

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

CenturyTel 2  
Makes a  
Donation

Kids to College 2  
Set for June 16

New Endowment 3  
to Honor Granny  
Bea Crofford

ACCREDITATION 3  
101

Students of the 4  
Semester & Year



June 6-7  
beginning  
at 5PM at the  
old Ballpark  
on Hwy 69.

Lunch Served  
11AM-12:30 PM

Check my.Ozarka for  
the most accurate  
menu selections.

**Hamburger,  
Chicken Strips,  
Hot Dog and/or  
Salad may also  
be available  
each day.  
Prices vary.**

# Ozarka College Connection

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 9

MAY 27 - JUNE 6, 2008

## Graduation Ceremony



Ozarka College graduates and their guests filled the John E. Miller Auditorium for 2008 Graduation ceremonies held Thursday, May 8, 2008.

The ceremony began with an invocation given by Science Instructor, Bruce Dietsche. Ozarka College President Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, welcomed everyone to the event and introduced members of the Ozarka Board of Trustees, Foundation Board members and other dignitaries who were present for the ceremony.

The Commencement address was delivered this year by Deputy Director for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Randy Zook. His inspiring address, highlighted what he calls the four "P's" of success: preparation, place, passion, perseverance.

Ron Helm, Vice President for Student Services, presented the class with diplomas awarded by Johnston, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Mike DeLong, and Board of Trustee member, George Thomas of Salem.

Mathematics Instructor, Rex Whitfield and Automotive Instructor, Larry Wilkes were Grand Marshalls. Phi Theta Kappa and student services staff assisted as ushers, while Sandra Miller played the processional and recessional, *Pomp & Circumstance*. The Honorable John Dan Kemp, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Circuit Judge, from Mountain View delivered the Benediction.

For a complete list of graduates, please go to the Ozarka website at [www.ozarka.edu](http://www.ozarka.edu) under campus news.



## Around Campus

- ◆ **Late Registration** for Summer I ends May 28th.
- ◆ **Online Class Orientation** May 28th at 3:30PM in the Miller Bldg. Lecture Hall .
- ◆ **Ozarka Kids Academy Graduation** May 29th @6PM in the Auditorium.
- ◆ **Ozarka Foundation Board Meeting**  
9:30AM Miller Board Room.
- ◆ **Melbourne Chamber Meeting** 12:30PM in the Administration Building Conference Room.
- ◆ **Kids to College - K2C** June 16-19 from Noon to 4:30PM each day. (see page 2 for more information).

**ONLINE CAMPUS CALENDAR  
AT [WWW.OZARKA.EDU](http://WWW.OZARKA.EDU)  
UNDER NEWS & EVENTS**

# CenturyTel Makes Donation



Top: Dr. Johnston, Skip Layne, and Karla Rush

Bottom: Johnston, Layne and Jeff Jones.



Ozarka College President, Dr. Dusty R. Johnston accepted a check from CenturyTel Area Operations Manager Skip Layne on Friday, May 9, 2008. The \$15,000 community grant award is earmarked to sponsor the technology for a cyber

café, a focal point of the college's new building in Ash Flat.

The CenturyTel Clarke M. Williams Charitable Foundation seeks to fund programs that support family, children, safety, substance abuse prevention, disaster relief, technology and economic development in the communities CenturyTel serves. The Foundation values projects that take a creative and innovative approach to fundamental community issues.

"We are proud to partner with Ozarka College to help shape the minds of the future," said Skip Layne, CenturyTel area operations manager. "The Cyber Café is exactly the kind of marriage of technology and place that students need to prepare for the tomorrow's jobs."

Layne and CenturyTel Public Relations Manager, Jeff Jones toured the facility with Johnston and Campus Coordinator, James Spurlock; along with Ozarka College Director of Advancement, Karla Rush; Development Officer, Suellen Davidson; and Public Relations Officer, Kim Whitten.

Johnston states, "This generous donation will directly benefit the students attending Ozarka College in Ash Flat. With the new building and the state-of-the-art technology that CenturyTel is putting in place through Metro Ethernet, this cyber café and a spacious student center will be a hub of student activity."

According to Layne, the new Metro Ethernet technology will enhance both the quality and function of communication between Ash Flat and Melbourne campus sites. In fact, Ozarka College is a pilot site in North Central Arkansas for this new technology which ties business local area networks (LANs) and individual end users to a wide area network (WAN) or to the Internet. Corporations, academic institutions and government effectively utilize Metro Ethernet to connect branch campuses or

offices to an intranet.

The new 9,200 square foot facility will house a nursing lab/classroom, a resource/study center; two general classrooms, office space, and the student center including the CenturyTel cyber café." Rico Harris of Harris Architecture in Hot Springs designed the facility.

With increased number of students and the expanding LPN program to Ash Flat, along with the support of the local sales tax base in the City of Ash Flat and the passing of statewide bond reissue last year, the Ozarka College Board of Trustees and administration began planning for the new construction in 2007.

The building contractor, Tate General Contractors of Jonesboro has been working diligently and Johnston says, "They are currently ahead of schedule and barring more bad weather, should have construction completed by July."

The 30 acre tract of land located on College Drive was donated to the college by First National Banking Company and Mr. Bob Watson in March of 2002. The original 16,000 foot building opened in the Spring of 2005



## Kids to College Set for June 16

Ozarka College will hold its annual College For Kids summer program at the Melbourne campus during the week of June 16-19. The program called K2C, or Kids to College, will include courses for students who have completed first through fourth grades at the end of the 2007-08 school year.

Some of the classes this year will include: Sweet Treats, Fun with Flutes, Safe Kids, Crafty Crafts, and Memory Making. According to Kim Lovelace who is coordinating this year's K2C event, "the instructors have fun classes planned this year. With choices of food, crafts, art, music, and more, there should be something unique for everyone. The goal for K2C is that the children will experience something new and fun in an environment of learning."

Limited enrollment will be available for these classes which will meet from noon to 4:30 from Monday, June 16 through Thursday, June 19. The deadline to enroll is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

For an application packet, contact Ozarka College at 368-7371.

# New Endowment to Honor Granny Bea Crofford



*Granny Bea Crofford*

The Ozarka College Foundation Board recently received a donation from Dr. Oscar and Jane Crofford to create a new scholarship endowment for

Oscar's mother, Bea Crofford. The 'Granny Bea' Crofford Scholarship is being established by the Crofford family for a deserving Ozarka College student.

Dr. Crofford briefly explained the history of Granny Bea's love of Izard County and the family farm which she and Oscar's father purchased in 1950 as a family vacation spot. "Jane and I have lived here full time since I retired from medicine at Vanderbilt in 1995. We

developed the Rocky Bayou Angus Farm and the Rocky Bayou Timber Farm. We thought it was the most beautiful place in north Arkansas."

Oscar adds, "I devoted all of my extraprofessional time and resources to the farm. It was always my strong belief that I was fortunate to be the custodian of a small part of the earth on which we live. I wanted to be certain that because of my stewardship this piece of the planet was enriched rather than depleted." The Crofford's are hopeful that this gift to the college will be another way they can say 'thank you' to the community that they have grown to love.

The initial endowment monies were given after the February 5, 2008 category F4 tornado that ripped through the Crofford Family farm located in Izard County. Jane

explains, "Although we suffered a great loss of property, our home, and years of hard work, we were much more fortunate than many around us who lost lives or who were uninsured. Our friends and loved ones from many parts of the United States felt the need to help us by sending money, and we have chosen to create a scholarship at Ozarka College to honor Granny Bea with these gifts.

The Ozarka College Foundation endowment program provides annual scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 to deserving students once an endowment fund reaches a minimum of \$10,000. The endowment goal can be realized over a period of five years. For more information about endowments at Ozarka College, please contact Suellen Davidson or Karla Rush at 870-368-7371.

*"Although we suffered a great loss of property, our home, and years of hard work, we were much more fortunate than many around us who lost lives or who were uninsured."*

*-Jane Crofford*

## ACCREDITATION 101 -Karla Rush

"Accreditation for a college or university is basically a five-step process. This is why we start early."

In preparation for an accreditation visit in February 2011, Ozarka College has begun preliminary planning for PEAQ (Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality) review by the North Central/Higher Learning Commission. The accreditation process is basically a five-step process. This is why we start early!

Ozarka College will engage in a self-study for about two years with a focus to address five specific criteria set by the HLC. A self-study is sort of like stepping back and taking a look at what we are doing, how we can improve or adjust to better meet our institutional mission. This is accomplished through a lot of time and effort on everyone's part to really dig into our

processes and our goals, the culture of campus and what we stand for. It's not designed to develop to a 'right or wrong' conclusion but simply to make an honest assessment of the college's strengths and challenges and to guide is toward improving continuously.

Dr. Johnston has already appointed the self-study steering committee and soon every employee will have the opportunity to serve on one of the committees to support the self-study and the visit from HLC in 2011. The steering committee has met once and will continue to do initial planning for the Fall when committees will begin to work on their assigned part of the accreditation process.

The end product of the self-study will be a thorough report written for a small group Peer Reviewers who will later visit Ozarka College

and review the documents which support what our self-study says we do. A Peer Reviewer will be someone from another college or university who is carefully selected and trained to serve the HLC in this capacity. The Peer Review Team will also talk to faculty, staff, students, community members and administrators during a two-day visit to Ozarka to look for additional evidence that our self-study is accurate and valid.

After extensive review on campus, the Peer Review Team will make a formal recommendation to the Higher Learning Commission regarding Ozarka College's accreditation, the longest time being for ten years. This recommendation will be finalized by the HLC board.

We are working toward that ten-year reaccreditation.....and we're well on our way.

## Ozarka College

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



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

## Ozarka Names Students of the Semester & Year

The Ozarka College academic and technical departments have named their Students of the Semester for Spring 2008. To be eligible for this honor, students must be enrolled full-time, earn a "B" average or better, and exhibit a positive attitude, good work habits, and a willingness to help others. Other criteria include quality of classroom performance and the ability to get along with peers.

Those selected include Aaron Wilkins of Mountain View, Associate of Arts in Teaching; James West of Ash Flat, Automotive Service Technology; Greg Vickery of Sage, Business Technology; Naomi Anderson of Salem, College Transfer/ Associate of Arts; Kathryn Baldwin of Marshall, Culinary Arts; Regina Twilley of Salem, Health Information Management; Bethany Roberts, of Salem, Ash Flat Practical Nursing; Mendy Manning of Melbourne, Mountain View Practical Nursing; Crystal Johnson of Evening Shade, freshman Practical Nursing; Nathan West of Ash Flat, junior Practical Nursing; Roy Guiltner of Mount Pleasant, senior Practical Nursing; Olivia Murphy of Mountain View, ARNEC (Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium); and Doyle Rodgers of Salem, TRiO/ Student Support Services

Persons selected as Students of the Semester for either fall or spring semesters are also eligible to be named Students of the Year. Judged most outstanding for the year 2007-2008 are Brady Johnson of Onia, Associate of Arts in Teaching; Terry Dickison of Smithville, Automotive Service Technology; Greg Vickery of Sage, Business Technology; Naomi Anderson of Salem, College Transfer/ Associate of Arts; Michelle McCollum of Melbourne, Culinary Arts; Leslie Crouch of Ash Flat, Health Information Management; Roy Guiltner of Mount Pleasant, overall Practical Nursing; Judith Moser of Horseshoe Bend, Early Childhood Development, and Olivia Murphy of Mountain View, ARNEC (Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium).