The Ozarka College final enrollment figures for Fall 2004 have risen considerably over the Fall 2003 numbers. Student enrollment this semester has reached 974, compared to the Fall 2003 semester enrollment of 944.

Ozarka College President Douglas Rush states “Although this semester, we’re shy of our overall record in the Fall of 2002 when we reached 1,004 students, we are pleased with the consistency of our enrollment.” He adds, “The temporary education centers in Sharp and Stone counties have shown a steady increase each year since they opened their doors a few years ago. As the permanent facilities are completed in those locations in the upcoming year, Ozarka is confident that a significant increase will occur with enrollment.”

“Freshman enrollment has again surpassed the record set last Fall,” according to Rush. “There is also an increase in our concurrent enrollment, which includes the high school students in our service area who are taking advantage of college courses we offer to jump start their higher education.”

Last December, Ozarka College was ranked the fifth fastest-growing public two-year college in the U.S. in its category of fewer than 2500 students, by Community College Week. The publication analyzed data from the U.S. Department of Education to determine the colleges for their fastest-growing institutions. Four other Arkansas two-year colleges were also included in the “top 50” category along with Ozarka College.

For additional information about the programs of study available at Ozarka, visit the college website at www.ozarka.edu or call 870-368-7371.
The Ozarka College Foundation Board will hold a benefit auction on Saturday, October 16 at the John Miller Auditorium on the Melbourne campus of Ozarka College.

Proceeds from this event are being designated to support Ozarka students by way of funding academic and other types of discretionary scholarships. According to Gayle Cooper, Vice President for Finance, "The Foundation Board is a vital resource for Ozarka College and our students. The board provides scholarships and loans to assist students who may not otherwise be able to stay in college were it not for the additional financial aid the Foundation can give. Since the Foundation began its work, many students have been able to afford to finish their degrees because of that extra support."

The Ozarka Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by federal regulations. The board is comprised of members representing Fulton, Izard, Sharp and Stone counties to coincide with the Ozarka College service area. Foundation members are currently collecting items to be donated for sale at the auction.

Perryman & Perryman Auction Company of Viola will conduct the benefit auction. Doors will open at 8 a.m. with the auction beginning at 10 a.m. Concessions will be available. For more information about making a contribution or to receive a schedule of items to be sold, contact the Ozarka Development Office at 870-994-7273.

Students Urged to Register and Vote in November Election

One of the most important rights as a citizen of the United States of America is the right to vote. With an upcoming Presidential election on November 2nd, Ozarka is encouraging all students who are over the age of 18 and a U.S. citizen to get registered to vote.

In order to vote on the November ballot, registration must be complete at least 30 days before the election, which is October 3rd.

The website for Arkansas’ Secretary of State has voter registration information available. The web address is www.sos.arkansas.gov. Under the subheading “elections” - “education” there is a brochure available to download entitled “Pocket Guide to Voting in Arkansas.”

Included in this brochure are guidelines for college students who wish to vote: “If you are a college student attending college OUTSIDE of your home county:
You must decide what county you consider “home.” If you intend to return to live in your home county, then list your parents’ address as your residence. If you do NOT intend to return there, then list your college address as your residence. Remember: you must keep your residence address CURRENT on your voter registration. This requirement often persuades college students to use their parents’ address, which may be less likely to change repeatedly.”

There are also many other resources available on the world wide web for voter and candidate information.

Some of those are:
- rockthevote.com
- declareyourself.com
- justvote.org
- registerandvote2004.org
- votewiththefacts.org
- Thevoterspamphlet.com
- vote-smart.org
- campaignline.com
Kids Academy Raises Money for St. Jude

Ozarka College Kids Academy joined hands last week with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee to conduct the “Bring a Bike Day” Trike-A-Thon. The one-week event promoted bicycle safety while raising money for childhood cancer research.

The purpose of The Trike-A-Thon is to teach riding safety tips using coloring sheets, stories and riding activities. Parents support the program by collecting tax-deductible donations to sponsor their child. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis was founded by the late entertainer, Danny Thomas. The hospital is an internationally recognized biomedical research center dedicated to finding cures for catastrophic childhood diseases. The hospital’s work is support through funds raised by the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC). ALSAC covers all costs not covered by insurance for medical treatment rendered at St Jude. Families without insurance are never asked to pay. Visit www.stjude.org for more information.

Director of the Kids Academy, Amy Pinkston reports the 19 students who participated in the trike-a-thon on Friday made 256 laps around the driveway of the Academy. They are accepting donations through Friday, October 1st. Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation may contact Amy Pinkston at 870-368-7868.

“Frankenstein Experiment”

The Ozarka College Drama Club will present the Arkansas Repertory Theatre’s production of “The Frankenstein Experiment” on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, in the Miller Auditorium on the Melbourne campus of Ozarka College.

Torrential rain pelts the mansion at the edge of Lake Geneva. Tree-cracking lightning. Ominous thunder. It is 1816 - a haunted summer. One to make you dread to look round, Cuddle the blood, Quicken the beatings of the heart. And thus emerged . . . Frankenstein.

Much more than a tale of the macabre, Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” is a rich exploration of morality, unrestrained scientific inquiry, the responsibility of creation, society’s revulsion at difference and the phantom obsession. Arkansas Repertory Theatre explores the impetus of this literary classic and examines the novel’s themes and ideas in a high-voltage 50-minute production.

The performance will begin at 10:00 a.m. Tickets for the show are $2.00, with free admission to teachers and bus drivers.
Ozarka’s Continuing Ed Offers Real Estate and Creative Writing

October 1st is the deadline to register for basic real estate course being offered at Ozarka College, in conjunction with Kelton Schools Inc. from Jonesboro, Arkansas.

According to Continuing Ed director Karla Rush, “This class totals sixty hours of training in basic real estate principles and prepares a person to pass the Arkansas real estate license exam. However, contractors, lenders, developers or anyone interested in learning more about real estate procedure can benefit from this training.”

The schedule for the real estate program is designed to accommodate persons already working full-time and will meet only during weekends at the main campus in Melbourne. Classes will meet from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. on October 16 and 17, November 6, 20 and 21 and December 4.

Kelton Schools Inc. (#0108) is an approved provider for real estate training as determined by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education. All courses offered by Kelton Schools are acceptable by the Arkansas Real Estate Commission as well Cost for the 60-hour program is $370.00.

Bret Burquest will lead a course in creative writing this fall at Ozarka College in Ash Flat. The writing class will begin on Wednesday, October 27, at 5 p.m. Classes will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 5-7 p.m., for a total of twelve hours.

Burquest has extensive experience in writing both screen-plays and novels. He also pens a weekly editorial column for an area newspaper. To date, four of Burquest’s novels have been published and he has received numerous awards from the Arkansas Press Association. Based on his knowledge and experience within the writing field, Burquest will discuss creative writing concept, structure, editing and processes of publishing.

Since enrollment is limited for this course, pre-registration is required prior to October 22. Cost for the creative writing class is $65.00 which includes required reading text.

For an application or more information about either of these courses, call 870-368-7371 or toll free 800-821-4335.