

# Ozark Visitor



Volume 95

Winter, 2004

Number 3

College of the Ozarks... "Hard Work U.®"

[www.cofu.edu](http://www.cofu.edu)

Point Lookout, Missouri 65726



*C of O Veterans on the March*

# PROMISES TO KEEP

## We Welcome a New Year and the Hope it Brings



**H**appy New Year from all of us at *Hard Work U!* I hope your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays were as happy and blessed as mine were. Shirley and I got to see our children and grandchildren, and we enjoyed that immensely.

This year, however, in the midst of all the turkey and trimmings, gift giving and football games, we

should be more mindful than ever of our country's men and women who did not get to spend their holidays at home with loved ones. Although Americans live and work throughout the world, I am thinking especially of the members of our armed services, particularly those stationed in the Middle East.

One of our professors at C of O, Colonel Don McMahon, has been deployed with his National Guard unit to Iraq. Col. McMahon will oversee several hundred personnel, including the husband of another of our staffers, Tina Mize. C of O has adopted this unit and will be in contact with them and their families throughout their stay there, but we ask you also to keep these fine people in your thoughts and prayers.

Closer to home, we celebrated Veterans' Day in November, both on-campus and off. You can read in this issue of the *Visitor* about our veterans and the roles they played in celebrations and remembrances here at the College and in Branson as well. We are happy to get this chance to recognize and honor those among our faculty, staff and administration who have served in the military.

Autumn is always the busiest season of the year here, and in addition to Veterans' Day, we also had a great Homecoming this past November. The weather was beautiful, unlike last year's soggy event, and we had big crowds turn out for all our activities. All of us who work at C of O really enjoy Homecoming, and we hope all of you enjoy it as well. I especially thought the parade was good this year—we had some terrific marching bands and vintage automobiles as part of it. And the Lady Cats got their season off to a fantastic start with a big victory over Central Baptist College of Arkansas.

We also had another fine speaker, Robert Gates, at one of our convocations this fall. You can read about Dr. Gates' address on pages 6-7 of this *Visitor*. Gates, who is former Director of the CIA, now serves as President of Texas A&M. His address was a serious and sober

reminder that we have to be ever-vigilant against the shadowy world of terrorism that is always out there, just beyond where we can see.

Finally, C of O got some especially good publicity in the last several months as well. National Public Radio Correspondent Greg Allen visited our campus for the better part of a day and produced an outstanding eight-minute feature for NPR's afternoon news program, "All Things Considered." In addition, Branson's Vacation Channel, which produced our beautiful C of O promotional video, won an Aurora Award for the video. You can also read about both these accolades in this edition of the *Visitor*.

Best wishes to all of you for everything the New Year has to offer. God bless you all, and thank you for your friendship.

The Ozark Visitor (USPS 600540) (ISSN 0890-2690) is published quarterly by the Office of Public Relations, and is distributed free of charge to friends of our college, alumni, faculty, staff and parents of our students.



*Incorporated in 1906  
as The School of the Ozarks*

*Editor . . . . . Camille F. Howell, Director of Public Relations*  
*Associate Editor . . . . . Linda LeNeve*  
*Student Writers and Photographers . . . . . Liarra Bartlett,*  
*Kyle Calvert, Melinda Elliott, Mary Margaret Lenk,*  
*Amanda Levesque, Hylke VanderVelde, Sam Waterman*  
*Artistic Director . . . . . Laura Lane*  
*Student Assistants . . . . . Jessica Goff, Lucy Wiltfong*  
*Dean of Development . . . . . Rodney Arnold*  
*Director of Alumni Affairs . . . . . Helen Youngblood*

Produced by the J.M. McDonald Printing Department  
*in memory of Jerrold Watson, Manager*  
*Associate Member, Missouri Press Association*

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**Point Lookout, MO 65726 • 417-334-6411**

Periodicals postage paid Point Lookout, MO  
Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
Ozark Visitor • P.O. Box 17  
Point Lookout, MO 65726-0017

# TODAY'S TOP STORY

## College Gets National, International Exposure on NPR's News Program "All Things Considered"

By Mary Forbes

Millions of people heard about College of the Ozarks last November 10th when C of O was featured in an eight-minute segment on National Public Radio. Greg Allen, NPR's Midwestern Correspondent, spent a day on campus interviewing students, faculty and staffers, and compiled a story that focused largely on the College's work program.

Allen contacted public relations officials by telephone and said his editor wanted him to check out C of O. "My editor told me, 'Everywhere I look, I read something about this college,'" Allen said, "and he wanted me to come see what it was all about."

Interested in what makes The College unique, Allen focused primarily on the student work program. He spent time in the cafeteria, landscaping, the dairy, construction and art departments, and in the fruitcake and jelly kitchen, interviewing faculty, staff and students about what they do at C of O. He asked students why they chose to come to Point Lookout and what they hope the future will hold for them.

Most expressed interest in a tuition-free education and a debt-free future. Other students mentioned siblings who had attended here, and the Christian aspect of the College, as well as high school teachers and counselors who had encouraged them to consider C of O.

**Alumni who heard the story reacted favorably, and the story evidently got sent and re-sent numerous times.**

Allen also recorded a number of sounds around the campus for his story, including cows mooing in the barn and eggs frying in the cafeteria.

"This feature was outstanding," said College President Jerry C. Davis. "It was truly one of the best stories ever done about the College, and we couldn't be happier."

Inevitably, several of Allen's interviewees got left on the cutting room floor. He talked at length with landscaping and construction personnel, and with art professor Richard Cummings, none of whom made it into Allen's finished piece. However, he did include students from the cafeteria, fruitcake kitchen, dairy and public relations offices, as well as some staffers from those areas. Men's Basketball Coach Steve Shepherd also made the feature, giving the noon prayer in the cafeteria.

Reaction to the story was overwhelming. "The Admissions Office was inundated with calls," said Pres-



**Greg Allen (L), Midwestern correspondent for National Public Radio, interviews student construction worker Brett Hebblethwaite while on campus to produce a feature story he recently did for the news program "All Things Considered." Unfortunately, Hebblethwaite was not included in the finished piece, which aired on November 10.**

Photo by Camille Howell

ident Davis, and other C of O personnel and students reported hearing from friends and family all over the country. The public relations office received many emails from educators throughout the U.S. looking to C of O as a model for what they're trying to accomplish in their own schools.

Alumni who heard the story reacted favorably, and the story evidently got sent and re-sent numerous times. NPR lists the "top five" stories emailed from its website each day, and on November 11, the C of O story came in at number three.

"We are constantly working to get the word out about C of O," said Camille Howell, public relations director, and it was wonderful to get this long feature on 'All Things Considered.' About 11 years ago, NPR's Glenn Mitchell also did a feature on us, so it was great to get a second one as well. Sometimes in the media world, one feature like this is all you can ever hope for. It's terrific to think that NPR thought we were worth a second look."

You can still hear this story, which aired on November 10, 2003, by going to [npr.org](http://npr.org) and accessing the "All Things Considered" archives by searching for "tuition-free college."

# DEVELOPMENT NOTES

## Increase your Income with A Charitable Gift Annuity



Rodney Arnold

**A**re your certificates of deposit or bond funds paying next to nothing? Consider a charitable gift annuity with College of the Ozarks. The charitable gift annuity is an excellent estate planning tool that can possibly increase your income and also provide a future gift to College of the Ozarks.

The charitable gift annuity is an agreement whereby College of the Ozarks provides you with an income for life in exchange for a specific amount of money. You not only benefit from an increase in annual income, but a charitable deduction is also available as an itemized deduction for your income tax report. The charitable deduction varies based primarily on your age(s), but usually approximates 40% to 60% of the amount for the gift annuity.

Charitable gift annuities may include a second annuitant to receive the annuity payments or may be written for the benefit of another person. Should the second beneficiary be the survivor, annuity payments continue on to them and are payable for their lifetime. This ensures you that your loved ones will receive this source of income after you are gone.

Charitable gift annuities are written in exchange for a gift of \$1,000 or more. The College pays a fixed annuity rate that is recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities. The payout rate is based on your age at the time the charitable gift annuity is created, and your payments are determined by the gift amount and payout rate. Listed below are current single-life annuity rates according to specified ages. The annuity rates for two-life annuities are based primarily on the age of the younger annuitant, and the rate for a two-life annuity is slightly lower, due to the payment being theoretically longer.

Age	Annuity Rate
60	5.70
65	6.00
70	6.50
75	7.10
80	8.00
85	9.50
90	11.30

Other than a possible increase in annual income, there are numerous other benefits of the charitable gift

annuity. As previously mentioned, a charitable deduction is available for the year of the gift, and a portion of your income is considered tax free as well. The older you are, the higher the percentage of tax free-income you will receive. The tax-free income is actually considered return of principal on the annuity portion of the gift annuity agreement. This return of principal is available for the life expectancy of the agreement. Considering the tax-free income, the real rate of return will actually be higher than the specified annuity rate, due to the income tax savings this feature of the gift annuity will provide.

**The charitable gift annuity is an excellent estate planning tool that can possibly increase your income.**

Charitable gift annuities funded with highly appreciated stock have the added benefit of bypassing a portion of the capital gain on the investment. The capital gain on the gift portion of the gift annuity agreement is not taxable. Even though taxes are due on the remaining portion, the good news is that the capital gains tax is paid incrementally over the life of the annuity and not all at once.

These annuities are also tax exempt from any estate taxes. They are not considered a part of your estate and at the completion of the agreement, the remaining principal passes to College of the Ozarks free from any estate taxes. Also, the charitable gift annuity is secured by the College's assets, not just the principal of the gift annuity.

The charitable gift annuity is an estate planning tool that I believe provides a win/win situation for both you and the College. The gift annuity not only provides the opportunity for increased income for you, but provides a future gift to the College as well. Should you be interested in receiving a personalized gift annuity proposal, please complete the request form and return it in the business reply envelope provided.

**Please send my personalized gift annuity proposal.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Cost Basis (if stock) \_\_\_\_\_

Second Annuitant \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

# THE FACE OF HUMANITY

## Student Elizabeth Cambers Helps Tell a Story of Holocaust Heroism and 2,500 Lives Saved

By Amanda Levesque

Many stories of heroism get overlooked throughout the course of history, and why some get recognized and others don't is a question that needs to be asked. Thanks to College of the Ozarks freshman Elizabeth Cambers, one important story of courage and sacrifice will not go unnoticed.

Irena Sendler was responsible for rescuing more than 2,500 children from the Warsaw ghetto in Poland between 1942 and 1943. In the last five years, Cambers and two of her peers have brought national publicity to Sendler's story.

In the December 2003 issue of *Ladies' Home Journal*, an eight-page article entitled "The Woman Who Loved Children" describes the awe-inspiring events of Sendler's life and the role Cambers played in the spread of her story.

It began in September 1999 when three high school girls from Uniontown High School in Uniontown, Kansas, started their search for a topic to use in the National History Day contest. During their research, the girls stumbled upon a 1994 issue



Elizabeth treasures this heart pendant, a gift from Irena.



Elizabeth Cambers, who helped uncover the story of Irena Sendler, is a freshman at C of O and works in the cafeteria. Photo by Amanda Levesque

of a news magazine that mentioned Sendler among other non-Jews who risked their lives and opposed Hitler during World War II.

Cambers and her other two group members, Megan Stewart and Sabrina Coons, were in disbelief at what they read. "We thought it was a typo," said Cambers. "We thought it was supposed to say she rescued 250 children, not 2,500."

With some nudging from their social studies teacher, Norman Conard, the girls made the decision to use Sendler as the topic for their project. They continued their research, but information was scarce. After writing the authors of the few books they could find, they were able to gather enough material for their entry into the contest, a 10-minute play they entitled *Life in a Jar* that told Sendler's amazing story in a nutshell.

The Warsaw Ghetto was a sixteen-square block area that was constantly guarded. In 1940, 350,000 Jews were forced inside this area. As

time went on, the suffering within the walls only worsened with increasing disease and starvation. The people hoped for relief or escape, but they would only be transported to concentration camps and gas chambers.

This reality drove Sendler to join an organization called Zegota. Zegota was the code name for the Council for Aid to Jews in Occupied Poland, a kind of underground railroad to help children escape.

Zegota requested that Sendler take charge of their efforts to rescue children from the Warsaw Ghetto. Sendler called 10 of her fellow rescuers "messenger friends," and with their help, they would sneak children to private homes and orphanages.

There were various methods of smuggling children used by Zegota. Children escaped through sewer pipes or were carried out by volunteers. One member of Zegota, an ambulance driver, trained his dog, who rode next to him in the front seat, to bark to drown out the cries of babies hidden under stretchers in the back.

*continued on page 15*



Elizabeth, third from left, is shown here with Irena Sendler and with her classmates Megan Stewart and Sabrina Coons. This photograph was made in March, 2001, when the girls visited Irena in Warsaw.

# DISTINGUISHED GUEST

## Former CIA Director Robert Gates Speaks on the Fight against Terrorism and What We Must Do

By Sam Waterman

“We will prevail” was the message former CIA Director Dr. Robert Gates delivered as he visited College of the Ozarks Tuesday, October 7, to talk about terrorism and leadership. Dr. Gates was referring the United States’ role in the War on Terror. He focused on the theme of terrorism, his experiences as Director of the CIA and how he views the future of our country’s efforts to break up worldwide terrorist regimes.

Dr. Gates is the only career officer in the CIA’s history to rise from entry-level employee to Director and the only Intelligence Analyst to become Director.

He served as Director of Central Intelligence from November 6, 1991, until January 20, 1993. In this position, he headed all foreign intelligence agencies of the United States and directed the Central Intelligence Agency. Gates served as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser at the White House from January 1989 until he took over as Director of the CIA.

He joined the CIA as a young man in 1966 and spent nearly 27 years as intelligence professional, serving six different presidents. Gates spent nearly nine years of his career at the National Security Council at the White House, serving four presidents of both political parties.

Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, has twice received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and has three times received the CIA’s highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

A popular writer and speaker, Gates is author of the acclaimed memoir, “From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider’s Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War,” published in 1996.

Today, Dr. Gates is President of Texas A&M University, where he also served from 1999-2001 as Dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Dr. Gates came to the College as part of the Leonard B. and Edith Gittinger Community Convocation Series. In the past, the series has also hosted world-class notables such as General Norman Schwarzkopf, Former Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, Secretary



**Dr. Gates addresses the current problem of terrorism in the United States.**

of State Colin Powell and Former Prime Minister of Britain, Lady Margaret Thatcher.

Preceding Gates’ remarks, the College of the Ozarks/Tri-Lakes Community Band played a variety of patriotic favorites under the direction of Garry “Joe” Hardin, Assistant Professor of Music at C of O, to entertain and set the evening’s mood.

Following the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, C of O President Jerry C. Davis welcomed everyone and, with Dr. Gates’ help, recognized two College of the Ozarks alumni currently serving in our nation’s capital, Casey L. Guernsey and Christian J. Woelk, for their current leadership roles on Capitol Hill.

Guernsey graduated from College of the Ozarks in 2003 and is currently working as a Staff Assistant to Congressman Sam Graves. He plans to attend law school and pursue a legislative career on Capitol Hill.

Woelk is a 2002 graduate of C of O and is serving as the Regional Finance Coordinator with the Bush-Cheney ’04 campaign. Woelk raises money in eight Midwest



**Gates takes a “drive” in the Beverly Hillbillies Car at the Ralph Foster Museum. While visiting College of the Ozarks, Gates toured many workstations on campus.**



**Dr. Robert Gates proudly displays his new “Hard Work U” sweatshirt presented by President Jerry C. Davis.**

states to help insure the reelection of President Bush and Vice President Cheney.

During the convocation, Dr. Gates shared many life experiences with the crowd of approximately 1,500 and moved easily from one subject to another. He joked about his current role as the President of Texas A&M University. He said he did not know which was scarier, being in charge of 4,500 students with extra time on their hands or being Director of the CIA. He also joked that he wasn't sure which school had a lower tattooing rate, Texas A & M or College of the Ozarks.

***In recent years, the role of the CIA has drastically changed. Today, it serves as the front line fighting terrorism.***

Terrorism and security were at the top of the agenda for the evening. According to Gates, America had no real concept of a homeland-security approach for protection until September 11, 2001. “Although America’s war on terrorism began on September 11, 2001, terrorists have been at war with America for decades prior to that attack,” Gates said. “Some forget they tried to blow up the World Trade Center [several years ago]. But that did not work. There were also repeated attempts to hit American targets here and they were all thwarted.”

Gates outlined the current terrorist threats of North Korea, Iran and Iraq and posed solutions to the conflicts with the Axis of Evil—each needing a separate approach. He stressed that America has a huge post-war challenge in holding Iraq together and rebuilding the economy. “In Iraq, putting Saddam out of power was the right thing to do,” Gates said. “Now we must insist others share in the problem of reconstruction. It is going to be messy, but it must be done. The United States must get international help in rebuilding Iraq.”

According to Gates, the conflict in North Korea is

more complex than the problem in Iraq. “The problem is that they (North Korea) have a one-million man army. A military victory would take some time. . . and millions of casualties,” Gates added. “Controlling the threat from North Korea will require added pressure from China, Japan and Russia.”

Gates stated the problem with Iran is that they are currently developing long-range missiles. In Iran, the United States must recognize the current government and open trade to preserve democracy. The U.S. should invest in oil and help the current economic problems of the country, he said.

Towards the end of the convocation, Gates said that America should expect to be hit again and that the CIA must be up to the task of eliminating terror. “Facing the new threats we have today, and especially the terrorist threats, human intelligence has become even more critical, and new approaches and techniques must be adopted,” Gates stated.

In recent years, the role of the CIA has drastically changed. Today, it serves as the front line fighting terrorism. “Funding for the CIA was cut in the 1990s and a lot of experienced agents had retired before September 11,” Gates said. “It takes approximately five to 10 years for new agents to become effective, and the agency has asked some of the retired agents to come back into service. Terrorists are really feeling our wrath much the same way as our enemies did after Pearl Harbor in 1941.”

Prior to 9-11, many Americans had questioned the need for a CIA. According to Gates, the answer is now obvious. “As long as rogues become leaders, we will have spies,” he said. In closing, Dr. Gates reiterated that we are at war, and we will prevail.



**Alumnus Casey Guernsey receives the Public Service Leadership Award from Dr. Gates. Guernsey is currently working on Capitol Hill as a Staff Assistant to Congressman Sam Graves.**

Photos by Larry Plumlee and Kevin White

# HOMECOMING 2003

## *Looking Forward to Looking Back*

**T**his year's Homecoming more than made up for last year's soggy weather with a fine, mild day—perfect for marching in a parade, petting little piglets and watching the Lady Cats whip their opponents, Central Baptist College of Conway, Arkansas. The photographs below provide a small glimpse of what the weekend was all about.



The entire group of Homecoming candidates posed Friday evening in the theatre Green Room before the pageant began.



Miss Congeniality, Kristi Aldrine, and her friend Anne Ashbaucher helped staff the Hotel/Restaurant Management Booth at Homecoming.



The Bobcat Cheer Team and their mascot, Bruiser, enjoyed a ride in the afternoon parade.



Kenny Garrison teaches chemistry during the week at C of O, but on Homecoming weekend, he allowed himself to be a target in the pie-throwing booth.



C of O's Lady Cats took on Central Baptist College of Arkansas at Saturday afternoon's matchup, and befitting a Homecoming game, trounced them soundly.



# GREAT MEMORIES

## We Celebrate C of O Homecoming 2003



Left: Homecoming Queen Sarah Farris was pleased, as she said, to represent the “young men” of Youngman Residence Hall.



Right: Alumni Meritorious Award Recipients included (L to R): Lt. Gen. Gary Hughey '65, Ted Martin '95, Lea-Ann Morton '97, and Dr. Glen Cameron, honorary alumnus.



Left: Always a Homecoming favorite, a group of piglets traveled in from the hog farm to serve time in a petting wagon for the afternoon. Visitors were invited to guess their collective weight and win a prize.



Bands from throughout the area added high-stepping excitement to the parade. Here, Branson High School's band proudly shows its stuff for onlookers.



Faculty and staff children rode in the parade, courtesy of Ride the Ducks, Inc., of Branson.

*Photos by  
Liarra Bartlett, Kyle Calvert,  
Melinda Elliot and  
Mary Margaret Lenk*

# REMEMBER ALWAYS

## Veterans Take Part in November 11 Activities

By Linda LeNeve  
and Camille Howell

**B**ranson has become a city known for its Veterans' Day activities, and this past November 11 saw the biggest celebration yet. A record crowd turned out for a parade through historic downtown Branson, but at College of the Ozarks, the day of remembrance got underway much earlier.



**Michael Howell, professor of history and Vietnam veteran, fired the cannon at the morning's wreath-laying service.**

At 7 a.m., a crowd of faculty, staff and students gathered at the College flagpole and war memorial, between the library and the chapel, for a brief wreath-laying service. Larry Cockrum, dean of administration, laid a wreath, and Joe Hardin, music professor, played "Taps." History professor Michael Howell, a Vietnam veteran and former Navy lieutenant, fired a cannon. Captain James Schrefler, assistant professor of military science, served as master of ceremonies, and C of O's Bobcat Company ROTC unit also assisted in the service.

Later in the morning, the Bobcat Company color guard led a group of

*Photos by Hylke van der Velde  
and Kyle Calvert*



**These veterans, all associated in some way with C of O, marched in Branson's annual Veterans' Day parade.**

C of O veterans, including faculty, staff and alumni, in the Branson Veterans' Day parade. More than 20 men participated in the parade, which was watched by more than 25,000 people.

To end the day's activities, the College hosted a Veterans' Day convocation with Lieutenant Colonel Henry Anton, U.S. Army Ret., as speaker. Colonel Anton, from Springfield, oversaw the Army ROTC program at Southwest Missouri State University before his retirement. He is currently commander of the Nixa, MO, Junior ROTC unit.

**Below: A student color guard preceded the veterans in the parade.**



**Members of Bobcat Company ROTC raise the flag at the morning service.**



# WE ARE HONORED

## Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients Visit College

By Camille Howell

College of the Ozarks was honored to have an elite group of American heroes visit the campus on Thursday, September 18, 2003. Some 60 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and their families held a memorial service for their colleagues in Williams Memorial Chapel.

This group of veterans, who have received highest honors for outstanding bravery and service to their country, gathers each year to celebrate their lives and remember those who have passed on. Branson hosted this year's reunion, and event planners, including some of the CMH recipients themselves, chose the C of O chapel as the preferred site for a memorial service. This service is the most solemn event of the entire reunion.

"What a privilege it was for us to have these heroes on our campus," said President Jerry C. Davis. "When



A group of about 60 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients gathered at College of the Ozarks last September for a memorial service in Williams Chapel. The men, from all over the U.S, included veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Photo by Camille Howell

you see these men, laughing and enjoying one another's company, they look like everyone else. But it's always important to remember," he continued, "that they have performed services that may well have had a direct effect on the freedoms we enjoy today. We cannot thank them enough for what they did."

## "Head, Heart and Hands" Video Receives Aurora Gold Award

By Linda LeNeve

The College's video, "An Education of the Head, Heart and Hands," was voted a 2003 gold winner at this year's Aurora Awards. The video was voted best in the public relations category.

Produced by The Vacation Channel of Branson, the nine-minute video explores C of O, using the five-fold mission as its framework. Several C of O alumni, including Jason Spencer, Jesse Christoffersen and Nick Appleton, helped produce the video. Alumna Erin Hayes, correspondent for ABC News, served as narrator.

Established in 1996, the Aurora Awards are a national competition among television stations, production houses, film producers, advertising agencies and cable channel broadcasters for the best examples in their respective categories. There are many different types of products given awards.

The Vacation Channel Productions has won four gold Auroras and one Platinum Best of Show award in the past three years. For more information on the Aurora Awards see [www.auroraawards.com](http://www.auroraawards.com).

For further details on how to obtain a copy (video or DVD) of "An Education of the Head, Heart and Hands," please contact the College's public relations office at 417-334-6411, ext. 2212.



President Jerry C. Davis (center) accepts the Aurora Award from Vacation Channel personnel. Pictured with the president are (left) Stan Bess, vice-president, and (right) Gary Leach, videographer. Leach oversaw production of the award-winning video. Several alumni including Erin Hayes, ABC News correspondent, were involved in the video's production.

Photo by Camille Howell

# STUDENT ACCOLADES

## Computer Science Student Among Only 15 in U.S. Selected to Present Research Project in Virginia

**N**athan Sanders, a C of O senior majoring in Computer Science, has been selected as one of only 15 undergraduate students from across the country to present his senior project research at the national ACM/SIGCSE (Association of Computing Machinery/Special Interest Group on Education) in Norfolk, Virginia March 4 - 5.

Sanders is the son of two C of O alumni. His parents, Roger and Connie Stanley Sanders, both graduated from The School of the Ozarks in 1972. His father majored in Biology with a minor in Chemistry, and his mother majored in English with a minor in Library Science. The Sanders family lives in Weatherford, Texas.

The 2004 ACM Student Research Contest held at the 2004 SIGCSE conference will consist of two categories, graduate and undergraduate, with prizes awarded based on judging during the conference. Judges will include professional computer scientists attending the conference activities.

Students' research will be evaluated on the quality and significance of the work, and the quality and clarity of both an oral and a visual presentation. Those students who are selected by the judges to advance to the second round will continue in the competition by giving a formal, short conference presentation of their research.

The top three winners in the undergraduate and



**Student Nathan Sanders, shown here in the C of O language lab, is one of only 15 undergraduates selected from throughout the United States to present his research at the national ACM/SIGCSE conference in Virginia this spring.** Photo by Mary Margaret Lenk

graduate category as determined by the judges' evaluation of the conference presentations will receive cash prizes and will advance to a final student research contest round. There, all SIG conference contest winners are evaluated to determine one overall student research contest winner.

Nathan is investigating the use of compiler error detection and reporting techniques in a natural language context. In his proposal, Nathan writes: "Traditionally, natural language parsing has attempted to recover from errors in the input sentence. However, for specialized cases where it is appropriate to alert users that their input is erroneous, error reporting mechanisms are largely non-existent in natural language parsing. Machine-language compilers have developed such mechanisms, which can be applied by analogy to natural language with some degree of success. The results of applying these mechanisms will be demonstrated in a simple French translation system designed for beginning student use."

In layman's terms, Nathan is developing a system that will allow beginning French students at College of the Ozarks to enter a French sentence and receive feedback on their grammatical mistakes. His research is not only theoretical but will have practical benefits as well.

Nathan's work station is the language lab. He is also the recipient of the 2002 Computer Sciences Horizon award given by the C of O Department of Computer Sciences.

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# THE C OF O FAMILY

## College Staffer Loses Home to Arsonist's Fire: Faith And Strength Provide Encouragement For All

By Liarra Bartlett

**M**ost people's day consists of waking up, spending a full day at work and then driving home for a quiet evening or a night out. But sometimes things don't work out the way they're supposed to.

What if you were on your way home and you received a phone call that would be etched into your mind for the rest of your life? A phone call to inform you that your house was on fire.

This is exactly what happened as Carol Ward, secretary to Dean of Students Chris Larsen, as she was on her way home August 6, 2003. She had worked late that night, leaving the school at 6:30 p.m. instead of her usual 5 p.m., and received the phone call from her son, Stephen. A neighbor noticed that there was smoke coming from the chimney, and when he looked closer he noticed there were broken windows.

The neighbor immediately called Stephen and the fire department. "My immediate reaction was disbelief," Carol said. "The first thing out of my mouth was 'Oh God, please don't let it be true' and the next thought was to get our dog Sadie out of the back yard."

As she neared her home six miles north of Alpena, Arkansas, the smoke and water damage became obvious. The walls were still standing, despite the fact that the fire had burned steadily from noon until 6 p.m.

Rummaging inside, after the fire had been put completely out, the Wards were able to salvage very few



**Carol Ward, secretary to the Dean of Students, always has a friendly smile and a kind word for the many people who come to her office each day.**

Photo by Liarra Bartlett

items. Dishes and cookware were among those saved, but the most valuable, at least in emotional value, was Carol's grandmother's china.

Everything else was either damaged from the fire or water, or was saturated in black. "It was just stuff," commented Carol. "Life goes on without it. It can be replaced, but maybe we don't really need all that much."

For many people, the most difficult thing to lose would be photographs. Luckily, Carol and Ronald had the opportunity to reproduce pictures being stored at Carol's father's home as well as with their children. The Wards saved some smoke and water-damaged pictures from their home, and they were able to make reprints from the photos that belonged to family members.

Another blessing was that all of the family's Christmas collection was in storage elsewhere and was saved. As for the rest of the Ward's belongings, they were wise enough to have homeowner's insurance, which will help to replace the many things lost.

An incident such as this is one of the worst imaginable, especially when it is discovered that it was not an accidental fire. The Wards' home burned as a result of arson. The arsonist lit all three beds in the house on fire, as well as the sofa, and oxygen spread the fire to the rest of the house as various windows began to break.

While the police have information on an alias the arsonist uses, they have not found him and continue the search. They do, however, have a picture secured from a bank where the arsonist deposited three checks taken from the Wards' home.

"We were glad that he was someone we didn't know," Carol said in response to viewing the picture. "He totally turned our life upside down, but we refuse to let him ruin it."

This very attitude has been an encouragement to the many students, teachers, and staff members around College of the Ozarks who see Carol every day and draw strength for their own challenges from her positive attitude.

After working in the Alpena public school system for 18 years, Mrs. Ward began working in the Dean of Student's Office Spring of 2000. In just five short years, she has become a familiar and much-loved face around campus.

At the 2003 Homecoming Coronation, she was asked to come on stage to receive recognition for her help with the ceremony. As she

***"It was just stuff. Life goes on without it. It can be replaced, but maybe we don't really need all that much."***

*continued on page 16*



# Memorial Gifts

## SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

**Dick Cottrell** from Mr. and Mrs. Bill F. Wright  
**Donald Coultas** from Mrs. Virginia S. Coultas  
**Van Davidson** from Mrs. Maxine McMahon  
**Suzie Fritz** from Miss Carolyn Hackman  
**Opal M. Gideon** from Ms. Joella Gideon, Mr. and Mrs. John Strahan, Jr., Ms. Mary C. Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gregg, Ms. Judy Zobel, Ms. Louise Davis, Ms. Ruth Glidewell, Mrs. Matilda A. Thomas  
**Clyde W. Gourley** from Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Reitz  
**Ruth Hauck** from Mrs. Garland Largen  
**Coral Crandall Hodde** from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten  
**Denzel Koontz** from Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vogt, Mrs. Peggy Wills  
**Lillian Landon** from Mrs. Elodie F. Floyd  
**Mr. and Mrs. William Rex McKinney** from Mrs. Fran R. Lundgren  
**Mrs. Helen Roberts Perry** from Dorothy and Louise Miley  
**Mr. Aaron Powell** from Mrs. R. J. Powell  
**Douglas Powell** from Mrs. R. J. Powell  
**ETHEL E. REEVES** FROM MR. F. HASKELL REEVES  
**Clark and Marian Singleton** from Mary S. Smith  
**Fred Smith** from Mrs. Mary S. Smith  
**Thelma Thomason** from Mr. and Mrs. William A. Boggs  
**Wylie Todd** from Mrs. Ruth Davis Todd  
**Frank and Gene Tripodi** from Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hooper  
**Betty Harms Whaley** from Mr.

and Mrs. Arnold G. Focken  
**Pearl Zwickelmaier** from Mr. and Mrs. Dean L. Clawson, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin W. Marien, Ms. Grace Racana, Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Zwickelmaier, Ms. Irene J. Schmatt, Dr. and Mrs. Sanford Thal

## OCTOBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

**ARLENE L. BARTOSZ** FROM MR. STANLEY F. BARTOSZ  
**Ralph Blakeley** from Mr. and Mrs. John R. Hayman  
**Arthur Cahill** from Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Hall  
**Walker Combs** from Ms. Helen C. Schneller  
**Jesse D. Dunn** from Mr. and Mrs. Ray W. Dunn  
**Letha R. Dunn** from Mr. and Mrs. Ray W. Dunn  
**Opal Gideon** from Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Hall  
**Vonee Hammers** from Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Hall  
**Coral Crandall Hodde** from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten  
**Marietta Kemper Holland** from Mrs. Kathleen H. Rutten  
**E. K. Jackson** from Mr. and Mrs. James C. Jackson  
**Georgia Koerner** from Dr. and Mrs. David D. Thomasson, Ms. Bonnie Banning  
**Wayne Musteen** from Mr. and Mrs. Phillip W. Young  
**Curtis Reynolds** from Mrs. Cathy Sheehy  
**Louise Rosado Saunders** from Ms. Rosado Wiseman  
**Ken Smith** from Mr. and Mrs. F. Russell Zartler  
**Kent Welch** from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Leps  
**Pearl L. Zwickelmaier** from Ms. Barbara J. Zahrieh, Mrs. Cindy L. Black

## OCTOBER HONOR SCROLLS

**Dr. Roy Johnson** from Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Rockey, Jr.  
**MRS. WINKLER'S FAMILY** FROM MRS. MARIE H. WINKLER

## NOVEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

**Marvin H. Anderson** from Mrs. Evelyn H. Anderson  
**Carol Andreano** from Mrs. Marguerite Wessbecher  
**Brothers** from Mrs. Anna Marie Furkin  
**G. Adrian Chalfant** from Mrs. Myra D. Chalfant  
**Mary Lou Cook** from Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Pfeifer  
**G. Stanley Druhot** from Mrs. Myra D. Chalfant  
**Coral Crandall Hodde** from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten  
**Mr. and Mrs. Charles Laird** from Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Laird  
**Myra Logsdon** from Mrs. Myra D. Chalfant  
**Parents** from Mrs. Anna Marie Furkin  
**Lindsey Keller Ripp** from Dr. Marilyn Graves, Mrs. Cheryl Marley  
**Clark and Belle Singleton** from Mrs. Ruth S. Kime  
**Sisters** from Mrs. Anna Marie Furkin  
**Mrs. Ann Spencer** from Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Laird  
**Chuck Vannatta** from Mr. and Mrs. Theodore B. Kelly  
**Pearl Zwickelmaier** from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

## NOVEMBER HONOR SCROLLS

**Jerry and Shirley Davis** from Dr. and Mrs. Bradford L. Crain  
**NAMES IN CAPITAL LETTERS REPRESENT GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE.**

Throughout 16 months, Sendler begged parents and grandparents to give up their children and allow them to be rescued. Unfortunately, many parents could not be convinced to part with their babies and they died together. At the end of WWII, fewer than 3,500 of the 350,000 Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto were still alive.

Sendler wrote down the name of every child she rescued on little bits of tissue paper. To protect the children, she buried the names in jars under an apple tree in a friend's garden in Warsaw, which is where the play's name, *Life in a Jar*, originated.

On October 20, 1943, Sendler paid the price for her heroic acts. The Gestapo arrested her based on information from one of her messengers, who was caught and tortured until she gave up Sendler's name and home address. The Gestapo demanded that Sendler reveal the names of the other members of Zegota and the identities of the the rescued children, but she refused to talk.

"I was quiet as a mouse," Sendler has said. She was beaten so badly that her legs and feet were broken, and because she never received medical attention, she is permanently disabled. "I would rather have died than disclose anything about our operations," she told the girls.

She was then taken to Pawiak prison and sentenced to death. But on the day her life was to be taken, Zegota paid an undisclosed sum to a guard who let Sendler escape.

At home in Uniontown, the girls had started trying to find Sendler. To their surprise, the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous told them Sendler was 90 years old and had some health problems, but she was still alive in her native Poland. Six months after beginning their project, the teenagers sent a letter to Sendler explaining who they were and what they were doing. Sendler's handwritten Polish response came three weeks later and in a chain of letters, her unbelievable story came to life.



**Elizabeth helps serve students during lunchtime at the C of O cafeteria.**

Photo by Amanda Levesque

At this time, *Life in a Jar* had won first place at the state National History Day competition. A touching performance was held at Uniontown High in April 2000. Following that performance they were invited to perform for church groups, nursing homes and civic organizations throughout Southeast Kansas.

In June 2000 the group traveled to Maryland to compete in the national competition, and although they didn't win any awards, the play received national recognition. The morning after the contest, C-Span was waiting to interview the group about *Life in a Jar*. "When we saw all the cameras we were like 'who are those for?'" said Cambers. "We had no idea they were there to talk to us."

Due to the growing popularity of the play, the students added more roles and made revisions. After a performance at a junior high in Kansas City, an audience member, a local Jewish man, was so touched by Sendler's story that he raised money from other Kansas City Jews to buy three plane tickets to Poland.

In May 2001, Cambers, Coons, and Stewart were on their way to Warsaw to meet Sendler. "It wasn't real until I actually met Irena," says Stewart. "We all ran up and hugged her. She wanted to just hold our hands and hear about our lives."

One after the other, the girls cried as they held Sendler's hand.

Cambers told her, "I love you. You are my hero. You are my inspiration."

Before leaving Poland, they gave Sendler a big heart-shaped card made by students in Uniontown. In return, Sendler gave Cambers, Stewart and Coons each a heart-shaped pendant that they still wear today as a reminder of how one woman's courage saved 2,500 lives.

The hard work of these Uniontown girls has paid off for everyone involved. Thanks to the publicity gained from the students and *Life in a Jar*, Sendler has since been given several awards for her selfless efforts during the Holocaust.

After Sendler found out that she was going to receive a \$10,000 humanitarian award from the American Center of Polish Culture in Washington, D.C. she wrote a letter to the girls saying, "My emotion is being overshadowed by the fact that no one from the circle of my faithful co-workers...could live long enough to enjoy all the honors that now are falling upon me...I can't find the words in order to thank you...Please be aware that all the honors that now I am receiving from many parts are only due to your merit."

The job of keeping the Sendler story alive has been passed on to current Uniontown High students. Now, 17 students participate in the project serving as cast members and researchers. Also, students created a website, [www.irenasendler.org](http://www.irenasendler.org), with information on upcoming performances and Sendler's life.

This amazing story of heroism continues to spread and touch peoples' lives today. Currently, *Life in a Jar* has five performances scheduled for New York City, and plans for another trip to Poland are in the works for next summer. Also, New York City producer Ellen Feig is working on a script for a TV movie expected to come out within the next two years. In addition to the movie, a possible book deal is being considered.

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**Carol and Ronald Ward know that possessions are some of life's most unimportant things.**

walked onto the stage the students showed their affection and appreciation by welcoming her with cheers that echoed throughout the auditorium.

**"I hope to be an example for others who go through tragic things," said Carol. "People lift me up all the time and help me to keep on going."**

"I hope to be an example for others who go through tragic things," said Carol. "People lift me up all the time and help me to keep on going."

On August 15, the Wards moved into a house on the campus filled with furniture found or donated by members of the C of O family. Later that month, Dr. Marilyn Graves, Dean of the College, gave a shower in her home to help the family out even more. Staffers Candy Sullinger and Cheryl Marley also helped with the shower.

"God has allowed us to move past this event," Carol shared. "Good can come out of bad if you allow it. (We have seen) love, compassion, and help from friends, family and our campus family."

The Wards are currently preparing for their new home, which will be located conveniently between the

College and Ronald's cattle ranch. They predict that in March or April, they will start the plans for the new house. "God has been so good to us. He has blessed me with an incredible husband of 36 years, two wonderful children and their spouses, three grandchildren and one more on the way," Carol said.

Showing their faith and amazing strength, the Wards have not only moved past this terrible event, but have displayed an attitude which is a blessing to others around them. One item which has helped Carol manage during this trial is a saying posted on her computer, which she received from a friend after the incident. It simply says "If God brings you to it; He'll bring you through it." One look at the Wards is proof that God has certainly done this for them.

THE FACE OF HUMANITY

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The story of Irena Sendler has influenced Cambers' outlook on life as well as her career choice. She plans to be a high school history teacher in hopes of making sure no story like Sendler's goes untold, and she describes Irena's life as a great story that teaches acceptance.

"I think the greatest thing you could ever do is change someone's life, and if I could do that for one person my goal in life would be complete," said Cambers as she touched her heart pendant. "I live life to the fullest."

**ON THE COVER: Branson's annual Veterans' Day parade drew a record crowd this year, with more than 25,000 spectators. Marching in the two-mile parade was a group of about 20 C of O vets representing faculty, staffers and alumni. Pictured here are (L to R) Dale Carley, Lynn Behrends and Bob Keeney, who are staffers in Mail Operations, the College Press and the Electronics department respectively.**

Photo by Linda LeNeve

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