

# OZARKA COLLEGE

May 2022  
*Campus Connection*  
Spring Wrap-Up Edition

*Inside the Issue*



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Honoring the outstanding achievements and community outreach of Ozarka's finest employees. p. 02



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## TOPPING THE CHARTS

### *Academic Accomplishments*

Ozarka College is no stranger to national and statewide recognition for excellence in education. However, the Ozarka Team has made it rain during the 2021-2022 academic year, topping the charts of three outstanding rankings by nationally-recognized research firms. Of colleges eligible, Ozarka received the following rankings:

- Best Online Associate Degree in Arkansas (UniversityHQ), Ranked 1 of 25.
- Best Community Colleges in America (Smart Asset), Ranked 13 of 801.
- Best Associate Degree College in Arkansas (UniversityHQ), Ranked 1 of 25.

Both UniversityHQ and Smart Asset are online resources focused on helping consumers make good decisions for themselves and their families, including choices for higher education.

Ozarka is honored to be recognized and these distinctions are truly a reflection of Ozarka's quality education, faculty and staff commitment, and exceptional community support.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dr. Richard Dawe*

Summer has finally arrived and we are winding down a great spring semester at Ozarka. I want to wish our faculty a well-deserved summer break and I want to thank all of our Ozarka colleagues for a truly impressive year serving our students. Accolades that we have recently received, such as the Top Online college in Arkansas; and the national ranking of 13 out of more than 800 colleges in the nation are incredible. This type of high recognition is not possible without everyone being firmly committed to student success. We are so fortunate at Ozarka to share a deep commitment to our students and the communities we serve! I am humbled to serve with such a rare and talented team! Thank you again for all you do and have a safe and enjoyable summer!



## END OF YEAR COOKOUT

*Awards and Recognition*

The semester has finally come to an end and for some that meant it was time for BBQ! During the end of year celebration many faculty and staff were recognized for all their hard work and presented awards for longevity.

The awardees included Katie Wilson, 2021 ACC Faculty of the Year; Donna York, 2021 ACC Staff of the Year; Brandy Gore, 10 years of service; Cindy Pitchford, 10 years of service; Justin Ward, 10 years of service; and Debbie Yancey, 30 years of service.

We enjoyed the opportunity to see everyone on the same campus after a very busy semester. Congratulations to all the awardees as well as the entire faculty and staff for coming together and ensuring Ozarka is the best College out there!



# FACULTY OF THE YEAR

## *Maggie Campbell*

Maggie Campbell, Associate of Science in Education (ASE) Coordinator at Ozarka College, has been named 2022 Outstanding Faculty of the Year. Campbell leads the Teacher Education program. Ozarka's education program prepares students for rewarding careers in early childhood, elementary, and middle school education.

Campbell began working for Ozarka in 2020 as ASE coordinator and faculty. She led several initiatives for academics and the institution, most recently reopening Ozarka Kid's College for local elementary youth. Maggie has played a big role in increasing 2+2 partnerships with four-year universities across Arkansas. She has also been instrumental in creating a pipeline with local school districts by providing more concurrent classes to high school students wanting to get a head start on pursuing their careers in education.

"I'm so glad that Maggie is being publicly recognized for her hard work and passion for preparing our education students," said Dr. Chris Lorch, Ozarka College provost. "She is the model of an instructional leader who is fully committed to her students' and her program's success. Ozarka is fortunate to have her on the academic team."



\*Photo Caption: Maggie Campbell

# STAFF OF THE YEAR

## *Marcus Orf*



\*Photo Caption: Marcus Orf

Ozarka College has selected Marcus Orf as recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Staff of the Year award. Marcus is a credit to Ozarka College and represents the best of the institution. Orf is Ozarka's Carpenter Technical Center as Director. Orf has been instrumental in standing up technical programs at the Carpenter Technical Center in Sharp County as well as helping coordinate the Mountain View welding program expansion in the Stone County community. Since 2019, Ozarka has made a deliberate effort to expand and enhance industry partnerships, an effort that has resulted in the addition and expansion of technical education offerings across the College's four-county service area.

"Marcus' contribution to the growth of our technical programs cannot be overstated," said Dr. Chris Lorch, Ozarka College provost. "He has quickly become an indispensable part of the Ozarka team, and with his efforts, combined with the efforts of our faculty, we will continue to create more ways to serve the educational needs of local industries and our communities."

# MOVIN & SHAKIN

*Employee Transitions and New Hires*



## **Daniel Carlile - Aircraft Maintenance Coordinator**

Daniel “Danny” Carlile joins the aviation team in this vital position bringing deep experience as an Airframe and Powerplant (A&P). He is also a long time pilot with more than 4,000 flight hours and a native of Arkansas.

## **John Taylor - Certified Flight Instructor**

John may be a familiar face to some and that is because he recently graduated from our Aviation program in 2021 with flying colors. A native of Mammoth Spring he came straight out of high school and got his start right here at Ozarka. "I am thankful to be chosen for this position. I aim to offer the best service I can give to my students," commented John. Welcome back John!



## **Joshua Spray - Administrative Specialist III - Aviation**

If you have been to the fitness center, you probably had the chance to say "hi" to whom is now our new Aviation administrative specialist. If you haven't been by the gym since you made that New Year's resolution, it's okay; we won't tell. Previously a part-time fitness center employee, he comes to the airport as a new part of the aviation family. Welcome!



## **Peyton Van Hoy - Accountant II**

Peyton has jumped right into her new role in the finance office. She has seamlessly transitioned from her position in Ash Flat, and has quickly become a familiar face around campus. We are so glad to have you!



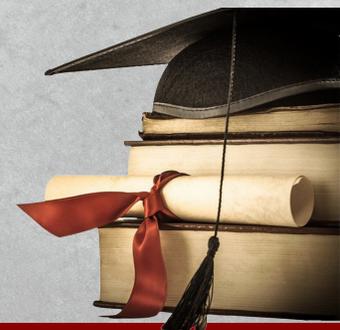
# SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

*Foundation Scholarships*

Wrapping up the spring semester means it is time to select Foundation Scholars!

In April the Scholarship Committee met to select recipients of the Ozarka College Foundation scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year. This year the Foundation will support 78 scholars with endowed and pass-through scholarships totaling more than \$55,000.

This would not be possible without the significant support and generosity of our community partners, Ozarka employees, and the Foundation Board.



# SGA ACTIVITIES

## *Student Government Association*

The Ozarka College Student Government Association (SGA) recently collected non-perishable food donations at our campus locations. Collections were accepted through May 6. The food that was collected was taken to local food banks in our service area counties. Abby Williams, SGA campus-wide president dropped donated non-perishables off at the Manna House in Melbourne. Matt Willis, SGA vice president was able to travel to Salem to donate collected non-perishables to the Agape Food Pantry.

Thank you all for supporting SGA and this worthwhile project.



# OZARKA'S TOUR D' ART IS BACK

## *Tour D' Art*

We don't talk about Bruno....but we do talk about the Art Show! The Friends of the Paul Weaver Library partnered with Ozarka College to host their 9th annual art extravaganza. The event showcased over 300 pieces of art that was enjoyed by tour groups including Ozarka students, area high schools, and community members.

“We are extremely proud to partner with our area schools and community members to provide the community the opportunity to showcase their talents with inspiration through art,” said Dan Lindsey, The Friends of the Library Sponsor, and Ozarka Librarian.

The art exhibit included works from artists aged pre-school through high school, plus works from Ozarka College students, faculty, staff and friends. Original folk and fine arts including painting, sculpture, drawings and other art forms were showcased this year.



# FOUNDATION CORNER...

*We modeled, we bid, and we even got to dress fancy!*

The Ozarka College Foundation hosted two spring events: Ladies' Luncheon in Mountain View and Spring Gala in Melbourne. Both events were fun-filled and enjoyed tremendous community support!

On March 5, the Student Commons area on the Mountain View campus was bustling with activity. Ladies from the Stone County area gathered to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by the Ozark Folk Center. The program included a silent auction and a fashion show and culminated with a live auction of cheesecakes prepared by the Ozarka College Culinary Arts Department. This event is always fun and this year was no exception. Put it on your calendar for next year and join us!

The annual Spring Gala was hosted on the Melbourne campus on Thursday, April 7. Corporate sponsored tables were full of folks from our entire service area. The support for this year's event was record-setting! Proceeds benefit Ozarka College students and help fulfill our mission of providing life-changing experiences.



# RECIPES...

## SHARK BERRY FLOAT

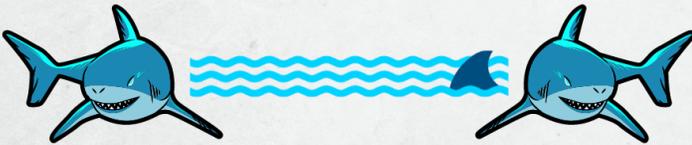
### INGREDIENT

- 1 cup or 2 scoops vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt
- 1 1/4 cups Fanta berry soda, or any berry soda
- 2-3 gummy sharks or any gummy candies



### MAKE

- POUR FANTA BERRY SODA INTO A TALL GLASS OR MASON JAR.
- TOP WITH ONE SCOOP OF ICE CREAM, THEN THE NEXT SCOOP.
- IF IT OVERFLOWS, THAT'S HALF THE FUN! TOP WITH A FEW GUMMY SHARKS.



## COOKIE DOUGH SMORES

### INGREDIENT

- 1 pack of Graham Crackers
- 1 bag of Marshmallows
- 1 pack of Hershey Candy Bar
- 1 tub of edible cookie dough
- 1 awesome camp fire that makes your neighbors question their safety



### MAKE

- CHILL EDIBLE COOKIE DOUGH FOR 15 MINUTES IN REFRIGERATOR, THEN CUT INTO SQUARES THE SIZE OF YOUR GRAHAM CRACKER.
- HEAT THE MARSHMALLOW OVER FLAME UNTIL DESIRED CRISPINESS.
- BREAK THE GRAHAM CRACKER IN HALF. ADD EDIBLE COOKIE DOUGH. SANDWICH THE CHOCOLATE BETWEEN THE CRACKER AND THE HOT MARSHMALLOW. ENJOY!



## WATERMELON POPSICLE

### INGREDIENT

- 1 pound watermelon
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons lime juice



### MAKE

- CUT THE WATERMELON INTO SMALL CHUNKS (DISCARDING THE RIND)
- PUT THEM IN A BLENDER WITH THE SUGAR AND LIME JUICE. PROCESS UNTIL SMOOTH, ADDING ENOUGH WATER (OR FRUIT JUICE) SO THAT THE MIXTURE LIQUEFIES.
- POUR INTO POPSICLE MOLDS, AND FREEZE.



# LIFE HACKS...

*Fan Requested*

## HACK #1

If you're driving into a town and don't know what to do, call a hotel, say you're staying there next week and ask any question you want.

## HACK #2

Accidentally text the wrong person? Immediately put your phone on airplane mode and once it fails to deliver, delete the message.

## HACK #3

Tired of watching ads? To skip a YouTube ad, just change 'youtube' to 'youtubeskip' in the URL of any video.

# STAFF COUNCIL CARES

## Upcoming Events

May 24 - 27: Silent Auction Fundraiser  
May 25: Buy-in Jeans Day for \$5!  
June 21: Next Professional Development  
& Staff Council Meeting



\*Photo Caption:  
Wanda McConnaughay, Dylan Herekamp, and other staff enjoy Staff Council Bingo.



## FOND FAREWELL

*Vickey Gillihan, Payroll Specialist*

Vickey came to us in June 2008 from Community School in Batesville where she was a Payroll Specialist, and has been our Payroll Specialist ever since. She has never refused to help someone in need, including: the bookstore, previous Staff Council fundraisers, and the recent STEM program. Vickey has made sure we were all taken care of for many years, and we will be sad to see her go when she retires in June 2022.

When asked about her time here at Ozarka and her plans for retirement, Vickey answered "I have enjoyed all the new friends I've made, and I've greatly appreciated all of the time this job has allowed me to spend with my family. I was able to be there for my mom when she needed me and I was grateful to have that time with her. My dad will be 90 this year and I am looking forward to spending more time with him and my four grandbabies."



\*Photo Caption:  
Vickey Gillihan

# WHO'S WHO?

## *Trish Miller*

Upon attaining her BSE in Business Education from U of A-Fayetteville, Trish came to Ozarka College 33 years ago as a software developer. During her time, she has worn many hats including software upgrading, Learning Lab Manager, Student Council sponsor, Professional Development Chair, Faculty Council Chair, Developmental Instructor, Business Instructor, and JTPA Instructor as well as Director of Adult Education where she now resides.

Trish has also had many accomplishments since beginning with Ozarka College. She has earned her MS in Education from ASU-Jonesboro, helped with the transition from Ozarka Vocational Technical School to a two-year College, was awarded AATYC Faculty of the Year, introduced Sonis software to Ozarka, and she helped write and patent a software program as a study guide for CDL drivers.

Trish was even one of the first pioneers for distance learning (what has now transitioned into online education) back in the 90's! She and other faculty used a program called Storyboard to record VHS tapes for students who could not attend classes in person. "Working at Ozarka has been incredible! Everyone genuinely cares. It has also enabled me to wear many hats and be a utility player in any department that needed me," said Trish.



**\*Photo Caption: Trish Miller**

## *Debbie Yancey*



**\*Photo Caption:  
Debbie Yancey**

Debbie received her Data Processing Technical Certificate and came to work at Ozarka as a secretary 32 years ago. Debbie has accomplished much more since working here, receiving her AAS in Business from Ozarka College (back when the bookstore was in the mailroom), was awarded AATYC Outstanding Staff in 2000, assisted in creating Campus News, and helped work on the newsletter for Ozarka back when we were still a Vocational Technical School. She still has copies of all of the old newsletters and is thinking about making a book out of them for people to flip through and see all of the progress Ozarka has made! She was also instrumental in joining Ozarka with ASU to have an LPN-RN program.

"Ozarka has always been good to me, and I have always had a sense of belonging. I have had the good fortune of working with people throughout the years that have not only been patient, uplifting, and encouraging, but have not been critical of my many shortcomings. The main thing I like is the camaraderie; everyone is willing to help out," said Debbie.



**Providing Life Changing Experiences through Education**



**Spring Semester 2022**



