Focus on the Family Institute. Students were required to read selections dealing with citizenship in preparation for their participation, including Plato's *The Republic*, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham City Jail" and Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. Discussion topics included the origins of self-government, philosophical development, rights and responsibilities of citizenship, societal dissent and civil disobedience, and judicial definitions of citizenship.

Gerald R. Ford’s opening remarks at the Citizenship Forum on April 11 were most appropriate for College of the Ozarks, also known as Hard Work U. “The harder you work, the luckier you are. Hard work doesn’t guarantee success, but with it, your odds of being successful improve greatly.”

President Ford briefly shared stories about his upbringing in what started out as an abusive home. His parents divorced, and his mother later re-married. Ford’s stepfather provided a nurturing environment where, Ford said, “I grew up with the guidance and example God provided.” He shared about his collegiate experience and how he succeeded despite the Depression. He explained that even though the unemployment rate during that time was 35%, he was still able to pay tuition of $50 per semester and room rent of four dollars per week. Young Ford worked at the university hospital, where he attended school to earn money to support himself during his college career, in the same manner as College of the Ozarks students.

President Ford was encouraging as he provided insight as to what he believes are successes of the United States in the twentieth century, and how these successes lay a solid foundation for the new millennium. He emphatically stated that he “disagrees vehemently with those who downgrade our great country; we have far more success than failures. “We should be proud of our achievements,” he
continued. “America won the Cold War so democracy could prevail around the world; unemployment rates are low, and democratic capitalism is on a roll. We should be proud of the fiscal management we have achieved and consider carefully what we should do about it now.”

The former President cited two main concerns that should be addressed in light of the nation’s economic success. “We should protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and we should appropriate funds to strengthen the Department of Defense,” he said. President Ford was concerned that as we decrease our military resources and readiness, we increase our military responsibility as we assign troops to places such as Bosnia, Kosovo and East Timor.

President Ford also indicated that something should be done to reduce taxpayer debt obligation, saying that fifteen percent of our taxes go toward the interest on the national debt. Ford advised the audience, “A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have.”

During a banquet following the Citizenship Forum, these individuals were recognized for serving as role models to America’s youth by commitment to the development of Citizenship, Leadership and Character through service to our nation.
Citizens Abroad Visit Korea

While in Korea, the group visited the Patriot Site and Camp Humphreys. The students also attended an Apache AH-64 orientation and visited a Department of Defense elementary school.

Some interesting highlights of the trip included visiting with College of the Ozarks alumni Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Gouge and 2nd Lieutenant Tiffany Cox, both stationed in Korea. Lt. Cox is a graduate of the ROTC program at C of O where she earned her commission.

Student Kevin Koo, who is Korean born but has just recently become a naturalized citizen, went on the trip and was able to spend time with his grandmother while in Korea.

Junior Adam Meador commented, "This trip was a very eye-opening experience; it showed what shape our economy is in compared to other countries' economies. The trip to Korea was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that would not have been possible for me had it not been for College of the Ozarks."

Leonard and Edith Gittinger Community Convocation Series
Presents Colin Powell for Fall 2000

General Colin L. Powell will be the featured speaker this fall in the annual Leonard and Edith Gittinger Community Convocation Series. Scheduled for Monday, October 2, the theme of the convocation is "Patriotism."

Upcoming Events

Camp Lookout. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . May 29-August 4
Honor America. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . June 25
Character Camp. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . August 11-19
Honor Induction/Etiquette Banquet for new students . August 20
General Colin Powell, Patriotism Convocation . . . October 2
Veterans' Day Celebration and Convocation . . . . . . . . . . November 11
by Kim Ahl

Socrates once said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” This statement accurately describes the foundation and basis for the Citizenship Forum last semester. The 36 student participants in the Forum were placed in an environment conducive to personal growth, as the five-fold mission of the College was integrated into every discussion and meeting. Students were encouraged to think reflectively about the true meaning of citizenship and to self-analyze in order to determine their positions and viewpoints on issues such as honor, virtue, civil disobedience, justice, morality and what defines a good citizen.

I was challenged to critically examine my stand as a citizen of the United States, and I felt quite convicted as I realized how little I had truly thought about what characterizes a good citizen. The meeting provided a place where I could carry on an intellectual conversation and have my opinions received with objectivity and open-mindedness. I also appreciated having the opportunity to reflect upon the viewpoints of my peers. Seldom in everyday life do I get the opportunity to carry on an edifying conversation about citizenship with people my age.

What a wonderful opportunity for students to be able to gather and discuss the issues upon which our country was founded. Socrates was correct when he said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Stagnation and stunted societal, patriotic and cultural growth are the result of unexamined lives.

The Citizenship Forum provided a perfect opportunity to examine those issues that are relevant to good citizenship, and I believe each participant was challenged in a unique way to examine his or her involvement in our government. This self-analysis and examination is essential in maintaining our country’s democracy, and in creating the best possible conditions for its citizens.

**The KEETER CENTER**

A special thanks is due James P. Keeter, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, College of the Ozarks. Mr. Keeter is a distinguished business entrepreneur and Chairman of the Board and CEO of Royal Oak Enterprises of Atlanta, Georgia. He and his family have provided an endowment gift to start The Keeter Center for Character Education. The Center is named in honor of Mr. Keeter’s parents, the late Vester and Ruby Keeter of Bradleyville, Missouri. It is the intent of the Keeter family to take a leadership role with College of the Ozarks in promoting character education on a national level.

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