For the second time this year, Ozarka College, has opened its doors in a new facility. Although classes officially started in August at the new building in Mountain View, the official ribbon cutting and open house took place last week. Over 150 guests attended the open house despite the rain on September 15th.

A short dedication was made by interim President, Gayle Cooper recognizing the hard work and efforts of the local residents and business people in order to build the new facility. The Mountain View Chamber of Commerce then held a ribbon cutting and guests were given tours by some of the Ozarka College Student Ambassadors.

Guests were impressed with the state-of-the-art facility which began holding classes on August 22nd. Construction on the science lab is currently being completed and will hold classes in the Spring.

It was made possible by generous donations from individuals and businesses throughout the community.

As part of an Arbor Day Celebration last Spring at Ozarka College a historic gingko biloba tree was planted on the grounds of the new facility. This celebration is in conjunction an urban forestry grant awarded to the college. The Arkansas Forestry Commission Urban and Community Forestry Assistance grant program is funded jointly by the United States Forestry Service and the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

The Ozarka College Culinary Arts Department prepared hors d’oeuvres for this event.

Ozarka Foundation Golf Benefit

The Ozarka College Foundation Board announces its annual benefit golf scramble will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2005. 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. Chrysler Corporation along with Paul Miller Motors will be sponsoring a chance to win a new Chrysler 300 with a hole-in-one contest.

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 8:30 a.m. Entry fee for a four-person team is $ 200.00. For more information, call 368-7371.
On September 9, a Proclamation was decreed by the Iowa Association of Alternative Education Board in honor of Jim Fenton, who currently is Ozarka College’s Development Officer. The board has named the Lifetime Achievement Award the “Jim Fenton Lifetime Achievement Award.”

This award is given to someone each year by the Iowa Association of Alternative Education. Recipients must be nominated by others in the field and approved by the executive board of the association. The presentation is provided at the statewide conference held every year in the spring.

According to Ray Morley, who is the Iowa State Department of Education consultant responsible for alternative schools and programs, “Jim has truly made a difference in alternative education in Iowa and continues to do so with his work in Arkansas. In Iowa Alternative Education Jim was a Visionary, Pioneer, Leader and Friend to all, willing to do and help wherever and whenever. “The Jim Fenton Lifetime Achievement Award” will continue to honor those like him in alternative education - people with passion and expertise to change the lives of youth who need advocates.” He adds, “While Jim was a part of our educational system, he was a true friend to every student, wanting each of them to succeed in life.”

Fenton and his wife, Irene moved from Iowa to Cherokee Village several years ago and Fenton took his position at Ozarka College. He has worked most of his life in the education field. He has been a teacher, counselor, coach, and worked in administration in the Iowa Public School System. Since Fenton has been employed at Ozarka College, he has been actively involved with the construction of the new facility in Ash Flat, as well as raising capital for the science labs at Ash Flat and the new facility in Mountain View. He also works very closely with the Foundation Board of Directors and their fundraising efforts on behalf of Ozarka.

SAEA Fall Auction Slated

The Student Arkansas Education Association at Ozarka College has planned their Fall fundraising Auction is for October 13 from 11AM - Noon in the dining hall. They are currently collecting donations for the auction. The money raised will be utilized for those students to attend the AEA Convention in Little Rock. Anyone who would like to donate an item or money may contact Michelle Cooper of a member of SAEA.

Again this year, Auctioneer, Debra Bartlett will conduct the auction. This is the third year in a row Bartlett has volunteered her services and talent to Ozarka’s student organizations’ fundraising efforts.

During the last SAEA meeting new officers were elected as follows: Co-Presidents-Kristin Teague and Amanda Bledsoe, Secretary-Jeanna Gillihan, Treasurer: Gayla Hollowell and Tiffany Sitton, Reporter- Tamara Wallis.

Their next scheduled meeting is September 29 in the John E. Miller Building, room C116. The meeting will be on compressed video for Mountain View and Ash Flat. Anyone interested in joining the SAEA may contact Michelle Cooper, Education Coordinator at 368-2037.
Paul Weaver Library News

Constitution Week - Winning Historic Tree &

Ozarka College celebrated Constitution Week/Citizenship Day during the week of September 12-17. In conjunction with the celebration, the Paul Weaver Library has displays on the Constitution and various other patriotic themes during this semester.

As part of Constitution Week, Tate Lawrence, Izard County Sheriff, was on campus with a presentation on the Constitution and our rights as citizens of the United States of America.

As a way of exercising the freedom to vote, students, faculty and staff were invited to cast ballots for one of six historic trees to be planted on each of Ozarka's three campuses. The winning tree will be planted on Arbor Day next spring, with voters at each location having picked the tree for that campus.

The ballots were counted last week and the winning tree at all three Ozarka locations is the Mountain Vernon Red Maple. This project is in conjunction with the urban tree grant which is supported in part by the Arkansas Forestry Commission's Urban Forestry Program and the U. S. Forest Service.

The library staff would like to invite all faculty, staff, and administration to an early morning drop-in coffee Thursday September 29 in the library from 7:30 a.m to 8:15 a.m. Ozarka Librarian, Mary Ellen Hawkins states, “We want to share new books, websites and other new information with you. Come by and enjoy a light continental breakfast with us. We plan to make this a monthly event rotating days of the week.”

Mt. Vernon Red Maple

Brown Bag Diversity Series Continues

As part of the unique new program this year on campus, the series of 'diversity experiences' which this month has become a popular place to be during the eleven o'clock hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The project, which is free to anyone attending, has been coordinated by Joan Stirling, Mary Ellen Hawkins and Candace Blevins as a way for students, faculty and staff to enhance knowledge and awareness of diversity and global issues.

Last week, Ozarka Registrar, Gin Brown, Personnel Assistant, Libby Cone, and instructor, Samantha Thornsberry offered a lecture on their recent trip to Greece. One student who attended the lecture in Melbourne on Thursday stated, "Looking at all these historic places that Ms. Brown and Ms. Cone toured, makes me want to visit Greece!"

The next series will feature a movie on October 4th and 6th as follows:

Ash Flat: Notebook
Melbourne: French Kiss
Mtn. View: Finding Neverland

Thornsberry shows a slide-show and describes her trip to Greece in May of this year at Mountain View.
Patricia Loggains of the Ozarka College Kids Academy in Melbourne was recently awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential in recognition of outstanding work with young children. The credential was awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C., which represents the early childhood profession. Loggains currently teaches the three-year-old class at the Kids Academy.

CDA is the only major national effort to improve childcare by evaluating and recognizing the skills of individuals providing care. The first credential was awarded 25 years ago and now 46 states plus the District of Columbia include CDA in the childcare licensing requirements.

Because of parents’ concern with their children’s welfare while in a childcare facility, the CDA assessment process includes an early childhood professional observing candidates while working with young children or families. In addition, candidates must demonstrate the ability to work with families to develop children’s physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

The CDA credential is having a positive effect on the quality of childcare. Its impact is evident in center-based care and home visitor programs as well as family childcare, the most common form of care for children under 5 years old.

Child care staff and parents wanting information on CDA can contact Ozarka College at (870) 368-7371 or the Council for Professional Recognition at (800) 424-4310. For more information on Ozarka Kids Academy, please contact Amy Pinkston at (870) 368-7868.

Loggains works with a student in her classroom.