Work Ethic Conveyed at Hard Work U.

Former Secretary of Defense
Caspar W. Weinberger Speaks at C of O

On April 11th, with standing room only in Jones Auditorium, the O. Wayne Rollins 2002 Work Ethics Forum events culminated in an evening spent with the Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger. Mr. Weinberger is the current Chairman and CEO of Forbes magazine. This is the fourth forum hosted by the College’s Keeter Center for Character Education but the first with the Work Ethic theme.

The Work Ethic Forum is named in honor of the late O. Wayne Rollins of Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Rollins’ life and business success reflected a noteworthy work ethic.

For the Forum, a group of 25 upperclassmen, selected by a committee of faculty, staff and administration, represented the College of the Ozarks. These students researched topics related to the work ethic in the areas of interpersonal skills, dependability, and initiative. They attended a series of meetings throughout the spring semester to discuss their findings.

Representatives from other educational institutions joined our students for the final two days of Forum events, which included small and large group discussions and activities exploring the work ethic concept. A highlight of their experience was a private discussion with Mr. Weinberger upon his arrival at the College campus. Among the participants from other schools were representatives from the Work Colleges Consortium—comprised of seven colleges requiring participation in a comprehensive, on-campus work program—of which College of the Ozarks is a member. The consortium group included students from five other schools: Alice Lloyd College and Berea College of Kentucky, Blackburn College of Illinois, Sterling College of Vermont, and Warren Wilson College of North Carolina. Also in attendance were representatives from Bluffton College of Ohio, Evangel University and Southwest Missouri State University of Missouri, and the United States Air Force Academy of Colorado.

At the Work Ethic Forum, Mr. Weinberger shared a four-part discussion of the work ethic. He began by stressing, “Heroism is a part of ethics.” Next, he discussed the relationship between a good work ethic and hard work. He cited Colin Powell, who was a White House Fellow during Mr. Weinberger’s service in the Nixon administration, as an example of a hard worker. He shared that everyone knew Powell was dependable, because he took the initiative, without any orders, to know the agenda prior to any cabinet meeting.

Third, Mr. Weinberger asserted that it is essential “not to fear unpopularity.” Inherent in doing the right thing and adhering to a strong work ethic is the reality that one’s actions and decisions will meet with resistance. However, Mr. Weinberger encouraged his audience to “go against the grain” when circumstances necessitate doing so. He cited as an example the decision by Lady Margaret Thatcher to
use military force to resist the Argentinean invasion of the Falkland Islands in 1982 and President Reagan's support of that effort.

His final point pertaining to the work ethic was, “If we want to live in peace and freedom, we must devote a portion of our life to public service. Give something of yourself beyond what it takes to just exist. We must give some of ourselves to others. It is necessary and exhilarating.” He suggested military service as an option, but also encouraged students to find any option to serve through volunteerism, politics, or organized charitable efforts.

Following his remarks, Mr. Weinberger answered questions from the Forum participants. Glory Smith, United States Air Force Academy cadet, asked, “Considering your experience with President Reagan, specifically what did you most admire about his leadership style?” Mr. Weinberger responded, “President Reagan never hated anyone, and he inspired others by his own character. This has been said about Reagan, ‘He can charm anybody except for those who really hated him, and then it would take about 10 minutes.’ His wit and charm served him well in forging policy.”

Erin Tabor, College of the Ozarks student, asked, “Do you believe that your history as a rigorous hard worker stems from an external source, such as your parents, or do you believe that motivation must come from within a person?” Mr. Weinberger suggested, “Both internal and external sources of motivation are essential. My father’s example was very influential. I was motivated by my father’s example of work ethic. All throughout high school, my father worked as a telephone operator, and then he worked his way through law school.”

The work program has gained College of the Ozarks recognition as “Hard Work U.” Lady Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of Great Britain, said this about the College: “The education that you get at the College of the Ozarks is not only an education or a qualification for a degree; it is an education for life.”

The students here gain an invaluable education, not only inside the classroom but also at various workstations. Staffers work side by side with professors, providing students with practical opportunities to complement traditional classroom learning. These relationships help to fulfill both the Academic and Vocational Growth goals of the College.

At a banquet prior to the Forum, consistent with the theme of Work Ethic, the College chose to honor five of its own staff members for their exemplary work ethic. Honorees included David Ray, landscape department supervisor; Tom Smith, farm manager; Mynette Ulrich, fruitcake and jelly kitchen supervisor; Eddie Lane, security department supervisor; and Candy Sullinger, sports information director and physical education office manager.
College Employees Honored at Banquet

Left: David Ray has been a supervisor in the landscape department since 1987.
Right: Mynette Ulrich began working at the fruitcake and jelly kitchen in 1985.
Below, left: Eddie Lane joined the staff at the College in 1990.
Below, center: Tom Smith is an alum-nus of the College and became an employee in 1975.
Below, right: Candy Sullinger has been a member of the College family since 1987.

The Leonard B. and Edith Gittinger Community Convocation Series presents...

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel will be the guest speaker for the Leonard B. and Edith Gittinger Community Convocation on October 3, 2002. Mr. Netanyahu brings experience in international and Israeli affairs and an active role in promoting peace around the world. The theme for this Community Convocation will be Service and Leadership.

Upcoming Events

- Camp Lookout . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . June 3 - August 9
- Honor America Celebration . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . June 30
- Character Camp . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . August 16 - August 25
- Honor Induction/Etiquette Banquet . . . . . . . . . August 24
- Community Convocation . . . . . . . . . . . . . . October 3
- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
- Veterans Day Celebration . . . . . . . . . . . . . November 11
Hard Work Earns Student a Fulbright Scholarship

College of the Ozarks has its first Fulbright Scholar. Shelly Compton, granddaughter of James and Mary Taylor from Republic, Missouri, has been selected to receive a Fulbright grant for the academic year 2002-2003 to Kuopio, Finland. This prestigious scholarship was established in 1946, at the end of World War II. For more than 50 years, the Fulbright committee has endeavored to promote a “mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills.” It covers the student’s travel expenses to the country applied for and provides them with a moderate monthly allowance for housing and board. The scholarship is for one academic year.

The United States Department of State funds the majority of the grant, with the host country often contributing financial assistance, as well as tuition waivers, university housing, and other benefits. Competitors for this grant must go through three stages of selection in order to be determined a grantee. First, there is a National Screening Committee (NSC) which reviews all the applications and makes recommendations. Next, those applications are sent on to the abroad agencies of the particular host country. Finally, the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which consists of 12 judges appointed by the President of the United States, makes the final selection. More than 50 countries now participate in this program.

Compton said she desired to further her education in order to address the growing concern of health issues that Americans face. It is her hope that the generally healthier lifestyle the Finnish pursue will provide her with knowledge and insight to bring back to her own country. During the exchange, she will be studying in the Department of Public Health and General Practice of the University at Kuopio. Ms. Compton will be enrolled in a two-year program that will earn her a European Master’s degree in Public Health. She says that the program is relatively new there, and all of her classes will be in English. Compton will also be taking culture and language classes along with her nutrition and wellness studies. She will be leaving in July for Finland.

Upon acceptance of the award, Ms. Compton returned these words in a letter to College President Jerry C. Davis: “Again, I am deeply grateful for all the opportunities I have been granted by C of O. I would not have even been able to attend college at all, let alone be granted any awards or scholarships, had it not been for the financial aid and the work program at the school.”

A special thanks is due James P. Keeter, a member 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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