

**Welcome Students!**

# Ozarka College Connection

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**New Look for Campus News**  
 The Ozarka Campus News will now be the *College Connection*. The *Connection* is now available online at [www.ozarka.edu](http://www.ozarka.edu)

Lunch Served 11AM-12:15PM Daily.  
 Cost: \$2.50 or \$3.00 with dessert.

**MENU:**

Mon 1/12	Chicken Strips
Tue 1/13	Ham, Beans & Cornbread
Wed 1/14	BBQ Sandwich
Thu 1/15	Spaghetti
Fri 1/16	Catfish
Mon 1/19	Grilled Chicken
Tue 1/20	Pork Roast
Wed 1/21	Turkey Sandwich
Thu 1/22	Roast Beef Plate
Fri 1/23	Fish

## Ozarka Makes List of Fastest-Growing Colleges in U.S.

Ozarka College was recently named among the fastest-growing two-year institutions in the United States based on research conducted by Community College Week.

In its December 8 issue, Community College Week recognized Ozarka College as the fifth fastest-growing public two-year college in the US in its category of fewer than 2500 students. Ozarka received the rank of number five due to its enrollment increase from Fall 2001 enrollment to Fall 2002. Community College Week analyzed data from the US Department of Education to determine the colleges for their fastest-growing institutions.

President Doug Rush commented that the recognition is "indeed an honor for our college. If we are growing, we are serving our community. And

across the country, two-year colleges are serving students by being affordable and close to home. We plan to continue to provide educational experiences for lots of students in North Central Arkansas."

Ozarka grew 36.8% from the Fall 2001 to a record enrollment of 1004 students for Fall 2002. Four other two-year colleges in the State of Arkansas were included in the "top 50" category along with Ozarka College.

The 2004 Spring semester gets underway on January 12th at Ozarka. For information on registration, contact the Admissions Counselor, at 870-368-2028.



**John E. Miller Education Complex on the campus of Ozarka College**



***In Flight* A Collection of Student Writing** is now taking submissions. The best entry will receive a \$500.00 scholarship for the 2004-2005 school year. Email questions or essay along with a brief biography to [jfulbright@ozarka.edu](mailto:jfulbright@ozarka.edu). Deadline is last day of Finals at the end of Spring Semester.

## Better Grades - And How to Get Them

A free seminar will be held for all Ozarka students on Thursday, January 22, from 3-5:30 PM, in the Lecture Hall of the John E. Miller Complex.

The seminar entitled, "Better Grades - And How to Get Them," will be presented by Christopher Paul, of the Hypnosis Clinic of Mountain Home, Arkansas.

The informative presentation will cover dozens of tips and tricks to improve study, memorization, note and test taking, and writing. Skills for minimizing stress, anxiety, worry, and optimizing athletic performance will also be covered. Emphasis is on how to study smart, not hard, in less time.

For more information call 870-297-8040 or 877-525-9315.

## Around Campus

- ◆ **Collegiate Ministry Meetings** are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., in the Dining Hall with Brother Bob Stewart.
- ◆ **Student Council Meeting** - Thursday, Jan. 15th 11am - Noon in C116 (Miller Compressed video room)  
*EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!*
- ◆ **RELAY FOR LIFE.....** Planning Meeting is Coming Soon! Watch *College Connection* for details to be announced.
- ◆ **High School Business Competition Day** - January 28 Hosted by Phi Beta Lambda.

## New Scholarship Opportunity in Spring '04



Verlene Lawrence (on right) presents scholarship check to Gayle Cooper (left).

Ozarka College officials have announced a new scholarship opportunity for the Spring 2004 Semester. Former employee of the college, Verlene Lawrence is funding \$500 scholarships to four fulltime students of Ozarka College to memorialize her late husband, Doyle Lawrence.

Verlene Lawrence worked at the college from 1975 to 1987. She was the instructor for the former Food Service Program at Ozarka, which is

now Culinary Arts. According to Lawrence, her husband had requested that she make a donation to Ozarka upon his passing in order to assist students having a financial need.

The Doyle Lawrence Memorial Scholarship applications will be available on January 5, 2004, in the office of Admissions Counselor, Randy Scaggs, at Ozarka's main campus in Melbourne. Applications will also be available at the Ozarka Educational

Centers in Ash Flat or Mountain View. The application deadline is January 31, 2004, at which time they will be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee.

In order to be eligible for the assistance, students must be fulltime, have a 2.0 grade point average, show financial need, and have applied for financial aid in the 2003-04 academic year. For further information concerning this scholarship please contact Scaggs at 870-368-2028.

*"We are so pleased and appreciative to have the support from the Bank of Cave City and join the community in honoring the great contributions Mr. Street has made to this area."*  
-Jim Fenton

## Bank of Cave City Gives Gift to Ozarka

Officials from the Bank of Cave City have announced a substantial gift to the Ozarka College Sharp County Capital Campaign. According to Bank President Sam Beller, the pledge of \$10,000 is being designated in recognition and honor of Eugene Street.

Ozarka Development Officer Jim Fenton said the Bank of Cave City's gift brings the college much closer to its fundraising goal for the Sharp County Education Center. Fenton said "This pledge, along with other donations and pledges, really solidifies the reality of the science lab being included in the new Sharp County facility. We are so pleased and appreciative to have the support from the Bank of Cave City and join the community in honoring the great contributions Mr. Street has made to this area."

For many years, Eugene Street served as a role model and community leader throughout Sharp County and the surrounding area. Street was particularly active in the local banking industry and worked with the Bank of Cave City for the majority of his lifetime. He also served on the board of directors for First National Banking Company, formerly known as First National Bank of Sharp County. Street supported various civic and community organizations including the Sharp County Historical Society.

Ozarka College President Doug Rush stated "We at Ozarka join in recognizing the great contributions Mr. Gene Street made to benefit our area. We appreciate his unwavering support for family, community, education, and the quality of life in North Central Arkansas.

We are sure he would be honored this pledge has been made in his name by the Bank of Cave City in that this donation will provide opportunities for many students to expand their education without having to leave home to do so."

The Ozarka College Foundation Board operates as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Currently, the Foundation is conducting various capital campaigns and endowment-building fundraisers to support the expansion of the Sharp and Stone County Education Centers as well as to fund projects for improving the main campus in Melbourne and to develop the endowment which feeds student scholarship programs. For more information, call Jim Fenton at 870-994-7273

Eugene Street



## “SPOTLIGHT” SERIES...

**Rachel Faulkner** has been in the education field for many years. Ten of those years have been spent as an adjunct instructor for Ozarka College. She recently joined the college as fulltime faculty member in the biology department. She taught Seventh through Twelfth Grades at Calico Rock Public Schools. Faulkner is currently teaching courses at Ozarka in Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Microbiology and General Biology.

Faulkner's enthusiasm for her new position is obvious. She says it stems from having more freedom from the administration, as well as being able to spend more time teaching and less time worrying about the discipline problems that can occur in the classroom at the junior high and high school level. She adds, "My colleagues in this department are wonderful. Bruce Dietsche and Melissa Arnold have really helped with my transition into fulltime instructor."

With a Masters degree in Biology from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Rachel completed her undergraduate studies at Arkansas College (now Lyon College) in Batesville. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education, and a



Minor in Chemistry. According to Rachel, teaching was not the first choice for her life's work. "I actually wanted to be a veterinarian," she reveals.

Rachel and her family live in Franklin, which is her hometown. She graduated from Violet Hill School in its final year, before becoming consolidated with Oxford to become Izard County Consolidated. Her husband, Scott is the girls' basketball coach at Calico Rock High School. He has been coaching and teaching for 14 years. Scott and Rachel have two sons: Cody, who is seven years old; and Caleb, who is 20 months old. Rachel admits that one main reason she accepted the full-time position at Ozarka is that it now affords her more time at home with her sons, which are top priority for her.

Like another newcomer and fellow spotlighter at Ozarka, Deltha Shell, the Faulkner's enjoy playing bluegrass music. Scott plays the banjo and Rachel plays bass. Another obvious pastime of Rachel's is attending basketball games and rooting on her husband's team, but she says she enjoys many different sports. She also enjoys working outside in her flower garden.

**Lauretta Coleman** plays a fulltime role on the campus of Ozarka College even though she is considered a part-time employee of the institution. Coleman takes care of the Ozarka College Bookstore, which entails a large amount of work. Coleman has been employed by the college for approximately four-and-a-half years. Previous to Ozarka, she worked ten years as a reporter for the Melbourne Times, and was editor of a small newspaper in Newark for a year.

Lauretta is from the Izard County area, growing up in the Gid community. She graduated from Mount Pleasant High School and she and husband, Billy were in the State of Washington where the two worked in the fruit orchard business for three years. They moved back to the State of Arkansas in 1959 and purchased a farm in the Gid area where they raised beef cattle until Billy's death in January of 2001. Lauretta and Billy were married for 47 years.

The Coleman's had two children. Their son, Gary, lives in Springdale and works as the diamond buyer for Sam's Club/Wal-Mart. Daughter, Donna and her husband, Charles Wolfe, live in the Sage area and have four grown children: Amber, April, Alana, and Charles Dee J. "C.J.", who is currently an Ozarka student. April was an Ozarka graduate who went on to Arkansas State University to obtain a Bachelor's degree. Lauretta also reveals that she has two



great-grandsons, Caeden and Tyler.

Admitting she has multiple interests and hobbies and has a hard time narrowing them down, Lauretta expresses history and genealogy as two favorites. "I really like reading about the local Izard County and State of Arkansas history, as well as researching genealogy."

She also notes, "Even though education is not really considered a hobby, I feel like it is important to learn anytime you have a chance. With education one can achieve just about anything."

Lauretta also enjoys classical music, quilting, crochet and other crafts. Anyone who knows Lauretta is aware of her love of butterflies. She says she likes them because of their beauty and grace. A big part of her life is being an active member, Sunday school teacher and choir leader of the New Home Free Will Baptist Church.

When asked about what she likes about working at Ozarka, Lauretta quickly answers, "Everything!" She further explains that at the time she took her part-time position in the bookstore more than four years ago, she appreciated the opportunity, because her husband was disabled at the time and she needed the job." She concludes, "If I have touched one life and made a difference for better then I feel I have achieved success."

**Linda Taylor** is well known for her wonderful cheesecakes and other baked goods by anyone who is familiar with Ozarka's Culinary Arts Program. As a former student and graduate of Culinary Arts, Taylor took the position of Assistant Instructor in the Fall semester of 2002. She has an Associate of Applied Science degree as well as a Technical Certificate from the institution's one-of-a-kind Culinary Arts Program.

Originally from the State of Ohio, Taylor and her husband, Robert retired to Horseshoe Bend in August of 1997 after serving in the Air Force. During her 20 years in the military, Taylor was stationed all over the world. She spent 12 months each in Greenland and Alaska. Her job in the Air Force was that of radar operator, which involves communication with fighter airplane pilots.

After moving to Izard County, Linda spent a year-and-a-half landscaping and working in the yard of her and Robert's new home. "Gardening and digging in the dirt is by far my favorite thing to do," she says. Her other obvious interest is cooking and baking, and she enjoys sewing as well.

After retirement from the military, Linda had the opportunity for an education through the Veteran's Administration. "I wanted to do



something since the military afforded me this opportunity to further my education. I knew about Ozarka College and discovered the culinary program and thought it would be perfect for me." She explains further, "My grandparents taught me to cook and bake when I was a young girl and I have always enjoyed it. I made the decision to apply and was accepted to the program."

Robert works for the City of Horseshoe Bend. Linda says he was very supportive of her decision to become a student at Ozarka. "I could not have done it without his encouragement and sacrifices." The Taylor's have three sons and seven grandchildren. Two sons live in Emmett, which is located in the southern part of Arkansas; and one lives in the State of Kentucky.

Chef Richard Tankersley speaks fondly of his colleague, "It is really great to work with someone who compliments the culinary program and my underdeveloped talent areas! Linda gives one hundred percent to Ozarka and is always there for the students." Linda reciprocates their working relationship by expressing that she and Rick have a lot of the same philosophies and methods of instruction. "We work very well together and I appreciate his dedication to this program."

Ozarka

College

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# Ozarka College

*A Short Drive to Great Distances*



## Kid's Academy Educator Recognized Nationally



At a conference of NAEYC, National Association for the Education of Young Children, held in Chicago, Illinois, Verna Lee Grice, a

teacher at Ozarka College Kid's Academy was recognized for her efforts and contributions to the field of early childhood care and education.

Grice recently completed the Child Care Specialist's Certificate through Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. According to Dr. Beverly Boals Gilbert, Early Childhood Education Professor at ASU, "this training certificate goes well beyond the minimal state training mandates. Verna Lee's portfolio, which reflects her professional development, was an exemplary model and was selected for demonstration at this national event."

Gilbert commended Grice as well as the Ozarka child care facility and college administrators for their efforts on behalf of the children and families in Arkansas. "I was pleased to have Verna Lee share the types of instructional

experiences she has in her classroom and the contributions she made to the thematic study within the class." She further recognized Ozarka President, Doug Rush for his awareness of the need for being involved in the childcare field. "The effort put forth by President Rush and the other leaders of Ozarka is essential to the accomplishments of our departmental mission and goals."

Arkansas State University's Director of Childhood Services, JoAnn Nalley, presented Grice's work at the conference. Gilbert acknowledged Nalley's efforts in obtaining grants which provide the type of training that Grice received. "Without her hard work, ASU's Childhood Services Department would not be where it is today."

Grice began teaching the toddler class at the Kid's Academy in 1999, after earning her Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology and technical certificate in Early Childhood Development from Ozarka, in addition to a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Currently, she teaches the toddlers as well as serving as Assistant Director of the academy. Grice notes that she en-

joys her job and plays a big part in the children's lives. "I don't have any grandchildren, but I have kind of adopted these kids as my grandchildren and enjoy my time with them each and every day."

Regarding the selection of her portfolio for demonstration at the conference, Grice states, "When I was informed that the Early Childhood Department wanted to submit my work, I was very pleased. Then, I actually got to go to Chicago and attend the conference and I was thrilled!" She adds, "The whole experience was quite an honor for me."

Ozarka College President, Doug Rush expressed his praise of Grice's accomplishment on behalf of Ozarka. "Ozarka is very proud of Mrs. Grice's success in her pursuit of further training to enhance her role at the Academy. Her dedication to the education and care of these young students at the Kids Academy is to be recognized and commended." The Ozarka Kid's Academy is a preschool and childcare program for students of Ozarka College as well as the public. It is divided into classes in which the children are taught age appropriate curriculum to prepare them for elementary school.