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*Final Issue of 2010!*

# Ozarka College Connection

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DECEMBER 6, - DECEMBER 17 2010

## Ozarka Recommended for Continued Accreditation

Ozarka College has been recommended for continued accreditation through 2020 by a visiting team of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The recommendation was announced November 17 at an open forum debrief to all employees in Melbourne.

An evaluation team of higher education professionals assembled by the HLC from institutions similar to Ozarka visited the College November 15-17 and announced their recommendations to faculty, staff and administration Wednesday morning prior to their departure.

Ozarka College underwent the comprehensive visit by HLC as the culmination of the past several years of preparation and the development of an extensive institutional self-study report based on five criteria that the HLC considers priorities for accreditation.

The team met with college staff, faculty and administration; as well as the Board of Trustees, community members and students in an effort to gather evidence that Ozarka's self-study report was thorough and accurate.

The HLC team was led by Dr. William G. Giddings, President of Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa. Dr. Giddings praised Ozarka for the hospitality and organization during their team visit and commended the College for their clear desire to serve its students and community, and upholding its mission of providing life changing experiences through education.

Along with Dr. Giddings the HLC team consisted of Dr. Cia Verschelden, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Highland Community College in Highland, Kansas; Dr. Linda G. Johnson, AQIP Liaison/HLC/Assessment Coor-

dinator, Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Dr. Linda L. Avant, Executive Vice President, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology-Okmulgee, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

Ozarka College has been accredited by HLC as a college since 1996. Its accreditation is at the Associate's degree level. A committee from HLC will review the self-study and the visiting team recommendations to officially determine accreditation in late winter, and a formal report will follow.

**Ozarka College will be closed beginning December 20 and reopen for Spring 2011 on January 3. Happy Holidays!!!**

**From the Kitchen**

**Sign up for Text alerts each morning for the daily menu in my.Ozarka**

Now serving an entrée or choice of Salad Bar, Chicken Strips, or deli sandwich.

The menu is online so check it out!  
**Lunch Served 11AM-12:30 PM**

Breakfast available 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

## Around Campus

- **Ozarka Foundation Meeting** Monday, Dec. 6 at 9:30 a.m.
- **LPN/RN Capping and Pinning Ceremony**-December 7 at 6:00 p.m.
- **College Drive Ribbon Cutting**, Wednesday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Fundraising Activities for Charlotte Knox** - December 6-10 (see page 4 for details)
- **FINALS WEEK** December 13-16
- **Last Day for Ozarka Faculty and Staff** / December 17.

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



**Left to Right: Dr. Avant, Dr. Giddings, Dr. Dawe (standing), Dr. Johnson, and Dr. Verschelden.**

# Ozarka Opens Doors in Mammoth Spring



“This new site in Mammoth Spring will serve local students, including Thayer and outlying towns that might not otherwise have access to affordable, quality college education.”  
*Ozarka President, Dr. Richard Dawe*

Ozarka College held an open house on Monday, November 29 at its new location in Mammoth Spring. The facility on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Archer Streets has been remodeled in order to serve students with day and evening classes in the northern part of Ozarka's Fulton County service area beginning January 2011.

The open house took place from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. on the 29<sup>th</sup> and the community was invited to attend and tour the facility, register for door prizes, enjoy refreshments, and meet the staff, faculty and administration of Ozarka. KKcountry 95 radio station hosted a live remote during the event and Bank of Thayer, First National Banking Company, and Simmons Bank were on hand with information and giveaways from their respective financial institutions.

Current or potential students were invited to register for classes with student service personnel and faculty that were in attendance during the event. Those who registered for classes were also able to register for free

tuition which was sponsored by the Mammoth Spring Chamber of Commerce and Ozarka President, Dr. Richard Dawe. Winners for the tuition were: Bryan Baker of Ravenden, and Tiffany Presley of Mammoth Spring.

Ozarka College President, Dr. Richard Dawe states, "I was pleased to see so many new Ozarka students and welcoming community members at our open house, especially on such a rainy day! This new site in Mammoth Spring will serve local students, including Thayer and outlying towns that might not otherwise have access to affordable, quality college education."

Classes have been available during the current Fall semester at the Mammoth Spring High School during the evening and 54 students have been enrolled in those classes. There are currently 28 day and evening classes scheduled for the 2011 spring semester at Mammoth Spring and significant enrollment growth is expected with these additional courses and times.

Ozarka offers very affordable tuition at \$75.00 per credit hour and financial aid is available. With the Arkansas Lottery scholarship funding and Federal Pell Grant, students are able to afford to attend fulltime. Ozarka also offers Arkansas in-state tuition to all Oregon County residents, making it affordable for those who live in close proximity to Mammoth Spring.

The course schedule is posted online at [www.ozarka.edu](http://www.ozarka.edu). Ozarka College student service personnel are on location through December 15 to register any new or returning students in that location. Ms. Anthem Eder of Thayer, Missouri has been hired as Administrative Coordinator for the Mammoth Spring location. Anthem is an RN and will also be serving as nursing faculty for Ozarka. Contact the Mammoth Spring office at 870-625-0411 for more information. All Ozarka College offices will close for the holidays beginning December 20, 2010, and reopen on January 3, 2011. Spring classes begin on January 10, 2011.



Photos from Open House event.

# International Day Focused on Egypt

The Ozarka College Diversity Committee held International Day November 30 - December 2. All Ozarka College students, faculty, staff and community were welcome to participate in this fun and educational event which focused on the country of Egypt. International Day was held November 30 at Mountain View, December 1 at Melbourne, and December 2 at Ash Flat.

This co-curricular event is designed to increase student exposure to and knowledge about the culture, customs, geography, history, significant individuals, and arts of a selected nation or ethnic region. International Day is sponsored by the Ozarka College Diversity Learning Initiative at least once per academic year.

Expert on Egyptian history and culture, Amy Calvert, was the guest speaker for International Day and she attended the event at all three sites. Calvert is a Doctoral student at New York University and has lived and worked in Egypt on numerous occasions. In addition to Calvert's presentation there were examples of Egyptian food, Egyptian themed art and music, and a virtual tour of the Nile River. Participants are provided information about Egyptian life and customs through a variety of educational materials.

A \$25 cash drawing was held at each site for those who participated in this event. Winners were: Joseph Smith, Jerry Whitaker and Tara Wise.



*This co-curricular event is designed to increase student exposure to and knowledge about the culture, customs, geography, history, significant individuals, and arts of a selected nation or ethnic region.*

## New Employees Added and Welcomed During the Fall Semester



**Anthem Eder** of Thayer, Missouri was recently hired as the Administrative Coordinator for the Mammoth Spring location and as instructor for CNA program. She has a BSN and master's of Education from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri and RN from Burge School of Nursing, also in Springfield. She retired from Cox Health System in Springfield after 20 years of service; and also worked as high school science teacher and school nurse. She enjoys her pet Chihuahuas, gardening, golf, kayak, travel, and is an avid movie buff.

**Karen Hall** of Salem was hired as the Director of the Ozarka Kids Academy last month. She has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's in Educational Leadership from ASU-Mountain Home and ASU Jonesboro. She taught in the public school system and most recently worked at the Horizons Child Development Center in Salem. She is also an independent sales representative for Silpada Designs and enjoys her family, riding horses, travel, hunting, and riding motorcycles.



**Bryan Jeffery** was hired September in the TRiO Student Support Services Department as the Transfer Specialist. However, Bryan is not a new face around Ozarka, as he served as part-time courier and bookstore worker; as well as teaches as an adjunct instructor. Bryan has a master's degree in History and is currently teaching World Civilization I and US Government. His interests include gardening, travel and spending time with his family.

**Rick Ramsey** of Melbourne was hired earlier this Fall as the part-time courier for Ozarka College. His duties include traveling each day to the off-campus sites for delivery and pick-up of college related materials and information. Rick also runs a DJ music business and is a computer engineer. His interests include music and golf.



## Ozarka College

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



## Help a Heart, Give a Hand, Help a Friend



Ozarka College staff member, Charlotte Knox, is facing heart surgery. The hospital facility is requiring a down payment of \$4,000 in order to perform the surgery needed. Charlotte's co-workers and friends are working together to help raise the money needed and fund raising is already underway.

**December 6-10** The Ozarka Kids Academy will be accepting "loose change" donations progressively throughout the week for their money jars as follows: Monday – pennies; Tuesday – nickels; Wednesday – dimes; Thursday – quarters; Friday – dollars. At the end of the week the children will all receive an ice cream party for a job well done!

**December 3-10** Director of the Kids Academy, Karen Hall is hosting a Silpada Jewelry Book Party with all proceeds being donated to the fund. Orders are due by December 10 and books are available by contacting one of the committee members. There will be a display of the jewelry at the silent auction which is scheduled for December 8. The jewelry will be back in time for Christmas.

**December 8** There will be a silent auction from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the dining hall of the Melbourne Campus. There have already been some great items donated. Items are being collected through Tuesday December 7. Contact Suellen Davidson, Kim Whitten, or Laura Lawrence to donate items. Anyone can participate in the auction. Some items already donated are: 2 scrapbook baskets, \$25.00 gift certificate to Hawks Nest and Chili's, a piece of Silpada jewelry, peanut butter pie, cheese cake, Gary Langston Navaho print, a Tonka truck, Home Interior items, a handmade wooden cutting board, and several other items are still coming into the offices.

**December 13-17** The Ozarka employees will be able to pay \$20 to wear jeans during the last week of school. Money must be paid in advance no later than December 10 and all proceeds will go toward the fund.

The goal is to raise \$4000.00, but if more than that is raised, all proceeds will be used to pay for Charlotte medical bills. Committee members are Laura Lawrence, Kim Lovelace, Kim Whitten, Suellen Davidson, Shelia Titus, Dan Lindsey, and Ron Helm. Please contact the committee for more information or to make a donation at 870-368-7371. There has also been an account set up at FNBC for the Charlotte Knox Medical Fund and donations can be made directly to the account.