

# Ozarka College

## THE CONNECTION

### Student Activities

**March 9:** Ozarka College Student Services hosted the 2015 Transfer Fair. The event was well participated by Ozarka College students, who were given the opportunity to meet with representatives from area colleges and universities.

**12:** Joanna Fulbright gave tips and pointers on how to construct a research paper, during a co-teaching experience with students in Dr. Jason Self's classes in Ash Flat. Students learned how science can crossover to English and how that applies to them when they are out in the real world applying for jobs. Dr. Self presented in Joanna's class the following week.

**12:** SGA students at Mountain View hosted a Pi Day event where they sold slices of pie and enjoyed lived music. Funds raised were donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital.



**17:** Nursing students had a visit from Air Evac on the Mountain View campus; this was a great experience for our future LPN's.



**19 & 20:** Nursing students competed in a competition on the Melbourne campus.

## President's Perspective

Congratulations for making it through our winter weather; spring has arrived and it is uplifting to see everyone finally enjoying some time outdoors! It is incredible how quickly this year has seemed to pass. We are preparing for Commencement on May 9<sup>th</sup> and I am pleased to announce that Congressman Rick Crawford found the time in his very busy schedule to serve as our speaker this year at graduation. Congressman Crawford is a strong supporter of Ozarka and it will be an honor to hear him provide words of encouragement to our graduating class.



As I write this during spring break, I think it is important to provide a brief update on the legislative session that is nearing an end. Our legislators have done an excellent job keeping me informed and supporting the interests of all of our campuses. We are fortunate to have such dedicated public servants representing Ozarka College and our communities. We have been concerned for potential reductions to the higher education budgets, but as it appears at this time, we should be able to stay at the same level of support.

The state portion of our funding has remained flat for the past 13-14 years, which has resulted in a strain statewide. Almost all two-year colleges across the state and nation have experienced declining enrollment the past two years. It's good the economy is gaining strength but large numbers of non-traditional students have completed their training and education and are back to work. Certainly good news overall but this has resulted in declining revenues. The good news is that Ozarka College is prepared for new enrollment through exciting new programs like Aviation and Information Technology. We are in store for some pretty exciting times ahead. Enjoy spring and the rest of the semester.

Best of Success!

Dr. Richard Dawe

## Upcoming Events

### April

- 6: Fall Registration open for Current Students
- 7: American Voices
- 9: Foundation Gala
- 9: Last day to receive a "W"
- 13: Fall Registration open for New Students
- 16: Tour D'Art
- 20: Canning/Food Preparation (Mammoth Spring)
- 22: Celebrating Earth and Arbor Day
- 28: Capping & Pinning Ceremony

### May

- 1: Classes end
- 4-7: Final Exams
- 9: Graduation
- 12: ARNEC summer classes begin
- 18: Summer I classes begin
- 25: College Closed



Please join us for a  
retirement celebration  
honoring  
**JOAN STIRLING**

April 16, 2015 at 1:00 PM  
Ozarka College Student Services Center  
218 College Drive  
Melbourne, AR

For more information, please call: 870.368.2004

**\* Continuing Education Courses \***  
for more info, please contact the Ozarka  
College campus location hosting the course

## Joan Stirling Announces Retirement

Ozarka College will host a retirement celebration in honor of Joan Stirling, Vice President of Planning and Institutional Research, on **April 16, 2015**. This farewell will take place at 1:00 PM in the Student Services Center in Melbourne, Arkansas and is open to the public. Both former and current students, as well as co-workers and community members are all encouraged to attend.



Stirling was originally hired at Ozarka College as an adjunct instructor in January of 1996. She began teaching science classes full time just one year later. In July of 2002, Stirling became the Director of Planning and Special Projects, which led to her current position in July of 2010. In the past nineteen years, Stirling has made a lasting impression on students, staff and the community.

“Joan Stirling has had the unique opportunity to serve at Ozarka College as a longstanding and highly successful faculty member as well as a very effective senior administrator,” said Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Ozarka College Provost and Executive Vice President of Learning. “Joan’s fingerprints of success can

be seen throughout the College from curriculum to policy development. She constantly offers a mix of passion and determination in everything she applies her mind and hands to accomplish. We will deeply miss her blend of candor and kindness.”

Stirling is also credited with being largely responsible for the successful Higher Learning Commission reaffirmation visit during the 2010/2011 academic year, and has served a large role in the success of the American Voices Series.

## Summer Registration is Open



Registration for Ozarka College summer classes is currently open to both, new and current students. The first summer session begins on **May 18, 2015** and ends one month later on June 18. The second summer session will begin on July 1 and end on August 4. Courses are available at each of our four campus locations in Melbourne, Ash Flat, Mammoth Spring and Mountain View, as well as fully online.

- Get a jumpstart on your college career
- Complete your degree requirements in less time
- Convenient class offerings; can even be on vacation and in class at the same time via online options

For more information about the use of Financial Aid for the first summer term, please call 870.368.2009 or email: [finaid@ozarka.edu](mailto:finaid@ozarka.edu). For assistance with admissions or summer registration, please contact Student Services by calling 1.800.821.4335 or 870.368.2013.

## Distance Learning Provider Approval

Ozarka College has been granted formal approval from the Arkansas Department of Education to continue serving as a digital learning provider in Arkansas.

With this approval, Ozarka will continue its important efforts to collaborate with and effectively serve our secondary partners in our four-county service area and beyond. According to the Arkansas Department of Education Digital Learning Act of 2013, "All public school districts and public charter schools shall provide at least one (1) digital learning course to their students as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction." With this approval, Ozarka can work with these institutions to facilitate this requirement. Ozarka College received approval for seventeen courses, which includes, but is not limited to, the following: American History, American National Government, Biology, College Algebra, Communications, English Composition, Fine Arts Music, Geography, Computer Applications, Psychology, Trigonometry, World Civilization, and World Literature.

Additionally, these courses may also be taken by students wishing to earn concurrent credit. Pending approval from the individual school district, students can take selected courses through Ozarka College and earn both high school and college credit, which additionally will transfer to any institution in the state through the Arkansas Course Transfer System.

For more information about distance learning opportunities, please contact Chris Lorch, Ozarka College Associate Vice President of Academics, at 870.368.2071 or email: [clorch@ozarka.edu](mailto:clorch@ozarka.edu).

### Evening GED Classes

In addition to the free GED classes that are offered during the daytime at Ozarka College, evening classes are now also scheduled to be offered through Ozarka College's Adult Education program. The program is ADA accessible, EEOC compliant, and disability accommodations are available upon request.

Evening GED classes will begin meeting at Ozarka College in Mammoth Spring on March 19, 2015 and will be offered on Thursday evenings from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. For more information, please contact James or Cindy by calling 870.625.0411.

Evening GED classes will begin meeting at Cave City Middle School on March 16, 2015 and be offered on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact Trish Turnbough by calling 870.283.5392, extension 1277.

Evening GED classes have already began meeting at Timbo High School and will continue to meet on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information, please contact Jr. Barham by calling 870.213.7388 or 870.368.2051.

Registration is ongoing. For additional information on free GED classes offered during the day or evening, please call Ozarka College's Adult Education Department at 800.821.4335, ext. 2051 or 870.368.2051.

### Featured Programs of Study

#### **Culinary Arts:**

Chef Lou Rice  
870.368.2073  
[Irrice@ozarka.edu](mailto:Irrice@ozarka.edu)

#### **Automotive Service:**

Chris Layne  
870.368.2087  
[chris.layne@ozarka.edu](mailto:chris.layne@ozarka.edu)

#### **Business Technology:**

Brad Hollaway  
870.368.2082  
[bhollaway@ozarka.edu](mailto:bhollaway@ozarka.edu)

Stephen Baltz  
870.368.7371  
[sbaltz@ozarka.edu](mailto:sbaltz@ozarka.edu)

Kathryn Langston  
870.368.2083  
[klangston@ozarka.edu](mailto:klangston@ozarka.edu)

## Taking Flight...Ozarka Aviation News

On Saturday, **March 21, 2015**, Ozarka College served as one of more than thirty host sites for the National Virtual Aviation Safety Stand Down. The event was attended by a variety of members of the aviation community, including several cadets in the Civil Air Patrol. The event covered three topics: The Culture of Airmanship 2.0; Aeronautical Decision Making and Fitness for Duty; and Why Pilots Lose Control. Participants received WINGS credit for attending this valuable event.

“Safety is one of the most important aspects of flying,” said Nick Lenczycki, Ozarka College Director of Aviation. “The dedication these individuals demonstrated to the promotion of safety is a tremendous credit to the aviation industry. In addition to the quality of the information presented, the camaraderie shared makes these types of events so worthwhile. It’s an opportunity to compare notes on how one another operates and to gain perspective on changes taking place. This sharing of information makes all of us better pilots and strengthens the aviation community.”

Ozarka College’s Aviation program, which is set to begin offering classes this coming fall semester, also has safety as the top priority. The College recently had a Redbird LD Advanced Aviation Training Device installed. This device is FAA certified and features realistic flight controls, 200 degrees field of view, interchangeable cockpits, and is ideal for flight school students.

According to Lenczycki, “One of the many benefits of a device like this is that we will be able to develop a deeper understanding of complex situations in a safe environment. This device will allow us to focus on decision making in a real-world setting, making our students more competent in dealing with emergency situations.”

For more information about the Ozarka College Aviation program, please contact Nick Lenczycki, Ozarka College Director of Aviation, by calling 870.368.7926 or email: [nick.lenczycki@ozarka.edu](mailto:nick.lenczycki@ozarka.edu)



## American Voices, Americans with Disabilities

The American Voices Series, sponsored by the Ozarka College Diversity and Cultural Events Committee, will host its third annual event featuring the voices of *Americans with Disabilities*. This event is free of charge and will take place in the lecture hall of the John E. Miller Education Complex in Melbourne, Arkansas on **April 7, 2015** from 10:30 AM until 1:45 PM. Plans are also underway to live stream presentations to Ozarka College campus locations in Ash Flat, Mammoth Spring, and Mountain View.

Supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Voices – Americans with Disabilities will include three morning speakers, an information fair during the lunch break, and a five-person discussion panel in the afternoon. This is an excellent opportunity for all students, but particularly those majoring in nursing, criminal justice, teaching, and other public services, as they will gain valuable information on interacting with persons with disabilities.

Leonard A. Boyle, Sr., Executive Director of the Arkansas Governor’s Commission on People with Disabilities, will present on the topic, “The Disabled Community in Arkansas.” After acquiring his own disability in 1992, Boyle experienced numerous forms of discrimination, various obstacles and barriers that led him to becoming an advocate for people with disabilities.

Rodney Farley, Parent/Family Consultant with DDS Children Services, will present, “Interacting with the Disabled.” Farley has twenty years experience serving on councils and coalitions that are disability related, and he was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to serve as a commissioner on the Governor’s Commission on People with Disabilities in 2010.

Luke Kramer, Director of Training and Development at Birth Tree Communities, Inc. will share a presentation about, “Emotional Disabilities.” Kramer began his career at Birch Tree, Inc. over sixteen years ago and is responsible for training and certifying over 550 professional, paraprofessional and support staff members.

Tina Long Hunter and Wanda Horton, along with Boyle, Farley and Kramer, will serve on the panel discussion. Hunter is the Director of Programs and Services for the Alzheimer’s Association, Arkansas Chapter. She has been in community and public health and public policy for the past seventeen years.

Horton is the Executive Director of the Arkansas Disability Coalition (ADC) and has been employed with ADC for over twenty-five years. In addition to her role at ADC, Horton also serves on numerous councils and boards that are disability related, and she has a son with a disability.

This event is sure to be great for professional development, but will also be beneficial to the community at large to enhance successful communication with individuals who have a disability. Private sectors, state agencies, and the public are all encouraged to attend.

For more information or to reserve seats, please contact Joan Stirling, Ozarka College Vice President of Planning and Institutional Research, at 870.368.2007 or email: [jstirling@ozarka.edu](mailto:jstirling@ozarka.edu).

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## Canning and Food Preservation Seminar

Ozarka College in Mammoth Spring will offer a canning and food preservation seminar **on April 10, 2015** at 12:00 PM. Topics covered will include testing of pressure cookers, benefits of home food preservation, food safety, water bath canning, pressure cooking, dehydrating, and resources available through the extension office.

The seminar will be presented by the Fulton County Extension Office and is free to the public. Seating is limited, though, so registration is strongly encouraged.

For more information, or to register, please contact James Spurlock, Director of Ozarka College Off-Campus Operations in Mammoth Spring. Mr. Spurlock is available by phone at 870.625.0411 or email [jmspurlock@ozarka.edu](mailto:jmspurlock@ozarka.edu).

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## Tour D'Art 2015

The Friends of the Paul Weaver Library will host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Literature Reading and Art Extravaganza on **April 16** from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Tour D'Art 2015, Bridge to the Arts, will showcase readings of original or published written works including paintings, sculptures, drawings and other art forms.

Tour D'Art is open to students and members of the community. This event will take place in the John E. Miller Lobby and Auditorium. There is no admission fee and refreshments will be provided by Ozarka College Culinary Arts.

For more information, please contact: Mary Ellen Hawkins by calling 870.368.2054 or Charlotte Knox at 870.368.2055.

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## Arbor Day Celebration

In honor of Arbor Day, Ozarka College will take their turn to lead and students from Ozarka Kid's Academy will be participating in the planting of trees. The Arbor Day celebration will take place near the new Student Services Center, on the Melbourne campus, on Earth Day: **April 22, 2015** at 3:00 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Tree Board of the City of Melbourne and all are invited to attend. In the case of inclement weather, Arbor ceremonies will be held in the FNBC Student Commons area of the Ozarka College Student Services Center.

For more information, please contact Josh Wilson, Ozarka College Pace Coordinator & Grant Writer, at 870.368.2042 or email: [josh.wilson@ozarka.edu](mailto:josh.wilson@ozarka.edu)



## Centennial Bank Sponsors Foundation Gala



Centennial Bank will be the presenting sponsor at the 2015 Ozarka College Foundation Spring Gala. The Gala will take place on Thursday, April 9, at 6:00 PM in the new Student Services Center at Ozarka College, located at 218 College Drive in Melbourne, Arkansas. This year's theme is, "Forty Years Strong!"

The Ozarka College Foundation Board of Directors will host the annual event, which includes dinner prepared by the award-winning Culinary Arts Department, as well as a live auction. All proceeds support the Foundation in its effort to provide resources necessary for many students to have life-changing experiences through education at Ozarka College.

**Purchase your tickets today by calling the Ozarka College Advancement Office at 870.368.2059.**

## CPR/AED Training for Faculty and Staff

Thanks to a Health and Safety Initiative supported by a grant from the Blue and You Foundation, the College will provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training for faculty and staff.

Led by Ozarka College faculty member and CPR instructor, Dawn Smith, trainings will be offered throughout the spring and summer to ensure faculty and staff can become CPR/AED certified and gain the skills necessary to help when seconds count.

Be on the lookout for an email advertising upcoming training dates. For more information, please contact Josh Wilson at [jwilson@ozarka.edu](mailto:jwilson@ozarka.edu)

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

Manda Jackson  
Ozarka College  
Director of PR and Marketing  
870.368.2045  
[manda.jackson@ozarka.edu](mailto:manda.jackson@ozarka.edu)

## College Humor

My dream for April Fool's Day is to discover your obsession with a seemingly endless series of college basketball games isn't actually real.



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