

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Desk of Dr. Dawe	2
GED Testing Dates for February	2
Student Conference	3
Career Pathways News and Events	3
Self-Study Answers	3
Ozarka Adds Career Coaches	4

Planning to Graduate in May?
You must file an Intent to Graduate form!

Available online under forms listing for Students.

From the Kitchen

Sign up for Text alerts each morning for the daily menu in my.Ozarka Now serving a grilled item each day, along with a Salad Bar, Soup, Chicken Strip, and the daily entrée. The menu is online so check it out!
Lunch Served 11AM-12:30 PM (12:15 on Fridays)

Ozarka College Connection

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Record Spring Semester Enrollment

Ozarka College will again report record enrollment with 1,331 students enrolled for Spring semester at this time, the largest headcount for a Spring semester to date. Full Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers are at their highest overall with a 10% increase over Spring 2009.

Ozarka President, Dr. Richard Dawe, acknowledges the significant FTE growth. "After the record breaking 2009 Fall semester, an overall 7% increase from the previous Fall; we are pleased with another increase in enrollment. Since Spring semester is typically lower in headcount and full time enrollment, the growth is significant."

Dawe adds, "This increase is a clear indication that students realize the importance of education and increasing their course load. Continued growth is

inevitable as Ozarka College continues to provide quality education and student service, while looking to the future of our community needs."

For more information about Ozarka College and the programs available, log on the website at www.ozarka.edu, or contact the college toll free 800-821-4335.



New Student Orientation

New Evening & Weekend Nursing Program

On January 14, 2010, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing approved Ozarka College's proposal for an evening and weekend LPN program. This eleven month program will take place at Ozarka College's main campus in Melbourne and is set to begin August of 2010.

According to Allied Health Division Chair, Ruby Johnson, RN, MSN/Ed., "After a significant amount of community support was gained, the proposal for an evening and weekend program was written with the student needs in mind. Many can not attend college during the traditional daytime class offerings." She goes on to say, "The nursing programs at Ozarka College continue to be a vital link between professional and competent care at the bedside, and in the communities the graduates serve."

Students must have completed or be enrolled in four pre-requisite courses this semester in order to apply to this new program, or the other LPN programs beginning this Fall. Those pre-requisites include Nutrition, Math for Nurses, Body Structure and Function (or Anatomy and Physiology I and II), and Practical Writing (or English Composition I). Students should apply online from February 1 through April 1, 2010 at www.ozarka.edu.

Entrance testing will be scheduled through the Admissions office and only those students enrolled in or having completed the pre-requisite courses will be allowed to test.

The application process, selection and curriculum are the same as for all LPN programs. Students with questions are encouraged to contact the Nursing Department, or admissions at (870)368-7371, or toll free 1-800-821-4335.

Around Campus

- ◆ **MyOzarka Workshop**
January 25 at 1:00 p.m. in Miller Bldg Computer Lab.
January 26th at 11:30 a.m. in Ash Flat room AF104
January 27th at 11:00 a.m. in Mtn. View room MV104
- ◆ **FBLA High School Competition**
Friday, January 29th beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Culinary Arts Gourmet Night**
Thursday, February 11th
Valentine Dinner! Reservations required by calling 368-2062.
- ◆ **Student Success Center to present Note Taking Workshop**
Week of February 15th at each site. Watch the website for details.

FOR THE MOST CURRENT EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS CHECK THE ONLINE CAMPUS CALENDAR AT WWW.OZARKA.EDU UNDER NEWS & EVENTS

Ozarka College Responds to State Budget Cuts



From the Desk of Dr. Dawe

“We’ll continue to put our students’ education first and foremost.”

-Richard L. Dawe
President

As you have likely heard, as is the case in every other state, Arkansas revenues are down and Governor Beebe deemed it necessary to reduce state budgets for the remainder of this fiscal year (FY2010). I think we can all agree that it's prudent to make reductions to our spending when income is reduced; we are also required by law to maintain a balanced budget. The first cut was directed several months ago and it amounted to a \$100M reduction in the state budget. This most recent cut was another \$160M. Ozarka College was directed, as were all other public colleges and universities across the state, to reduce our FY2010 spending by a total of 4.7 percent which equates to about \$135,000 through June of 2010. Cuts of this magnitude are far more difficult the later in the fiscal year they occur.

So how does this impact Ozarka College? We are fortunate to have a history of sound financial management of our precious resources and have also benefited by outstanding support from our legislators. We are also thankful to have the generous support of the communities we serve throughout our four

county region. This is accomplished through the hard work and dedication of our outstanding Foundation Board. The situation would be much more challenging today if that were not the case. When we received word of the initial cut we decided to conduct an internal mid-year review of all departments of the College. I stressed that we would safeguard academics and student services and would be looking first at budget areas that were currently and had historically not spent all of their budgets. We also began looking at out of state travel and any 'nice to have' expenses that we might be able to push into the next fiscal year. I made the first and largest cuts to the president's budget. The bottom line that I want to share is that, although feeling the impact, we will not have to take more drastic measures like so many colleges are being required to take throughout the country. Many colleges in other states are experiencing deep personnel reductions and as a result it is having a direct and unfortunate impact on their students. We, fortunately are not in that condition, and will not be forced to lay off employees unless we're required to make

additional cuts this year. We have heard that should not be the case, so we are confident the efficiencies we are finding in existing budgets will be enough. Employees of Ozarka College continue to keep their spirits up and are pitching in to identify things that we can delay or do without because they know we'll continue to put our students' education first and foremost.

The most serious impact for the remainder of the year will be possibly delaying hiring of vacant positions and postponing the start of new programs and classes that we are planning to offer. This is however a perfect time to be planning for the future so we'll be well prepared when funds become available. Arkansas, like the rest of the nation is beginning to see positive signs of recovery and we know the future is bright. In the mean time, we'll maintain a conservative financial posture and continue to provide *life changing opportunities through education*.

Richard L. Dawe, Ph.D.
President, Ozarka College

February GED Testing

The GED Test will be given at Ozarka College in Melbourne, Arkansas on February 9 & 17 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 516 of the Wyth Duke Adult Education Building.

The test will also be given at the following locations in February:

Mammoth Spring, AR	Simmons First National Bank	9:00 a.m.	Feb. 1 & 8
Mountain View, AR	Ozarka College	9:00 a.m.	Feb. 2 & 16
Salem, AR	Courthouse	9:00 a.m.	Feb. 2 & 18
Ash Flat, AR	Annex Courtroom	9:00 a.m.	Feb. 11 & 23

You must present an Arkansas photo ID, a Social Security Card, and proof of passing Practice Test scores dated within the last year. There is no cost to take the GED Test. However, if you plan on taking the test at any of these locations, you **MUST** register by calling Ozarka College at 368-7371 or 1-800-821-4335 before the day of the test. Because of increased demographic information needed, it may be necessary to allow two days for the testing.

Spring Student Conference Slated



The Student Services Department has once again teamed up to present a conference specifically for Ozarka students on February 19th from 9:00 a.m. until Noon.

TRiO Student Support Services, Career Pathways, Student Success Center, Student Services, and Carl Perkins grant are working together to provide informative presentations with a technology theme.

This conference is provided at no cost to attendees and will include free breakfast and lunch. There are also several instructors who provide incentive to attend by offering bonus or extra credit points.

Register early for extra incentives by stopping by any of the offices listed in Ash Flat, Melbourne or Mountain View.

Topics covered will include Google tools, Internet Research tools, Financial Planning, and new technologies.

For more information contact Ronda McLelland or Shelia Titus at 368-7371.

SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT?

Student Conference

WHEN?

February 19th

9:00 a.m. until

Noon

WHERE?

*Ozarka College-
Melbourne*

Career Pathways News and Events

First, the Career Pathways staff wishes to thank all students who have donated books to the Career Pathways Book Loan program. This program has been a success, but that success is partially due to students who have donated their books to the program. Students helping Students!

All students, faculty and staff are invited to stop by and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate compliments of the staff of Career Pathways.

Hot chocolate will be available at each Ozarka site this week, beginning on Monday, January 25 in the Career Pathways office in Melbourne.

Mountain View students can stop by the vending area in the lobby on Tuesday, January 26; and Ash Flat students can stop by the Nursing and Student Center Building office suite and pick up a cup of cocoa on Wednesday, January 27.

Also a reminder of Career Pathways hours. The main CP office in Melbourne is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., with extended weekday hours as follows:

- Melbourne: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 to 6:00
- Ash Flat: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8:00 to 6:00
- Mountain View: Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:00 to 6:00

Self-Study Answers by Joan Stirling and Joanna Fulbright

The employees of Ozarka College are continuing the self-study process for accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The College was last accredited in 2000 for a ten-year period. The self-study process consists of evaluating the College against HLC's Five Criteria of Accreditation followed by a visit from an HLC-appointed visiting team to validate the self-study.

During the fall semester five sub-committees at Ozarka worked diligently to assess the College's performance against each of these five criteria. During the months of November and December each of the sub-committee's first drafts were submitted to the chairpersons of the Ozarka College Self-Study Steering Committee. These drafts are undergoing their first

revision with the first draft of the entire self-study slated to be released for review by the College in late January.

The self-study process is due to be completed in May, and the HLC-appointed team will visit November 15-17, 2010.



Ozarka College

P.O. Box 10
218 College Drive
Melbourne, AR 72556



*Our Mission is to
Provide Life Changing
Experiences Through
Education.*

Ozarka Adds College and Career Coaches



Governor Mike Beebe announced in November of 2009 a new statewide initiative entitled Arkansas Works. This program is designed to help the unemployed and underemployed with career planning and exploration of additional educational job training opportunities. A component of

the Arkansas Works initiative is a pilot program for College and Career Coaches in Arkansas's most economically challenged counties. Ozarka College hired two College and Career Coaches to serve Sharp and Stone Counties

John Petersen and Lori Sullivan are the Career Coaches who will work directly in the high schools of Sharp and Stone counties, alongside guidance counselors, to help prepare students for success in postsecondary education, training and their careers.

Petersen was hired for the Highland and Twin Rivers School districts, located in Sharp County. He has been employed with Ozarka College for five years, most recently as TRiO Student Success Services Transfer Specialist. John and his wife Kim, a registered nurse at White River Medical Center, live in Poughkeepsie. Son, Travis, and daughter, Nataly, are both Highland graduates. Travis is a 1st Lieutenant in the National Guard, who served in Iraq, and now stationed in Alabama. Nataly is a student at the University of Central Arkansas pursuing a degree in speech pathology.

Sullivan will be working the Mountain View School District, which includes Timbo and Rural Special Schools. She is familiar with Mountain View Schools, having been a graduate of Mountain View

High School. Lori's husband, Matt is the head football coach at Mountain View, and they have three children, two of whom are students in the elementary school. Lori has been a teacher from elementary up through high school, as well as school administration.

Director of Admissions, Zeda Wilkerson, who will be supervising these positions, attend training this month with John and Lori. "Being a pilot program is an opportunity to make a difference in the community," Wilkerson states and adds, "The potential the Career Coaches have to work with students, parents, high school administrators and employers in the area will undoubtedly make a difference not only to the lives of these youth, but to local economic development."

Petersen expresses one goal of "making sure every high school student has a plan for after graduation, whether it is going to college or a trade school, entering the armed services or going directly into the workforce, we want each student to know which direction they are going." Sullivan adds, "if these students have a plan of action and know why they are taking the classes they are in, they become better students and are less likely to drop out of high school."

Over the next couple of months, Ozarka College Career Coaches will be out in the communities raising awareness of their function and begin working extensively with students, colleges, technical centers and local employers to ensure the success of this program. The College and Career Planning System can be accessed online at www.arworks.arkansas.gov or by calling 1-866-ARWORKS (1-866-279-6757). Contact Ozarka College Student Services for more information at 870-368-7371.