School of the Ozarks
Now Offering K-12
At College of the Ozarks, students have numerous opportunities to learn, work, and serve others through Christ—three components which comprise the fundamental building blocks of the Hard Work U experience. Those opportunities set the College apart from much of mainstream education.

With so much amiss in the world and our nation, be relieved to know that there is something right—a worthy Christian mission embraced by students. They understand the value of a Christian education and the value of working for it. This is something our nation thirsts for today. The College continues its worthy mission “to provide the advantages of a Christian education for youth of both sexes, especially those found worthy, but who are without sufficient means to procure such training.” In August, the College welcomed 290 eager freshmen ready to learn, work, and serve.

Also, in August the College began offering even more opportunities with the opening of the School of the Ozarks S. Truett Cathy Lower School, which mirrors the mission of the College of the Ozarks. Students do not pay tuition but perform age-appropriate tasks. In its first year, the Lower School welcomed 139 pupils for grades Kindergarten-sixth. Turn to page 15 to learn more about this new addition. In November, the College will formally dedicate the S. Truett Cathy Lower School, named in honor of long-time friend of the College and founder of Chick-fil-A®. Next year, the College plans to add grades 7th and 8th. With those additions, the College will be offering a quality, Christian education to grades Kindergarten through college.

In October, the College welcomed Dr. Charles Krauthammer, a Pulitzer Prize Winner for Distinguished Commentary, Washington Post columnist, FOX News contributor, and author of the #1 New York Times best-seller Things that Matter: Decades of Passions, Pastimes and Politics. His speech at the Patriotic Convocation included his analysis of current foreign and domestic issues. In the next edition, you may read what this highly intelligent individual had to say about the serious issues facing America and the world.

It is an exciting time to be a part of Hard Work U. Whether it’s young students enjoying recess on their new playground or College students raking leaves for their work education assignment—everywhere one looks there is activity. Earlier this fall, the College also kicked off the “Year of the Bible” with an opening exhibition featuring the Heritage Edition of St. John’s Bible, the first illuminated Bible in more than 500 years, produced by St. John’s University in Minnesota. This exhibition was the first of many chances at College of the Ozarks to view and learn about the St. John’s Bible. You may learn more about the “Year of the Bible” and the opening exhibition on page 14.

Finally, please turn to page 9 to read how 22 students ship out 6,700 fruitcakes in less than two months. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a delicious fruitcake!
U.S. News & World Report released its 2015 “Best Colleges Rankings,” and College of the Ozarks again made the top of several lists. The College was named #4 Best Regional College in the Midwest, #1 Best Value in the Midwest, and #1 Students with the Least Debt. It was also the #1 and only college listed as Best Commitment to Undergraduate Teaching and included on the Service Learning-Program to Look For List.

Freshman agricultural business major Milam Smith believes that the College’s rankings will serve him well during future job searches. “There is no greater blessing than to be able to obtain a quality education at a school where you work off your debt,” Smith said. “I am very thankful that God led me to a college that values learning to such a high degree.”

“College of the Ozarks consistently makes the Best Colleges list compiled by U.S. News & World Report, as well as many other noteworthy rankings lists, and all reaffirms the institution’s quality,” said Elizabeth Hughes, public relations director. “U.S. News is a well-known, trusted source for prospective students and their families to consult during their college search.”

To determine the Best Colleges lists, U.S. News analyzes several categories, such as freshman retention rate, student-to-faculty ratio, average graduation rate, and peer assessment.

“We rank for best quality, and we rank for best value as well,” U.S. News explains on its Why U.S. News Ranks Colleges page. “Most people choose a college only once in their lifetime, so there’s not much opportunity to learn from your past mistakes. Instead, you need first-rate information from the start.”

College of the Ozarks has been recognized as a Best College by U.S. News yearly since 1989.

Other noteworthy rankings the College received this year

**The Princeton Review’s Best 378 Colleges 2015 Edition:**
- #19 Best-Run Colleges,
- #7 Don’t Inhale,
- #3 Future Rotarians and Daughters of The American Revolution,
- #3 Got Milk?
- #4 Most Conservative Students,
- #8 Most Religious Students,
- #2 Scotch And Soda, Hold The Scotch,
- #6 Stone-Cold Sober Schools,
- #11 Town-Gown Relations are Great.

**The Princeton Review: The Best Value Colleges 2014**

**Forbes 2014 Top Colleges**
- #194 Overall,
- #144 in Private Colleges,
- #38 in the Midwest,
- Forbes Financial Grade: A.

**Money Magazine Best Colleges 2014-2015:**
- #62 Best College in Nation,
- #3 Most Affordable College in Nation.

**Christianuniversitiesonline.org 2014:**
- #1 Best Christian College in the Nation.
By Moriah Isringhausen

Taking a short break from her hectic schedule, a young woman talks to a group of friends after a convocation. She had a full day of class, work on campus, choir and theatre practice, and still has homework to complete. She sounds like a typical College of the Ozarks student balancing school, work, extracurricular activities, and a social life; however, there is one difference. She has cancer.

Ashley Howard, a senior theatre major, was diagnosed with Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) Stage II on May 29, 2014. RMS typically is a pediatric cancer affecting one- to five-year-olds or in rare cases 15- to 19-year-olds. However, Howard, at age 22, was diagnosed with RMS. “It’s a lot like adult acne,” Howard said. “I thought that all I had to do was survive puberty, and I’d be in the clear. Nope.”

Howard had three tumors, one behind her left eye and two behind her right eye, along with cancerous tissue in her left elbow and ankle. At the time she was diagnosed, her parents were told she may only have five to six months to live. Howard had two surgeries to remove the tumors and then immediately started chemotherapy treatments and radiation therapy.

The treatments came to a sudden stop when on August 1, blood work showed that the treatments were destroying her immune system, and she was unable to fight off a virus that had infected her. “Fighting gets old. It hurts and is exhausting,” Howard wrote in her blog.

Despite how cancer has exhausted her, Howard refuses to let it stop her from living and instead, uses her challenges to help and inspire others. She began a blog about her experiences; she takes lessons she is learning from having cancer and translates them into universal truths. In one of her posts, she discusses her challenges with the idea of beauty. She describes her struggle with an eating disorder before describing how cancer helped her to understand the truth; she was beautiful. Cancer had been the shock that finally forced her to look in the mirror and see her beauty. She ended her post by encouraging all other women to see the beauty in themselves. In another post, Howard explained how to love through actions, not words. She chooses to use her difficult situation to build others up, rather than allowing it to tear her down.

Howard’s example of strong character and courage has caused others to rally around her and demonstrate their character. Students assigned to the Farmers Market saved their tip money throughout the summer and gave it to Howard to help with medical expenses.

Another shining example: Howard shaved her head once she was diagnosed and posted a picture on Facebook with her holding a sign that read, “No hair, don’t care.” This inspired a student to hold a fundraiser to buy her a quality wig.

Howard’s positive attitude and inability to be slowed down by her health struggles encourages everyone she encounters. She keeps up with school and work, while staying active in chapel choir and the theater department. This inspiring student can teach us all something about strength, courage, and the ability to hope. “Living with cancer is like riding a yo-yo. Up, down, up, down,” she wrote. “Sometimes all you can do is hold on and go for a ride. Sooner or later, you’ll get back up again.”
Giving to College of the Ozarks

Each gift matters – and every donation helps ensure we can continue to fulfill our vision – which is to develop citizens of Christ-like character who are well-educated, hardworking, and patriotic.

Giving Spotlight: Gift Annuity

★ What is a gift annuity? A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the College of the Ozarks. In exchange for a gift of cash or property, C of O agrees to make fixed payments to you for the remainder of your life.

★ Receive fixed payments
★ Choose a 1- or 2-life annuity
★ Benefit from tax deduction
★ Leave lasting legacy
★ Impact the lives of students

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To learn more about giving, call us at 417.690.2209 or give securely online at www.cofo.edu/giving.
We are the Pro-Life Generation!

By Haley Jones, guest writer

I chanted the words, “we are the pro-life generation,” with dozens of other pro-life believers. It was a hot day in Washington D.C., as we stood in front of the Supreme Court all waiting expectantly.

We were waiting to hear the verdict of Hobby Lobby’s Supreme Court hearing, relating to Affordable Health Care Act’s (commonly referred to as Obamacare) regulations forcing the Christian company to provide abortifacient drugs to its employees.

The verdict could come at any point. The media, pro-lifers, and pro-choicers were all waiting outside and had no idea when the decision would be announced.

Suddenly in the midst of our chanting and cheering, the crowd shifted, all eyes locked forward as we saw a stirring on the steps. Then the verdict came…WE WON! There were tears of joy, hugging, victorious yelling, jumping, and dancing.

Some say it was a small victory, but we were thankful that it was just that, a victory.

This past summer I was given the amazing opportunity to spend my summer with Young America’s Foundation, (YAF) in the D.C. Metro Area, working hard to help support conservative values. Young America’s Foundation is a conservative group that seeks to teach high school and college students about the importance of protecting traditional, American values. I owe this great opportunity to College of the Ozarks.

Last November I attended a conference sponsored by Young America’s Foundation. At the time, I knew absolutely nothing about public policy and was not interested in anything to do with our Capitol. I went in as an apathetic American and came out a passionate patriot.

Soon after the conference, I started a Young Americans for Freedom chapter affiliated with Young America’s Foundation at C of O.

I had always been a conservative, but I never acted on those convictions.

Feeling that I had a responsibility to serve our country in a certain way, I applied for YAF’s summer internship program, and to my excitement, I was accepted!

While there I had the opportunity to rally at the Supreme Court, hear senators speak, meet congressmen, see historical sites, discuss public policy with experts, write editorials, and help run conferences for students much like the one I previously attended.

My summer in Washington was an eye-opening experience. It opened not only my physical eyes to the desperate need of our country for the young to become passionate patriots, but also my heart to my newfound passion to protect traditional, American values.
By Grace Donaldson

In 1954 Ho Chi Minh, Prime Minister and President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, gained control of North Vietnam through his communist party, the Viet Minh. A military conflict spanning the course of seven years resulted from his military movement. In an attempt to stop the spread of communism, the American armed forces intervened.

In a time when the draft recruited generations of young men to serve their country, some turned their back on the call of their nation. There were many, however, that responded to the call and sacrificed comfort, safety, and sometimes their lives. These are the men and women College of the Ozarks seeks to honor through the Patriotic Education Travel Program.

The Patriotic Education Travel Program pairs College of the Ozarks students with the Veterans, taking them back to the battlefields where they fought. The Program honors Veterans and helps educate the younger generation, instilling an appreciation for the sacrifices of American soldiers.

On September 25, College of the Ozarks students, along with sponsors, accompanied 12 Vietnam War Veterans on a tour throughout Vietnam. This journey coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Gulf of Tonkin incident which ultimately led to the dramatic escalation of American military involvement in Vietnam.

The Veterans who participated in the trip included: James “Bill” Bailey of the U.S. Navy Fighter Squadron 143; Donald “Doc” Ballard a U.S. Navy Corpsman of the 4th Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division; John Clark of the 432nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 11th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in the U.S. Air Force; Bill Duncan of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division; Thomas Egleston of the 1st Aviation Brigade, 3rd Squadron and 5th Cavalry, U.S. Army; Lou Eisenbrandt of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps; Paul Frampton of 28th Regiment, 1st Division, U.S. Army; James Greer of the U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division; Steve Hansen of the U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Calvary Division; also, 21st Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, and Army Reserve; John Ligato in the 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division, of the U.S. Marine Corps; Tony Nadal of the 7th Special Forces and 7th Calvary Regiment of the 1st Calvary Division, U.S. Army; and John Sorensen of the 1st Aviation Brigade, 3rd Squadron and 5th Cavalry in the U.S. Army.

Prior to the group’s departure, student participant Molly Matney noted her understanding of the trip’s impact.

“I am unsure if I will ever begin to comprehend the sacrifices they made for us,” said the junior history major. “I feel that this journey will be one of newfound understanding and appreciation as I connect to our Veterans and their stories.”

The group traveled throughout the country of Vietnam, visiting historical landmarks of the War. Some locations and monuments the group visited included Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam; the Cu Chi tunnels, where militant southern Vietnamese groups based their operations; Hue, the site of one of the bloodiest and longest battles of the War; and the most notorious POW camp, Hoa La Prison, known to Americans as the “Hanoi Hilton.”

Prior to going, one of the group sponsors said he expected a tremendous learning opportunity ahead for the students.

“I am confident the trip will be a life-changing experience, for both our students and Veterans. How can it not?” posited C of O Professor of History Dr. David Dalton. “Students will receive an education that doesn’t come from books, and Veterans will receive closure of unhealed wounds.”

The group returned on October 9, with a new understanding of the sacrifices that were made and struggles endured during the Vietnam War.

To view the trip blog, go to www.cofo.vietnam-tour2014.wordpress.com.
C OF O NAMED A “GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR”

By Elizabeth Hughes

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, College of the Ozarks is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for.

The results, released in its July 25 issue and seventh annual report on the academic workplace, are based on a survey of more than 43,000 employees at 278 colleges and universities.

College of the Ozarks received an “Honor Roll” ranking in the list for recognition in seven of the twelve categories The Chronicle measured: compensation and benefits, confidence in senior leadership, facilities, workspace and security, job satisfaction, professional/career development programs, supervisor/department chair relationship, and work/life balance.

“The College is a desirable place to work because of its longtime purpose/vision: “to develop citizens of Christ-like character who are well-educated, hard-working, and patriotic,” said C of O President Jerry C. Davis. “This fosters a workplace where Christ, students, and employees are honored.”

The results are based upon a two-part assessment process—an institutional audit that captured the demographics and workplace policies from each institution and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was employee feedback.

“The institutions that the Great Colleges program recognizes provide innovative educational experiences—while also offering their employees outstanding workplace experiences, and we are eager to help readers learn more about them,” said Liz McMillen, editor of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

With a student enrollment just over 1,400, College of the Ozarks employs 88 full-time faculty members, 57 adjunct instructors, 13 administrators, and 168 staff members.

“While benefits and salary are certainly factors in employment longevity, many employees would say their loyalty is due to the satisfaction of spending their working careers with an employer that is making a tangible, positive difference,” said Dr. Davis.

Since 1906, the College’s mission has been to “to provide the advantages of a Christian education for youth of both sexes, especially those found worthy, but who are without sufficient means to procure such training.”

“It makes it worthwhile to work here because of the quality students,” said Assistant Dairy Farm Manager and Agriculture Instructor Bryan Cizek. “It’s fun to come to work, knowing that the College is dedicated to its mission, and we’re all going for the same goal.”

Great Colleges to Work For® is one of the largest and respected workplace-recognition programs in the country.

ROTC Cadet Training

missions. The tactical portion of their training was conducted during a three-day field training exercise where they completed simulated combat lanes to demonstrate their tactical proficiency.

“I made two close Columbian friends, Prada and Olaya, with whom I’m still in contact and promised to invite to my wedding someday,” said Cadet Renyer. “I enjoyed the challenge of issuing operations orders to cadets of various nationalities, working through language and culture barriers to successfully complete a mission.”

Cadet Renyer came back from WHINSEC ready to complete his ROTC training, with the confidence of knowing that he had the leadership abilities needed to accomplish the tasks that he will eventually face in real life situations. He graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate of his class and helped the U.S. government promote relations between the United States military and the militaries of Brazil, Columbia, El Salvador, and Guatemala.
Students Continue 70-Year-Old Tradition

By Lauren Meyer

Christmas season serves as a time of celebration and traditions. One of the College’s famous traditions is fruitcake. Throughout the year more than 25,000 fruitcakes are baked. November through December, they are shipped worldwide to families and friends of the College. How did this popular treat get its beginning at the College? And how do the students achieve the mass shipping process?

With all traditions, there is almost always a story of how the tradition began. C of O fruitcake got its beginning in the mid-1930s. Not long before Christmas, the students in the Home Economics Department and their teacher, Mrs. Annabelle McMasters, were making fruitcakes. Friends from the South had sent pecans, black walnuts were grown locally, and raisins could be obtained inexpensively, so they had all the ingredients for a fruitcake recipe.

One day President Dr. Robert M. Good, attracted by the pleasant aroma, stopped by the class. Once Dr. Good saw the fruitcakes setting out to cool, he asked if he could send the cakes to friends at Christmastime. He promised that if The School received any money, in return he would buy the Department its first electric stove. Sure enough, the money came, and the Department received its first electric stove.

Today the College of the Ozarks Fruitcake and Jelly Kitchen is a much larger operation. Approximately 22 student workers begin baking in January and continue through October. The fruitcakes are stored in freezers at temperatures between 39-42 degrees.

Students receive orders all year long. However during the months of November and December, they receive 30-50 phone and mail orders daily. Each fruitcake on average weighs between two to three pounds. Last year, in November and December more than 6,700 fruitcakes were shipped, equaling a total weight of more than 20,500 pounds. When an order has been made, the fruitcake is carefully hand-packaged and labeled by a thermal labeler.

“With conflicting schedules, it can be hard to manage all the orders,” said student worker Melissa Holt. “It takes several hours from the time we get the orders to the time the fruitcake is sent out.” The fruitcakes are shipped to all 50 states and internationally to countries including Italy, Australia, France, China, and England. Campus visitors are encouraged to walk through the Kitchen to view the students in action.

“Guests love our fruitcake,” said Fruitcake and Jelly Kitchen Supervisor Carolyn Crisp. “They always comment on how moist and flavorful our fruitcakes taste.” Some of the more famous individuals to taste the College’s fruitcakes include General Colin Powell, the late Lady Margaret Thatcher, President George W. Bush, and former First Lady Laura Bush.

With the thousands of visitors that make their way through our doors every year, it’s no wonder why they keep coming back to the perfected homemade fruitcake tradition. This year individuals can treat family and friends to a College of the Ozarks fruitcake and enjoy this Christmas with a sweet tradition.

Last year, in November and December more than 6,700 fruitcakes were shipped, equaling a total weight of more than 20,500 pounds.
A holiday tradition—the always delicious C of O Fruitcake...

The ideal gift for everyone on your list is prepared with the finest ingredients and is available in these popular sizes:

1-lb............................................ $29.00
2-lb............................................. $37.00
3-lb............................................. $43.00
6 mini fruitcakes (4 oz. each) ........ $37.00

Direct from our Jelly Kitchen...
Gift box assortment of four delightful 1/2-pint jars of jellies, preserves, and apple butter. For even more flavor, try the 8-pack or case of 12.

4J—Four assorted 1/2-pint jars of jellies, preserves and apple butter.............. $33.00
8J—Eight assorted 1/2-pint jars of jellies, preserves and apple butter ............ $53.00
1JYPR—Twelve assorted 1/2-pint jars of jellies, preserves and apple butter ...... $75.00
1PTAB—Twelve 1-pint jars of apple butter... $112.00

Assorted C of O Gift Boxes...
Two 1-pint jars of our mouth-watering apple butter just right for topping a piping hot roll.

GB4 .......................................... $28.00

Delicious 1-lb. fruitcake packed with two 1-pint jars of apple butter.

GB5 .......................................... $45.00

Two 1-pint jars of apple butter and a 2-lb. Mill product of your choice.

GB6 .......................................... $33.00

From Edwards Mill...
A tradition of milling excellence. Discover the goodness of whole grain meals and mixes.

2-lb. Mill products *
5-lb. Mill products *
25-lb. Mill products *

* Prices vary. See list on order blank.

Williams Memorial Chapel Christmas Cards
Full-color 5 x 7 Christmas cards feature a reproduction of Missouri artist Charles Summey’s Williams Memorial Chapel painting. Envelopes included. Sentiment: May God’s richest blessings be upon you and yours this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

Set of 12 $12.00 (shipping included)

Williams Memorial Chapel Note Cards
Note cards as shown above. Blank inside. Envelopes included. Full color 4-1/4 x 5-1/2

Set of 12 $6.50 (shipping included)

The Four Generals of Hard Work U.
The Four Generals of Hard Work U recounts the journeys of four alumni, from humble beginnings, who rose to the rank of general officer in the U. S. Military. Written by Jerry C. Davis. Hardbound, 243 pages. All proceeds go toward the Patriotic Education Travel Program. $17.95

Miracle in the Ozarks
by Jerry C. Davis
Miracle in the Ozarks features anecdotes from the College’s 100-year history, as collected and written by Jerry C. Davis. Hardbound, 276 pages. All proceeds go to Camp Lookout. $17.95
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Tax included in price of book.

951S Edwards Mill Cookbook
Spiral bound – 173 pp. $9.80 ea. ____

OZARKS Miracle in the Ozarks
by Jerry C. Davis
Hard Cover – 276 pp. $17.95 ea. ____

4GEN The Four Generals by Jerry C. Davis
Hard Cover – 234 pp. $17.95 ea. ____
Order Blank

It’s time to start thinking about shopping for Christmas 2014. College of the Ozarks is again pleased to offer an outstanding collection of gift items, including our famous fruitcakes, jellies, and Edwards Mill products. Why not take a few minutes to select your items from the list on the previous page and send in your order? By mailing your order early, you’ll avoid the holiday rush and guarantee that, when Christmas comes, you’ll please everyone on your list! If you use the enclosed envelope, please write “Attention: Order Department” on the cover.

Please print. Please return entire form.

Your Name ________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City __________________ State ______ Zip________

Daytime phone ____________________________

Ship to arrive  □ Now   □ By Thanksgiving  □ By Christmas  □ Other (date)__________________

GIFT ORDERS Form may be copied if additional room is needed.

#1 GIFT

Recipient Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City __________________ State ______ Zip________

Gift Message ________________________________________________________________

Ship to arrive  □ Now   □ By Thanksgiving  □ By Christmas  □ Other (date)__________________

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Sales tax only applies to packages shipped to a Missouri address

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#2 GIFT

Recipient Name ________________________________________________________________

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Gift Message ________________________________________________________________

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ORDER TOTAL__________________________

Make checks payable to: College of the Ozarks

Mail to: College of the Ozarks Order Department
PO. Box 17
Point Lookout, Missouri 65726

Phone orders: 417-690-3395 Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m. CST
Fax 417-690-3388
E-mail orders: fruitcake@cofo.edu

Extra gift orders?

Use additional sheets if necessary.

Orders received by December 1 will be processed for shipment before Christmas.

(Note: Orders shipped out of the U.S., allow at least 8 weeks for delivery.)
**My Summer Mission**

By Morgan Sowell, guest writer

This summer I had the opportunity to participate in an internship with an organization called, Group Mission Trips. I was stationed in California for eight weeks, running a camp for different youth groups from all over the country. Each week my partner Olivia and I had approximately seven different youth groups come to San Diego to conduct many types of community service projects for the residents.

An amazing aspect of my experience was that Group Mission is an interdenominational organization; therefore, all of the youth groups each week came from different Christian denominations. The youth were mixed into random crews of six people; not only did they work at sights they had never been to, they also spent the week getting to know people they had never met. For me, seeing them come together each week and forget about their small differences to serve in the name of Jesus was the most precious experience of my summer.

I have to admit that San Diego was a culture shock. California offers a radically different culture than what I am accustomed to in rural Missouri. The church where my partner Olivia and I stayed was in a rough neighborhood. In fact, I regularly had to tell the drug dealers in our parking lot to take their business elsewhere. I grew so much in my leadership, communication, and organization skills.

It was my responsibility to find organizations to serve with for eight weeks. Some of the organizations we served with included: Ronald McDonald House; San Diego Ground Works, where over the course of eight weeks we completed a park in a gang-related community so that kids from the neighborhood could have a safe place to play; and Birthline, a volunteer-based organization that provides homeless, pregnant mothers with supplies for their newborns. We also partnered with a church that ran a food bank every Thursday.

I acted as the main contact for both the youth groups and the organizations we served. Through that, I was able to make many lasting friendships and also take wisdom from many wonderful leaders I had the opportunity to work with over the summer. In San Diego, I was able to witness to hurting people crying out for love. Serving that community was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done in my life. My internship with Group Mission Trips is one I will be forever grateful. I was able to grow in so many areas of my life, while serving Jesus. That was worth it all.

Garrison Activities Center Dedicated

On July 22, staff and faculty gathered to dedicate the Garrison Activities Center. Present for the ceremony was Mr. John Garrison, for whom the Center was named. C of O President Jerry C. Davis gave the opening welcome, followed by the invocation given by Dean of the College Dr. Eric Bolger. Professor of Physical Education Dr. Don Hoeck shared a few words of appreciation at the dedication, as well as a reminder of the many benefits the facility offers students, faculty, and staff. The Garrison Activities Center opened in the fall of 2012, and offers a wide selection of workout equipment, exercise classes, and more.
The College Kicks Off the “Year of the Bible”

By Elizabeth Hughes

C ollege of the Ozarks kicked off the “Year of the Bible” with an opening exhibition featuring the Heritage Edition of *The Saint John’s Bible*, the first illuminated Bible in more than 500 years, produced by Saint John’s University in Minnesota. The exhibition ran September 9-October 27, in the Boger Art Gallery, located in the Nettie Marie Jones Learning Center on campus.

According to the official website of the Saint John’s Bible, “In 1998, Saint John’s Abbey and University commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson to produce a hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible.”

In addition to *The Saint John’s Bible*, numerous artifacts on loan from the Museum of the Bible, courtesy of the David Green family, were displayed in the exhibition. Two biblical manuscripts from the Middle Ages, an Ethiopic Gospel, and two early printed Bibles provided Gallery attendees a historical perspective of illuminated Bibles.

“The Saint John’s Bible and the manuscripts on loan from the Museum of the Bible offered an exciting opportunity for the community to experience the word of God through text but also through the interpretive lens of the artist,” said Dr. Richard Cummings, Associate Professor of Art and Boger Art Gallery Director. “The images found in these richly illumined Scriptures are not simply illustrations, but visual expressions of Christian theology.”

**THE SAINT JOHN’S BIBLE**

**JUNE MEMORIAL SCROLLS**

Rachel Binegar from Mrs. Jo Shaw Kiley

VIRGINIA L. EDWARDS FROM MR. CHARLES G. EDWARDS

Clay H. Frisbee from Ms. Leona Kurrelmeyer

Paul Fritzemeyer, Sr. and Paul Fritzemeyer, Jr. from Ms. Ruth J. Schroeder

Edgar Howard from Ms. Patricia A. Persinger

Roy R. Ireton from Ms. Marie Ireton

R.V. Laverty from Senator and Mrs. Randy Laverty

Anna Jane Stockton from Elk Horn Prairie, DAR

**JUNE HONOR SCROLLS**

Kathleen C. Aaron from Ms. Deanna A. Mackenzie

Len Borgstrom from Mr. Lennart Borgstrom

Jake Flanders from Ms. Vicki Bang

Austin Hanner from Mr. Charles E. Parker, Jr.

**JULY MEMORIAL SCROLLS**

G. Michael Hanner from Mr. Charles E. Parker, Jr.

Paul Kimberling from Ms. Cheryl A. Mothes

David B. Smart from Mr. and Mrs. David Freiburger

**JULY HONOR SCROLLS**

Austin D. Hanner from Mr. Charles E. Parker, Jr.

G. Michael Hanner from Mr. Charles E. Parker, Jr.

**AUGUST MEMORIAL SCROLLS**

Linole Divine from Dr. and Mrs. Eldon Divine

C. Blaine Elmer from Ms. Barbara L. Smith

Douglas L. Howard from Mrs. Happy Howard

Geneva Owen from Mrs. Tamara Schneider

Justin Stephan from Mr. and Mrs. George S. Taylor

Virginia Davidson Wilkinson from Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Van Leer, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Davidson, Ms. Margaret Davidson, and Ms. Sheryl Van Leer

By Jerry C. Davis from Mr. John Cowell

Austin D. Hanner from Mr. Charles E. Parker, Jr.

G. Michael Hanner from Mr. Charles E. Parker, Jr.

Floyd and Gussie Redfearn from Mr. and Mrs. Mike Moore

David B. Smart from Mrs. Susan J. Smart

**NAMES IN CAPITAL LETTERS**

REPRESENT GIFTS OF $1,000 OR MORE.
Enthusiastic, cheerful students began arriving at the S. Truett Cathy Lower School at 7:30 a.m. in their white, navy, red, and khaki-colored uniforms. The School opened its doors to 139 Kindergarten through sixth grade students on August 21, 2014. Students flooded the school with smiles and laughter. “I’m ‘infinity’ excited to start school,” said third grade student Olivia Larsen.

Blurs of navy shoes filled the halls as students hurried to their lines under the direction of teachers and Assistant to the Dean of the Lab School Scott McElvain. “I’m overtaken by what the Lord is doing here,” said McElvain. “To see the school come to life and to be a part of what the Lord is doing is such a humbling experience.”

The Lower School mirrors the five-fold goals of C of O: academic, vocational, cultural, Christian, and patriotic growth. To develop patriotism, the young students walk to the Roy F. Hopper Patriots Plaza, located at the entrance of the School of the Ozarks High School, on Monday mornings.

Bronze plaques of four alumni, whose distinguished service enabled them to become one-star, two-star, three-star, and four-star generals in the United States military, are prominently displayed. “Patriots Plaza will encourage students to honor their nation daily and reflect on the leadership necessary to protect the God-given freedom that Americans so dearly love, but many readily take for granted,” said Dr. Jerry C. Davis, C of O President. “The Plaza is just one facet of School of the Ozarks but will serve as a reminder to students that patriotism is in their roots.”

At Patriots Plaza, Lower School and High School students recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing a patriotic hymn. On the opening day, students sang “God Bless America.” “We want to show our students love for our country,” said Mr. McElvain. “We teach the students songs that are rich with words that express deep love for our country.”

The School also shares the vision of C of O: “to develop citizens of Christ-like character who are well educated, hardworking, and patriotic.” No tuition is charged to those attending S of O, but they do participate in a work education program. Students perform age-appropriate tasks such as cleaning their desks, emptying the trash, and cleaning up after lunch.

Although the students learn to work and study hard, they still have plenty of time for play. On opening day, students got to see the new playground they would get to visit every day. The playground is filled with traditional playground equipment. It has a merry-go-round, straight slide, tetherball, and a dome climber. Old-fashioned school bells ring, rather than whistles, to let the pupils know when recess is over.

The S. Truett Cathy Lower School is in full swing, and the teachers and students love it. “It’s hard to lose when you have great kids, great students, and a great community. It’s been fun,” said Mr. McElvain.
S of O Students Make the Most of Summer

By Elizabeth Hughes and Paige Arnett

While many high school students soaked up sun by the pool, several School of the Ozarks students took advantage of opportunities to learn leadership skills and serve others. Below are just three examples of outstanding students preparing for the future.

American Legion Missouri Boys State:

Through the Justin Stephan Boys State Scholarship, juniors Cody Loewen and Tanner Campbell attended the American Legion Missouri Boys State camp in June. They attended the camp in honor of the late College of the Ozarks alumnus Justin Stephan, who was deeply passionate about Missouri Boys State and served in numerous capacities over 12 years of volunteering. Boys State, a week-long citizenship and youth in government program for high school junior boys, teaches Missouri’s future leaders about government and what it means to be a responsible, American citizen.

Cody learned numerous skills and helpful information, including the inner workings of America’s political system, by having the opportunity to run for offices, operating a mock business, creating city ordinances, voting, and paying taxes.

“Missouri Boys State gave me infinite insight on my role in the political spectrum and the value of leadership in life,” said Cody.

“Boys State allowed me to fully understand how statewide government and the legislative process work,” said Tanner. “More than that, God set me up with a brotherhood of 60—some of the best kids I have met in my life!”

RYLA Academy:

Madeline Sparks School of the Ozarks sophomore Madeline Sparks attended the 2014 Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) at William Woods University located at Fulton, Missouri, through a scholarship presented by the Branson Daybreakers Rotary Club. The scholarship covered all expenses pertaining to the summer Academy, Rotary’s leadership training program for young people.

The RYLA scholarship is based on academic achievement and over-all leadership qualities, showing well-rounded endeavors by students throughout the community and school. The Branson Daybreakers Rotary Club selected Madeline based on her demonstrated service to the community.

The core curriculum of RYLA included fundamentals of leadership in combination with effective communication skills. The fundamentals of leadership were put to the test in challenge course events, where participants were broken into teams and given the opportunity to complete various events.

“Attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy helped me become a more confident leader and provided an opportunity to put my leadership skills to practice,” said Madeline.

Beta Club National Convention:

The National Beta Club Convention was held in Richmond, Virginia, this summer. At School of the Ozarks, Beta Club serves as the official academic honor society. Only those individuals who achieve excellence in academics may be inducted into the honor society. Beta Club member Alex Shafer, an S of O junior, earned the opportunity to attend the National Beta Club Convention in June, which offered numerous chances to participate in academic contests, hear from distinguished speakers, and take part in the election of national Beta Club officers.

“Going to the National Beta Convention allowed me to interact with other academic-minded students while learning valuable life lessons from accomplished speakers,” he said.

“This opportunity encouraged me to continue helping and loving others, glorifying God through my actions.”
The Keeter Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Elizabeth Hughes

Ten years ago on September 13, The Keeter Center opened its doors to the public, providing luxurious lodge rooms, fine dining, and a conference center. But as any patron will attribute, there is much more than meets the eye at The Keeter Center. Perhaps it is because most of the operation is run by students attending College of the Ozarks and participating in its mandatory Work Education Program by serving student-made entrees to patrons, maintaining the Mabee Lodge suites, or creating gift baskets in the Beulah I. Winfrey Gift Shop.

The facility also houses the The Keeter Center for Character Education and the Culinary Arts and Hotel/Restaurant Management programs. Students have impacted and been impacted by every inch of the 99,000 square-foot facility that has hosted dinners, weddings, and world-renowned leaders, such as President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, and General Tommy Franks. Duke University’s Men’s Head Basketball Coach Mike Krzyzewski was the first Character Convocation speaker to walk the halls of The Keeter Center.

It all began with the construction of the unique structure that is architecturally inspired by the first building on the Point Lookout campus, Dobyns Hall, which succumbed to fire in 1930. Under the supervision of master craftsmen, it took 250 students over the course of six years to construct the building that features 1,000 copper panels in Dobyns Dining Room, 20 fireplaces in all, and 240,000 roof shingles.

“It has truly been a blessing to be a part of The Keeter Center’s growth over the last ten years,” said Keeter Center General Manager Tom Healey. “Yes, the facility is impressive in many ways, but it is the genuine care and comfort the students provide when serving our visitors that truly makes the difference.”

Since its opening, The Keeter Center has continued to grow and recently added The College Creamery, offering Nettie Marie’s Homemade Ice Cream. It requires approximately 340 students to operate The Keeter Center, and over the past decade 2,400 students have worked for their education in the seven different workstations offered there.

The Keeter Center and The Keeter Center for Character Education are named in honor of the late Mr. James P. Keeter’s parents, Ruby and Vester Keeter. Mr. Keeter and his family took a leadership role in establishing the physical building and the character education program, which has touched and continues to touch thousands of lives. The late Mr. Keeter served on the College’s Board of Trustees from 1998-2014.

“Mr. Keeter and his family thought it important to invest in the development of young people,” said C of O President Jerry C. Davis. “The Center honors Mr. Keeter’s parents and reflects their values.”

With the intention from the beginning of promoting character education on a national level, The Keeter Center for Character Education facilitates programs such as FirstPLACE!, a two-county character initiative, and the S. Truett Cathy Poverty Summit.

Traditionally, the 50th anniversary is golden. However, in just ten years a multitude of golden opportunities and moments have taken place at The Keeter Center.
By Grace Donaldson

During the fall of 2013, College of the Ozarks extended a page from its own history book to the public. Last fall’s debut of “Four-Star Country Boy,” a play about college alumnus General Terrence R. Dake’s (USMC, ret.) life and valiant service during the Vietnam War as a United States Marine, wowed audiences from all over the nation. During summer leading up to the debut, the C of O Jones Theatre Company created an original production based on C of O President Jerry C. Davis’ book The Four Generals of Hard Work U.

The play takes place over the course of many years in General Dake’s life. General Dake was born and raised in modest circumstances in Rocky Comfort, a small town nestled in the southwestern corner of Missouri. Upon graduating from high school, young Dake attended College of the Ozarks junior college.

The play depicts his years working at College of the Ozarks, his return home with hostile reception by anti-war protestors, his service as helicopter pilot and HMX-1 Commander under President Reagan, his service as Assistant Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, as well as the love story with his wife, Sue Dake.

The College will again host several performances of this inspiring story this October and November. With the new season, some changes have been made to the show. “We plan to have the best show possible for the Veterans,” said theater major Josh Whisler, who portrays General Dake in the play. “At times where there might have been heavy narration in the previous season, there are now more reenactments on the personal life of General Dake.” A marriage proposal scene has been added, as well as additional scenes with the Dake family.

“The Veteran response has been amazing,” said Mark Young, C of O Chair of Professional and Performing Arts, who wrote the play’s script. “Last season capacity crowds witnessed the incredible story of General Dake, many of whom had also served in the United States military. We’re trying to honor those who have served our country.”

“The Veterans thank us after each performance,” said senior theater major Stanna Brown who portrays the role of Mrs. Sue Dake. “We’re the ones who should be thanking them.”

“Four-Star Country Boy” will wow audiences again this fall. For more information on the production or show times, call 417-690-2212 or visit cofo.edu.