Ozarka Welcomes Students to Record Setting Fall

2007 Fall Semester is well underway and numbers so far indicate another record enrollment, according to Ron Helm, Vice President of Student Services at Ozarka.

At time of print, there were 1,217 students enrolled. “That is about 150 more students than last Fall which was a record for the institution,” stated Helm.

According to Ozarka President, Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, many factors are credited with the increase. “First and foremost, I credit our faculty, staff and administrative team for the increase in students as well as the drastic increase in full time enrollment. Students always come first at Ozarka and everyone goes above and beyond for the students’ benefit.”

He also credits new allied health programs for the increase. “There were over 90 nursing students the first day of classes during their orientation. With the additional programs in Ash Flat and Mountain View, as well as the new Partners in Care program for personal care aids and certified nursing assistants, more students are able to enroll in those specialized programs which boosts enrollment.”

Several other factors have gone into the increase, including: the additional evening courses added to the schedule, the new statewide initiative for qualifying parents to receive financial and academic assistance called Career Pathways, and the ease and convenience of the registration process.

Annual Golf Scramble Announced

The Ozarka College Foundation Board of Directors announces its annual benefit golf scramble will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007. 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 and Paul Miller Motors is hosting a Drive for Chrysler event. During the golf scramble, all licensed drivers are invited to come to Coopers Hawk Golf Club and test drive a 2008 Chrysler Sebring. For each test drive, the foundation will receive a $5 donation to help a student through scholarship opportunities.

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. For more information, call 368-7371.

Around Campus

♦ Scholarship Reception
September 6 @ 6PM

♦ Coffee at the College - Ash Flat
September 7th from 7-8:30AM

♦ Apply for Melbourne 18-month LPN program now through November 1.

♦ Ozarka Foundation Board Retreat & Meeting September 10th @ 9:30AM

♦ Ozarka Foundation Golf Scramble September 15, 8AM.

♦ Ozarka Board of Trustees Meeting September 20th at 4:00 PM

♦ Deadline for Izard County Single Parent Scholarship
October 1st
As a grand finale to this spring’s Big Read program, the Paul Weaver Library is hosting a John Steinbeck book give-away. Several sets of six books will be given away at each of the Ozarka College campus locations in a drawing held on September 13. The sets include some of Steinbeck’s most popular works: *Cannery Row*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Pearl*, *East of Eden*, *Travels with Charley in Search of America*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The Big Read is a nation-wide literacy program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in which Ozarka College was selected to participate. The College has hosted several “Big Read” events throughout the year, all centered on Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*. A dust-bowl era fashion and antique show, a Tom and Ma Joad dramatization, and a visit by NEA Director of Literature David Kipen helped bring the classic novel to life at Ozarka and the surrounding area this past spring. Students are encouraged to stop by the Mt. View or Ash Flat campuses or the Paul Weaver Library on the Main campus to sign up for a chance to take home a great collection of works by a great American writer.

Ozarka College is one of 72 communities nationwide participating in the Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA sponsors the Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest.

**Ozarka Reaches RJM Award**

The Ozarka College Foundation recently received a $1000 award from RJM Systems, Inc. RJM developed and maintains the student data management system used at Ozarka College for student records and other web-based technology.

Ozarka College Development Officer Suellen Davidson stated the award would be applied to the college endowment fund. The endowments fund scholarships for Ozarka students who demonstrate financial need and satisfactory academic progress. Davidson said “We are delighted to be selected by RJM Systems to receive one of their annual awards. We look forward to continuing a good business relationship with their company in the future.”

The Ozarka Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization created to support the educational goals of Ozarka College. For more information about the Foundation and its mission, contact Davidson at 870-368-7371.

**Harold Crawford Memorial Second Chance Scholar Named**

The second annual Harold Crawford Memorial Second Chance Scholarship Golf Tournament took place at the South Golf course in Cherokee Village on August 4th. Approximately 20 teams of golfers assembled to play in this event with proceeds benefiting the endowed scholarship honoring Crawford through the Ozarka Foundation.

Following the tournament, Ozarka College student, Sandra McNaughton of Cherokee Village was presented the scholarship by the college’s Development Officer, Suellen Davidson and Jan Jones of Little Rock. The Crawford’s were also on hand for the event and to meet McNaughton, who is pursuing an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree at Ozarka College.

Jones, a long time family friend of the Crawford’s, initiated the scholarship fund to honor the legacy of Crawford, who served as the Sharp County Judge from 1999 until March of 2005. Ozarka officials announced this summer that the Crawford scholarship is now fully endowed and can be awarded every year to a graduate of any Sharp County high school, or any person having a GED and five year’s Sharp County residency.

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.
Special Section: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT OC

All Ozarka College Students should be aware of the student clubs and organizations that are available at Ozarka. These clubs and organizations are fun and great way to meet other people sharing the same interest or motivations. One of the most beneficial factors to students being involved with college organizations is the experience gained that can be used on resumes when searching for jobs, scholarship applications, or applying to four-year institutions. Some of Ozarka’s student clubs and organizations can be joined by simply signing up and getting involved; while others are based on academics or majors. As Ozarka College continues to grow, student clubs and organizations will also grow and become more active. This Special Section includes a full list and description of each club at Ozarka. All students are invited to see what goes on beyond going to class at Ozarka, by coming to a club meeting. The Ozarka Campus Connections always includes a calendar of club meeting dates, times and locations in the “Around Campus” section on the front page, or check the My.Ozarka website.

Student Council: Open to all students, to become directly involved with student issues, concerns, and needs. “Stu-Co” promotes communication among students, faculty, staff, and administration. Student council members are the “voice” of Ozarka students and provide leadership to the student body. Members plan, implement, assist and participate in many Ozarka functions and activities.

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL): A National organization of students preparing for business-related careers. PBL members learn to engage in individual and group business enterprises, hold office and direct the affairs of the group and with other organizations. PBL students compete honorably with colleagues on the local, state and national level.

Advisors: Brad Holloway & Stephen Baltz

Arkansas Licenced Practical Nurses Association (ALPNA): The official “voice” of LPN’s in the State of Arkansas. Membership promotes practical nurses as important members of the health care team, as well as advancing education standards, alerting legislation of LPN’s views or initiatives, and encouraging and supporting schools that teach practical nursing. ALPNA members meet and compete to build professional knowledge necessary for licensure.

Advisor: Ruby Johnson

American Association for Medical Transcription (AAMT): A professional organization which advances high standards in skills, education and training for medical transcriptionists. Students in Ozarka’s Health Information Management (HIM) program are encouraged to join AAMT at reduced student membership rates to take advantage of education products, receive the Journal of the AAMT, purchase discounted reference materials, participate in conferences on the state and national level, and be involved in the field on a professional level.

Advisor: Cindy Conley

Student Arkansas Education Association (SAEA): This newly established organization at Ozarka works to improve the quality of education in Arkansas. This active chapter focuses energy to develop an understanding of the education profession, provide for a united student voice in matters concerning teaching careers, and influence the conditions under which prospective educators are prepared.

Ozarka students enrolled in the AAT program are eligible for membership.

Advisor: Michelle Cooper

Any students who have an interest in learning more or joining one of these organizations, should contact the advisor listed with each club.

Clothesline Project Will be in Mountain View

Stone County Abuse Prevention, Inc. will be exhibiting the Clothesline Project sponsored by the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence on September 20th, which is open to the public and admission is free. The clothesline will be on display during the day as well as a booth that will allow you to decorate a t-shirt in memory of a murdered victim of domestic violence, just bring your t-shirt and we will provide the decorating materials. Starting at 6:30 pm there will be music provided by the group Harmony and afterwards there will be a candlelight vigil at 7:00 pm. This event gives a visual awareness of the violence against women. The purpose of the event is to bear witness to murdered victims of domestic violence, to help in the healing process of people who have lost loved ones to violence or to those who have survived, to educate and raise a conscious awareness of the extent of the problem of violence against women, and to provide a network of support. There will be approximately three-hundred shirts on display representing murdered victims over the last ten years in the state of Arkansas. If you would like to volunteer/support Stone County Abuse Prevention, Inc. you can contact them during business hours at (870) 269-9941. The Ozarka College Department of Justice Grant to Reduce Violence Against Women will be participating in the event.
Ozarka College has recently expanded its health care offerings because of the need for professionals in the allied health field. The practical nursing program has tripled in size with new programs in Ash Flat and Mountain View; the ARNEC program will be accepting twice as many students for its next class of students; and the new Partners for Care grant will offer Students as opportunity to obtain a Certificate of Completion for Personal Care Aide and Certified Nurses Aide (CNA).

Misty Scrivner has completed LPN and RN through Ozarka College and has gone on to become an asset in the Geriatric Psychiatry Inpatient Unit of White River Medical Center called “Senior Haven.”

After completing her Practical Nursing degree in December of 2002 and working at WRMC in different capacities, she was accepted into the ARNEC program (Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium) and graduated in December of 2006 through Ozarka.

Misty says the best advice she can give others interested in nursing as a career is to work as a CNA (certified nurses assistant) or in the health care field in some way. “Some people may not be cut out to be a caregiver in the medical field. I think becoming a CNA and working in the field to get some hands-on experience is the best way for potential students to get a feel for what it takes.”

Medical Director for Senior Haven, Dr. Witold Czerwinski (Dr. “C” as he is called in the unit) describes Misty as one of the best nurses he has ever encountered. “I knew Misty when she worked here as an LPN and she was excellent then; but completing her RN has given her the wings she needed to soar in her nursing career!” He adds, “Misty is even better and more knowledgeable as an RN and I completely admire her for what she has accomplished.”

Other colleagues in Senior Haven who work with Scrivner have the utmost respect for her. Assistant Nurse Manager, Tonya Phillips; and Social Worker, Mary Orr both say she has great judgment, is trustworthy and is a team player. Phillips goes on to state, “she is quick, precise and correct in her work and is already taking the lead in teaching other student nurses, who come through Senior Haven, the skills and techniques she possesses in the nursing field.” Her co-workers think so much of Misty that she was voted “Employee of the Month” for her department in July.

Misty is very family oriented and enjoys living in the country. She recently took a trip to San Francisco, California for a conference and says even though she enjoyed the trip, it made her thankful to live in North-central Arkansas.

For information on any of the allied health programs offered at Ozarka College, contact the Admissions Department at 870-368-7371 or toll free 800-821-4335.