



## Ozarka College Alumni reConnect

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**Check us out:**  
**[www.ozarka.edu](http://www.ozarka.edu)**

*A Short Drive to Great  
Distances*

## Ozarka to Recognize Outstanding Alumnus

Ozarka College is a member of the Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges (AATYC), along with the other 21 two year institutions in the state of Arkansas. Each fall AATYC hosts an Annual Conference for the institutions to come together to keep up with the latest trends and issues that affect education. The conference hosts nationally-known speakers and more than 70 individual presentations representing best practices in our two-year colleges.

One of the most popular and moving events during the

conference is the AATYC Awards Brunch on the final day of the conference. During the brunch each institution recognizes their "Outstanding Alumnus" and "Academic All-Star," which is an outstanding current student. An Outstanding Alumnus is selected based on their success, achievements or contributions to their communities since graduating from a particular two year college.

Ozarka College is in the process of selecting their Outstanding Alumnus for 2006 and wants to hear back from their successful alumni. Ozarka invites all former students to send in a brief sum-

mary of their life since attending Ozarka, whether Ozarka was "Ozarka College" or "Ozarka Vo-Tech" when enrolled, there is no time limit on this honor.

Summaries can also be emailed in to the following addresses: [kwhitten@ozarka.edu](mailto:kwhitten@ozarka.edu) or [klovelace@ozarka.edu](mailto:klovelace@ozarka.edu). Should you know of someone who should be nominated for this honor, please email that information as well. The deadline for this nomination is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Call Ozarka for further information at 870-368-7371.



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### Johnston Named President at Ozarka



Ozarka College officials announced in mid-December the appointment of Dr. Dusty R. Johnston as President of Ozarka College in Melbourne, Arkansas by the Ozarka College Board of Trustees unanimously in November of 2005. Dr. Johnston, a native of Shamrock, Texas, assumed the Presidency on January 3, 2006.

Johnston brings 23 years of experience working in the community college setting to Ozarka, including six years as an instructor and 17 years as an administrator. Most recently, he served as Dean of Instruction at Rich Mountain Community College in Mena, Arkansas for eight years. Prior to working as the chief academic officer for RMCC, Johnston spent 15 years with Howard College in Big Spring, Texas as an administrator and faculty member.

Dr. Johnston received his doctor of education degree in higher education from Texas Tech University in 1990. He also earned a bachelor's and master's degree in agriculture education from Texas

Tech. While at Rich Mountain Community College, Johnston coordinated a very successful accreditation self-study which led the Higher Learning Commission to recognize the institution as a "model community college".

Upon arrival to Ozarka College, Dr. Johnston expressed his steadfast personal and professional commitment to ensuring both access and success for students. Johnston stated "The real significance of a community college such as Ozarka is measured by the success of its students. I look forward to utilizing my experience and leadership skills to build upon the strong foundation Ozarka has established to implement the college mission and develop our functions of serving the communities in North Central Arkansas."

For the last two and half months, Johnston has been committed to not only learning all he can about the college and its employees and students, but he has been steadfast in meeting the people of the communities in which Ozarka College serves.

In an effort to meet even more of his new neighbors, Johnston will be available at the Ozarka College booth during First National Banking Company's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Home, Garden & Sports Show on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. FNBC hosts this event at no charge. The location for the show will be the Sharp County Fairgrounds south of Ash Flat.

### Ozarka's Spring Enrollment Increases

Spring enrollment at Ozarka College increased for 2006 over last year's numbers as indicated by final registration figures. After reaching a record spring enrollment in 2004 of 943 students, and last year's numbers taking a slight decrease, student enrollment for the current Spring semester totals 941.

Ozarka College President, Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, praises the hard work of the faculty and staff of the college for the stability of enrollment.

Johnston, who became President in December 2005, expresses a commitment to the continued improvement of service at Ozarka College. "The success of Ozarka College is directly related to the success of its students and by developing increased opportunities for student experiences, the institution will continue to be a leader among rural, two year colleges in the State of Arkansas.

Ozarka College utilizes distance

learning and web-based instruction blended with traditional classroom settings in order to offer coursework to the diverse group of students attending the institution. With the new facilities in Ash Flat and Mountain View which opened in 2005, students in those areas have more accessible opportunities afforded them. Expanded course offerings are also being planned for the Melbourne campus for Fall 2006.





## World Famous Platters Perform For A Sellout Crowd



"The folks that attended this concert left with smiles on their faces."

Son Lamb  
Concert organizer



The Ozarka College Foundation Board of Trustees hosted *World Famous Platters* on February 28<sup>th</sup> as a fundraising event to benefit Ozarka College students through scholarships and other opportunities set forth by the Foundation Board.

After the crowd was entertained by Melbourne native, Jeff Pratt and his band from Fayetteville, the *World Famous Platters* came on stage and kept the crowd engaged for more than two hours.

With standing room only, Foundation Chair, and FNBC President, Marty Sellars labeled the night "a complete success!" Concert organizer and Ozarka Foundation Special Events Committee Chair, Son Lamb, expressed his enthusiasm about this event. "The folks that attended this concert left with smiles on their faces. That is exactly what we had hoped

for with this performance." He adds, "Even more exciting is the fact that through the efforts of college employees, led by President, Dr. Dusty Johnston, foundation board members and many others in the community, we have helped the cause of education for Ozarka College. With the continued support from our local communities, the Foundation is hopeful to keep increasing scholarship opportunities."

Many area businesses and individuals were helpful in bringing this event to Ozarka College. The Foundation wants to thank the ticket outlets, First National Banking Company locations; Bank of Cave City; Mountain View Chamber of Commerce; First National Bank of Izard County in Calico Rock; Perryman Realty in Viola; Batesville Music Center; The Carriage Room in Horseshoe Bend; and Zook's Possum Trot in Mel-

bourne.

The Foundation is also appreciative for advertising by local radio broadcasters, Hometown Radio and WRD Entertainment for their extra efforts in ticket sales. Another expression of gratitude for the food and beverage donations for the *World Famous Platters* by Hometown Market and Shirley Pierce as well as added security by the Izard County Sheriff's Department. Lamb adds, "A very special thank you to the Pratt family for bringing an especially entertaining group of young men to Melbourne for the evening." For more information regarding the Ozarka College Foundation Board efforts, contact the college's recent addition to the Advancement Department, Development Officer, Suellen Davidson, at 870-368-7371.

## FIRST SERVICE BANK SPONSORS RESOURCE ROOM IN MTN. VIEW

First Service Bank has made a generous donation to Ozarka College-Mtn.View to sponsor the Resource Room in the new building. Leo Sutterfield, President of First Service Bank, is a long-time resident of Mtn.View and is enthused about the new opportunities Ozarka is bringing to the Stone County community. First Service Bank opened in Mtn.View in 2005. Pictured left to right (standing): Jane Shipman, Leo Sutterfield, Karla Rush, Gin Brown. Sitting are Jan Isbell and Susan Kemp.



## Scholarship Opportunities at Ozarka College

The Ozarka College Admissions Office announces the scholarship opportunities available at Ozarka College during the Fall 2006 semester. Application deadlines are quickly approaching for these stipends. Along with numerous national, regional and state-level scholarships, there are several scholarships that are exclusive to Ozarka College and its service area.

First National Banking Company (FNBC) \$4,000 scholarship is available to an Ozarka College student within the FNBC service area. The scholarship recipient is awarded \$1,000.00 for tuition, fees and/or books for their first semester of attendance at Ozarka. The FNBC scholarship will then be renewed up to three semesters providing the student completes 12 credit hours each semester with a minimum grade point average of 2.75. The deadline to apply is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The John E. Miller scholarship, which was established by the Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce in 1998, awards a \$500 per semester scholarship to an Ozarka College student. The stipend may be renewed for up to three semesters as long as the recipient is enrolled full-time and maintains at

least a 3.00 grade point average at the college. The deadline to apply is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Walter B. Hall Scholarship is available to an Ozarka College student. Dr. Hall was the first director of Ozarka when the institution first opened its doors to students as a vocational-technical school in 1973. Dr. Hall served as Director of Ozarka from 1973 until his retirement in 1987. Hall's wife, Jean Halbrook Hall, worked as the counselor at the college for some time and still resides in Melbourne. The deadline for this \$250 stipend for Fall 2006 is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The English Department at Ozarka College is awarding its seventh annual writing competition scholarship to two high school seniors in Izard, Fulton, Sharp, and Stone counties. These students will be selected as winners of writing competition and will each be awarded a one-year, full tuition scholarship to Ozarka College. Winning essays are also published in Ozarka College's collection of student writings entitled *In Flight*. The deadline to apply is April 11<sup>th</sup>.



Walter B. Hall

Candidates for the scholarships must be admitted as a student of Ozarka College, complete the Ozarka College Scholarship Application Packet, and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For further information on any of these scholarships or to apply contact the Admissions Office at 870-368-7371, or pick up the applications at Ozarka College in Melbourne, Ash Flat, or Mountain View.

## FNBC Donates to Fenton Scholarship

First National Banking Company donated \$1,000 toward the James F. Fenton Scholarship fund. FNBC has been a steadfast supporter of education and all Ozarka College projects throughout its four-county ser-

vice area of Fulton, Izard, Sharp and Stone Counties. Pictured left to right is Ozarka College President, Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, Ozarka Development Officer, Suellen Davidson and FNBC President, Marty Sellars.

