweet flowers with their beauty enhanced in the garden and in woodland settings, I think of you - - -my love. You are the dream of the only substantial matter I ever held close, or came close to. You give my body euphoria.

Now you are as elusive as the alto-cirrus clouds drifting by - - -you are only a dream that I cannot hold warmly, kiss, or discuss my problems of work, family, money and health. You are a dream floating by. Suddenly I can focus and see clearly, and then my vision of us becomes blurry like our conversations - - - some are crystal clear in my memory banks, while others are faded and incoherent.

Holding hands and walking oblivious to passing traffic and barking dogs - - - our memories. The warmth of your body and the scent of your perfume blend into the heady odor of your skin which flow thickly into my sensuous mind.

Some dreams drag me down into incomprehensible depths. I cannot wake up. Something is holding me from coming back into my bed. My eyelids are too heavy to open. A feeling of panic flows over me like an ocean wave over which I have no control. Are you with someone else, are you kissing? I cannot focus, my recall is faint. Someone help me, pull me up, shake my body, open my weighted eyelids!

The earth is a constant mistress. The grass, trees, streams, rivers, oceans, mountains, valleys and flowers are all part of her dress, her being. In Fall and Winter, petals of flowers fall to the ground as do the leaves of deciduous trees. Grasses die and turn brown, stream beds dry up. But in the Spring and Summer, flowers bloom and petals grow, grasses turn verdant green, all the trees sprout new leaves, even the evergreens show new growth, and the streams and rivers overflow their banks with the seasonal rains.

But you my Dream, my love, you change from flesh and blood to a mist, a dream, a lost reality. My fantasies are vivid of us being all things together - - -a delicacy, a delight, an ecstasy of life!

You are my life, my dream, my love. Will you be my Valentine forever???
Ozarka College Explores Urban Forestry

Ozarka College is currently in the third year of the Arkansas Forestry Commission Urban and Community Forestry Assistance grant. The grant program is funded jointly by the United States Forestry Service and the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

Through the grant, Ozarka has the opportunity to work with several local foresters, including Dan Johns, County and Urban Forester for the Arkansas Forestry Commission in Imboden (Lawrence County). Johns specializes in urban forestry and provides the following information regarding trees located within our communities.

Most communities big and small all across the United States including those in Arkansas are unaware of the existence of urban forests even though 60 – 80% of the nation’s population resides in the urban forest. A lack of awareness of its existence also indicates that the general population is unaware of the important values and benefits that urban forests provide.

According to Johns most people think forests are just large areas of woodland in rural areas. “Actually an urban forest consists of abiotic things and biotic things including parks, natural woodland remnants, watersheds, along streets, open green spaces, private and public yards, school grounds, and businesses, and all the vegetation within a community’s limit. These provide value to the enrichment of quality in every day life. An urban forest can consist of one tree to several thousand trees. Whether it’s big or small the urban forest’s size doesn’t matter because the benefits to the environment physically, aesthetically and economically still exist.”

He adds, “Trees located within communities are everything; sources of beauty, air cleansers, humidifiers, soil stabilizers, water runoff absorbers, erosion controllers, energy conservers, economic improvers, wildlife habitats, human health improvers, community involvement improvers, and they even add value to property. With trees planted throughout the urban environment, communities reap many benefits. Without trees people couldn’t exist.”

Through the American Forestry Association and the United State Forest Service, Johns provides the following Urban Forest Facts:

* The average city tree removes 13 – 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year from the air.
* Urban trees are 15 times more efficient in removing carbon dioxide than forest trees.
* A typical tree produces about 200 – 300 pounds of oxygen each year.
* Two trees can supply a person’s oxygen needs.
* On a hot day, a tree can transpire 900 gallons of water into the air, cooling as much air as a six room-size air conditioner.
* Urban trees can reduce city storm water runoff by as much as 31 percent.
* Unlike some things that depreciate, a tree’s value increases with each passing year. Trees increase home property value 7 – 21% depending on the tree size.

More information on urban forests can be found on the following websites.


Again this year, Ozarka College will have an Arbor Day Celebration on March 15th when the college will plant historic Mount Vernon Red Maples at each of its locations in Ash Flat at 9AM, Melbourne at 11AM and Mountain View at 2PM. For further information on this event, contact Director of Planning and Special Projects, Joan Striling at 870-368-7371.

This project is supported in part by the Arkansas Forestry Commission’s Urban Forestry Program and the U. S. Forest Service.
Ozarka College Division of Continuing Education will again offer the “Very Basic Spanish” class at Ozarka College - Ash Flat located on College Drive. This class begins on February 20 at 5 p.m.

This non-credit course taught by Janet Ware will address basic structures of the Spanish language. Students who have interest in learning practical usage of Spanish but have little or no previous knowledge of the language will benefit from this class. Students will meet on Mondays from 5-7 p.m. beginning February 20 and ending March 13.

Tuition for “Very Basic Spanish” is $60.00 payable to the Continuing Education Department no later than February 17th. Students will also be responsible for acquiring a copy of the *Berlitz Self Teacher: Spanish* text, available for order online or may be purchased at most commercial bookstores in the area. Estimated cost for the textbook is $15.00.

Limited enrollment will be available for this course. To register, call 870-994-7273, ext. 2038, or 870-368-7371.