Spring Enrollment Increases

Melbourne – Spring enrollment at Ozarka College increased for 2006 over last year’s numbers as indicated by final registration figures. After reaching a record spring enrollment in 2004 of 943 students, and last year’s numbers taking a slight decrease, student enrollment for the current Spring semester totals 941.

Ozarka College President, Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, praises the hard work of the faculty and staff of the college for the stability of enrollment. Johnston, who became President in December 2005, expresses a commitment to the continued improvement of service at Ozarka College. “The success of Ozarka College is directly related to the success of its students and by developing increased opportunities for student experiences, the institution will continue to be a leader among rural, two year colleges in the State of Arkansas.

Ozarka College utilizes distance learning and web-based instruction blended with traditional classroom settings in order to offer coursework to the diverse group of students attending the institution. With the new facilities in Ash Flat and Mountain View which opened in 2005, students in those areas have more accessible opportunities afforded them. Expanded course offerings are also being planned for the Melbourne campus for Fall 2006.

Paul Weaver Library

During the days before Valentine’s Day, the Paul Weaver Library held a contest to guess how many marshmallows were in the jar (pictured right). Congratulations to LPN Instructor, Katie Wilson who guessed 524. There were actually 528 marshmallows in the jar. Katie won a Subway gift certificate for her guess. Honorable mentions were student, Misty Scrivner, who guessed 514; and Allied Health Division chair, Ruby Johnson, who guessed 510.

The Library staff invites everyone to come by and see the displays they have up for celebrating Black History Month and Heart Healthy Month.
Wal-Mart Ash Flat Donates to Fenton Endowment

Wal-Mart Manager, Mike Alexander (left) gives Ozarka College Foundation Board Chairman, Marty Sellers (right) a check in the amount of $450.00 for the endowed scholarship that has been established at Ozarka in honor of James F. Fenton. Irene Fenton (center) has been assisting the Foundation Board with raising the proceeds in honor of her late husband.

Irene expresses her gratitude for the donations that have been made to date. “This scholarship is such an honor for Jim and will be a lasting legacy in his name. Jim would be so proud that Ozarka students will receive financial assistance in his honor each year because of the generosity of his friends, colleagues and family members who have contributed.” She adds, “Jim worked with Mike Alexander on several occasions in his capacity as Development Officer for the college and would be honored that the working relationship he established generated this gift from Wal-Mart in his name.”

According to Director of Advancement, Karla Rush, as a result of a Title III grant awarded to Ozarka College in 2001, any donations made to this endowed scholarship will be matched dollar for dollar through September of this year. “With this gift from Wal-Mart, we have surpassed the halfway point of the goal established for this scholarship of $20,000. We encourage donations into the endowment so that the financial assistance continues to help students year after year. Scholarships really make it possible for students to afford their college degree.”

The Ozarka Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization and all donations are tax deductible on itemized tax forms. Anyone interested in making a donation to this endowed scholarship in honor of James F. Fenton and his dedication to education should contact the Ozarka College Development Office at 870-368-7371 or toll free 800-821-4335.

Entergy Makes Mtn. View Science Lab Donation

Through a grant program with Entergy, a donation was made to the Ozarka College - Mountain View Science Lab to serve the students in Stone County which is also in Entergy’s service area.

Because of their $500 donation and many other generous donors, the science lab is being utilized for the first time this semester. Physical Science and Biology labs are taking place in the new facility this semester.

Prior to the completion of the lab, students taking lab courses utilized the Mountain View High School Labs.

Ozarka College also has a new science lab in another facility opened in 2005 in Ash Flat.
Free Tutoring for Technical Students

Whether you’re just trying to keep your GPA up or trying to pass a course, there’s FREE help available to anyone involved in technical programs. Technical studies like nursing, business, automotive, GIS and others now have funds available for Ozarka students to get professional help five days a week. Tutoring is available in most classes and, in addition, students can receive help in organization, study strategies, and get general test taking tips. Get help with Mathematics, English, writing and oral presentations as well. To sign up, contact John Petersen at jpetersen@eagles.ozarka.edu or call 368-2039. Don’t struggle alone any longer!

Continuing Education Offers Unique Opportunities

Ozarka College Continuing Education is offering two opportunities in the next couple of months.

Once again for the six consecutive year, the Ozarka College Continuing Education Department will sponsor a workshop titled “Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People”. The class will meet from 6:00-9:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, in the Lecture Hall of the John Miller Education Complex in Melbourne.

During the evening, students will be able to learn all the chords needed to play any song, in any style, in any key. Topics include how chords work in music, musician “shortcuts”, how to “speed read” sheet music, how to handle different keys and time signatures, and simple techniques of “counting” music. Students will have access to a keyboard to practice skills being presented in the class.

Instructor David Haynes holds a master’s degree in music education with 25 years experience in teaching. Currently he teaches private lessons in the Chattanooga area and conducts workshops in colleges all over the Southeastern United States. Haynes offers the Instant Piano course so that “anyone who knows where to find middle C on the keyboard has sufficient musical background”.

The cost for this seminar includes $40.00 tuition which is payable to Ozarka College plus a separate materials fee of $25.00 for a 33-page book and a 60-minute practice CD to be provided by the instructor. Registration will be available for Instant Piano until March 24.

During April, Continuing Education will offer “Basics of Selling on eBay,” Saturday, April 22 from 9AM – 4PM, a more advanced course entitled “Beyond the Basics” will be presented.

These courses will be delivered by instructor, Linda Beer, who is a “Power Seller” on eBay and uses the same training and student materials as eBay University. Students will learn how to do research and create listings to attract buyers, enhance listings with better descriptions and photography, maximize profits by setting correct pricing, open and use a PayPal account, monitor sales to find what is working and what is not, and learn the costly mistakes that new eBay sellers make.

The cost for each course is $70 and an optional student workbook will be available from the instructor the day of the class for $10. All students must have an email account set up prior to the class.

This course will take place at Ozarka in Melbourne in the Hall Building Computer Lab, Room H101. Deadline to register for one or both of these classes is April 19.

To register for one or both of these courses or for more information, contact Kim Lovelace at 870-368-7371, 800-821-4335 from outside Izard County or via email klovelace@ozarka.edu.

LPN Application Deadline for Fall Class

Ozarka College is currently accepting applications for the 18 month Licensed Practical Nursing program that will begin during the Fall 2006 Semester. The deadline for persons interested in applying for this program is April 3rd at Noon. For details on admission requirements or to apply, contact Randy Scaggs at 870-368-2028 or 800-821-4335 outside Izard County.
Ozarka Student Council Considering ASACC

Ozarka College student, Nathon Shultz (pictured front row, third from left), who is the Student Council Vice President, along with English Instructor and Student Council Advisor, Jeremy Nicholson, (pictured back row, fourth from left) attended the American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) meeting at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock to learn more about the organization. Ozarka’s Student Council is considering joining the ASACC.

The national organization provides opportunities to network with other community college students around the nation on issues that affect higher education. Members are also encouraged to express the need for quality education by lobbying on the Federal level.