

College of **The** the Ozarks®
KEETER REPORT

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Tom Brokaw Visits Campus



NBC Special Correspondent Tom Brokaw speaks to a community convocation audience about his respect and admiration of "The Greatest Generation."

Tom Brokaw Visits College of the Ozarks

Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

On November 10, 2005, College of the Ozarks honored the “Greatest Generation” by hosting Tom Brokaw in the Keeter Gymnasium, the latest event in the Leonard B. and Edith Gittinger Community Convocation Series. A capacity crowd of nearly 4,000 gathered not only to hear one of the most distinguished newsmen and journalists of our time but also to remember the enormous sacrifice of an entire generation during World War II. This special convocation coincided with Branson’s annual Veterans’ Homecoming Week. Many veterans attended the event, including fifteen American ex-prisoners of war from the East Central Florida Chapter and members of the Tuskegee



Miss Lucy Feagans from the College's Child Development Center leads the Pledge of Allegiance.



Dr. Harry Basore is honored for his service and bravery.

Airmen.

Before taking the podium, Brokaw joined C of O President Jerry C. Davis in honoring two School of the Ozarks Alumni and one former employee as special examples of the “Greatest Generation.” Dr. Harry Basore, class of 1935 and current member of the Board of Trustees, was recognized for both courage in combat and humility in heroism. After several years as a naval flight instructor during WWII, Basore began flying combat missions for the U.S. Navy. Basore received the Navy

Cross for outstanding service during the invasion of Southern France in 1945 and was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star by the French government. Basore insisted, however, that these honors did not belong to him alone; rather, his success depended on the men with whom he served. When asked if he ever thought about death out there on the lines, Basore answered, "No, we were expendable, and we knew it." Davis replied that a man so modest in his achievements deserves our gratitude.

Mrs. Bonita Bailey, class of '44, served her country on the home front with a job no less grueling; as a civil service member of the U. S. Army Casualty Branch, she was responsible for helping notify the families of American servicemen killed in action. She worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week, sending out stacks of telegrams that sometimes reached the ceiling of her office.



Former staff member of the School and prisoner of war, Mr. John T. Brown receives his plaque.



Mrs. Bonita Bailey who worked in the Pentagon, receives recognition for her contribution to the WWII effort.

The final honoree was Mr. John T. Brown, who managed the College's dairy operation and served as a student work supervisor during the 50s and 60s. Brown would tell his students that his "middle initial T is for trouble, and that's what you're going to have if you don't get to work!"

Brown entered the Army in 1943 and signed up as a paratrooper while at Camp Carson, Colorado. Soon he was fighting on the front lines, and Davis related to the crowd the harrowing accounts of Brown's repeated



Members of the East Central Florida Chapter of the America Ex-Prisoners of War:

captures and escapes. He was first taken as a POW after the Germans killed 17 of the 24 men in his platoon. While the Germans were transporting Brown and other POWs, he quietly conspired with a British prisoner to kill the guards and commandeer the vehicle. Though the men were initially successful, the Germans soon overtook them and killed everyone except Brown. In the end, Brown endured three enemy captures. After hearing his story, Brokaw declared, "The T does stand for trouble."

After these presentations, the C of O Community Band, Chapel Choir, and Chorale performed "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and invited the 13 ex-POWs on stage to help sing the final chorus. These men, who had confronted and overcome adversity, faced the audience



Mr. Brokaw accepts a copy of his book, The Greatest Generation, from Mr. Bruce Hall signed by the group of visiting World War II POWs.

and proudly sang, "His truth is marching on!" Following the hymn, Bruce Hall, the commander of the ex-POWs, presented a plaque of gratitude to Dr. Davis and an unforgettable gift to Brokaw: Hall, his men, and their wives had signed a copy of Brokaw's book, which Hall gave to him. Brokaw smiled, shook his head, and said, "Thank you very much for the autographed copy of my book."

In the introduction to his speech,

Brokaw admitted that publishing his book has been his crowning professional achievement. He does not take credit for the book's success, however. "I was just a doorman. I opened a door and said, 'This way, please. There are some stories I think you should hear.'" Those stories, of course, are about the men and women who made incredible sacrifices on behalf of their country. "They were the generation that answered a call to cross the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and fight two of the greatest military forces ever assembled."

After honoring the past, Brokaw cautioned the present generation about the dangers of divisive political discourse: "We have one country but two nations, and the goal of both parties is to divide and conquer." We must engage, Brokaw said, in an earnest dialogue about issues but free of the acrimony that taints the current political climate. Earlier in the day, at a press conference in The Keeter Center, Brokaw said he saw in the students at C of O a hope of remedying America's political divisions. "You have a wonderful foundation here. One of the concerns I have for American life is that people have become kind of self-absorbed. You have a wonderful beginning here in learning how to work and support each other, but the demands of society mean you have to be a citizen as well and not just worry about yourself."

Brokaw concluded his speech with a similar exhortation to his audience. "The riots in Paris are a harbinger of where we will be. There are 200 million migrants who left their homeland because there are no jobs, and they are trying to find a place to land. Unless we begin



Mr. Brokaw proudly receives his "Hard Work U." sweatshirt from C of O president, Jerry C. Davis.

to think about how they fit in and how we can change things at home so they don't have to leave, then we are facing some perilous times." Brokaw said that these dynamics cannot be ignored: "Live life robustly. Part of living life robustly is taking on these issues."



“This has been my best year ever! The entire culture of my building has changed for the better,” says Mr. Mike Dawson, the principal for the 3rd and 4th grade building at Branson Elementary School. As a cooperative effort, The Keeter Center for Character Education, all the public schools in the county, as well as many businesses, organizations, and churches in Taney County, have become partners and “linked arms” to focus on developing good character. This effort not only involves 18 school buildings, but it also includes 270 Partners from around the county who have committed to visibly demonstrating the “trait of the month” in their business, organization, or church. Since the launching of the First PLACE! (Partners Linking Arms for Character Education) initiative, positive change is being noted on many fronts.

Drive down the famous strip in Branson or in surrounding communities dotting the county, and you will see the trait of the month



Brandi Strain of Taneyville School is one of seven students recognized at a special dinner. These students are examples of outstanding character.

posted on marquees, in shop windows, and at bank drive-through facilities. The trait and its definition are on websites, in newsletters, in statement stuffers, and on church bulletins. One Taney County citizen had 250 yard signs made and passed them out to family and friends!

Principals and superintendents are reporting that they are seeing a decrease in the number of disciplinary referrals and an increase in the



(from left to right): Linda McKay, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, is responsible for Character Education at the national level. Liz Gibbons is recognized for her leadership as Director of CHARACTERplus®. Joan Davis serves as the Missouri State Project Coordinator of CHARACTERplus®.

sense of community among their staff and students. The principal at Forsyth Elementary School, Michelle Collins, said, “The students really look forward to hearing their name called for recognition of good character. I have to brag on my staff; they have really taken off with the character traits. I hear it in their lessons, on the playground, in the hallways, in conversation with parents, etc.”

The First PLACE! initiative is being integrated into the schools and community in many different ways. Before the effort was launched, traits and their definitions were selected at a town hall meeting. Nine traits were chosen and put in order, one to represent each month of the school year.

About the First PLACE! initiative, Taney County junior high school teacher, Chris Spencer, said, “Seeing the trait of the month on signs all over town, in the newspaper, and on the radio makes me feel like the entire community is on my team and supporting me.”

Each school, community partner, and parent is encouraged to become intentional about teaching character. Every teacher is encouraged to integrate the traits in their lesson plans and in the everyday activities of their classroom. Data is being collected to track changes in disciplinary referrals and attendance, as well as standardized test scores. Everyone involved in the initiative has linked arms, and school administrators from all over the county are expressing a positive change in the climate of their schools.



Rachel Davis

College of the Ozarks Senior, Mass Communications and PR major

Before the invention of electric light, celebrants would decorate their Christmas tree with dozens of small candles. Once Edison produced his miracle, however, Americans were quick to act; the first tree with strands of electric lights appeared in 1882. The public was enthralled by this astounding spectacle.

Now, Christmas lights are commonplace, and it grows more difficult every year to impress

Americans with elaborate displays of lights.

This feat is difficult, but not impossible, however.

This holiday season, College of the Ozarks distinguished itself from the typical seasonal display, dazzling members of the College family and community at The Keeter Center's second annual Tree Lighting.

This event was held in The Keeter

Center's spacious

McKibben Great Room

on December 1. The

room was decorated

with large green

wreaths, red swags,

and tiny white

C of O student Andrea Thompson gets ready to share a Christmas story during the festivities.

Christmas lights. All of these decorations paled, however, next to the event's focus: The Christmas Tree.

Reaching up towards the cathedral ceiling, the tree stood 25 feet. A crowd gathered around as the campus chaplain, Daniel Chinn, presented an inspiring Christmas message.

When the moment came to light the tree, a hush fell over the hall. Chinn's daughter, Jessica, gripped a large, elaborate lever with both hands and pulled. The tree burst to life with 15,000 lights, and the audience applauded. This display was grand enough to overcome even the most jaded spectator.

The crowd continued the festivities after the grand lighting. The College of the Ozarks Chorale and Handbell Choir entertained the large crowd with traditional Christmas carols and, and by the massive stone fireplace, an "elf" read a Christmas story to the children.

This event has started a new campus tradition, but it is not just for the College. In years to come, The Keeter Center Tree Lighting will signal to the entire community that the Christmas season has begun.

The Keeter Center was completed in 2004. The restaurant, accommodations, gift shop, banquet facilities, and grounds serve as a student work station to 185 students. It is also home to The Keeter Center for Character Education programs.

College of the Ozarks Named One of the 2005 Top Ten Conservative Colleges in America

For the second year in a row, College of the Ozarks has been honored as one of the Young America's Foundation Top 10 Conservative Colleges. College of the Ozarks was chosen because of its conservative classes that emphasize principles of smaller government, free enterprise, a strong national defense, and traditional values.

Young America's Foundation is America's largest conservative campus outreach program; the Foundation hosts several student conferences in Washington, D.C., and also takes pride in preserving Ronald Reagan's ranch, Rancho del Cielo, in California.

The purpose of the list is to inform those who want to attend a conservative college. Also included in the prestigious Top Ten List were Grove City College in Pennsylvania and Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Students from College of the Ozarks have participated in several conferences and events sponsored by the Young America's Foundation. One such event was FreedomFest, an educational meeting for those who are committed to principles of freedom and liberty. Three students spent a week in Washington, D.C., last summer at the National Conservative Student Conference.

College of the Ozarks is honored to be chosen as one of the Top Ten Conservative Colleges in America.



Students Attend Conservative Student Conference

*Natalie Hinds
College of the Ozarks Sophomore
Mass Communications and PR major*

The Young America's Foundation is a dedicated organization that helps to further the conservative movement through internships and summer conferences. Along with two fellow College of the Ozarks students, Josh Lewis and Holly Warden, I attended the 2005 National Student Conservative Conference.



*C of O students Josh Lewis, Holly Warden,
and Natalie Hinds*

This week-long conference was held in Washington, D.C., and included an eventful schedule of informative speakers, banquets, and sight-seeing. The speakers included Robert Novak, Ann Coulter, Newt Gingrich, Bay Buchanan, Ben Stein, Rich Lowry, and several other well-known individuals. These speeches were varied in topic, but all devoted to better informing young adults of the issues America is facing.

We were given the opportunity to attend a press conference at The Executive Office of the White House. We visited The Washington Monument, The National Archives, Lincoln Memorial, The World War II Memorial, The Smithsonian Museum of Art, and many more renowned sites.

Through attending The 2005 National Conservative Student Conference I gained a better understanding of Young America's Foundation, the conservative movement, issues America is presently facing, and the ways in which all of these topics are applicable to my life.

“Personally, I benefited by meeting students from other colleges. They were very curious about C of O, especially the work program.” —Josh Lewis, conference attendee

Why Hard Work U. Works

by Hayden Head, Associate Professor of English

This April, Senator Zell Miller of Georgia will address students from the College of the Ozarks and other colleges, including the military academies, on the virtue of hard work. Hard work is, of course, the cornerstone of College of the Ozarks; it is also foundational to the American experience. But what kind of virtue is “hard work”? Perhaps we can pursue the answer to that question by examining virtue more broadly.

According to classical philosophy, the four cardinal virtues are wisdom, justice, temperance, and courage; they take the adjective “cardinal” from the Latin “cardo,” which means “hinge.” These four virtues, then, are the ones on which all other virtues hinge. Wisdom, of course, is the practical knowledge of right and wrong; justice insists on a right relationship with others by giving to each person his

or her due; temperance requires that we restrain or temper our sensible appetites; and courage inspires us to act wisely, to live justly, and to curb our desires. That is, courage empowers us to live virtuously; without courage we are impotent to do what is right. As Samuel Johnson put it, “Courage is the greatest of all virtues; because unless a man has that virtue, he has not security for preserving any other.”

Note, however, that courage is the only ambiguous virtue; in fact, we could be courageous and act badly at the same time. This is not true



of the other virtues. Wisdom by definition is the knowledge of what is right; one cannot be wise and at the same time pursue a bad goal—to do so would be folly, not wisdom. Wisdom necessarily implies the knowledge of good ends. Similarly, justice by definition means giving each person his or her due; one cannot be too just. A desire for justice may prompt someone to take something unfairly from one man and give it to another; nevertheless, while the intention may be good, the act itself is unjust.



Finally, one cannot be too temperate. Perfect control of our physical appetites can only be a positive good. The man who goes to an ascetic extreme in controlling his desires has ceased to be temperate, because temperance by definition denotes moderation. Courage, however, is different. Plato writes that too much courage tends to make a man reckless. More importantly, one can be courageous in pursuing a bad end. Some very wicked people have had a lot of courage, and the results have been catastrophic.

The point is that while courage is necessary to achieve the other virtues, it must also be directed toward a good end. Hard work is the same; it is an ambiguous virtue. We tend to contrast hard work with laziness, and conclude that hard work is a simple good. But one could work hard to achieve a bad end, in which case hard work is hardly virtuous. Like courage, hard work must be oriented toward good ends in order for it to be a virtuous activity. And this is where College of the Ozarks enters the picture. Even though we are known as “Hard Work U.,” we are also firmly grounded in Christian principles. That is, according to the guiding vision of C of O, our hard work must be ori-

ented to the kingdom of God. Ultimately, our hard work must be in the service of God, and the hardest work of all is the sacrifice of our wills to God's will. In this vein, it is worthwhile to revisit the vision statement of the College as set forth in our Strategic Plan: "Our vision is to develop citizens of Christ-like character who are well-educated, hard working, and patriotic." In this simple statement, hard work rises to the level of true virtue, unambiguous and clear; in Christian terms, hard work has been redeemed.

This redeemed concept of work resembles even more closely the virtue of courage. Our belief in hard work belies a confidence that we are not shackled to the circumstances of our birth or the mistakes of our past; through the strength of our hands, the education of our minds, and the goodness of our hearts we can overcome bad circumstances to improve our own lot and the lot of our world. As a result, we work enthusiastically to become wise and to live justly with others; we strive to discipline our bodies and our desires. In short we have the courage to work hard for good ends. This courage, however, is not grounded in our own abilities but in God's grace to us.

Ultimately, we work because we are created in the image of a gracious God who works: His work is manifest in the act of creation, the continuance of providence, and, of course, the act of redemption. God's work in creation gives us the cultural mandate (Genesis 1-2) through which we labor, seeking to emulate our Creator in ordering earthly resources and social ideologies to His glory. We join our work to His in order to reflect his character, and in doing so, we are destined to enjoy His work forever.



Upcoming Spring Work Ethic Forum

Zell Miller, nationally-acclaimed governor, U.S. Marine Sergeant, best-selling author, and former U.S. Senator, will be the guest speaker for the Work Ethic Forum at College of the Ozarks on Thursday, April 6, 2006. Miller will speak on "The American Work Ethic: The Gates of Opportunity."

As an independent conservative and dedicated Christian, Miller is bold in his political views—making him a regular on the nation's talk shows and in high demand as a public speaker.

A Democratic supporter of President Bush, Miller is the only person to ever have been the keynote speaker in both the Republican and Democratic national conventions. Miller is the author of seven books and serves as a contributor to The Fox News Channel. He has been married to wife Shirley for 50 years and enjoys spending time with his family.

Tickets are available in a limited supply. Please call 417-334-6411, extension 4200.



College of **The** the Ozarks®

KEETER CENTER

F O R C H A R A C T E R E D U C A T I O N

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 our annual 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+ work stations on campus. The College was recently recognized by the Young America's Foundation as one of the nation's "Top 10 Conservative Colleges." *U.S. News & World Report* ranked College of the Ozarks among the America's best liberal arts colleges yearly since 1989. College of the Ozarks is a shining example of conservative ideals.

www.keetercenter.edu • 417-334-6411, ext. 4242

Sue Head, Executive Director

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