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COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS®

# *The Keeter Report*



## **Former U.S. Speaker of the House Visits College of the Ozarks**

*(The Honorable Newt Gingrich visits with WWII Veteran Mr. Ralph Manley)*

# College of the Ozarks Welcomes the Honorable Newt Gingrich



*Mr. Gingrich proudly receives his Hard Work U. sweatshirt.*

On April 1, 2009, College of the Ozarks welcomed The Honorable Newt Gingrich as the keynote speaker for the Spring 2009 John N. and Ella C. Marsh Citizenship Forum. Mr. Gingrich was welcomed to campus by college president Jerry C. Davis and enjoyed a tour of the campus. The tour gave Mr. Gingrich a chance to meet students in their workplaces and emphasized some of the student

work sites of College of the Ozarks, including the stained glass and candle studio, the Ralph Foster Museum, and the legendary Fruit Cake and Jelly Kitchen. Prior to the evening address, a private question and answer session with Mr. Gingrich was offered for all faculty and staff members.

## About Newt Gingrich

In addition to being the former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich is a national expert on world history, military issues, and international affairs. Mr. Gingrich was first elected to Congress in 1978, where he served the Sixth District of Georgia for twenty years. In 1995 he was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served until 1999. He became well known as the architect of the "Contract with America," and under his leadership Congress passed welfare reform, the first balanced budget in a generation, and the first tax cut in sixteen years. Mr. Gingrich is a well-recognized, conservative authority on current politics.



## Dinesh D'Souza Speaks at Forum

“Oddly enough, in education, what you actually need are the techniques of *how* to learn, *how* to get knowledge, *how* to connect things that seem unconnected so you can make good decisions.” This statement set the theme for three plenary sessions Mr. Dinesh D'Souza led in conjunction with the Spring Forum. Nearly 90 students from College of the Ozarks, guest universities, and the U.S. Military Academies participated in these sessions and small group discussions over the course of three days.

Mr. D'Souza is the author of several New York Times bestselling books including, *What's so Great About America*, and his most recent, *What's So Great About Christianity*. The *New York Times Magazine* has referred to him as one of America's most influential conservative thinkers. In addressing the students, he expressed conservatism as a means of challenging America to return to her original views of freedom, liberty, and society. He also presented compelling messages about the western liberal arts tradition, the concept of a biblical worldview, and American character.



*New York Times bestselling author, Dinesh D'Souza, speaks to forum participants*

As part of his visit, Mr. Gingrich addressed a group of 30 College of the Ozarks students, guests from Oklahoma Wesleyan University, John Brown University, Evangel University and Southwest Baptist University, as well as representatives from the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Military Academy. With these students and guests, he discussed his unique perspective on citizenship and the future of America.

During the evening event, Mr. Gingrich addressed a capacity crowd with a speech entitled, “The Future of America: What Every American Needs to Know.” Speaking from a wealth of experience, Mr. Gingrich shared his impression of the current political situation, emphasizing that all Americans are the true artists of our country's destiny.

Speaking bluntly, he stated, “The Constitution begins ‘We the People,’ *not* ‘we the bureaucracy,’ *not* ‘we the lobbyist,’ *not* ‘we the lawyers.’ ‘We the People’ makes us different from any place else in the world.” Mr. Gingrich insisted that voting is perhaps the greatest way that “We the People” can impact our destiny: “If you don’t vote, you are not a good citizen.” After pointing out that the American people are united on almost every major issue facing our country, Mr. Gingrich remarked that real change can occur only when politicians drop their agendas and respond to the will of the people.



*During his tour on campus, Mr. Gingrich stops by the Ralph Foster Museum and is photographed in the Beverly Hillbillies car.*

Mr. Gingrich was intrigued with the operation and philosophy of “Hard Work U.” He earned a rousing round of applause when he declared, “...to be an American is to *pursue*...an active term that makes being at



“Hard Work U” perfectly natural, because this is the personification of what America should be like. If every campus in the country were run with the efficiency, the work orientation, and the student involvement that this college is run with, higher education in America would be 50 percent less expensive, 50 percent better.”

*Mr. Gingrich visits with a student worker at the Fruit Cake and Jelly Kitchen.*

## Patriotic Education Honorees



*Mrs. Joan Kalimanis receives recognition for her contributions to the Citizens Abroad Program.*

As part of the Spring Forum festivities, President Davis, The Honorable Newt Gingrich and Chairman of the Board and alumnus General Terrence R. Dake were pleased to present five awards of recognition to friends of the College. Each recipient received a plaque in recognition of his or her generous support of patriotic education.

Mrs. Joan Kalimanis was recognized for her generosity in establishing the Citizens Abroad Program in memory of her parents, the late H. N. and Frances C. Berger. Mrs. Kalimanis serves on the board of the Berger Foundation. She has devoted most of her life to helping young people through her work with this foundation.

Mr. Grover Arnett was lauded for his generous support of patriotic education for students at College of the Ozarks. When he graduated from a Kentucky work-study school years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Berger gave him the money to attend law school. When he attempted to repay the generosity he had been shown by the Bergers, they simply asked him to help someone else some day. He is doing just that as founder and trustee of the William O. and Easter Arnett Memorial Foundation, which he established in honor of his parents.

Paul and Susie O'Connell were also honored for their support of patriotic education. Mr. and Mrs. O'Connell are trustees of The Thoresen Foundation. They are responsible for having established the Thoresen Cadet Exchange Program, which provides opportunities



*Mr. Grover Arnett with his wife Sabrina and their daughter Katelynn pose for a picture with Speaker Newt Gingrich.*

to bring cadets and staff members from the various U.S. Military Academies to College of the Ozarks for the Annual Spring Forum. It also provides funds for College of the Ozarks students to attend conferences at the Academies.

A fourth honoree at the Spring forum was Mr. Timothy Davis, founder of The Greatest Generations Foundation. Mr. Davis was recognized for his efforts to honor America's Veterans and his dedication to ensuring that they are never forgotten. College of the Ozarks is partnering with the Foundation this summer to take 20 College of the Ozarks students and ten WWII Veterans to the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy.

The final honoree was World War II Veteran Mr. Ralph Manley, who was honored for his service to the United States as a paratrooper in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. His first combat mission took place on the night of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1944, as part of Operation Overlord. As his aircraft, carrying 18 paratroopers, was riddled with bullets, Mr. Manley barely managed to jump out. He was one of only five men able to make his jump before the plane crashed in flames. Mr. Manley is a board member of The Greatest Generations Foundation.



*Paul and Susie O'Connell accept plaques from General Terrence R. Dake and Mr. Gingrich.*



*Founder and president of The Greatest Generation Foundation, Mr. Timothy Davis (left).*



*Mr. Ralph Manley, who was a paratrooper on D-Day, is recognized for his contribution to the WWII effort.*

## Poverty Summit Provides Learning Opportunity

The Keeter Center for Character Education at College of the Ozarks hosted its third annual S. Truett Cathy Poverty Summit on April 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Truett Cathy is the founder of Chick-fil-A and a true champion for the poor, especially children. As a committed Christian,



*Small groups discuss issues presented during the Poverty Summit.*

Mr. Cathy's life has demonstrated a concern for others; this concern underlies his business philosophy and permeates the culture of his corporation. Because he is a long-standing friend and benefactor of College of the Ozarks, the College honored Mr. Cathy by naming the annual poverty summit for him. The purpose of these summits is to learn how to be more effective in serving those in need and ultimately to help those who are struggling in poverty learn how to break the cycle.

The keynote speaker for this year's summit was poverty expert Jodi Pfarr of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ms. Pfarr has managed a women's shelter for the Salvation Army as well as shelters for those with mental or physical disabilities. She has been employed as a transitional housing manager responsible for overseeing low-income housing projects while developing programs to assist residents in stabilizing their lives. Currently, Pfarr sits on the board of the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association and is a sought-after advisor and consultant regarding poverty issues.

Ms. Pfarr used humor and stories to drive home powerful principles which the attendees could put into practice in their ministries, agencies, churches, and other outreaches. Over the course of two days, Ms.



*Ms. Jodi Pfarr*

Pfarr focused on keys to communicating effectively across economic classes. Those in poverty often focus heavily on relationships and “day-to-day survival” rather than long-term goals and personal achievement; middle class individuals who fail to understand this mindset often fail at motivating impoverished people to break out of the cycle of poverty. Ms. Pfarr offered strategies for middle class individuals to bridge that gap. For example, she suggested encouraging impoverished K-12 school students to focus on the ways their achievements will directly benefit their family rather than focusing on personal achievement. As another significant highlight, Ms. Pfarr identified the four main categories to consider when examining poverty: the individual’s behavior, the community, exploitation, and the political/economic structure within society.

Over 140 residents of Taney County, Stone County, and Springfield attended the event, along with many students from College of the Ozarks. Because the summit offered relevant information for working with impoverished children, many education majors attended as part of their class requirements. Another significant group of students had already invested much time and effort during the spring semester in researching the poverty of Taney and Stone Counties. They have initiated several poverty awareness events and were therefore very interested in what Ms. Pfarr had to say.

College of the Ozarks was pleased to welcome Ambassador Tony Hall as the culminating speaker for the spring Poverty Summit. As a longtime Congressman and the former Ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Hall offered significant insight into world hunger for those in attendance. Hall



is best remembered in Congress for his twenty-two day fast in protest of funding cuts for the hungry. During his remarks, he made a point to emphasize the necessity of faith in any successful poverty program. A panel, including local and international authorities on poverty and hunger, wrapped up the evening’s event.

*Ambassador Tony Hall visits campus as a guest speaker for the third annual S. Truett Cathy Poverty Summit*



# Newest First PLACE! Partner Welcomed

*By Josh Klein, student*

I first went to Tanton Industries, a workshop for the disabled, as a volunteer with the Bonner Community Service Program. There I fell in love with the kindest and most fulfilled people I have ever met. Tanton workers have joy and a sense of energy that I have not found anywhere else. They seem to be largely untainted by the



*College of the Ozarks student Josh Klein with First PLACE! partner Jeanette Short*

less appealing things of our culture, and their innocence leaves them with a sweet essence that I believe God intended for us all. In the course of my time at Tanton, I met a wonderful woman named Jeanette, an employee who exuberantly exemplifies the qualities I have described. She is very intelligent, has a memory that is unfaltering, and is wonderfully sweet. As a person of character, Jeanette was instantly attracted to the First PLACE! Program and asked me about it. In fact, she asked every question possible, from “Who runs it?” to “How can I receive a t-shirt?” She needed a t-shirt so she could help promote FirstPLACE. Jeanette is a pursuer of good things, and no one is better suited to be a FirstPLACE partner.



## The Greatest Generations Foundation— Trip of a Lifetime



*College of the Ozarks students participating in the D-Day 65th anniversary trip*

In late May and early June, twenty College of the Ozarks students will accompany ten World War II Veterans on an unforgettable journey. The mission of The Greatest Generations Foundation, the sponsoring organization, is to provide opportunities for Veterans to return to the places where they fought. Following WWII, many of the Greatest Generation returned home, placed their uniforms and medals in trunks, and went to work; this trip will provide closure for these former soldiers and the chance to honor them for their service. Two hundred and thirty-eight students applied, and twenty were selected to accompany these Veterans on this unforgettable trip to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

In preparation for this historic journey, the students are being given an opportunity to share their unique connections to WWII with each other and the Veterans they are accompanying. As the stories are told, one can't help but recognize the far-reaching effects this World War had and still has on America. One of the students has a great-uncle buried on the shores of Normandy and wishes to visit his final battlefield. An-

other student tells the story of how his grandparents met and fell in love while in the military, preparing for the invasion of D-Day. Still another student recounts his grandfather's role in the rescue of the Queen of Holland and his grandmother's role in Winston Churchill's underground war rooms. A fourth student expresses her extreme gratitude for being an American, rather than a German as her grandparents were.

Each of the ten Veterans also comes with his unique story and role in the D-Day invasion. The pilots, paratroopers, seamen, and infantry are all represented by at least one Veteran in the group.

Private Alvin Henderson of Pickens, South Carolina, and PFC John Cipolla from Rochester, New York, were paratroopers with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. They were separated during the war, and Henderson was presumed dead after he walked into a German ambush. Not until seven years ago did PFC John Cipolla discover that his friend had become a German POW for the remainder of the year and survived. Now reunited, these two army "brothers" will travel back to the beaches of Normandy together.

The trip itinerary, which includes a visit to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., the war rooms in London, a ferry to Normandy, official 65<sup>th</sup> commemorative events, and a visit to Paris, is designed to give the Veterans and students an opportunity to learn from each other and to hear each other's stories. Every two students will be coupled with one Veteran, and that man will become their trip "grandfather." Daily, the students will meet with their designated Veteran to debrief and hear about his experiences and memories for that portion of the journey. In this way, the heroes of Normandy will be passing on their stories and lessons learned to the next generation.

## YAF Names College in Top 10

College of the Ozarks was pleased to be recognized by Young America's Foundation as one the "Top Ten Conservative Colleges" in the nation.



# Opportunity at United States Coast Guard Academy Turns Into Career for Student

*By Jonna Clouse, alumna*

In March 2007, I attended the annual Ethics Conference hosted at the USCGA as a representative of College of the Ozarks. I believe God used this two day conference to open the door to my future. The experiences I had and the friendships I made on that trip were a catalyst to my pursuing a career in the United States Coast Guard (USCG).



*Alumna Jonna Clouse in training with the United States Coast Guard*

Shortly after the conference, I began a year-long application process to Officer Candidate School (OCS) to pursue becoming an officer of the USCG. After numerous trips, and with much favor from the Lord, I finally completed the interview and paperwork necessary to have my application package reviewed for admittance. I expected to receive confirmation quickly and begin training in the winter, but my class was postponed and more than eight months passed before I received my final letter of acceptance.

During those months of waiting, the Lord opened the door for me to go to northwest Spain and work as an au pair for a Spanish family. As English teacher, big sister, and caregiver to three young girls, I learned many valuable lessons. During this time I also received private language tutoring and attended a university Spanish course. Together, all of these experiences served to expand my knowledge of both the Spanish language and culture. It was an unforgettable six months of learning, teaching, and refreshment.

Upon my return to the States in August 2008, I began OCS in New London, CT. I spent the next 17 weeks learning the ways of the Coast

Guard while being challenged physically, mentally, and emotionally. At last, on December 3, 2008, I graduated from OCS and received a commission as an officer of the United States Coast Guard.

As part of the USCG, I am now training at the Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida. This step will allow me to further pursue my dream to serve others through aviation. For the next 1 ½-2 years, I will be training to earn my wings as a Coast Guard aviator.

I would like to thank those at College of the Ozarks who have played a role in making it possible for me to pursue these dreams. I hope that as a C of O alumna I may continue to represent my alma mater while serving our great country in the United States Coast Guard.

## New Course Offering: American Ideals of Character and Civic Engagement

Character Education Center director Sue Head and her husband Hayden, a faculty member at College of the Ozarks, have developed a new course for the liberal arts curriculum entitled *American Ideals of Character and Civic Engagement* scheduled for the fall semester. This course will examine American ideals of character and the ways in which those ideals are reflected in the principles and ideals of College of the Ozarks; students will also examine the structure of government at the national, state, and local levels and be introduced to effective models of civic engagement. To this end, students will have the opportunity to participate in catalyst groups, established groups of passionate community members in the Branson area; these groups develop special programs that typically focus on the poor and the disenfranchised. This unique course, whose enrollment for fall is full, will reinforce the College's vision for developing students of Christ-like character who are committed to service and community.



# C of O English Faculty Host Writing Conference for Local Teachers

*By Caleb Caldwell and Thomas Crank*

On Friday, February 6, 2009, 26 regional elementary, middle, and high school English teachers joined 18 College of the Ozarks (C of O) faculty and students at The Keeter Center to attend “Writing Matters: A Community Conference on Composition and Character.”

Elise Bishop, director of C of O’s Center for Writing and Thinking (CWT), collaborated with English faculty members Leslie Babcox, Regina Blake, and Michelle Weisman to organize the event. The entire conference was sponsored by The Keeter Center for Character Education, and each presentation incorporated one of the First PLACE! character traits for 2009.

“The primary purpose of the conference was to support Stone and Taney County teachers in their efforts to improve student writing,” Bishop said. “Many of these teachers’ students will one day become C of O students, so everyone benefits from working together and sharing ideas.”

Executive Director of The Keeter Center for Character Education Sue Head kicked off the activities by welcoming conference attendees at the opening plenary session, “Writing Centers 101.” A guest panel of teachers and students from Branson High School, Branson Intermediate School, and Fair Grove High School shared their experiences cooperating with Bishop and the CWT to establish writing centers in their own schools.

The first round of concurrent sessions followed the opening panel discussion. Babcox’s session, “Using Templates to Generate and Structure Ideas,” was a veritable magnet for attendees. She demonstrated how to use templates to teach writing. At the same time, Weisman provided specific character-building tools and techniques in her session, “Character Development: Helping Students Explore the Notion ‘A Man’s Character is His Fate’ Through Narrative.”

One conference participant said, “The character development session was helpful in showing ways to develop characters in a story.”



*A panel of Center for Writing and Thinking student workers discuss assignments that prepared them for college writing.*

Later in the day, College of the Ozarks faculty member Regina Blake presented “Grammar Grounding: Five Ways to Make Grammar Interactive and Fun,” which turned out to be one of the most popular sessions. The majority of attendees rated this session as “the most beneficial.” “I think having the teachers actually do the grammar exercises was a great idea,” said one attendee.

Meanwhile, in a session entitled “Equipping Students for Post-Secondary Writing,” a panel of CWT staff, facilitated by Grant Bird, discussed past writing assignments that prepared them for college writing. “In our session,” Bird said, “we tried to reflect on our own experiences both as high school students and now as writing tutors in an effort to help teachers better equip their own students for the college writing environment.”

The final session was devoted to the sharing of best practices by the participating teachers themselves. “I enjoyed the shared lessons, being able to talk . . . with other staff from my own district,” one teacher noted. Crane Middle School teacher Phil McKinley added that the conference was the first in 18 years to provide such “commonsensical” ideas.

To end the day’s events, conference attendees mingled with C of O faculty and students, continuing the dialogue well into the afternoon. “I learned so much and shared with teachers, I feel like I could have stayed longer,” said one participant. Babcox summed up the conference this way: “I think everybody enjoyed the opportunity to share ideas.” Weisman added, “I hope we can make it an annual event.”


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THE KEETER  
CENTER *for*  
CHARACTER  
EDUCATION

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COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS

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The Keeter Center for Character Education was established at College of the Ozarks by the generosity of the James P. Keeter family and many friends from across the country. The purpose of the Center is to provide programs and activities which enhance the development of character and good citizenship. In so doing, the Center reflects the principle upon which the College of the Ozarks was established: that

character in young people is best developed from an education which includes the head, the heart, and the hands.

Over the past several years, The Keeter Center for Character Education has hosted such noted speakers as General Colin Powell, former Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, Mrs. Barbara Bush, President Gerald Ford, General Norman Schwarzkopf, and General Tommy Franks. During the Spring Forum, cadets from each of the nation's military academies are guests of the College through the Thoresen Cadet Exchange Program.

College of the Ozarks, nicknamed "Hard Work U" by *The Wall Street Journal*, is a unique college that provides a tuition-free education to deserving young people who are willing to work. Every student on the 1,000 acre campus in southwest Missouri works 15 hours a week in one of 80+ workstations on campus. The College was recently recognized by the Young America's Foundation's "Top 10 Conservative Colleges." *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked College of the Ozarks among America's best liberal arts colleges yearly since 1989. College of the Ozarks is a shining example of conservative ideals.

**The Keeter Center for Character Education**

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