The Instructional Technology Center (ITC) is now completed in the Information Systems department in the Administration building. The ITC is a video editing studio that will be used to implement streaming real-time video into web courses as well as to create instructional CD's and DVD's for student use. The ITC is currently being used to film introductions of faculty members that will be included in MyOzarka. As Ozarka continues to increase its distance learning capabilities, new technologies must be implemented in order to address the needs of students. Streaming video give students the opportunity to become familiar with the instructors teaching style even over a distance. English Instructor, Joanna Fulbright is currently using the technology to address questions that arise on the discussion board. So far students are open to the idea of streaming video as long as the download time is not overwhelming. English Instructor, Samantha Thornsberry plans to use streaming video to convey opinions to her students during an online course in the first summer session.

The renovation in the Information Systems department also paves the way for a new Instructional Training Center. The large open area currently unoccupied will house Technology College during July 2004. The space will include six computer consoles as well as an instructor's booth all loaded with the appropriate hardware and software. This location allows for easy access to the video editing and server rooms on campus.

Here are what some of the instructors are saying about video capture:

Joanna Fulbright comments, “I am very pleased to have the opportunity to include video in my online World Literature I class and am looking forward to putting together one video for each work we cover in that class. One thing I think students miss in online classes is a sense of conversation, and the online lecture may help to recapture that, hopefully resulting in increased student confidence and learning.”

Samantha Thornsberry points out, “I’m so thankful for the opportunity to provide added instruction for my students via our use of the latest technology! I love the fact that in its complexity the technology we’re using is still easy for the students to obtain and use. I’m thrilled that we can offer online classes that are as ‘real’ as any of our other course offerings, and the students can still learn and be excited about what they’re learning! That’s awesome!”

Melissa Arnold adds, “Capturing the Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry class on video will be very beneficial to students who are pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing. This will give working nurses the opportunity to attend the class when otherwise they might not be able to because of scheduling differences. Also, this will allow Ozarka to offer the class more often.”

New Ozarka College Foundation Board Members

This year the OCF Board has added many new faces. The Ozarka College Foundation has tried hard to get a good representation from all the counties that it serves. From Fulton County, the Board has added Curren Everett of Salem, Jean Pace of Mammoth Spring, and Jack Haney of Mammoth Spring. From Izard County, the Board has added Steven Mitchell of Calico Rock. From Stone County, the Board has added Charles Hinkle, Susan Kemp, Darrin Chism and Jan Isbell of Mountain View. This represents a 47 % increase over last year’s membership. The OCF Board is now at full membership according to its bylaws.
Fundraising Goals

The Ozarka College Foundation and Title III Grant have been working hard in year 3 to meet several fund raising goals. The first of these goals is a $50,000 endowment which is matched dollar for dollar by the Title III Grant. As of March 31, 2004 the total in this fund was $16,691. The second of these goals is total annual giving of $92,337 to the Foundation. As of March 31, 2004 the total was $40,446.15. The last two of these goals are the Ash Flat and Mountain View building funds. Both building funds began in year 2 of the grant and have a goal of $100,000 which will fund the construction of a science lab at each center. As of March 31, 2004 the Ash Flat building fund had a total of funds pledged or received of $74,984.73, the Mountain View building fund had a total of funds pledged or received of $9,493.00 (see chart at right).

Ozarka’s Technology College for 2004

Activity I announces the third annual Technology College in July 2004. Technology College will prepare experienced educators for technology enhanced lectures and classroom activities, as well as instructor-based peer mentoring during the succeeding school year. Funding for this project is provided by the Title III grant.

Technology College is a summer project that began in 2002 by training four faculty members. To date, nine faculty have participated in the event with seven more participants this year.

Participants must be currently employed by Ozarka College as a Faculty or Adjunct Faculty member and must complete the application form. The participants for this year will be Melissa Arnold, Stephen Baltz, Steve Benoit, Cindy Conley, and Cheri McSwain.

All training sessions will be taught in the Instructional Technology Suite located in the computer services department.

The Instructional Technology Suite consist of a video capture room, video editing room, and a faculty training center. Classes will be a combination of lecture, hands-on, guest speakers, and project development activities. A proper understanding of technology moves Ozarka’s instructors into a hemisphere of service to students unlike any other.

Title III thanks the Ozarka faculty for their continued support!

Ozarka Attends NSF Workshop

A National Science Foundation (NSF) Workshop was held January 27th and 28th in Jonesboro at the ASU Convocation Center. The intent of the workshop was to increase awareness of the types of competitive grants available from NSF, provide an opportunity for individuals to meet with Program Officers in charge of the grants, and to afford an opportunity for colleagues within the state to interact.

Five members of the Ozarka family attended the sessions: Melissa Arnold, Bruce Diet sche, and Rachel Faulkner of the Science Department; Lisa Lawrence of the Mathematics Department; and, Joan Stirling as the Title III Coordinator. Some of the grants available to community colleges include those offered under the Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement Program (CCLI); Advanced Technological Education Program (ATE); and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics Teacher Preparation program (STEMTP); and Partners for Innovation Program (PFI).

Attending this workshop helps to meet an Activity 2 goal of grant writing training.

Pictured from left to right are Bruce Diet sche, Laney Breckenridge, Melissa Arnold, Rachel Faulkner, and Lisa Lawrence. Laney is a high school science teacher who graduated from Ozarka and ASU and also attended the workshop.
The Council for Resource Development has presented six workshops in Little Rock for the training of administration and Foundation board members in the skills needed for successful fund raising and how to be a successful board member.

The latest workshop was presented on March 9, 2004. The information concerned “Capital Campaigns and Major Gift Fundraising.” This meeting was attended by Ozarka College President, Doug Rush; Vice President, Linda Morgan; Vice President, Gayle Cooper; Director of Planning and Special Projects, Joan Stirling; Director of Continuing Education and Business Outreach, Karla Rush; Development Officer, James Fenton; and Administrative Assistant, James Spurlock. CRD is scheduled to hold one more of these training sessions in Little Rock on May 18, 2004. This session will cover “Planned Giving.”

CRD Training

2004 Ozarka College Foundation Spring Gala

More than 200 tickets were sold this year for the Ozarka Foundation Board’s Annual Spring Gala. From those tickets, more than 150 guests attended the Gala, which took place on April 3rd in the dining room of Ozarka College in Melbourne. Early estimates project this year’s Gala proceeds around $5,000 to $6,000.

Congratulations Ozarka Grant Writers!

These grants were recently awarded:

Mary Ellen Hawkins and Dan Lindsey: The Libri Foundation will award them $2 for every $1 raised for a total donation from Libri of $700.

Lisa Lawrence: The National Education Association will award $2,000 for her Future Teacher Conference.

Barbara Dawes: Entergy awarded $1,000 for the Mountain View science room.

Jim Fenton: WalMart awarded Ash Flat campus on Earth Day $500 for trees and shrubs.

Amy Pinkston: Arkansas Department of Human Services awarded the Kid’s Academy $2,000 for playground equipment.

Tickets are on sale for the Narvel Felts concert on June 19th. See a Foundation Board Member or Ozarka employee.