Around 300 people turned out for Ozarka’s official Groundbreaking Ceremony which took place on April 6th at the building site in Ash Flat.

After Ozarka President, Doug Rush welcomed everyone in attendance, Board of Trustees Chair, Tate Lawrence led the Pledge of Allegiance, and VP of Finance, Gayle Cooper led a prayer, several guests spoke about the significance of Ozarka’s permanent facility in Ash Flat. Speakers included Martin Carpenter of FNBC; State Senator Paul Miller, Ash Flat Mayor, Brien Nix-Hall; VP of Academic Affairs, Linda Morgan; and President of FNBC and Ozarka Foundation Chair, Marty Sellars.

According to Rush, “this event will go down in history as a very significant day for Ozarka College and for the students and other constituents we serve.” He added that he looks forward to “moving dirt” in Mountain View, where another groundbreaking will take place in the near future.

The contractor, who is Noacon, Inc. of Fairfield Bay, has already begun their work on the facility, by preparing the initial groundwork for the building.

Ozarka’s Kitchen staff and Culinary Arts Department provided hors d’oeuvres and the Maintenance Department worked hard to set everything up for the ceremony. The drinks were provided by Pepsi and Tri-County Farm & Ranch supplied the container for the drinks.
Kids College Slated for June

The Continuing Education Department at Ozarka College will offer its summer Kids College program again this year. Kids College will be held at the main campus in Melbourne June 1 through June 4, from noon until 4:30 each day.

This year, there will be sessions for younger students who have completed first through fourth grade at this end of this school year, as well as sessions for older students who have completed fifth through eighth grade. The topics this year involve learning, but is also geared toward more physical activity. Some classes available this year include Karate, Conversational Spanish, Golf, Science, Spy Kids, First Aid and Native Americans.

Cost to attend is $60 and includes a mid-afternoon snack and a t-shirt at the end of the week. To pre-register for Kids College, please call Karla Rush, Kim Lovelace or Kim Whitten at 870-368-7371.

During the evening’s dinner, entertainment was provided by Eddie Creighton and friends: Vice President of Finance, Gayle Cooper, and Randall Lovelace. The trio performed several gospel favorites and classics. During one number, adding to the fun of the evening, Sandra Miller performed with the trio on “saxophone.” Although, the jury is still out on whether or not it was really her playing!

Along with the entertainment, Vice President of Student Services, Ron Helm and Building and Maintenance worker, Rick Dowdle, assisted by setting up and running the sound for Creighton and friends. Foundation Chairman, Marty Sellars praised the members for their hard work with the Gala. “The Foundation members worked very hard to sell their tickets this year.” He added, “Without the support of the board members as well as Ozarka faculty, staff and administration, the Gala would not be possible.”

Several new Foundation Members have recently been asked to serve on the board. From the Stone County area, Susan Kemp, Jan Isbell, and Darrin Chism have been added. Steven Mitchell and Janet Lamb from Izard County; and from Fulton County, Jean Pace and Curren Everett have also joined the board.

The Ozarka College Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable foundation to assist with the development and enhancement of programs and facilities at the College by encouraging gifts of money and property and by managing these gifts so as to maintain or increase their value, with all endeavors focusing on expanded educational opportunities for and service to Ozarka’s students and community.

To make a donation or find out more about the Foundation Board’s work, please contact Ozarka’s Development Office, at 870-368-7371, or in Sharp County, 870-994-7273.
STAR Program Money Available

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) has announced a new scholarship program to students pursuing an education in Associate of Arts in Teaching up to a Master of Arts in Teaching. The program is entitled STAR, which is an acronym for State Teacher Assistance Resource.

Students who qualify can receive up to $6,000 per year if they agree to teach for two years in a public school located in an area designated as having a critical shortage, and/or in a specific subject matter area, such as math and science.

Several elementary schools in Ozarka’s service area have qualified as critical schools, including; Melbourne, ICC, Mountain View, Salem, Williford, Central Elementary in Batesville, and Mammoth Spring. To see a complete list of schools, and/or download the entire application packet, log on to www.arkansashighered.com.

Some of the requirements to apply include, a cumulative GPA of 2.75, entering sophomore, junior or senior level in an accredited college or university in Arkansas, and being enrolled as a fulltime student.

The deadline to apply is June 1st. For further information, contact Ozarka instructor, Lisa Lawrence at 870-368-2037, or call the ADHE, toll free 800-547-8837.

ALPNA Competition

Ozarka College Practical Nursing students competed in Batesville on April 1st and 2nd during the annual ALPNA competition (Arkansas Licensed Practical Nurses Association).

Ozarka’s LPN students brought back several awards, including a first place award in Medical Terminology, by Lori Richards.

Receiving awards in Medical Spelling were Susan Rhodes with second place, and Katie Scarbro with fourth place.

The Junior Class Team of Kim Booker, Diane Drinkard, Susan Rhodes, and Denise Denham, won a fourth in the Quiz Bowl competition.

Roberta Powell won second place in the Job Interview category.

The highlight of the competition was the Talent Show, where teams put together humorous skits and performed for the rest of the competitors, instructors and judges. Ozarka’s Senior LPN Class performed a skit about the Arkansas State Board taking the license back from an impaired nurse. Lori Richards re-wrote and sang the Reba McEntire song “Take it Back” to fit their skit.

The talent show team included Richards, Shandle Barnhardt, Roberta Powell, Heather McLanahan, Robin Smedley, Rhonda Ferguson, Nicole Deutsch, Jacquelyn Smith, Tina Myers, Barbara Shelton, Carolyn Pate, Lanetta Busch, Kristine Crane, Teresa James, Debbie Garner, Patricia Englebrecht, Debora Thomas, Mandy Tedeschi, and Shirley Byler.

Much Support Shown for Student Organizations

Several Ozarka College Student Organizations have recently conducted fundraisers. Those fundraisers have been quite successful this Spring semester.

The Phi Theta Kappa members held their annual “Egg Auction” on April 1st in the Main Dining Hall. There were many items donated by Ozarka departments, faculty and students to auction off. Auctioneer, Colonel Debra Bartlett volunteered her time to conduct the auction. “More than $443 was raised and we are ecstatic about the success,” said Samantha Thornsberry, PTK Advisor.

Another group of students in the IST Department, held a carwash on Friday, April 2nd. They had an overwhelming response, so much so, that according to IST instructor, Steve Benoit, were unable to get to all of the vehicles during the course of the day. “We are going to attempt another day to do this again,” he said.

The Culinary Arts students are still selling chances on the cake drawing and the donated cedar chest through Tuesday, April 13th. Chances can be purchased in the Culinary Department or from Culinary students.

Meanwhile, Student Council has been working to re-build their float which was destroyed by high winds last fall. Along with those pictured, working last Friday were Joanna Fulbright, Samantha Thornsberry and Ron Stovall.

Senior class performers in the talent show category, from left: Roberta Powell, Barbara Shelton, Teresa James, and Rhonda Ferguson.
Marty Sellars delivers his speech.

Senator Paul Miller gets assistance from Gin Brown with his boutonnière.

Joe Stacey and Karla Rush prepare for the event.

Ozarka Foundation Members break ground.

OC Students, Ronda McLelland & Connie Esparza.

Ron Helm and Gayle Cooper.

Ozarka Ash Flat Groundbreaking