

# Ozarka College

## THE CONNECTION

### Student Activities

**September 1:** Students gathered for an informational meeting in Ash Flat about the Ozarka College Fishing Club. Those interested in participating are encouraged to contact Anthony Burkhammer at 870.994.7273, or email: [aburkhammer@ozarka.edu](mailto:aburkhammer@ozarka.edu)

**5:** Ozarka LPN students participated in the Foundation 5K in Mammoth Spring. They manned a water station, gave directions, and generally just cheered on the participants. Students then moved downtown to participate in Solemn Old Judge Days with a health awareness/education booth, where they promoted Ozarka's programs, took blood pressures and blood sugars, offered water and fruit to help with hydration on an extra hot Ozark day. The LPN students will also be on hand during the Black Walnut Festival Days in Alton, MO on Oct. 3.



**11:** A display was set up in the Paul Weaver Library in remembrance of 9-11-01

**17:** Constitution Day was celebrated at all campus locations. In addition to other activities, students were able to complete their voter registration.



**22:** Scholarship recipients were honored during the Scholarship Reception, held in the Student Services Center. Students had the opportunity to meet with scholarship donors and enjoyed wonderful catering from the Culinary Arts Department. Pictured with Ozarka College President, Dr. Richard Dawe, is Dakota Dixon, the 2015 Academic All-Star.



**25:** Congratulations to the newly elected Student Government Association (SGA) officers!  
President: Dalton Withers  
Vice Presidents: Tracy Post, Hailey Coggins, Dakota Dixon

Secretaries: Tiffany Napier, Emily Wilson, Summer Waddles  
Treasurers: Whitney Springstun, Sabrina King, Destiny Butler

**26:** This Junior group of LPN students (pictured to the right) checked blood pressures and oxygen saturations at the Brockwell Senior Citizens Center Health Fair.



## President's Perspective

Happy fall to everyone! We are on the cusp of the change in our weather and looking forward to the true arrival of fall. The semester appears to be going well for everyone and it's exciting to see the Student Services Center on the main campus getting much more use as the community becomes more aware of the opportunity. We have welcomed many new faculty and staff to the Ozarka team and we continue to be very fortunate with the level of dedication and talent. The team just keeps getting stronger.

Enrollment is adjusting back to a more normal level as the economy improves and people are getting back to work. As you may recall, we led the state in enrollment increases the past several years, which was largely due to factory closures and people being out of work or returning to college to re-tool or earn a certificate or degree. This is a national and very predictable phenomenon, and although we were anticipating keeping our enrollment high, we are now in the position of waiting for new programs to improve our enrollment position. We are also seeing significant new interest and enrollment with or concurrent high school students throughout the service area. Fortunately, we have continued to be proactive in looking ahead for new opportunities such as aviation and the Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. We also have plans to expand culinary, Information Systems, Criminal Justice, and others.

Keep up the great work whether you are a student, faculty or staff member. Be sure to share your good ideas and the many successful stories that you see at Ozarka.

Best of Success!

Dr. Richard Dawe



## Upcoming Events

### October

- 3: Foundation Golf Tournament (Melbourne)
- 3: Foundation Fall Concert (Mtn. View)
- 9: End 1<sup>st</sup> 8 wk courses
- 9: Counselor's Conference
- 9: SGA Leadership Training
- 12: Mid-term advisory grades due
- 12: Start 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 wk courses
- 23: A Trek Through Tech 2.0 Cont. Education begins (Ash Flat)
- 26: Deadline for Sexual Assault Training
- 30: Advisor Training

### November

- 2: Spring/Summer Reg. opens (current students)
- 9: Spring/Summer Reg. opens to new students
- 12: Last day to receive a "W"
- 23-24: Faculty In-Service
- 23-27: Fall Break, No Classes
- 26-27: Thanksgiving Holiday, Offices Closed

## College Humor

The first 5 days after the weekend are always the hardest.



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## First Community Bank Sponsors Foundation Golf Tournament



First Community Bank, located in Cherokee Village/Highland, Arkansas, has provided a \$1,000 sponsorship for the Ozarka College Foundation Golf Tournament in IZARD County, and will serve as the 2015 Course Sponsor. The tournament will be a four-person scramble, taking place on **October 3, 2015** at Cooper's Hawk Golf Course in Melbourne, Arkansas. The tournament will have a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m., with all proceeds benefiting the students of Ozarka College.

The entry fee is \$300 per team and includes range balls, golf cart fee, light breakfast, lunch, gift bag, and 18 holes of golf. Mulligans will be available for purchase, \$5 each. Awards will be given for longest drive, longest putt, closest to pin, and putting contest. Freedom Ford in

Melbourne will also sponsor a hole in one contest, awarding a Ford automobile to the winner.

Team entries are being accepted now. To register, please contact Suellen Davidson, Ozarka College Director of Advancement, by calling 870.368.2059 or email: [sdavidson@ozarka.edu](mailto:sdavidson@ozarka.edu)

In the case of heavy rainfall, team members will be notified and the rain date will be October 4, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

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## Culinary Arts Program is Accepting New Students



The Ozarka College Culinary Arts program is currently accepting applications for new students. Once a student has completed the admissions application, they may register for the Spring 2016 semester as early as **November 9, 2015**.

Students who have already been accepted to Ozarka College, may register for courses and receive assistance applying for financial aid at any of Ozarka College's four campus locations in Melbourne, Ash Flat, Mammoth Spring or Mountain View. Students may also register online through myOzarka at [www.ozarka.edu](http://www.ozarka.edu) Many of the Culinary Arts courses are offered

online; however, students will need to attend classes at least twice per week on the Melbourne campus.

When completing the admissions application, students should indicate their intent to complete the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Culinary Arts degree. The Culinary Arts program will provide foundation and specialized study on the culinary field through academic, laboratory, and field experience. This program prepares its graduates for careers in restaurants, clubs, hotels, catering operations, and institutional food service.

For more information about the Culinary Arts program, please contact Chef Alden Griffus, Ozarka College Culinary Arts Faculty, by calling 870.368.2073 or e-mail: [alden.griffus@ozarka.edu](mailto:alden.griffus@ozarka.edu).

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## Ozarka College Named One of the Best Community Colleges

A recent national study published by WalletHub has ranked Ozarka College as the 51<sup>st</sup> best, or top 7.6% percent of all community colleges in the nation. WalletHub compared 670 community colleges in the United States on 17 key metrics ranging from the cost of in-state tuition and fees to student-faculty ratio.

“Across the board, community colleges are slowly stacking up against their traditional four-year counterparts. Schedule flexibility, rigorous coursework and smaller class sizes supply the majority of their appeal to first-time college entrants as well as to university students choosing to transfer to community colleges – an emerging trend that goes against the usual grain of transitioning from a two-year to a four-year institution,” said Richie Bernardo, author of *2015’s Best & Worst Community Colleges*.

The statistics can be further broken down by cost and financing, classroom experience, education outcomes, and career outcomes. Josh Wilson, Ozarka College Associate Vice President of Institutional Research states, “By this methodology, Ozarka was ranked 15 of 670 on classroom experience.” Thus measured by the following criteria: Active and Collaborative Learning, Student Effort, Academic Challenge, Student-Faculty Interaction, Support for Learners, and Student-to-Faculty Ratio.

Active and Collaborative Learning measures students’ level of involvement in their own education and participation in team activities/projects, whereas Student Effort measures students’ initiative to apply themselves to the learning process. Academic Challenge measures the complexity of courses and amount of work involved, then Student-Faculty Interaction measures the strength of communication and personal relationships between instructors and their students. Support for Learners measures the availability and effectiveness of school-provided support services for students’ academic success, and Student-to-Faculty Ratio measures the number of students enrolled in a particular course. Ozarka College has an average ratio of only twelve students to one faculty.

Ozarka College President, Dr. Richard Dawe commented, “It is uplifting to see such national recognition for our College. We pride ourselves on being a college that reacts quickly to student and regional workforce needs. Just because we are a small, rural college doesn’t prevent us from being transformational and innovative in how we serve students and the communities of northern Arkansas.”

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## Debt Reduced Through Bond Refinancing

The Ozarka College Board of Trustees, working with Crews and Associates, has refinanced existing bonds that reduced the College debt by \$545,431.56. By taking advantage of the competitive bond market rates, Ozarka College was able to further enhance their sound financial condition. The bond refinancing allows a cost avoidance to students and taxpayers that will assist with minimizing future tuition increases and further secure existing jobs.

Dr. Richard Dawe, Ozarka College President commented, “Although all higher education institutions must maintain some level of debt to maintain and advance key programs and facilities, we recognized this as an important opportunity to reduce annual bond payments without spending the recouped resources. Our aim is to maintain affordable and competitive tuition and programs for our service region in north central Arkansas.”

Ozarka feels this is a great example of how to be a good steward of scarce resources as we experience continued flat funding for higher education in Arkansas.

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## Fall Concert to be held in Mountain View



Ozarka College Foundation presents  
**THE FALL CONCERT**

**Featuring**  
Brad Apple  
Gary Rounds  
Ken Loggains  
Pam Setser  
The Cobb Brothers  
Tim Crouch

**TICKETS \$20**  
**October 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM**  
**Ozarka College – Mountain View Amphitheatre**

This event is sure to be fun for the whole family!  
All proceeds to benefit Ozarka College Foundation.  
For more info, please call 870.269.5600

The Ozarka College Foundation will host The Fall Concert, at Ozarka College's Amphitheatre in Mountain View, Arkansas on **October 3, 2015**. The event will begin at 7:00 PM and will feature talented musicians: Brad Apple, Gary Rounds, Ken Loggains, Pam Setser, The Cobb Brothers, and Tim Crouch.

This powerhouse group of musicians will feature the fiddle, guitar, upright bass, mountain dulcimer, mandolin, percussion, spoons, and great vocals. Tickets cost just \$20 per person and are available for purchase at the following businesses in Mountain View until close of business on Friday, October 2: Ozarka College, Centennial Bank and First Service Bank. Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly recommended, though some will be available at the door an hour before the show starts.

Handicap accessible parking is available; spectators wishing to utilize this parking are encouraged to arrive at the College by taking Meadow View Drive to College Drive. For more information about The Fall Concert, please contact Lindsay

Wilson-Galloway, Director of Ozarka College – Mountain View, by calling 870.269.5600 or email: [lhgalloway@ozarka.edu](mailto:lhgalloway@ozarka.edu)

In case of rain, concert will be held in the Kenneth and Janice Sutton Lecture Hall, at Ozarka College in Mountain View.

## Automotive Service Technician Program is Accepting New Students

The Ozarka College Automotive Service Technician program is currently accepting applications for new students. Once a student has completed the admissions application, they may register for the Spring 2016 semester as early as **November 9, 2015**.

Students who have already been accepted to Ozarka College, may register for courses and receive assistance applying for financial aid at any of Ozarka College's four campus locations in Melbourne, Ash Flat, Mammoth Spring or Mountain View. Students may also register online through myOzarka at [www.ozarka.edu](http://www.ozarka.edu)

When completing the admissions application, students should indicate their intent to complete the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Automotive Service Technology degree. The Automotive Service Technology program serves the training needs of each student in all areas related to automotive servicing. Each student will be trained in automotive theory, technical training, and manipulative skills. Students will also upgrade and update their knowledge so that they may enter the workforce and advance in their chosen occupation.

For more information about the Automotive Service Technology program, please contact Chris Layne, Ozarka College Automotive Faculty, by calling 870.368.2087 or e-mail: [chris.layne@ozarka.edu](mailto:chris.layne@ozarka.edu).

## Ozarka College Foundation Elects New Officers



After serving on the Ozarka College Foundation Board of Directors for the past three years, Mike Watson has been elected to serve a three-year term as Chair. Mike and his wife, Lesha, reside in Ash Flat, Arkansas.

“Mike showed tremendous leadership while serving as Co-Chair in our most recent capital campaign, Students at the Center,” said Suellen Davidson, Ozarka College Director of Advancement. “I know that he will continue to inject a great deal of energy in his new roll as Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors.”

Mike has owned Mike Watson State Farm Agency, located in Highland, since January 2011. Prior to opening his own business, he coached for twelve years at Melbourne High School. Mike received his Bachelor of

Science in Education from the University of Central Arkansas and his Master of Science in Education from Arkansas State University.

“My vision for the Ozarka College Foundation is to always promote responsible and effective philanthropy,” said Watson. “I believe we should be viewed as an active board that strives to provide opportunities for our students, while fostering a culture of paying it forward. If we can get our students, alumni, and the communities we serve to rally around this basic belief, then our efforts as a foundation board will be viewed as a success and we all will reap the benefits.”



Pam Setser, who has served for the past four years, has been elected to serve a three-year term as Vice Chair. Setser and her husband, Vic, reside in Mountain View, Arkansas.

Pam is currently employed at Centennial Bank in Mountain View, where she has served as Business Development Officer for eight years. Prior to joining Centennial Bank, she worked at the Mountain View Telephone Company for 23 years.

“Education is so important and I am very thankful to have Ozarka College available to students in Stone County and in the Northern Arkansas region,” said Pam. “Having Ozarka College in our community gives so many more students the ability to go to college. I didn't have the option to attend college locally, when I graduated from Mountain View High School.”

Pam has always been very involved in the community, whether through her music or serving on boards. In addition to the Ozarka College Foundation, she has also volunteered her time while serving on the Chamber of Commerce, Committee of 100, Stone County Abuse Prevention, and Stone County Youth Leadership.

“It is a joy to work with Pam,” said Suellen Davidson, Ozarka College Director of Advancement. “She is community minded and such a great talent; her commitment to the College and our fund-raising efforts is invaluable.”

## New Officers Continued...



Matt Rush, who has served on the Ozarka College Foundation Board of Directors for the past year and a half, has been elected to serve a three-year term as Secretary. Matt and his wife, Amber, reside in Melbourne, Arkansas and have two children: Annie and Emma.

“Being a Grandson of the late State Representative John E. Miller, Matt is no stranger to community service and is very community minded,” said Suellen Davidson, Ozarka College Director of Advancement. “It is certainly a privilege to work with Matt on the Foundation Board.”

Matt has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and a Master’s degree in Business Administration, both from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

In 2012, Matt became employed at Bancorp South, where he serves as a loan officer. Prior to that, Matt was part owner of IZARD County Abstract where he was a title agent and abstractor.

In addition to serving on the Ozarka College Foundation Board, Matt currently serves as President of the Melbourne Industrial Development Committee, is a member of the Lions Club, member of the Horseshoe Bend Chamber of Commerce, and is an active member of First Baptist Church in Melbourne.

“For me, being a part of the Ozarka College Foundation is an opportunity to help invest in my community, and that’s something that I feel very passionate about,” said Rush. “We all have a charge to make our communities better places to live, and by serving on the foundation I get to not only help provide educational opportunities for our community members, but also watch that investment grow exponentially as people become educated and then gainfully employed right here in our hometown.”

## Introduction to Computers in Mammoth Spring



Ozarka College – Mammoth Spring will offer a six-week Introduction to Computers continuing education course, beginning in October. Topics covered will include Microsoft Windows, Internet search and navigation, saving/managing files on a computer, email, sending attachments, uploading photos, Facebook basics, E-Bay, and Craig’s List.

The course runs from **October 16** through **November 20**, meeting on Fridays, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Tuition is just \$25.00 per student, \$20.00 for Senior Citizens (ages 60+).

Please pre-register for this course by contacting James Spurlock, Director of Ozarka College - Mammoth Spring. Mr. Spurlock is available by phone at 870.625.0411 or email: [jmspurlock@ozarka.edu](mailto:jmspurlock@ozarka.edu)

## Ozarka 'College – Now' Scholarship Announced

# College - Now Scholarship

Available only at Ozarka College

Take Four Ozarka College classes in High School and your Fall semester is on us!

[collegenow.ozarka.edu](http://collegenow.ozarka.edu)

Ozarka College is pleased to announce a new and unique scholarship opportunity, the Ozarka 'College – Now' scholarship. To be eligible for the College – Now scholarship, high school students are required to take at least four Ozarka College courses during high school. Upon completing the minimum number of courses, maintaining a 2.75 or higher grade point average, and graduating from High School; Ozarka College will wave tuition and fees for the following Fall semester. The tuition and fee waver only applies to the Fall semester directly following an eligible student's high school graduation.

Concurrent enrollment courses are college courses completed by students who are still in high school, and who are taking college classes that also meet high school requirements. Examples of these courses include, but are not limited to Composition I and II, College Algebra, American History I and II.

Ozarka College offers college credit classes to high school students at a discounted tuition rate of just \$50 per credit hour. Students who take the minimum requirement of four Ozarka College courses would invest \$600 for tuition. By receiving a full semester tuition and fee free with this extraordinary scholarship opportunity, a student easily saves over \$2,000 by attending Ozarka College post high school graduation. In comparison, twenty-four college credit hours at state universities will cost a student more than \$6,000.

To learn more about the Ozarka 'College – Now' scholarship, please visit our website: [collegenow.ozarka.edu](http://collegenow.ozarka.edu) or contact the Ozarka College Department of Admissions, by calling 870.368.2013.

The Ozarka **College - Now** Scholarship is for High School students who are Concurrently Enrolled at Ozarka College.

### Your Investment:

\$50 x 12 credits = \$600

(tuition for four Ozarka College Concurrent Enrollment courses)

### Dividends:

Full Fall semester **TUITION FREE** with **College - Now** Scholarship

Compare Tuition and Required Fees for 24 Credit Hours to:

Arkansas State University \$6,454

University of Arkansas \$6,510

University of Central Arkansas \$6,358

**Ozarka College \$2,776**

**Only \$600 with our College - Now Scholarship!**

[collegenow.ozarka.edu](http://collegenow.ozarka.edu)

call: 870.368.2013

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## A Trek Through Tech 2.0

Ozarka College in Ash Flat, Arkansas will host a month long series of computer workshops through their Continuing Education program. The workshops will meet on Friday's, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 12:00 p.m. The first workshop in the series is scheduled to take place on **October 23, 2015**.

The instructor for, "A Trek Through Tech 2.0" workshop series will be Kelly Shell and the course will consist of four different workshops. The cost is \$15 for one class, \$20 for two classes, or just \$25 for all four classes. Dates and topics of each workshop are as follows:

**October 23** – Beginning Computers (Basic Computer Concepts, Microsoft Windows, Internet Search and Navigation, E-mail basics, Sending attachments, Uploading photos, Files and storage)

**October 30** – Intermediate Computers (Microsoft Office Suite, Google Docs, Cleaning, Managing and Problem Solving)

**November 6** – Smart Phones/Tablets (basics of Android and Apple phones and tablets). This course will be split by device. Instructions for iPhone/iPad users will be taught from 9:00 to 10:15, and Android and other device users will meet from 10:30 to 11:45.

**November 13** – Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other basics)

Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. For more information or to register for "A Trek Through Tech 2.0," please call Ozarka College – Ash Flat at 870.994.7273

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## Perkins Grant Activities

New Perkins Grant Focus: Career Planning, Programs of Study Development, Skill Certifications Research and Implementation

"The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV) provides a renewed vision of career and technical education programs for the 21st century. The Act envisions that all students will achieve challenging academic and technical standards and be prepared for high skill, high wage, or high demand occupations in current or emerging professions. Perkins IV provides an increased focus on academic achievement of career and technical education students, increases State and local accountability, and strengthens the connections between secondary and postsecondary education."  
([www.adheperkins.com/about.html](http://www.adheperkins.com/about.html))

While in recent years Ozarka College has used Perkins funds primarily to support CTE students through academic advising and greater advising outreach to struggling students, the new 3-year focus has shifted to providing CTE students with career planning services and preparation to enter the workforce. Activities supported by the 2015-2016 grant include: career planning services, researching and promoting industry skill certifications, and researching and promoting potential programs of study for seamless high school to college to workforce opportunities.

Kendra Smith (Ash Flat and Mammoth Springs) and Kay Adkins (Melbourne and Mountain View) are available to work in-depth with students to help them explore careers and degrees or certificates to develop appropriate and realistic career goals. Other career planning services include assisting students with job seeking skills such as resume writing and preparing for job interviews.

Advisors working with students who could benefit from career path exploration, or with those who are graduating and preparing to enter the workforce, can refer students to Kendra or Kay.

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## Cooper selected to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors



The Ozarka College Foundation has selected Joey Cooper of Highland, Arkansas to serve on the foundation board of directors. Board members serve a five-year term and work collectively to support the mission of Ozarka College to provide life-changing experiences through education. The Ozarka College Foundation Board encourages participation and volunteerism in a variety of ways, with a priority on fundraising for Scholarships and other student and College needs. In addition, foundation members serve in a public relations capacity to represent Ozarka College in their individual communities.

Cooper has a ten-year banking career that started in 2005 with Liberty Bank of Arkansas and he currently serves as an Assistant Vice President Lending Officer at Centennial Bank in Highland. Prior to the start of his banking career, Cooper graduated from Highland High School in 2001 and from Ozarka College in 2003. He has also attended and graduated from numerous banking schools and seminars, including the Arkansas Bankers Commercial Lending School and the Paul Barret Graduate School of Banking at Christian Brothers University in 2010.

"I am excited about the opportunity I have been given to help provide and gather community support for Ozarka College," said Cooper.

Cooper is active in numerous community and civic activities that includes serving as a Board Member of the Spring River Area Chamber on Commerce, The Tommy Bolt Memorial Board, Member of the 50 for the Future and finally, Board Member of the Woodland Hills Property Association. Joey and wife Megan are the parents of ten-month-old daughter, Maci.

"I look forward to working with Joey," said Suellen Davidson, Ozarka College Director of Advancement. "What an exciting opportunity for an Ozarka College alumnus to serve on the Foundation Board and promote the institution that he once attended."

The Ozarka College Foundation, organized in October of 1991, is a not-for-profit tax-exempt, 501(c)3 charitable foundation with all endeavors focusing on expanded educational opportunities for, and service to, the College's students and community. For more information about the Ozarka College Foundation, please contact Suellen Davidson, Ozarka College Director of Advancement, at 870-368-2059 or email: [sdavidson@ozarka.edu](mailto:sdavidson@ozarka.edu)

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**Contact the Editor  
to share your news:**

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