

Ozarka College

THE CONNECTION



Left to Right:

Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice John Dan Kemp congratulates a graduate on 5/4.

LPN students assist with the Fulton County Farm to You Exhibit on 5/11 and flood relief efforts in Randolph County on 5/14.



Babe, the mini therapy horse, visited the Mammoth Spring LPN students on 5/16.

Ella Miller rides in the Ozarka Aviation kids plane at the Pioneer Days Parade on 5/6.

A team from Air Evac met with nursing students in Mtn. View on 6/14.



President's Perspective

We are in full summer mode now which means a four-day compressed work week and three day weekends for a while; fewer students on our campuses and a slower pace for some to catch their breath. Many are working still at a fast pace, contacting students, enrolling new and returning students and preparing coursework for summer II and fall semesters. The work of Ozarka College doesn't stop, but it does change a bit during the summer months.

As you will read in this issue, we have been fortunate to hire some very talented new faculty members in several key programs. I know you will all welcome them and help them to feel at home and a part of the team very quickly. I am happy to report that enrollment was up for the summer I semester and it is looking very positive for growth in the fall.

On another interesting note, a law was changed by the Legislature that will no longer prohibit two-year colleges from having residence halls. A team has been charged with investigating the need and viability of this new opportunity for Ozarka. More to follow on this topic as we gather information.

Best of Success!

Dr. Richard Dawe



Summer II and Fall Classes

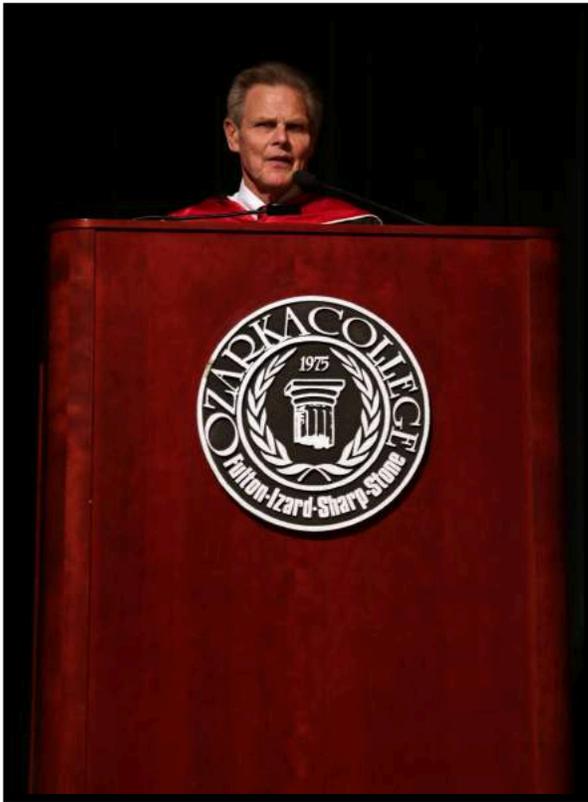
Registration for Ozarka College summer and fall semester classes is currently open. The second summer session begins **July 5** and the fall semester begins on **August 14**. Courses are available at each of our four campus locations in Melbourne, Ash Flat, Mammoth Spring and Mountain View. Classes can also be completed online.

The summer semester is great for students who want to get a jumpstart on completing their degree, and for those who need to complete pre-requisite requirements before the fall semester. Whether you're enrolling full time in the fall semester, or simply taking summer classes as a visiting student, Ozarka College is committed to your success.

For more information about the use of Financial Aid for the summer term, please call 870.368.2009 or email: finaid@ozarka.edu. For assistance with admissions or registration, please contact Student Services by calling 870.368.2024 or email: admissions@ozarka.edu.

Registration is currently OPEN for summer II and fall. Don't delay, ENROLL today!

Dr. T. Wayne Wilson to Retire



Dr. T. Wayne Wilson, director of adult education, has announced his plans to retire from Ozarka College after dedicating 50 years of service to education. The College invites colleagues, friends and family to attend a retirement celebration in the Ozarka College Student Services Center (Melbourne campus) on **June 22, 2017** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with comments beginning at 11:30.

Dr. Wilson began his career at Oxford School in 1967 as math teacher and principal. Before coming to Ozarka Vocational Technical School in 1984, he also taught math for the Melbourne School District. He began his career with Ozarka as a math instructor, and then was appointed as Ozarka's first Adult Education Coordinator.

Ozarka College President, Dr. Richard Dawe commented, "Dr. Wilson has dedicated his working life to providing education opportunities for students throughout the north Arkansas region. He is an inspirational and compassionate leader who will be deeply missed, but he is leaving an amazing legacy and an exceptionally strong Adult education team to carry on this important work."

You are cordially invited to a
retirement reception for
Dr. T. Wayne Wilson

June 22, 2017

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

(comments begin at 11:30)

Ozarka College
Student Services Center
Melbourne, AR

Dr. Wilson is a graduate of Melbourne High School and holds a Bachelor's degree from Arkansas Polytechnical College in Russellville, a Master's degree in Secondary Education Administration from Arkansas State University (ASU), a Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from ASU, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from ASU. He and his wife, Mavilene reside at Lacrosse. They have two grown children and five grandchildren.



Catlett Hired as Director of Aviation



Ozarka College has hired John Catlett to serve as the Director of Aviation. Catlett comes to Ozarka with a great deal of aviation experience, but has also served Arkansas in a variety of ways. After retiring from the Arkansas State Police after 30 years of service, he served District 73 in the Arkansas Legislature helping direct the future for Arkansas.

Ozarka Provost and Executive Vice President of Learning, Dr. Keith McClanahan commented, "John has much to offer our students and our region and we are excited to see the enhancements that he will bring to the aviation program and to our College."

Catlett has many years as a certified flight instructor and holds a Commercial Certificate for Single, Multi and Instrument Planes. He also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from Arkansas Tech University. Catlett is from Yell county, where he and his wife, Cheri own a cattle and poultry farm. They have two grown children, two grandchildren and a third grandchild on the way.

Dr. Richard Dawe, Ozarka College president commented, "John is passionate about flight instructing and brings great leadership experience to our Flight program at Ozarka. I look forward to working closely with him to help advance the program." For more information about Ozarka College's Aviation program, please contact John Catlett, Ozarka College director of aviation, at 870.368.7926. Registration is currently open for summer and fall classes.

CSC Donates to Becky's Kids



Ozarka College's Classified Staff Council (CSC) hosted a College-wide fundraiser for Becky's Kids during the month of April. They raised \$530 and donated it to Becky's Kids, a nonprofit named after Rebecca Moser Hickerson. Their mission is to bring love, support and encouragement to Arkansas teens in foster care, as well as those who are transitioning out of care and into adulthood.

Pictured left to right is Ann Moser, Becky's Kids treasurer/secretary; Tess Weatherford, Ozarka College CSC president; and Crystal Morin, Ozarka College CSC member. For more information about Becky's Kids, please visit beckyskids.org.

Neal Receives FNBC Bank Scholarship



FNBC Bank has announced the recipient of their \$4,000 Ozarka College scholarship. The scholarship has been awarded to Mr. Lance Neal of Salem, Arkansas.

"FNBC is proud to offer this level of assistance to deserving Ozarka College students," said FNBC CEO and president Marty Sellars. "Ozarka College provides quality education for our communities, and we are fortunate to have them available to train and educate our local workforce. We truly believe we work better together with Ozarka College to create real opportunities for students to reach their fullest potential."

Neal is a 2017 graduate of Salem High School and plans to major in agriculture at Ozarka College, beginning in the fall semester of 2017. For more information about this scholarship or other scholarship opportunities, please contact Suellen Davidson, Ozarka College director of advancement, by calling 870.368.2059 or email: sdavidson@ozarka.edu.

Wilson Earns Doctorate



Ozarka College's vice president of student services, Josh Wilson, has earned a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Higher Education from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. For his dissertation, he studied the impact of dual credit (credit-based programs, which allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously) participation for students in rural Arkansas. Dr. Wilson's degree was conferred at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock on May 13, 2017.

Ozarka College President, Dr. Richard Dawe stated, "We are very proud of Josh for successfully defending his doctoral dissertation on April 19, which completed all requirements of his academic journey. This is a major life achievement and we're so happy for him."

Dr. Wilson, of Calico Rock, has been employed by Ozarka College since 2012. Prior to his current position, he served as associate vice president of planning and institutional research. Dr. Wilson also has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Master of Public Administration degree, both from University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Top 10 Ranking

Ozarka College was recently featured in an article by Schools.com as one of the best community colleges in Arkansas, earning a top ten ranking. Out of the twenty-two community colleges in the state, Ozarka College was ranked number four overall.

Schools.com gathered data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE), and other sources to rank each school on a ten-point scale. "Ozarka College is the first institution on our list to offer a full range of campus-based flexibility measures," reads the article published by Schools.com. Students at Ozarka have access to alternative tuition plans, class credit for life experience and entire degree programs that can be completed in the evenings or on weekends. Additionally, Ozarka College placed number two for distance learners at community colleges in Arkansas, with the NCES reporting that more than 60 percent of the student body took at least some of their coursework online in 2014.

Other considerations made during the ranking process were unique courses offered by Ozarka. Schools.com stated, "Ozarka students interested in aviation can get started down the road to certification as commercial airline pilots in the school's professional pilot degree program, which includes the ability to test for private pilot credentials after completion and a transfer agreement with Henderson State University in Arkadelphia to complete their full four-year degree in professional aviation." Ozarka College adds that an additional transfer agreement for aviation students has been formed with the University of Central Missouri. Also, a new degree in agriculture is now available with a transfer agreement to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Registration for summer and fall courses is currently open at Ozarka College. For more information, please contact Rylie Bevill, Ozarka College associate director of admissions, by calling 870.368.2024 or e-mail: admissions@ozarka.edu.

New Creative Writing Course

Ozarka College has added a new Creative Writing course to the fall 2017 schedule. The class will be available in Ash Flat and Mountain View with instructors Tena Rosse and Maegon Mayes, respectively. This course will be an elective, so it will benefit degree-seeking students, but can also be taken by individuals whom are non-degree seeking. Regular tuition rates apply; tuition and mandatory fees are waved for citizens of Arkansas who are at least 60 years of age.

New or first time college students will need to complete an admissions application prior to enrolling in Creative Writing. For more information about registration, degrees available, or financial aid opportunities, please contact Rylie Bevill, Ozarka College associate director of admissions, by calling 870.368.2024 or e-mail: admissions@ozarka.edu. Students may also receive registration assistance in person by visiting any of Ozarka College's four campus locations in Melbourne, Ash Flat, Mammoth Spring and Mountain View.

Revised Tuition for Concurrent Enrollment

Ozarka College recently submitted memorandums of understanding (MOU) to area high schools to offer qualifying students an even more affordable option for taking concurrent enrollment courses. Concurrent enrollment allows a high school student who meets admission and entrance exam requirements to take a college level course, taught by a qualified instructor, at their high school. Upon completion of the course, the student earns high school and college credit simultaneously.

Presently, students enrolled in concurrent enrollment courses are charged a discounted tuition rate of \$50 per credit hour, and the College absorbs all other costs associated with the class. Upon receipt of signed MOUs, the College will split the tuition fee with participating high schools, allowing qualifying students to take up to six college credit hours free of charge. The high school will contribute \$25 per credit hour and the College will pay the rest.

This agreement is in accordance to Arkansas SB673, which reads as follows: “A national school lunch student shall not be required to pay any of the costs up to a maximum of six (6) credit hours of endorsed concurrent enrollment courses that are taught: (i) On the grounds of the public school district in which the student is enrolled; and (ii) By a teacher employed by the public school district in which the student is enrolled. The costs for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses...shall be paid: (i) By the public school district in which the student is enrolled; (ii) By the institution of higher education offering the course; or (iii) Through a cost-sharing agreement between the public school district and the institution of higher education.”

Ozarka College also offers the College Now scholarship to any high school student who completes at least 12 credit hours through Ozarka College prior to graduating from high school. Students who achieve this will receive their first fall semester at Ozarka College tuition free! Summer and fall enrollment is currently open at Ozarka College. For assistance with admissions, financial aid or registration, please contact Rylie Bevell, Ozarka College associate director of admissions, by calling 870.368.2024 or e-mail: admissions@ozarka.edu.



Congratulations, Kim Whitten!

Kim Whitten, Director of the Ash Flat campus, received President of the Year while representing the Quad Cities Rotary in Jonesboro, Arkansas on May 20, 2017. We're proud of your involvement in the Sharp County community and congratulate you on this well deserved recognition and achievement!

Supporting Higher Education: The Key to Success



On April 13, 2017, the FNBC Student Commons Area at Ozarka College was filled with enthusiasm and positive energy from attendees of the Ozarka College Spring Gala. Ozarka's Foundation hosted this event with the theme, "Supporting Higher Education: The Key to Success" and the presenting sponsor was Centennial Bank. Pam Setser, Vice Chair of the Ozarka College foundation board and Business Development Officer at Centennial Bank-Mountain View, welcomed the crowd of more than 275 attendees. Matt Rush, Secretary of the Ozarka College foundation board, offered a blessing prior to attendees enjoying a steak dinner prepared by Ozarka College's Culinary Arts Department.

Tim Crouch, Danny Dozier, and Pam Setser played live music throughout the event. Dr. Richard Dawe, Ozarka College president, shared remarks about the importance of this event, successes of the College in the past year, and how together, everyone plays a key role in helping our students succeed. Some of Ozarka's current students were featured in a video, created by Blayne Allan Stewart. Angie Duncan, Ozarka College alumna, spoke about her experience at Ozarka College as a non-traditional student. She attended Ozarka as a wife, mother, and continued to work in her first career field. She had such a wonderful experience that her husband, Rodney later attended Ozarka, as well as one of her children. Angie and her family like many other Ozarka students, graduated debt free thanks to generous donors who fund scholarships.

Foundation Board Chair, Mike Watson, prepared guests for the live auction that would close out the evening's festivities. He announced that Sissy's Log Cabin donated a beautiful set of emerald and diamond earrings that each highest bidder would be entered into a drawing for a chance to win at the end of the auction. Tony Watson then auctioned off several items that were generously donated by local community members and businesses. Mike then shared closing remarks and thanked everyone who attended the 2017 Spring Gala.

Special thanks to presenting sponsor: Centennial Bank, and corporate sponsors: Arch Westmoreland Farm Supply, Bank of Cave City, Baxter Regional Medical Center, Evolve Bank and Trust, First Community Bank, FNBC Bank, Freedom Ford, Gammill Oil Company, Garry and CarolAnne Lawrence, G.H. Miller and Sons, Ozark Adult Personal Care, Valic, and White River Health Systems. Also, thank you to the table sponsors: AirReady, Artisan Sports Bar and Grill, BancorpSouth, Cooper's Hawk, Corner Drug Store, First Service Bank, John Gay, Hatfield Ready Mix, Izard County Propane, Mark Martin Chevrolet, Mark Martin Dodge, Mohawk Industries, Mike Watson State Farm, North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Pain Treatment Centers of America, and Trendy Tribe/Big Spring Farm and Home Supply.

Barton Hired as IST Program Coordinator



Ozarka College has recently hired Ken Barton to serve as the information science technology (IST) program coordinator and faculty member. Barton comes to Ozarka from Arkansas State University – Beebe, where he was the department head of Computer Systems and Networking Technology. Barton was responsible for course offerings, budgets, and spent a great deal of time teaching and advising students.

“Students and student success are what matters,” said Barton. “I am looking forward to getting to know local businesses and the residents of this area and growing the Information Science Technology program to its fullest potential.”

Mr. Barton holds the following degrees: Master of Science in Management with an emphasis in Computer Security from Colorado Technical University, Master of Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in English and

Writing from Western New Mexico University, Bachelor of Science degree in Technology from Arkansas State University. He also holds the following certificates and will teach these skills in Ozarka’s IST courses: Comptia A+, Network+, Security+, Linux+, AccessData Certified Examiner, and Certified Internet Webmaster.

“Ken is an important addition to the Ozarka College faculty and his drive and experiences in the industry will surely result in IST becoming a foundational program for the College,” said Ozarka College President, Dr. Richard Dawe. “Demand for these skills and credentials will only continue to grow in the future and this will result in high-paying jobs in the tech industry for our students.”

Ozarka College summer II classes begin July 5 and the fall semester begins August 14. To get registered, please call the admissions department at 870.368.2024. For more information about the IST program at Ozarka College, please contact Ken at 870.994.7273 or email: ken.barton@ozarka.edu.

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