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COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS®

The Keeter Report



*College of the Ozarks
Celebrates 100 Years!*

Highlights from the Centennial Year



Caleb Lilley, "Reverend James Forsythe", and Emily Forster at the Founder's Day Picnic

By Natalie Hinds, student

During the celebration of its Centennial year, College of the Ozarks has proudly hosted a variety of events that reflect the hard work, dignity, and tradition of our first century. The festivities began with the Founder's Day Picnic, held at Shadow Rock Park in Forsyth, Missouri, on Tuesday Sept. 12. More than 400 faculty, staff, alumni, and others gathered near the original site of The School of the Ozarks. President Davis and Professor Stacy McNeill began by sharing the history and mission of The School of the Ozarks. Guests enjoyed a meal provided by the College. After dinner, President Davis reflected on his deep admiration for the College, and presented recent retirees with certificates for their tremendous service to C of O. At dusk guests watched a reenactment of Reverend James Forsythe coming to the Ozarks and his strong determination to plant a school. The evening ended with students proudly singing The School's alma mater.

The Centennial Homecoming Weekend held various festivities including the coronation of Bonnie Harrell as the 2006 Centennial Homecoming Queen on Thursday, Nov. 2. The Alumni Golf Game and Council Meeting were held on Friday, Nov. 3, along with the Bobcats' Homecoming Basketball game. Saturday, Nov. 4, began with a 5K run/walk and an alumni breakfast. Student activity booths offered a wide array of games, snacks, and entertain-



Homecoming Queen Bonnie Harrell and her court



Alumni Director, Helen Youngblood, and Alumni Association President, Richard Miller, assist President Davis and 1941 Class Agent, J.D. Nave with the unveiling of the Centennial Park monument.

ment for faculty, staff, students, and alumni who gathered for the celebration. A commemorative marker was unveiled in The Centennial Park located in front of The Keeter Center. Following the annual Homecoming Parade, hundreds gathered to take part in the centennial photograph taken on Williams Memorial Chapel lawn.

Eight hundred College of the Ozarks students, faculty, and staff enjoyed The Centennial Heritage Costume Ball in late February. Les Brown and his Band of Renown and the Dave Rice Band filled both ends of The Keeter Center and guests enjoyed the food and special program celebrating the Centennial.

Hannah (C of O alumna) and Daniel Sappington (C of O student) at the Heritage Ball



College of the Ozarks: The Tradition That Works

By Dr. Hayden Head, Professor of English



One of my favorite episodes in C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* takes place after Aslan is restored to life and defeats the White Witch and her army. After the battle, Aslan and the children enter the courtyard of her palace where she had her statuary, those creatures of Narnia she had turned to stone. Aslan bounds from statue to statue, breathing on them and bringing them to life. When Aslan comes to a giant, Susan exclaims, "Oh! Look! I wonder—I mean, is it safe?" Aslan re-

sponds by joyously breathing on Rumble Buffin, that's the giant's name, who wakes up and tips his cap to Aslan. Lucy later remarks, "What a nice giant he is!" and Mr. Tumnus, the faun, answers her: "Oh, yes, all the Buffins always were. One of the most respected of all the giant families in Narnia. Not very clever, perhaps, (I never knew a giant that was), but an old family. With traditions, you know. If he'd been the other sort she'd never have turned him into stone."

Mr. Tumnus's reply expresses, I think, one of Lewis's most important insights, namely, that traditions civilize otherwise unruly giants; indeed, traditions civilize us all. Unfortunately for our own age, we have jettisoned our traditions and the culture they created. To borrow (and modify) a phrase from Elton Trueblood, we live in a cut-flower



society; we have been severed from the past, and any color we have left is a vestige of our former glory. Moreover, if we examine Mr. Tumnus's answer closely, we will also find that our society has entered a perilous state of soul because we have joined those giants of "the other sort," that is, giants without traditions and not worth the bother of turning into stone. Without traditions we are, in effect, already on the White Witch's side.

One hundred years after its founding, College of the Ozarks is proud to remain on Aslan's side, alive in its traditions and resisting the stony touch of postmodernism. The motto for our centennial year is "The Tradition That Works," and that simple phrase embodies the ethos of the College: of course, the principal focus of the motto is our belief in hard work as the ready means to the American dream. But the College is also rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition, the traditions of liberty and love of country that have defined the American enterprise, the tradition of a solid liberal arts education—the traditions that could still civilize the unruly giant that America has become, if only she returns to them. Our job as an institution is to pass those traditions on to the next generation. It is worth recalling that the word "tradition" comes from the Latin *tradere*, to hand over. While our hands remain cupped around the precious flame of Christian culture, we find our fulfillment, our joy, in our graduates who bear that flame into their jobs, their communities, their churches, and their families. We are delighted to teach young people who are not cold statues of cynicism but warm lovers of truth. And we are profoundly grateful to the Lord's faithfulness to our college. We face the next hundred years confident that we will remain faithful to His high calling.



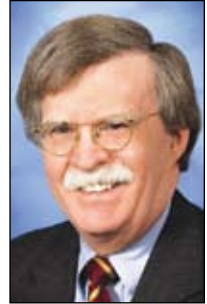
Miracle in the Ozarks

In keeping with the centennial theme, “A Tradition That Works” the President of the College, Dr. Jerry C. Davis, has recorded the traditions of College of the Ozarks in his new book, *Miracle in the Ozarks: The Inspiring Story of Faith, Hope, and Hard Work U*. For over twelve years, President Davis has been interviewing the living legends of the school, combing the archives, and mining the library to collect the stories and characters that comprise *Miracle in the Ozarks*. As Davis is quick to point out, however, his book is not a history; it is a story, and as that story unfolds, the reader comes to realize that calling the College a miracle is not hyperbole but true. From Rev. James Forsythe’s dream of a work study school in the Ozarks to the founding of the school by a handful of fellow visionaries on a hill in Forsyth, Missouri, to the national recognition of College of the Ozarks today, Davis follows the struggles and achievements of a College that has consistently charted its course by a faith in Christ and confidence in the American dream. Davis chronicles the humorous—the antics of young people who acted, well, like young people—and the tragic—the heroism of those same young people who sacrificed everything in defense of their country. In so doing, Davis reveals the ups and downs of an institution that mirrors the ebb and flow of life. In the end, he reveals a college that is real—a college that has never introduced a spurious distinction between the life of the mind and the work of the hands, a college that has never pitted faith against learning, a college that remains true to its founding mission: to provide an education of the “head, heart, and hands” to students who are worthy of such an education but lack the means to procure it. To order your copy of Dr. Davis’ book, please call 417-334-6411, ext. 2470 or visit the C of O website at www.cofu.edu. You may also send \$14.95 plus \$3.00 shipping to College of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 17, Point Lookout, MO 65726. All proceeds will benefit Camp Lookout, the College’s Christian summer camp for the underprivileged youth of the Ozarks.



Ambassador John Bolton to Visit Campus

John Bolton, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, will be the guest speaker for the John N. and Ella C. Marsh Citizenship Academy Forum on Thursday, April 12, 2007. The title of his talk will be *The Threat of Terrorism: Do Americans Really Understand?* His experience and expertise on global terrorism and security issues will help College of the Ozarks students, visiting cadets from the U. S. Military Academies, and students from select colleges and universities gain a greater understanding of this timely issue.



Bolton was appointed as United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations on August 1, 2005, and served until his resignation in December 2006. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Bolton served as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security from May 2001 to May 2005.

During his tenure as Ambassador, Bolton pursued both U.S. and world security through his strong defense of the economic and security interests of the U.S. at the United Nations. Bolton prevented Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, successfully pressed for sanctions against North Korea's nuclear tests, and aided in ending the Hezbollah war on Israel in the summer of 2006.

Previously, Ambassador Bolton was Senior Vice President of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). AEI is a nonprofit public policy center dedicated to preserving and strengthening the foundations of freedom through research, education, and open debate.

During the two-day forum, cadets from each of the U.S. Military Academies and students from guest colleges and universities will join selected College of the Ozarks juniors and seniors for lectures and small group discussions about the topic. These participants will also enjoy a private question and answer session with the Ambassador prior to his public address. College of the Ozarks faculty and staff members will serve as facilitators and mentors during the event.

Ambassador Bolton is also an attorney and practices law when not in public service. He currently resides in Maryland with his wife, Gretchen.

C. S. Lewis and Character Education: The 2007 Teachers Academy

Speaking of C. S. Lewis, The Keeter Center for Character Education is proud to announce its first Teachers Academy in summer 2007: C. S. Lewis and Character Education. Twenty or so teachers will be invited from area public schools to study several of Lewis's most influential works: *The Abolition of Man*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Four members of the C of O faculty—Dr. Dana McMahon, Dr. Mark Rapinchuk, Mr. David Ringer, and Dr. Hayden Head—will lead seminars and small groups in discussing and debating Lewis's profound legacy of letters. The academy will take place in The Keeter Center facility from June 7-9.



C. S. Lewis

In light of Lewis's success as a Christian apologist, it's easy to overlook the fact that he was first and foremost a teacher; because he was a Christian and a traditionalist, Lewis was always interested in education, particularly in the liberal arts, and character development. *The Abolition of Man* is perhaps the defense of natural law in the twentieth century. This relatively brief but powerful book argues that relativism, an often implicit philosophy that has insinuated itself into contemporary education, renders authentic character development impossible. As Lewis argues, we demand a particular function of students, be it dynamism or progress or morality, while we remove the organ that makes that function possible. In fact, Lewis asserts that the practical effect of contemporary education is to remove the heart altogether, thereby creating a culture of "men without chests." As a consequence, students graduate from high school with perhaps one overarching belief: that they are the ultimate arbiters of "what is good" and the final authority on all moral beliefs. Such a belief is, of course, corrosive to the whole notion of character.

The Screwtape Letters is also an educational text of sorts, in that Screwtape is teaching his nephew Wormwood how to tempt a soul to its damnation. We as readers are expected to learn by negative example the diabolical nature of our adversary and the goodness of our God. But Lew-

is addresses education explicitly in the final chapter, “Screwtape Proposes a Toast.” In his words to the graduating class of demons, the old tempter foresees a day in which educators will be more concerned with their students’ self-esteem than in their actually learning anything. As a result, Lewis suggests that the bright students will be held back while slower students are satisfied that they “are as good as anybody else.” In this amazingly prescient diagnosis of contemporary education, Lewis anticipates a day when mediocrity reigns and excellence is forbidden.

Finally, Lewis weaves his philosophy of education throughout *The Chronicles of Narnia*. From the professor in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* to the end of the school term in *The Last Battle*, Lewis emphasizes the role of education in shaping the moral imagination. For Lewis, the imagination of a child is the nursery, the incubator, so to speak, of lovely thoughts and noble deeds. While Lewis’s principal objective in writing *The Chronicles* was to introduce children to Christ in a way that would engage them anew, a secondary objective that followed hard after was to show children what good character looks like and inspire them to pursue a life well-lived. We think these books will be inspirational, and perhaps challenging and controversial as well. We look forward to an energetic examination of these works and their relevance in building character in the next generation.



Center Hosts Poverty Summit

Despite snowy weather, nearly 500 school teachers, pastors, civic leaders, and concerned individuals gathered in The Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks on Friday, Feb. 2 to learn about poverty. The Poverty Summit, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, featured Dr. Rita Pierson and was held to inform local community members about the differences among social classes, their types of language and hidden rules, in order to improve teaching and communication between the classes.



Dr. Rita Pierson

Serving as an educator for over thirty years and a speaker for ten years, Dr. Pierson provided insight about poverty, while weaving witty stories about her family and past students. She explained hidden rules of the three social classes: poverty, middle class, and wealthy. Dr. Pierson defined hidden rules as “cues” that allow people to decipher “if they do or do not belong to the group.” She discussed cues for each social class and also pointed out that those who do not know the rules for each class stand out.



College of the Ozarks Education faculty and students help with the Poverty Summit registration.

The Poverty Summit “*A Framework for Understanding Poverty*” was one of the best presentations for moving people into a different way of thinking that I have ever been exposed to. I think that would be one worth repeating. Dr. Pierson did an awesome job presenting the information and keeping it interesting and applicable regardless of whether you are a teacher, social worker, agency or neighbor. I’ve read the *Framework* book once and am now reading it a second time to see how I can utilize some of the information for the volunteer training we will be doing for our programs in the community.

Anita Prochnow, Executive Director, The Silver Dollar City Foundation

Dr. Pierson explained that those who suffer in poverty may have money, but do not know how to spend it. For those in poverty, Pierson explained, “...all things are an emergency.” A handout outlined the key facts about poverty. Pierson emphasized the difference between generational and situational poverty, the fact that most schools operate from middle class norms, and the two things that help one move out of poverty: relationships and education.

Dr. Pierson spoke on behalf of aha! Process, Inc. This company was co-founded by Dr. Ruby Payne, author of the best-selling book, “*A Framework for Understanding Poverty*.” This book and a workbook were available for all attendees to purchase. The first 50 school teachers to register for the Poverty Summit were given free books and workbooks, compliments of the U.S. Bank Foundation.

Sue Head, the Executive Director of The Keeter Center for Character Education, was pleased with the enormous turnout. “Over half of the children who attend school in our county live in poverty. The College was glad to provide an opportunity for educators, ministries, and social agencies to gain powerful information that will make a positive difference in helping those who live in poverty.” Head shared feedback from one of the College’s staff members, Child Development Center Director Marty Waller, who said, “There were a few children in the day care that I couldn’t reach, but now I understand what I can do differently to help them.”

Dr. Pierson drew the four and a half hour summit to a close by reminding the audience the importance of understanding poverty in order to teach others how to get out of it.

Positive Results Reported after Initial Year of First PLACE!

The Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks is proud to have taken a leadership role in an unprecedented effort to improve the lives of children in Taney County, Missouri. The initiative, entitled “First PLACE!” or Partners Linking Arms for Character Education, sought to accomplish three goals related to the lives of children: improving school climate, encouraging visible support by the community, and engaging parents in the development of character in their child(ren).

Character education is not simply another program to add to a teacher’s full “plate”; when it is integrated fully within the school day, character education can become the plate upon which everything else lies. The assumption about today’s culture is that without an underlying foundation of character and good citizenship, the morals in our culture will continue to decline.

Thankfully, because of a very high level of participation among the 18 public schools, private schools, and 353 First PLACE! partners (businesses, churches, civic organizations, ministries, social agencies, government officials, and individuals), there has been an increased awareness concerning character education, as well as some positive results in area schools.

In reviewing the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) records on public schools in Taney County, positive change is noted in several areas. In 2005, 10 of the 16 schools giving the state standardized test reached the Communication Arts target standard





set by DESE, and that number increase to 14 in the first year of First PLACE! The rate of attendance increased in six of the seven districts. While the discipline incident rate increased at the state level, the Taney County rate decreased in five of the seven districts. In two of the districts, the total number of disciplinary cases decreased by 50% or more.

During this second year of the initiative, assessments are helping schools with planning, and professional development opportunities are giving teachers new strategies for improving test scores and classroom environment. Because over 50% of students in Taney County live at or below the poverty level, The Keeter Center for Character Education is providing speakers and equipping teachers with learning strategies specifically for these struggling students.

Another positive result of First PLACE! is the birth of four “Catalyst” groups. One year ago during March’s focus on cooperation, a “Cooperation Celebration” opened the door for individuals to join one of the four catalyst groups: education, employment, healthy families, and health care, primary areas of concerns for local residents. The mission of the catalyst groups reads: “We seek to honor God by striving to improve our



community through positive change based on Christian values and ethics. We serve, influence, and lead by providing vision and resources in synergy with others as we value our past and guide our future.” The only requirements for joining a group were a passion for the topic and a commitment to following the Lord’s direction in the community. Sixty people have been meeting twice a month for a year, and they are working together to identify needs and develop solutions to meet those needs. The ongoing Catalyst groups serve our community through First PLACE!

New Nursing Program Focuses on Character

In the fall of 2007, College of the Ozarks will introduce its newest academic program: a major in nursing. The renovation of the McDonald Hospital is complete, and the facility and its equipment are state-of-the-art. The McDonald Nursing Learning Lab houses a nursing simulation lab to aid students in their learning, complete with a collection of full-care manikins including “Noelle,” a child-bearing manikin that will promote instruction in maternal-child nursing. The Missouri State Board of Nursing approved the program proposal and conducted a site visit in December, 2006. A decision regarding program approval is expected in March. Part of the approval process included review of the curriculum framework.

As is always the case, careful attention has been given to integrating the new curriculum with the College’s emphasis on character. Dr. Janice Williams, the creator and director of the program, will base the character-driven curriculum on the tenets of Florence Nightingale, the visionary founder of professional nursing. In 1837, Nightingale, a wealthy English girl who was classically educated, defied the conventions of her day and entered the field of nursing. Her experiences in Germany and the Crimean War (1857) convinced her that nursing required the best talents of the best people. Previously, caring for the sick had been a divided enterprise: while Catholic sisters and hospitals provided some needed care, too many patients in Victorian England, particularly the lower class, were tended by prostitutes, alcoholics, and societal outcasts. In the military, wounded soldiers, initially, were not given medical treatment until they reached a makeshift hospital; many did not live long enough to benefit from their wait. Clearly, such “care” did little to help patients, either physically or spiritually. Enter Florence Nightingale. Shocked by this quagmire of pain and neglect, Nightin-






gale heeded the call of God to improve patient conditions. As the first nursing professional, Nightingale formulated her philosophy of nursing: to “put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him.” Consequently, she applied natural and biblical principles of healing to her patients, principles that included cleanliness, sunlight, clean air

and water, septic systems, and nutritious food. These principles originated in Old Testament hygiene laws and ceremonial cleanliness. If you have ever appreciated a window in your hospital room or three meals a day, you have Florence Nightingale to thank.

Florence was also a passionate statistician. Her records revealed that basic hygiene and nutritional measures yielded an astounding decrease in mortality rates during the Crimean War. For the first time, the medical profession began using statistics as part of their patient care, in spite of the fact that physicians of the day initially opposed Nightingale. Her work in record keeping greatly improved patient care in the English, Indian, and American military.

Finally, some of her ideas were even more revolutionary for her time, because Nightingale realized that good health transcends the body. She prayed with her patients; she helped soldiers write letters home to their families; and she gave the soldiers “sacred spaces for healing” that allowed them uninterrupted rest, music, and time for quiet reflection. These groundbreaking concepts from Nightingale’s era will form the foundation of C of O’s program and connect the rich past of nursing with current patient care. While the equipment will be state-of-the-art and the education second-to-none, the emphasis will always be on people and the God who created them. The emphasis will always be on character.

THE KEETER
CENTER *for*
CHARACTER
EDUCATION
COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS®



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* has 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.

The Keeter Center for Character Education

Sue Head, Executive Director

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