Financial Expert Dave Ramsey Raves About CofO

Not every College of the Ozarks musician is used to being called a “rock star.” But on Tuesday, October 4th, that’s exactly what performing students were called…by financial expert and nationally recognized figure Dave Ramsey. Ramsey spoke for the major convocation in the Keeter Gymnasium at 7:00 pm. Right on stage with him was the Concert Band, Handbells, Chorale, and Chapel Choir. The groups performed many pieces, including “The Star Spangled Banner,” “As all the Heaven’s Were A Bell” (an arrangement of ‘My Country Tis of Thee”), and “Great is Thy Faithfulness” arranged by Dr. Bruce Gerlach. Students in the music department at College of the Ozarks often have the unique privilege of being close to celebrities that come to speak at convocations.

When President George W. Bush came last Spring, he, like Ramsey, turned to watch the students as they performed. Being close enough to see the faces of such men will live on in the minds of these College of the Ozarks students for years to come.

-Article submitted by Elizabeth Clark

Dave Ramsey speaks at major convocation
Do you enjoy jazz music? If so, you need to know that the College of the Ozarks Chorale, Jazz Band and Jazz Combo will team up to present a fall concert in Jones Auditorium on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. Each ensemble will perform their own repertoire, which will include great jazz arrangements and well-known big band tunes like *It Don’t Mean a Thing if it Ain’t Got That Swing*, *Route 66* and more. The Chorale, directed by Lynda Jesse, will include some gospel jazz arrangements, *Swingin’ with the Saints*, *Joy is on the Way* and a beautiful jazz rendition of *Amazing Grace*. From the jazz band, directed by Al Lohman, you’ll also hear standards such as *I’ve Got You Under My Skin* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*. The groups will combine at the end for the “Big Band Bash” medley. Remember to mark your calendars for October 25th at 7:00pm and come out for a great night of swingin’ and swayin’!

−Article submitted by
Kourtney Pyle

Students receiving trophies for skills and talent and earning “money” as a result of behind-the-scenes practice may sound more like a professional athlete’s life, but it’s also what Diane Walker’s students experience when learning to play the piano. On Monday, September 26th, Dr. Dwayne Huff’s Piano Pedagogy class took its first fieldtrip of the semester to visit Walker at her home studio in Branson, Missouri. “It was great for us to get out of the classroom and hear from a very successful teacher, since we are interested in teaching as well!” said Anna Zachary, an attending student. Walker discussed her personal style of teaching; an impressive system of earning points and receiving awards for accomplishments in areas like sight-reading, ear-training, theory, and personal practice time. Walker told the college students of her journey to becoming a piano teacher, and how her faith in Christ has affected her. She emphasized that simply giving effort is the most important thing when it comes to personal success, and that teachers have the freedom to be original in how they teach. Walker’s intensive system of assignments, points, pretend “money,” and end-of-year trophies keeps young students motivated and excited. Piano Pedagogy student Sadie Huff commented, “I think when you see a teacher so excited about the activities she has for her students, it’s contagious. It’s inspiring to see someone who knows how to get through to students and she thoroughly enjoys doing just that.” Visiting Walker was a great start to a semester filled with multiple fieldtrips for the Piano Pedagogy class.

−Article submitted by
Elizabeth Clark

“ And All That Jazz”... Let’s Get Swinging!!!
Meet the Managing Editors

The College of the Ozarks Music Department Newsletter is the result of much effort, collaboration, and sweat. This does not magically happen on its own. So how does the newsletter get published every month? Who works on it? This month we are giving you an inside look of the faces behind the newsletter and the “low-down” on its editors. There are different music workers that are assigned a topic or event each month and then turn it into the editors. You will find the name of the student who wrote a particular article under the article headed “submitted by etc.” “Who do they submit it to?” may be a question that you are asking. I now have the great honor of introducing to you our managing editors: Ashley Pack and Sadie Jane Huff. Sadie and Ashley work together each month designing, editing, and putting together of all the stories and information that we think that YOU, the reader, will find interesting! Then Ms. Lynda Jesse looks it over and sends it back for final revisions. So who are Sadie and Ashley? Here’s a little information for you:

Sadie Jane Huff is Junior Elementary Education Major with a minor in Music. She is from Lonedell, MO and is a studio accompanist in the Music department.

Ashley Pack is a Senior Vocal Music Education Major from Little Rock, Arkansas and is the current Student Manager in the Music Department.

S’more Fun!

Once a semester the music department student workers plan a time that they can all get together outside of the office for fun, food, and most importantly, fellowship. This fall they decided to have a camping retreat. Dr. Gerlach was kind enough to allow them to spend Friday evening and Saturday morning at his “Tall Pines Resort”. The night’s festivities included cooking fajitas and s’mores on the campfire, singing songs, and playing entertaining games such as Hide-And-Seek and Apples to Apples. Students were blessed with great weather and enjoyed a nice evening by the campfire under a clear, starry night. Having an occasional retreat provides workers with a relaxing get-away where they can enjoy each other’s company outside of the normal busy routine of the music office, and also promotes bonding opportunities.

-Article submitted by Anna Zachary
MAJOR: Music Ministry and Spanish
HOMETOWN: Grand Saline, TX
FAVORITE COLOR: Green
FAVORITE FOOD: Chicken

Grant Allen is well-known in the Music Department as being a sort of “Jack-of-all-trades.” He has been playing piano for fifteen years and the french horn for twelve. He has also learned to play the guitar and the musical saw. Grant plays french horn for the Concert Band as well as the Aux Arcs Piano Trio. He also loves to play piano for the C of O Jazz Combo.

Grant would like to be hired as a music minister somewhere in the country. Grant recently married his college sweetheart, Lora, and is very excited about his future with her and the prospect of raising a family. His senior recital will be Saturday, November 12th at 7:30 pm in the Newman Recital Hall in Gittinger Music Building.

On September 25, 2011 College of the Ozarks ensembles performed a concert to benefit the Joplin Schools Music Departments. Members of the Chapel Choir, Chorale, Handbell Choir, Concert Band, and Jazz Band devoted their time and efforts to this cause. Rick Castor, Joplin High School Band Director, Eric Eichenberger, Joplin High School Choral Director, and Debi Downs, private string teacher, were all in attendance and spoke briefly about their respective programs. The educators also spoke of the blessings they had received through community donations, and expressed gratitude for said efforts. College of the Ozarks’ music department “passed the plate” and raised $1,500 dollars that was dispersed to the Joplin High School Band, Choir, and Orchestra. The College of the Ozarks Music Department would like to thank all who attended for their support, and to those who were able to donate, for their generosity. Thanks to each of you for making this event a success!

Article submitted by Abby VanGilder
Contact Us!
Feel free to call or e-mail us with your questions or comments regarding our department or the college.

music@cofo.edu
Student Work Office: (417) 690-2244