

OZARKA COLLEGE

September 2021
Campus Connection
Fall Edition

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Richard Dawe

Greetings colleagues and friends of Ozarka College, I hope everyone is off to a great start to our fall semester! It's wonderful to see an increase in students on our campuses again. Also, it is impressive to see the increase in concurrent/high school students this semester; largely due to the Carpenter Technical Center and added tech programs.

On a very sad note, we all mourn the passing of our colleague Delynne Duerkes. As you know, Delynne recently passed away and we are establishing a scholarship in her memory, as we have done in the past for our colleagues. I hope you consider supporting this scholarship to honor her service.

Thank you all again for adhering to the policy of wearing masks when indoors. This should be a temporary measure to help mitigate the risks to unvaccinated individuals and will be lifted as soon as the risks subside in our region. I hope you all have a wonderful semester!





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Caleb Huett, Assistant Chief Flight Instructor

Caleb Huett, Assistant Chief Flight Instructor in the Commercial Aviation Flight Department, has been named Alumni of the Year at Ozarka College. Caleb holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation-Commercial Pilot, and has served as a full-time certified flight instructor in the same program. He was recently promoted to Assistant Chief Flight Instructor, having demonstrated exceptional airmanship, leadership ability and sound judgement.

Caleb has proven to be a very dedicated professional both in and outside of the cockpit. We have placed great trust in his abilities and are fortunate that he serves in this vital role at Ozarka," said Dr. Richard Dawe, Ozarka College president.

"I have assisted with Caleb's aviation training since he started Ozarka College as a flight student. I noticed within the first few flight lessons how skilled Caleb's flying ability was and the determination he had to learn. For the next two years I had the privilege of mentoring and watching Caleb evolve into the aviator he has become," said John Catlett, Aviation Division Chair and Director. "Caleb had an opportunity to become a full-time flight instructor for Ozarka College in February of 2020. Since then, he has done an excellent job and has been promoted to Assistant Chief Flight Instructor."

Huett was an outstanding student prior to becoming an Ozarka Flight Instructor, receiving many select scholarships as a student. Ozarka is quite proud of his selection as our Alumni of the Year!

“

Caleb has proven to be a very dedicated professional both in and outside of the cockpit.

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***Photo Caption: (L-R) Caleb Huett, Assistant Chief Flight Instructor; John Catlett, Aviation Division Chair and Director.**

SUMMER ESCAPES

Many Ozarka faculty are known for their zest for life and love to use their summers to experience things unknown. These are the dedicated professionals who indulge in the greater pleasures in life and love to flaunt their adventures upon their return. They are members of an elite squad known as the Ozarka Faculty Unit. These are their stories.

David Mitchell, Division Chair

Existential enlightenment: David “the Legend” Mitchell set out on the open road for a 12-day excursion to breathe fresh mountain air, let the wind blow through his hair, and develop that iconic sunglasses tan. David’s travels included a significant trek down the historic U.S. Route 66. He even got to join one of his favorite humans on his way through Colorado, a legend in training, Echo Mitchell (his daughter).

As you can imagine, he annoyed passersby with his extremely loud on-board Harley radio system, blaring classic rock in a post-modern, Justin Bieber world. Feeling eyerolls with every mile, this did not stop the “Stone County Game Changer” from taking it all in, and in his own way.



SUMMER ESCAPES

Jamie Yates, LPN Instructor, Ash Flat

Making dreams come true: Not everyone gets the opportunity to help a friend with his "Bucket List" and that's exactly what Jamie did when he made the choice to be a medical attendant this summer. A choice that would forever have an impact on his life.

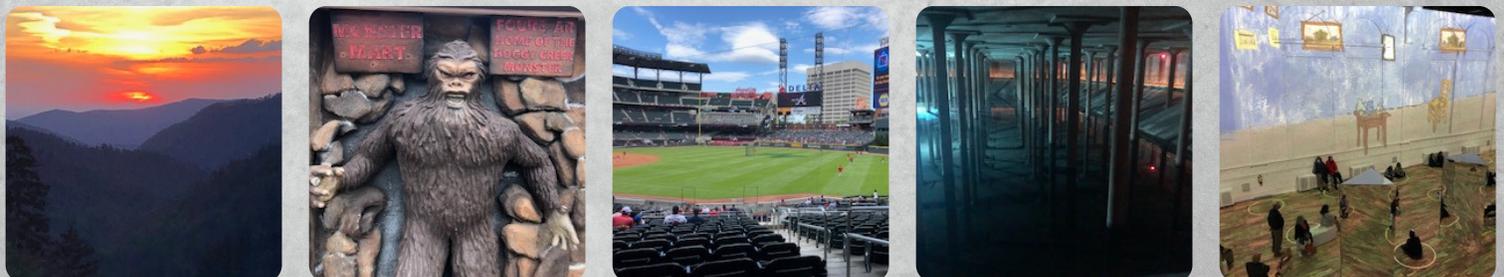
Jamie's adventure began in Seattle as he boarded a luxury cruise with his terminally ill friend to help his last wishes come true. During his trip he took part in an ATV excursion through the mountains to see "The Last Frontier." The cruise would then take the pair to visit Wrangell, Sitka, Skagway, Tracy Arm, and Juneau, Alaska before returning to port to end the trip.



Maggie Campbell, AS Education Coordinator

All in a week's work: Between teaching two classes and completing two of her own doctoral courses, Ozarka's fearless education instructor was sure to fit an entire summer of fun into one week. Maggie trekked from Atlanta to Gatlinburg to Chicago and to Houston before heading back to Izard County, USA. She attended a Braves game, toured the World of Coke on International Coke Day, and crossed North America's longest pedestrian suspension bridge.

Maggie slayed exhibit after exhibit on a feverish museum greatest hits tour from Chi-town to Houston, claiming stake at the Chicago Arts Institute, Museum of Science and Industry, and many more. After a quick stop at Houston's Hines Waterfall park and a meal at the Hobbit Café, Maggie meandered back to Arkansas where a stop in Fouke, led her down the same path of the Boggy Creek Monster where sited 50 years ago.



MOVIN & SHAKIN

Employee Transitions and New Hires

Kim Wilson - Director of Planning & Special Projects

The newest addition to the Advancement Team, Kim is taking the lead in Institutional Planning, Grant Activities and Special Projects. A resident of Hardy, AR, Kim holds a degree in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is still a big fan of Illini teams, especially basketball. After working in both New York and California...and a few states in between... Kim is happy to be back in Arkansas with family.



Amy Esquivel - Executive Assistant to the President and Provost

Starting her time at Ozarka as Administrative Specialist to the President, Amy's role has been quickly expanded to Executive Assistant to the President and Provost. A native of Wynne, AR, Amy comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in administrative work, having spent seven years in management in the medical field. Amy is excited about her new responsibilities and thrilled to be able to continue her education and take classes at Ozarka.



Travis Eakin - History Faculty

Dr. Eakin comes to Ozarka with previous experience at Southeast Missouri State University, University of Missouri and Moberly Area Community College. He has a Ph.D. in European History and was fortunate enough to spend a year in Germany while studying for his degree. He is most looking forward to meeting new people here at Ozarka.



Ashton Lester - Mathematics Faculty

For six years prior to joining Ozarka, Ashton worked both as an Adjunct Math Instructor for ASUMH and also as an Adjunct in the Education Department teaching math for ASU Jonesboro. Ashton and her husband live in Calico Rock with their two sons. They also own two restaurants in Calico and love living out in the country.



Zeda Wilkerson - Vice President of Student Services

This summer, Zeda stepped up for Ozarka in a big way, taking the lead in Student Services. Prior to this senior leadership role, Zeda served as the Senior Director for Enrollment Services in which she led the Admissions, Financial Aid and Student Records departments. She was first hired as Ozarka's Admissions Director in 2007 and has also served as the College Registrar.



MOVIN & SHAKIN

Employee Transitions and New Hires

Tania Wallace - Director of Financial Aid

Tania has jumped right into her new role leading Financial Aid. Most recently, Tania served as the College Provost's Administrative Specialist. While excited about the new challenges facing her in the Financial Aid department, she's even more excited for the Student Services Building to open back up! Tania loves animals and enjoys spending time on the family farm with all of her dogs, cats, cattle and hopefully some pygmy goats.



Kim Lovelace - Mountain View Campus Director

Kim Lovelace has also stepped up in a big way. Formerly, the Admissions director, Kim has taken the reins at the Mountain View campus and is excited about this new chapter working with our students, colleagues at the high school and the Mountain View community. Kim has a long history with Ozarka. In fact, she was the College's first Tech Prep Coordinator, a role in which she helped high school students get a jump start on college technical programs.



Felicia Sisk - Surgical Technology Program Director

Felicia has transitioned to lead the Surgical Technology program in Mountain View. Last year, Felicia worked as the second semester LPN Instructor at Melbourne campus. She brings 15 years' experience as a Certified Surgical Technologist and two additional years as a Circulating RN in the Operating Room. Felicia's passion is Surgery and she is most excited about helping students achieve their goals and loves that she will be able to do lots of hands on learning.



Clinton Jackson - Chief Flight Instructor

Clinton will lead the effort to train Ozarka Aviation candidates for Private, Commercial, and Instrument certifications in both single and multi-engine aircraft. Clinton brings more than 12,000 flight hours and 15 years flight instruction experience to Ozarka. Clinton is settling into the Melbourne community and is eager to help take Ozarka Aviation to new heights.



Susan Thielemier - Nursing Instructor

She was gone, but really, she was still here; and now she's back! Susan is coming back to Ozarka after a stint with the ARNEC team. For those who do not know Susan, she has been an Ozarka talent for nursing instruction since 2008. But before that, Susan brought great experience from the ICU at St. Bernard's in Jonesboro and also working with a general surgeon.



MOVIN & SHAKIN

Employee Transitions and New Hires

Dylan Herekamp - Registrar

Dylan joined the student services team at the height of fall registration, so to say the least, he has hit the ground running. Dylan brings experience from Arkansas State where he previously held positions in Student Conduct and Residence Education. Dylan earned a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Arkansas State University.



Larry Smith - Night Maintenance/Special Events

Larry joins the Ozarka Maintenance team in the important evening maintenance and events role. Larry is well connected at Ozarka; we know his wife, Kendra, a seasoned member of the student services team. To note, Larry most recently worked as Engineer for Arkansas Lime and Mineral, served in the U.S. Navy, and is a martial arts enthusiast.

Skye Carter - Welding Faculty

Before coming home to farm and become an instructor at Ozarka, Skye spent several years traveling the country welding. He is working on becoming a CWI (Certified Welding Inspector). Skye is looking forward to teaching students of all ages how to be a skilled welder that can go anywhere and weld anything.



McKenzie Jackson - Director of Admissions and Student Engagement

McKenzie has jumped right into this role in Admissions with great enthusiasm to bring new students to Ozarka. Prior to this new role, Jackson served as Ozarka's Project Coordinator of the Delta Understanding and Preventing Substance and Opioid Abuse in Rurality. Additionally, Jackson served five years as Senior Investigator for the Arkansas State Police under the Crimes Against Children Division.

Jessica Chewning - Financial Aid Specialist

Jessica is a wonderful addition to the financial aid team. Tania and Pam couldn't be more excited. She is a graduate of Alton High School, Alton, MO and has worked in the Oregon County Collector Office from 2014-2021. Jessica is looking forward to making the most out of this new opportunity and is excited to begin helping students at Ozarka.



MOVIN & SHAKIN

Employee Transitions and New Hires

Jennifer Baldrige - LPN Faculty Mammoth Spring

Ozarka welcomes Jennifer to the Mammoth Spring campus. Jennifer has been in healthcare for over 20 years. She started her nursing journey with Ozarka in 2014 for her LPN and then went on to complete her RN also at Ozarka. She has fond memories of the mentors who helped guide her and feels very blessed to be asked to help guide the new generation of nurses into the future of healthcare.



IN OUR HEARTS...

Delynne Duerkes, Administrative Specialist Ash Flat

It is with heavy hearts that Ozarka mourns the loss of a friend and colleague, Delynne Duerkes. We received the sad news of her passing Tuesday, August 24th. Delynne was employed at Ozarka College for over ten years as the Administrative Assistant at the Ash Flat campus. She will be dearly missed by us all.



The Ozarka College Foundation announces the creation of the Delynne Duerkes Memorial Scholarship to be awarded each year to a student attending Ozarka College – Ash Flat. Delynne’s sudden passing has left a wake of outpouring from both faculty and staff and the Foundation is extending this opportunity for community members to support this scholarship in her memory.

“Delynne was welcoming, kind and helpful to every student who walked through her door,” said Dr. Chris Lorch, Ozarka College provost. “As the Administrative Assistant on our Ash Flat Campus, Delynne was oftentimes the link between students and their success of navigating the college life and she was always there to help. What better way to honor Delynne’s dedication than by continuing to help students by establishing the Delynne Durerkes Memorial Scholarship.”

If you would like to make a memorial gift, contact the Ozarka College Advancement Department at advancement@ozarka.edu or by calling 870.368.2059.

FOUNDATION CORNER...

The Ozarka College Foundation is looking forward to an exciting fall semester. The best way to get it off to an amazing start is to extend an invitation to you to participate in our upcoming activities. Events are scheduled in several locations, so please consider pitching in when you can fit it into your schedule; your volunteerism is appreciated!

For more information about scholarships or additional opportunities to support Ozarka College students, you may feel free to contact the Advancement Department at foundation@ozarka.edu or 870-368-2059.

Mark
YOUR
Calendar



OZARKA COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
Presents:

The Fall Concert

Tickets - \$20
Available at Centennial Bank and Ozarka College - Mountain View



Tim Crouch



Jillyanne McCool



Brad Apple



Gary Rounds



Pam Setser



Sam Cobb



Crystal McCool



Ken Higgins

SEPTEMBER, 18, 2021 AT 7:00 PM
OZARKA COLLEGE - MOUNTAIN VIEW
AMPHITHEATRE



Foundation Golf Tournament
Cooper's Hawk
September 25, 2021
9AM



OZARKA COLLEGE FOUNDATION - 5K RUN/WALK

SPRINT AT THE SPRING!

Early Registration \$20
Registration Day of Race \$25

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 AT 9:00 AM
MAMMOTH SPRING STATE PARK

Online registration available at:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/AR/MammothSpring/OzarkaCollegeMammothSpring5k>



Scan Me



PARDON OUR PROGRESS...

If you haven't dropped in at the Carpenter Technical Center (CTC) lately, chances are you won't recognize the technical training hub in Ash Flat. Ozarka's collection of exceptional talent is at it again. For months the CTC has been constantly changing. As of June, contractors have been transforming the remaining lab space into the new Machining and Welding Labs. Also, thanks to the continued efforts of the Ozarka maintenance and information systems teams, many upgrades have been made along the way. The Ozarka team made improvements which include (a) remodeling space for a testing center, (b) building a security fence for Automotive's vehicles and equipment, and (c) installing a communications tower on site for high-speed internet.

Dedicated Ozarka faculty and staff did not let renovation stand in the way of offering advanced technical training. In the meantime, the CTC team setup a temporary lab space for Machining and Welding classes. We give special thanks to Marcus Orf (CTC director), Todd Smith (machining faculty), Brad Holzhauser (welding faculty), and Marty McFarlin (maintenance director) for ensuring Ozarka students and their education never skipped a beat.



***Photo Caption: Jeremy Hoggard, Precision Machining Technology Student**



But wait there's more...

Over the next few months the look will continue to change. Within the next few weeks, Todd will coordinate transferring the machining lab back to the CTC as renovation is complete. Later in the semester, Brad will also transition to the new welding space at CTC where he and his students will make final preparations for the spring semester. Stay tuned for further updates.





**Providing Life
Changing
Experiences
through
Education**



New Student Orientation



