Ozarka Reports Record Enrollment

For the seventh consecutive Fall Semester, Ozarka College has surpassed its enrollment record, according to Ron Helm, Vice President of Student Services at Ozarka. With 1,363 students enrolled, Ozarka has seen a 30% increase from the Fall of 2003.

Ozarka President, Dr. Richard Dawe, credits the enrollment increases to the dedication and commitment of Ozarka faculty and staff who go above and beyond to serve students. Ozarka has experienced a 33% increase in full time enrollment or FTE numbers in the last seven years.

Dawe is more enthused about the 7% FTE growth from last fall. "This growth suggests that Ozarka students are taking larger course loads. Another factor in these increased numbers may be attributed to the technical programs such as automotive service technology, culinary arts, and nursing achieving full capacity of students. We hope to continue this trend in the future by adding more space in existing programs as well as additional new programs to fill needs in our four county service area."

From the preliminary numbers, the trend across the state seems to lean toward increased enrollment at the community college level. The quality and affordability of an education that Arkansas community colleges provide is becoming apparent as more and more people take advantage of their two year institutions.

Ozarka College and the programs available, log on the website at www.ozarka.edu, or contact the college toll free 800-821-4335.

Welcome New Fulltime Faculty & Staff for Fall 2009

Several new faculty and staff members have been added to the fulltime list of employees for Ozarka College. New employees include: Crystal Gillihan, practical nursing instructor for Mountain View; Anthony Burkhammer, math instructor; Eric Smith, culinary instructor, and Jamie Fowler was hired by the Ozarka Kids Academy as a Child Care Technician.

Gillihan began her nursing career at Ozarka, having graduated Ozarka’s practical nursing program. She now holds a Registered Nursing license, Bachelor’s of nursing, and a Master’s of Health Administration. She is married to Johnathan and he has a seven year old daughter.

Prior to taking his new fulltime position as Math instructor, Burkhammer had been teaching adjunct for Ozarka for several years, while teaching fulltime at Highland High School. He holds a BSE and MSE in mathematics from ASU. He and his wife live in Ash Flat with two children. He enjoys golf, hunting and fishing in his spare time.

Smith was hired earlier in the summer as Ozarka’s new culinary instructor. He has plenty of experience in the food service field, having owned and operated different restaurants in the area. He and his wife Pattie have three children.

Jamie Fowler is not a new face to the Kids Academy. She has been there working part-time since 2006. Jamie is the teacher in the toddler room and is also a current Ozarka student pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Development. She lives in Ash Flat and also works as a youth director and secretary for Hilltop Calvary Church.

Around Campus

♦ myOzarka Workshop Monday, 8/14 at 11AM in the Learning Lab in Melbourne. Tuesday, 8/15 at 11AM in Computer Lab in Ash Flat Wednesday 8/16 in the Computer Lab in Mtn. View.

♦ Board of Trustees Meeting September 17th @ 4:30 PM Board Room of the Miller Bldg.

♦ CE Dance Class Begins September 17th @ 6PM Auditorium of the Miller Bldg. (see page 3 for details).

♦ Ozarka Foundation Golf Scramble September 26th Coo- pers Hawk Golf Club (See page 2)
Culinary Arts “Gourmet Night” Beginning This Week

Ozarka College’s department of culinary arts announces the first “Gourmet Night” for the 2009-10 year will be on Thursday, September 17th. Dinner guests will order from a select menu of items served in the formal culinary arts dining room in the John Miller Education Complex. Gourmet Night has become a tradition for the culinary arts program to showcase the skills these students are learning in the program. The culinary teaching instructors say, “This is an opportunity for the students to practice what they are learning in a real restaurant setting. Both the first and second year students work on this event to develop the menu, prepare and serve the meals as well as perform other tasks associated with a successful function of this nature.”

Reservations are appreciated, but not necessary. The hours for Gourmet Night are 5:00-8:00PM on September 17th. Contact culinary instructors Eric Smith or Mimi Newsome at 870-368-2062 for more information.

Nursing Applications Being Accepted

Ozarka College is now accepting applications from those wanting to enroll for the 2010 Spring Licensed Practical Nursing program in Melbourne.

Students may apply from September 1st – November 1st by logging on to the Ozarka College website at www.ozarka.edu and completing an online application for admission and selecting LPN as the program of study.

To be eligible for the nursing program, students must be currently enrolled at Ozarka College or have previously completed the required prerequisites. Students must also take the TEAS and Wonderlic exams offered either on November 9th or 10th at the Melbourne campus.

Beginning on October 1st, students who have completed an online application to the LPN program may schedule testing with the admissions office. The deadline to sign-up for testing is November 2nd, and test scores from a prior semester will not be considered. Study guides for the TEAS are available in the bookstore at each Ozarka location in Ash Flat, Melbourne, and Mountain View. There are a limited number available for check-out in the library. Career Pathways students may be able to check one out from career pathways office.

In addition, letters of work experience should be submitted directly to the nursing department. For more information about the LPN programs offered at Ozarka College or if you have any questions please contact either Nursing or Admissions at 870-368-7371.

Golf Scramble Announced

The Ozarka College Foundation Board of Directors announces its annual benefit golf scramble will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009. Coopers Hawk Golf Club in Melbourne will host the tournament this year.

First National Banking Company serves as the major corporate sponsor again this year. Liberty Bank, North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, and Centurytel are also sponsors this year.

The Ozarka Foundation Board is an approved 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations made to the Foundation and the golf tournament are tax-deductible. The Board sponsors this event each year to raise monies primarily to provide scholarships to Ozarka students.

The 18-hole tournament is scheduled for a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. Entry fee for a four-person team is $200.00.
Prostate Cancer Awareness Week is September 20-26. In 2008 over 186,000 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed. One in six men will develop this common disease sometime during their life and over 65% of these cases are men over the age of 65.

Check with your local hospital or clinic to see if they offer screenings. Early detection is crucial and increases survival rates by up to 60%.

There are several general symptoms that can be evident with prostate problems. The best way to detect, however, is by consulting a physician. Any changes in normal urination, pain in the lower back, hips or ribs persist, a physician should be consulted for screening.

Some foods men can eat to help prevent this disease:

- Cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Kale, and mustard greens may reduce the prevalence of this cancer by up to 60%.
- Fresh Garlic has been proven to reduce the risk of prostate cancer by up to 53%.
- Some studies have shown that the lycopene in tomatoes, which is a powerful antioxidant, can provide protection from prostate cancer.

Upcoming Continuing Education Courses this Month

Ozarka College’s continuing education department will offer non-credit dance classes at the Melbourne campus on Thursday evenings from September 10 through October 15.

Students who wish to learn the Waltz will meet on Thursday nights at 6 pm for an hour each week. Students who wish to learn the Cha-Cha will meet at 7 pm, immediately following the waltz class. Students will learn 8 to 10 basic dance steps in each course taught by Bob Schrienk, experienced instructor for the Fred Astaire Studio in Ohio.

Cost for each student is $45.00 per dance course. To register, contact Karla Rush at 368-7371.

The CE Department will also offer Cake Decorating I classes in Melbourne beginning in October. The course will start with the basics of cake decorating and will include instruction in baking and leveling a cake, making icing and icing the cake, preparing stars, flowers, figures, writing, etc.

Julie Gosser, instructor, will teach this non-credit class in Melbourne on Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m. from October 12 – November 2, 2009. Cost for the class is $85.00 and includes a cake decorating instruction book. Each student will also receive a cake decorating kit with all the tools needed for the class.

According to Gosser, “This course covers all the elements a person would need to decorate cakes for birthdays, holidays or other special events. It is the first of three cake decorating classes and focuses on basics.”

Limited enrollment is available. The deadline to enroll is Friday, September 25th. To register for this class, call Kim Lovelace or Karla Rush at 870-368-7371 or email klovelace@ozarka.edu or karla@ozarka.edu.

Continuing Education also offers ongoing online coursework through Education 2 Go. Be sure and see what courses are available through that avenue by following the link from Ozarka’s website, under “Students” and follow the link to “Continuing Education.” From that page there is a direct link to the Ed2Go website where a full list of courses can be viewed.

Contact Karla Rush for more information about this online learning opportunity at 870-368-7371.
Have a Voice at Ozarka - Join the Newly Restructured SGA!

The Office of the Vice President for Student Services announces that students may begin submitting nomination forms to be considered for officer positions within the newly restructured Student Government Association (SGA). Nomination forms and by-laws may be printed by going to myOzarka, and clicking on the Student Government link on the right hand sidebar.

Students meeting the required criteria as designated in the Student Government By-laws and the nomination form may nominate themselves, and turn forms into Ron Helm, Gin Brown, or James Spurlock. The Vice President of Student Services will verify the nominees eligibility to run for office, and notify the student of his or her ability to campaign for office.

In order to run for office, candidates must have completed a minimum of 9 semester hours in the spring 2009 semester and/or during the summer 2009 sessions, be enrolled in at least 9 credit hours, have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5, be in good academic standing with no record of disciplinary actions, and have at least two consecutive semesters remaining before graduation. For information regarding the responsibilities of each office please consult the Student Government By-laws.

Students may campaign for office between September 8th and 4:30 p.m. September 21st, 2009. At that time nominations will close and electronic voting will be available through myOzarka until 12:00 p.m. September 29th. Students may only vote once for each office, voting for one president who will serve as the president for all three locations, and for a vice-president, secretary, and campus liaison at the campus or site that he or she is most connected to. Each location will have an SGA advisor who will attend meetings and offer support to the organization.

Campaigning students may distribute campaign material, however it must be approved by either Ron Helm, Gin Brown, or James Spurlock before it may be posted on campus. Students are encouraged to participate in this leadership opportunity representing the student body as they play a role to support constructive change in programs, facilities, and student services. If you have questions please contact Ron Helm at 870-368-2027 or by email at rhelm@ozarka.edu.