

OZARKA COLLEGE

May 2023
Campus Connection
Spring Wrap-Up Edition

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



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ACADEMIC ALL-STAR SELECTED

MaKayla Goins

MaKayla Goins was recently selected as Ozarka College's Academic All-Star. Goins is currently enrolled in our Agriculture program. Winners of the Academic All-Star Scholarships will be announced in Hot Springs at the annual conference of Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC). MaKayla will be awarded a full-tuition transfer scholarship to any Arkansas public, four-year university to complete her bachelor's degree. The combined total for the scholarships presented to Academic All-Stars in the state of Arkansas is estimated to be more than \$500,000. Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of no less than 3.25 and be outstanding campus and community leaders.

Congrats MaKayla! We are very proud of all your hard work and wish you the best in your future endeavors.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Richard Dawe

I want to wish everyone a well-deserved and happy summer. We had a very good year at Ozarka and I am very proud of your collective effort in serving our students and communities! I can't imagine a more talented faculty and staff to serve with and I'm truly grateful for all you do. Your selfless service and sense of team is what makes Ozarka so special. Have a safe and wonderful summer!



FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Krystal Rush

Krystal Rush, Certified Nursing Instructor at Ozarka College, has been named 2023 Outstanding Faculty of the Year. Rush teaches certified nursing assistants (CNA). Ozarka's CNA program teaches the student the importance of the CNA as a member of the healthcare team and that the patient is the primary focus of the healthcare team's efforts.

Rush began working for Ozarka College in 2019 as an Allied Health member and faculty. She has played a significant role in strengthening partnerships with local high schools in Ozarka's service area to provide Certified Nursing Assistant and nursing pre-requisite courses to her students on Ozarka's campuses. Krystal is dedicated to student success and has earned the admiration and respect of students, faculty, and staff of the college.

"I'm so glad that Krystal is being publicly recognized for her hard work and passion for preparing our nursing 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."

Designation of an outstanding faculty member comes from students, staff and peer faculty members. Rush will be recognized at the Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC) annual conference awards and recognition ceremony in October.

Congrats!



MOVIN & SHAKIN

Employee Transitions and New Hires



Gabriel Calhoon – Part-time Fitness Center Assistant

If you recently watched the women's March madness you may have heard of Gabriel's alma mater, Iowa University, where he attended and played football for his entire college career. Last year he earned a national championship in football as a wide receiver, so he is no stranger to fitness. Always aspired to be a coach, he is finally enjoying warmer winters in the south ready to coach and help you achieve your fitness goals. Stop by our fitness center to pick up your customized workout plan and welcome Gabriel to the Ozarka team!

Shawn Clay – Institutional Services Assistant – Mtn. View

Shawn joined Ozarka in January 2023 at Mountain View and has quickly assumed responsibilities for maintaining the campus. His experience at Columbia Flooring and with a lawncare service has made the transition to the maintenance department an easy one. After working out of state for the past four years, he is happy to be "back home." His philosophy is to work hard to end every day better than he started it. Shawn's hard work was on display for this year's Ladies Luncheon, where he went above and beyond to make the luncheon a special venue for the community. Welcome Shawn!



Kelly Cowan – Business Manager

Kelly has dedicated over 20 years of her life to the world of business where she became passionate about finance. Kelly's past experience as finance & insurance manager, bookkeeper, and business manager is serving her well as our most recent business manager here at Ozarka. When she is not crunching numbers, you can find her chasing after her three beautiful grandchildren that she will be spoiling as usual. Her most recent move across the street from the Educational Co-Op has served to be her best one yet. Welcome to the team Kelly!

MOVIN & SHAKIN

Employee Transitions and New Hires



Austin Felton – Night Maintenance/Special Events Supervisor

A native of Melbourne, Austin joins the night owls of Ozarka’s maintenance crew as our newest special events coordinator. A culinary enthusiast, he previously served on Chartwell’s Higher education crew re-inventing the on-campus dining experience by creating memorable campus experiences. After spending half a decade in Fayetteville, he is happy to be back home fostering positive campus experiences for our special events. Welcome Austin!

Susan Mitchell – Admin Specialist III for Aviation

Susan Mitchell comes to us as the newest member of the Aviation team. An Izard County native, she knows the lay of the land and its people very well making the perfect fit to our airport staff. Susan’s bubbly personality brings a positive light to the airport and all that she encounters in such a serious program, bringing smiles to our students and staff. She is already a very important and trusted employee, and aviation’s go to person for all things office related. Any task given to her is handled with great care and a big smile lightening the airport. Welcome to the team!



Phillip Qualls – Maintenance Technician

Phillip joins us from the Jonesboro area where he was no stranger to the life of a maintenance technician. Previously serving as a lawn technician and a grounds maintenance employee, he has over 20 years of maintenance experience. If you have had the chance to meet Phillip you probably already figured out he is passionate about higher education and has a background in maintenance from ASU. Phillip has hit the ground running always ready to lend a helping hand around campus. Welcome to Ozarka, Phillip!



MOVIN & SHAKIN

Employee Transitions and New Hires



Jill Sandlin – AS in Education Coordinator/Faculty

A native of Batesville, Jill holds a bachelor's in education and a master's in education from Arkansas State University. Already impacting the lives of our students, Jill has been a part of the Ozarka team as an adjunct instructor since 2022. Jill has spent her entire career passionately teaching individuals of all ages and walks of life in the north central Arkansas area. Previously a kindergarten teacher she is ready for anything and will continue to empower our students to be successful teachers! Welcome Jill!

Larry Smith – Institutional Services Assistant

Once Ozarka's night owl, Larry has quickly become a staple in Ozarka's family and a bright and shining face to see day to day in our maintenance department. Before Ozarka Larry served in the U.S. Navy and as an Engineer for Arkansas Lime and Mineral. A martial arts enthusiast, Larry helps to keep Ozarka College secure as our newest Institutional Services Assistant. An alumni of Ozarka College, Larry is very familiar with our campus and a great addition to our full time crew. Welcome aboard!



Clyde Williams – Certified Flight Instructor

Clyde, known to many on campus as Shannon, had his story start right here at Ozarka. A graduate of the Aviation program in 2021, he became very passionate about teaching and training the next generation of pilots. A native of Wynne, Arkansas he has been making a difference in his hometown community clean-up efforts after the recent tornado that devastated his hometown and Little Rock. When Clyde is not flying through the clouds, he is planted on the ground chasing after his grandkid. Welcome back, Shannon!



INTERNATIONAL DAY

Culinary Competition

The Culinary department seized the opportunity to create a competition preparing dishes from other countries for International Day. All students from the international class were tasked with creating three dishes to represent their selected countries and set up tables correlating with their assignment. The dishes prepared by the students represented India, Korea, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, and South America.

Lauren Dyer had Korea and Korean corndogs. Kylie Petty who represented Japan served sushi. Cassie Moore had Jamaica and served an oxtail stew. One of our newest students, Jessica Packard, had South America and she prepared Arpas. Logan Scrivner had India and made curry. The winner of the event was Lyndsi Olinger who represented New Zealand serving Pavlova with a lemon curd. Olinger's prep and service won her the coveted 2023 International World Tour globe. Great job!



LPN DONATION

Melbourne Nursing

The freshman class of the Licensed Practical Nursing program of Melbourne recently took advantage of the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of their pediatric patients during Clinicals at White River Health (WRH) by donating toys to the health system. WRH let them know of their need in the pediatric wing, and the class stepped in to help. An entire box of toys was collected and presented to the Clinical lead of WRH.

Playing is such an important part of the healing process and helps children cope with the challenges and stresses of hospitalization. The toys donated to White River Health will be given to patients and family members during their hospital visit to provide comfort, offer distractions and to normalize the hospital setting. This is just one way our LPN's are making a difference in patient care giving them a way to express themselves and providing an emotional outlet for pediatric patients.



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 2023-2024 academic year. This year the Foundation will support 44 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.



OZARKA'S TOUR D'ART IS BACK

Tour D' Art

The Friends of the Paul Weaver Library partnered with Ozarka College to host their 10th annual art extravaganza, Tour D'Art. The event themed “The Beauty in Art” was held on Ozarka’s Melbourne campus. The event showcased over 300 pieces of art that was enjoyed by a steady flow of tour groups including Ozarka students, area high schools, and community members.

The art exhibit included works from art students and instructors from area schools 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 on display this year.

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



FROM OUR KITCHEN TO YOURS

TACO SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb.— Ground beef
- 1— Yellow onion, diced (optional)
- 3 TBSP—Minced garlic
- 2 cans— Rotel
- 2 cans— Chili Beans
- 2 cans— Corn
- 1 packet— Taco Seasoning
- 1 packet— Ranch Seasoning

**Use Hot or Fire Roasted Rotel, Hot Taco Seasoning, and Spicy Ranch Seasoning, if you prefer more spice.

MAKE

- Brown ground beef with garlic and onions (optional).
- While that is cooking, add canned ingredients and seasoning packets to a large stockpot or crockpot.
- Add in the cooked ground beef.
- Simmer for at least 2 hours.
- Serve over tortilla chips, with shredded cheese and/or sour cream. Enjoy!

*From the Kitchen of
Chrisha Savell*



MAPLE BACON CHOCOLATE SMACKDOWN

*From the Kitchen of
Kendra Smith*



INGREDIENTS

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup all-purpose (or gluten free flour)
- 1/2 cup pure cane granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup pure cane brown sugar
- 3/4 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 6 to 8 ounces bacon, cooked & crumbled
- 2 teaspoons Mapleline extract
- 1 cup melted butter (cooled)
- One unbaked 9-inch pie shell

MAKE

- Preheat oven to 325 F degrees.
- Melt the butter in the microwave, leaving a little unmelted. As it continues to melt the remaining butter it will cool off slightly to be ready for the filling. Set aside on counter.
- In a large bowl, using a hand-held electric mixer, beat the eggs for about 1 to 2 minutes.
- Add in flour and sugars and beat an additional minute.
- Carefully blend in cooled melted butter by hand with a whisk, being careful not to slosh out the butter.
- Stir in chocolate chips, bacon, walnuts, and Mapleline, and pour/spread into pie shell.
- Place cookie sheet with rim/sides on a rack below the pie in oven (as butter will sometimes bubble out a bit at the end of baking).
- Bake 1 hour at 325 degrees. No need to check for if it's done, it is.

SHARK ATTACK

*From the Kitchen of
Katie Norris*

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Swedish fish
- 1 Candy peach rings
- 12 oz. Lemon-lime soda
- 4 oz. Grenadine Syrup
- 1 Food Coloring - blue
- 1 Ice
- 1 Hollow Shark

MAKE

- Add your soda over ice and include all ingredients excluding the grenadine syrup. Add the grenadine syrup to the hollow shark and watch your drink turn into a shark attack! Enjoy!



If you would like to submit a recipe for the next newsletter please contact Katie Norris at katie.norris@ozarka.edu

LIFE HACKS...

Fan Requested



HACK #1

Dryer sheets repel bugs. Keep sheets of this laundry staple in a cup outdoors. They mask the human scent that attracts mosquitos and will lower that summer annoyance.



HACK #2

Sprinkle some coffee grounds near your doorways. Coffee's high nitrogen content burns bugs, so they won't walk across it and into your home.



HACK #3



Minimize your beach sand mess by sprinkling some baby powder on yourself after your summer fun. In addition to soaking up excess moisture, the powder makes the sand incredibly easy to brush off.



FOUNDATION CORNER...

We modeled, we placed our bids, and enjoyed gourmet food...

The Ozarka College Foundation spring events were a huge success!

On Saturday, March 18, the Mountain View Campus was the site for the annual Ladies' Luncheon. Once again, area businesses strongly supported this important event with new vendor additions. 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 6. Corporate sponsored tables were full of folks from our entire service area. The support for this year's event was record-setting! Ozarka College Trustee, Mike Watson prepared guests for the live auction that would close out the evening's festivities. He announced that Sissy's Log Cabin donated a beautiful diamond bracelet and earrings set that each highest bidder would be entered into a drawing for a chance to win at the end of the auction. Auctioneer, Tony Watson, then auctioned off several items that were generously donated by local community members and businesses. After a successful auction raising significant money for Ozarka scholarships and programs, Mike Watson, then shared a few closing remarks and thanked everyone in attendance of the 2023 Spring Gala. Proceeds benefit Ozarka College students and help fulfill our mission of providing life-changing experiences.



STAFF COUNCIL CARES

Upcoming Events

Staff Council is looking forward to another great summer providing fun, engaging opportunities for staff to bond with one another and have unique experiences while at work. Staff Council has begun planning for the summer – staff auction, which as you may remember some funds were used to start the first ever Fall Festivities. SC will be looking at professional development opportunities throughout the summer as well. Jeans days have been approved over the next quarter. Also, Staff Council hopes to hold its second annual Fall Chili Cook-Off which was a great success.

Additionally, executive council positions were available for re-election and was discussed at the quarterly meeting.

Elected officers are Dylan Herekamp as president, Chrisha Savell, vice-president, and Valerie Long as secretary of the committee.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with events for the summer, please reach out to Dylan Herekamp, Chrisha Savell, or Valerie Long. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

*Photo Caption:
Dylan Herekamp



*Photo Caption:
Chrisha Savell



*Photo Caption:
Valerie Long

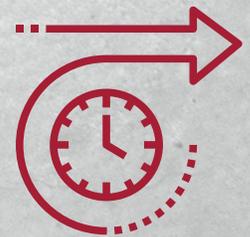


OPEN HOUSE NIGHT

Admissions Office Event

The Admissions office recently hosted their Open House Night on all campuses. Ash Flat, Melbourne, and Mountain View were filled with students ready to start their college journey right here at Ozarka. Students were able to receive assistance with applying for admission, scheduling placement testing, registering for courses, and financial aid.

For many students, financial aid can greatly affect their decision about whether or not to attend college, or which institution they attend. Because of its importance, the decision to apply for financial aid, and which programs to accept, should be made only with a complete understanding of the process, requirements, benefits, and responsibilities. Potential and current students were able to leave Open House Night with the reassurance their college journey began worry-free and they have a place at Ozarka. The Admissions office is looking forward to another successful Open House Night next year.



EARTH DAY

Calico Rock Visit

Recently, Calico Rock High School Gifted and Talented and the Elementary Science program hosted their annual Earth Day celebrations inviting Ozarka College to join in the fun. Representing the Ozarka team was McKenzie Jackson, Director of Admissions, Chrisha Savell, Admissions Administrative specialist, and Krystal Rush, Nursing Faculty. The team got the kids involved and taught them ways to improve our environment for people and nature.



PIONEER DAY

Ozarka celebrates Pioneer Day

The 71st Annual Izard County Pioneer Day festivities were held the first weekend in May, in Melbourne. This year's theme was "Dancin' through the Decades," and Ozarka College didn't skip a beat by entering into the parade. Multiple departments signed up for festivities and joined in with the community to celebrate Pioneer Day. The Aviation department, Admissions department and Career Pathways, all joined in for a day of fun and festivities.

Parade contestants for Admissions included Amanda Engelhardt, director of Career Pathways, and Lindsey Johnson, career support services facilitator. Contestants for Admissions included McKenzie Jackson, director of admissions, and Chris Mosley, college recruiter. Representing the Aviation department was Clint Jackson, Aviation Division Chair and volunteer Zeb Norris. Filling the airplanes and on candy patrol were Brentlee Engelhardt, Lorali Engelhardt, Lyla Jackson, Lane Norris, and Kaylynn Rush.

Melbourne is Izard County's second-largest city and has served as the county seat since 1875, celebrating Pioneer Day as a reminder of the town's beginnings. Exactly 100 years later Ozarka College would serve as the regional educational center to this day. Thank you to all the departments that took time out of their weekend to participate in such a beloved community event!



STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Career Pathways Initiative

Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) would like to announce as of July 1, 2023, Federal Poverty Level Guidelines used to determine eligibility will increase. For instance, the income cap for a family of 4 is an annual income of \$75,000. To be eligible for EdPays incentives, a family of 4 must be below 150% of the FPL, which is \$45,000. EdPays participants receive \$300 incentives for being in good academic standing at mid-term and end-of-term each semester. Those that complete their program of study and withdrawal from CPI, receive \$500.

CPI students are eligible for assistance with tuition and fees, childcare, transportation and course related supplies. Staff also assist with job search, resume building and career advising. For more information, please visit arpathways.com.

If you have any students that meet the eligibility requirements and would like to participate in Career Pathways, please let Amanda Engelhardt know and she will meet with the student or mail/email you an application packet. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact CPI at 870-368-2041. You may also email at Amanda.Engelhardt@ozarka.edu.



INCENTIVE LEVELS

NEW ENROLLMENT

\$100

PROGRESSION

\$300

(\$600 max per semester)

PROGRAM COMPLETION

\$500

NON-CREDIT PROGRAM

(no other incentives apply)

\$500

FOND FAREWELL

Suellen Davidson

Suellen Davidson, Director of Development, retired recently after seventeen years of service. Mrs. Davidson was honored at a retirement celebration this spring. Colleagues were in attendance and shared stories, voiced their sincere appreciation, and wished her many happy years of retirement.

Beginning work at Ozarka in 2006, Davidson served in the advancement department where she worked tirelessly these many years to help Ozarka students, her colleagues, and the community.

“Suellen has been a stellar ambassador for our great College,” said Dr. Josh Wilson, vice president of advancement. “In her 17 years of service, Suellen transformed the advancement department into what it is today and we will look fondly on her time as the relationship-builder, kind and hardworking, an advocate for Ozarka students and always finding the common ground needed to bring more of our community into the Ozarka fold.” We wish her the very best in her next chapter!”





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