More than 150 people attended a dedication ceremony, ribbon cutting and open house at the new Ozarka College facility on College Drive in Ash Flat, on Monday, May 23.

Guests gathered in the lecture hall for a short dedication by Ozarka College President Douglas Rush, Chairman of the FNBC Board of Trustees and longtime supporter of Ozarka, Martin Carpenter, State Senator Paul Miller, Ash Flat Mayor, Brien Nix-Hall, and FNBC President and Chair of the Ozarka College Foundation Board of Trustees, Marty Sellars. The Spring River Area Chamber of Commerce then held the largest ribbon cutting in the chamber’s history. The entire facility was then open for a reception and touring.

Rush acknowledged several individuals who were key in establishing the permanent presence of Ozarka College in Fulton and Sharp County. Among those were the 2010 Committee; Bob Watson and FNBC officials for their significant donation of the 30 acre tract of land on which the permanent satellite campus is built; the citizens of Ash Flat for the overwhelming support of the college with the sales tax which was approved in 2002; and the local legislators who secured State funding to bring education to North Central Arkansas through Ozarka College.

Attendees were impressed with the 16,000 foot state-of-the-art facility which will begin holding classes on June 1st during the summer term. It includes six classrooms, one of which is a computer lab and two that are interactive video. It also houses a lecture hall, which can seat up to 150 people, a science lab, bookstore, conference room, and office space. The science lab was made possible by generous donations from individuals and businesses throughout the community.

Upon hearing the final total raised during a capital campaign for the science lab housed in the new facility was shy of the $100,000 total, Ozarka College Board of Trustees Chairperson, Barbara Perryman of Viola, made the generous $1,300 donation needed to complete the project.
FNBC Awards Scholarships

First National Banking Company (FNBC) awarded two Ozarka College students scholarships last month.

Assistant Vice President and Hardy Branch Manager, Win Churchman awarded Ozarka College student, Melissa Ingram a $2,000 scholarship on May 16th at FNBC in Hardy. Pursuing a degree in Licensed Practical Nursing, Ingram completed her first semester in the LPN program this spring.

Vice President and Melbourne Branch Manager, Mike Cone awarded Michael Vest of Melbourne a $4,000 scholarship.

FNBC established the scholarships last year as a way to assist local individuals with educational opportunities. FNBC President, Marty Sellars notes, “FNBC is committed to investing in our community by making these educational opportunities available to local individuals. There is no better way to do that than through another local organization that shares our commitment to personal service. We feel that scholarships for Ozarka students are a long term investment not only for the individuals, but also the economic future of our area.”

Ingram, who resides in Highland, was thrilled with the news about being awarded the stipend and says she has been pleased with her first semester in Ozarka’s LPN program and looks forward to completing her degree next year.

Michael, who will be a first time Ozarka College student this fall pursuing an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree, says he wants to eventually teach middle school math in the Izard County area. His family includes wife, Michelle and 10 year old daughter, Carlie.

These stipends will be renewed each semester provided they complete 12 credit hours each semester with a minimum grade point average of 2.75.

For further information on scholarship opportunities at Ozarka College, contact Admissions Counselor, Randy Scaggs at 870-368-7371 or rscaggs@ozarka.edu.

Summer CE Course Registration Deadlines

Registrations are still being collected for the 60-hour real estate principles course being offered this summer at Ozarka College in Ash Flat. Ozarka College and Kelton Schools from Jonesboro are holding this course for students interested in preparing for the Arkansas Real Estate License Exam. However, contractors, lenders, developers or anyone interested in learning more about real estate procedure may attend the course. Real Estate Salespersons wishing to pursue Broker Licensure may also wish to enroll in this training in preparation for Broker’s testing.

The schedule for the class is: June 11, 12, 25 and July 9, 10, and 23. Each class meets from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Ash Flat campus on College Drive.

Kelton Schools Inc. (#0108) is an approved provider for real estate training as determined by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education. Students completing this course will receive a certificate.

Also offered this summer is a workshop titled “Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People”. The class will meet from 6:00-9:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, in the Lecture Hall of the John Miller Education Complex in Melbourne.

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. 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.

Deadline to register is June 13. Contact Karla Rush at 870-368-7371 or rscaggs@ozarka.edu.
The Department of Continuing Education at Ozarka College held its annual Kids College during the week of May 30th. More than 70 students enrolled this year for the four-day school, which is a record number for the event. The theme for the week was “Learning for Life.”

In order to participate in Kids College, students had to have completed first through eighth grade. Students were able to select from three classes to attend each day, including, Green Thumbs, taught by David Rush; Drawing, taught by Kristin Scaggs; Painting, by Kelly Price; Scrapbooking, by Kim Whitten; Super Science, by Rachel Faulkner; Cake Decorating and Culinary Creations with Linda Taylor; and Golf with Chaney Coleman, which took place at Coopers Hawk Golf Club in Melbourne.

Audrey Howard enjoyed having her face painted in Painting Class.

Karla Rush, Director for Continuing Education expresses her appreciation for the instructors and volunteers for this annual event, “Kim Lovelace has been coordinating Kid’s College for a couple of years now and she does an excellent job in getting fun and educational classes and quality teachers to interact with the students. She also works hard to make sure the event runs smoothly for everyone involved, especially the kids.” Rush adds, “From the housekeeping staff, who help get everything back in order each day, to our kitchen staff, who provide wonderful snacks for children throughout the week; everyone makes Kids College an unforgettable experience for our young students.”

Audrey Howard enjoyed having her face painted in Painting Class.

Summer Job Opportunities

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) offers summer employment each year to youth, ages 18-21, by contractors and material suppliers in the highway-heavy construction industry. The AHTD offers this program as an attempt to provide meaningful work experience and financial assistance to area students during the summer months.

Anyone interested in this employment opportunity should contact the companies directly for further information. For a complete list of companies log on to ozarka.edu and go to the Campus News link.

Students may also contact Dana McClellan at AHTD 501-569-2320 for further information.

Education Scholarship Deadline Approaching

The Izard County Retired Teachers and Employees Association (ICRTEA) is offering a scholarship to a student entering their junior or senior year in college and enrolled in the field of education. Applicants must have graduated from an Izard County High School. Application deadline is June 15th and the stipend will be awarded on July 15th of each year.

To obtain an application please contact Randy Scaggs, Admissions Counselor at Ozarka College. Completed applications should be forwarded to Joyce Klein, P.O. Box 21, Pineville, AR 72566.

Register Now Online For Summer II
Classes will begin on July 5th.
Ozarka Students Excel on National Test

Ozarka College President, Doug Rush announced the results of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency exam (CAAP) taken by forty-one Ozarka College students this year. Of those, thirty-eight students scored above the national average on at least one area of the test. Eleven of those students scored above the national average on all areas of the test.

Rush expressed his elation and praised Ozarka’s quality instructors for their dedication. “Ozarka College prides itself for having top notch faculty members who are dedicated to their students. Ozarka is known for having an open door policy with a willingness to help our students succeed. These test results are another example of that commitment.”

Rush also commended Ozarka’s support staff and administration for going the extra mile for Ozarka students.

The CAAP exam, also called Rising Junior exam is a national test conducted by ACT, designed to assess academic achievement for students who have completed 45 credit hours in a postsecondary educational institution. The test measures various academic areas including reading, writing, mathematics, science reasoning, and critical thinking.

CAAP test scores are used collectively to measure student progress against the national norm, as well as assessment of improving instructional programs and enhancing student learning. On an individual basis, CAAP scores are used to indicate each student’s readiness for additional education and to assure appropriate skill mastery related to program completion and graduation.

Students who score at or above the national level on any of the testing areas, receive a Certificate of Achievement from ACT for their academic excellence. Visit Ozarka’s Assessment page on the website at www.ozarka.edu, for further information on academic assessment.