

Ozark Visitor



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

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Point Lookout, Missouri 65726



Fox News Features Hard Work U.®

PROMISES TO KEEP

National Spotlight Remains on Hard Work U.®



Jerry C. Davis, President

In spite of the economy, the outlook remains bright at College of the Ozarks. And while fiscal conservatism is an unfamiliar concept among many governmental agencies and other U.S. colleges, fiscal discipline remains a top priority for College of the Ozarks. This discipline and the opportunity for students to work for their college education have kept College of the Ozarks in the national spotlight over the past few months.

In November, **Yahoo.com** republished an article on the College's work-study program that **BusinessWeek.com** ran in November 2007. Following the **Yahoo** article, **MSN.com** featured a piece on the College as a successful example of the work college business. Then, on December 7, **Fox News** "Fox & Friends" aired a live interview with two College of the Ozarks students who discussed the work program. This publicity continues to reinforce the College's presence at the national level.

On-campus it has been "business as usual," with several successful events such as Homecoming and student convocations. This edition of the *Ozark Visitor* will bring you up-to-date. In particular, you may enjoy reading about the College's character curriculum (pages 8-9), which has been operating since the fall of 2002. Part of The Keeter Center for Character Education, courses focused on topics of character have reinforced the importance of positive character traits for students. We can thank several individuals for their generosity to keep this program an

integral part of the College. One such individual is Board of Trustees member James P. Keeter, who took a leadership role in the establishment of The Keeter Center for Character Education. You can learn more about Mr. Keeter in a personality profile featured on page 6.

Because of the College's service emphasis, graduates go on to make a difference in their communities and even in foreign lands. One alumna (name omitted to protect identity) is dedicated to serving others at the risk of her personal safety. Now living in one of the most dangerous places for an American to be, she demonstrates selfless service by educating young foreigners and carrying out God's work in a formidable country. Her service is a testimony to all of us. Please continue to remember individuals, like this alumna, in your prayers.

Enjoy the interesting stories in this edition. I wish you all the best in the coming months.

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Editor Elizabeth Andrews, Public Relations Director
Assistant Editor Jerry McDonald, PR Assistant
*Student Writers and Photographers Amanda Manuel,
Joshua Mollenkamp, Stephanie Bell, Levi Walker,
Cherah Higgins, Joy LeKar, Kayla Thomas*
Design Supervisor Laura Lane
Dean of Development Tim Huddleston
Director of Alumni Affairs Helen Youngblood

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Craig Cogdill, Manager

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Founded by an early Presbyterian missionary, College of the Ozarks is an interdenominational Christian, four-year work college.

The College does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age or ethnic origin, in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies.

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NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Fox & Friends Features C of O Students

By Elizabeth Andrews

“**F**ox & Friends” on the Fox News Channel broadcasted a live interview with College of the Ozarks students Emily Howard and Timothy Stroud on Sunday, December 7, at 7:45 a.m. During the three-minute interview, “Fox & Friends” weekend host Dave Briggs talked with Howard and Stroud about their experiences with the College’s work-study program, as well as what it is like to know they will graduate debt-free.

Fox called the work-study concept an innovative idea that could possibly serve as role model for colleges and universities across the nation. Both Howard and Stroud agree that the College was providing an amazing opportunity that would enable them to focus their money on continuing their studies and launching their careers after graduation.

“With college costs soaring and the economic climate not faring well, College of the Ozarks is a relevant topic for the news,” Elizabeth Andrews, Director of Public Relations, said. “The College has remained firm on its original mission—to provide a quality, Christian education for young people who cannot afford one but are willing to work—and that in itself is newsworthy.”

Student interviewee Emily Howard is a junior studying pre-med and dietetics. Her workstation is at The



Keeter Center, where she is a server in Dobyys Dining Room. Junior Timothy Stroud is double-majoring in agribusiness and animal science. He is a herdsman at the on-campus dairy farm.

To view the interview online, type in http://www.foxnews.com/video-search/m/21608025/free_college_tuition.htm?q=Free+College+Tuition+Video on your web browser. You may also contact the Public Relations office to request a DVD copy. For more information or to request a copy, please call (417) 690-2212.

CHRISTMAS CARD TO THE COMMUNITY

December 14, 2008

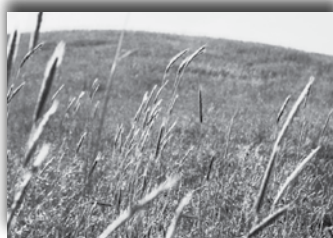


The College celebrated Christ’s birth December 14, with its 20th annual Christmas Card to the Community worship service in Williams Memorial Chapel.

WANT TO SELL YOUR REAL ESTATE TAX-FREE?

There are a number of ways you can benefit from a gift of land or commercial real estate while helping the College's mission at the same time. Consider the benefits of transferring your land using one of the options below:

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HONORABLE MENTIONS

Service Gets Presidential Recognition

By Elizabeth Andrews

President George W. Bush sent a certified letter, dated October 21, 2008, to College of the Ozarks Board of Trustees Chairman General Terrence Dake commending Dr. Jerry C. Davis on 20 years of service as President of College the Ozarks. The letter was presented to Dr. Davis by General Dake during the annual fall board meeting dinner.

President Bush wrote: "By ensuring a quality education for every student and serving as a role model, you are helping prepare them for the many opportunities ahead. Your good work reflects the character of our Nation, and I am grateful for your dedication."

Dr. Davis began serving as College of the Ozarks President the fall of 1989, after having been President of Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, for 11 years. He received



General Terrence Dake presents Dr. Jerry C. Davis with a Presidential letter of commendation.

his doctorate in 1970 in biological sciences from Ohio State University.

A product of a work school, having attended the Berry Schools in Mount Berry, Georgia, Dr. Davis has been committed to furthering opportunities for deserving young people by preserving the founding mission

of College of the Ozarks, originally named The School of the Ozarks.

Under his leadership, College of the Ozarks has not only continued to provide a debt-free education to thousands of deserving young people who are willing to work, but has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a best baccalaureate college in the Midwest yearly since 1989.

Dedicated to imparting and strengthening traditional values in young people, Dr. Davis has been instrumental in developing programs, such as The Keeter Center for Character Education, which promote values such as duty, honor, responsibility, and hard work within the College and community.

In addition to his duties as C of O President, he serves as a consultant/evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association accrediting agency.

Professor Named to Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

By Cherah Higgins

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt appointed 18 Missourians to serve on the Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Among those 18 appointed is College of the Ozarks History Professor Dr. David Dalton.

Dr. Dalton is originally from Bowling Green, Kentucky. He has been a professor at College of the Ozarks for 20 years and holds the Elizabeth Hoyt Clark Chair of Humanities. He received a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and his doctorate from the University of Kentucky, where he specialized in the Civil War. Dr. Dalton has been published in many journals on Civil War topics. Two new works of his, "Kentuckians in Gray" and "Confederate Generals in the Western Theatre," are soon to be published, as well.

The Missouri Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission is an organization created to commemorate

Missouri's role in the Civil War. The Commission will help to remember and honor the 160,000 Missourians who fought for both the North and the South. It serves as the official mediator

between other states and other public and private sesquicentennial committees to coordinate and plan activities that foster recognition of the Civil War in Missouri.

As a member of the Commission, Dr. Dalton will be responsible for attending meetings and creating innovative ideas on ways to remember the Civil War.

"The Civil War continues to be the single most important event in our nation's history," Dr. Dalton said. "My goal on the Commission will be to ensure that Missouri's role in the conflict can not only be understood by all ages, but honored by succeeding generations."



PERSONALITY PROFILE

College of the Ozarks Board of Trustees Member

James P. Keeter

By Amanda Manuel

James P. Keeter began his entrepreneurial endeavors at a young age, often ending his workday in a smattering of wood chips or a veil of black soot. Determination, hard work, and a Small Business Association loan became the building blocks for charcoal briquette maker Royal Oak Enterprises, where founder Mr. Keeter serves as the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer.

Keeter had a comfortable upbringing in a small town, and even as a young person, he had an entrepreneurial spirit. To get started, his father Vester Keeter gave him a truck to oversee wood hauling. His father's sale barn also brought a few advantages for the young Jim Keeter. At age 9, Keeter acquired a Tennessee Walking Horse and rode up Beaver Creek in a saddle inscribed with someone else's initials. And only Keeter, an ambitious youngster, could sit atop this very spirited horse. Anyone else who attempted to sit in the saddle was thrown at their own risk. His willingness for adventure and fearlessness for risk made up the essential ingredients for a budding entrepreneur.



Mr. James and Mrs. Julie Keeter at The Keeter Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in 2004.

With a talent for business ventures and an upbringing steeped in the hometown values of Bradleyville, Missouri, his father taught him to work hard, be fair, and be honest. "In those days, you had to be honest to get anywhere," Keeter recalled. Preceding the opening of this first plant in Branson, he often worked 12-hour days. His first two factories burned to the ground. Even with those hard-

ships, Keeter achieved his profit estimates within two years after rebuilding.

Royal Oak Enterprises started as the smallest, single plant charcoal producer and rose to second largest in the world and now has 28 plants coast to coast. The new company, prepared for challenge, flourished. "We never looked back, and that's how we continued to grow," Keeter said. Royal Oak is a private, family owned company that does business in the United States and globally.

When Mr. Keeter came back to Branson to build the first charcoal plant, he joined the local Rotary Club, where he met Dr. M. Graham Clark and Dr. Robert M. Good. He said he remembered meeting Dr. Clark when he was only 12 or 14 years old at a high school graduation. It was Dr. Clark and Dr. Good's passion and devotion to the institution that drew him to College of the Ozarks. Mr. Keeter knew his father believed in the mission. Trusting his father's lead, he wanted to become actively involved. Mr. Keeter later became a member of the College's Board of Trustees and served as Chairman of the Board for four years.

In addition to remaining involved as a member of the Board, he and his family took a leadership role in establishing The Keeter Center for Character Education in 1998, which is named in honor of his parents, the late Vester and Ruby Keeter. With the intention from the beginning to promote character education on a national level, The Keeter Center for Character Education has brought renowned speakers such as First Lady Barbara Bush, General Colin Powell, and Lady Margaret Thatcher to C of O.

Mr. Keeter and his family now reside in Bonita Springs, Florida.



General Norman Schwarzkopf honors the Keeter family for taking a leadership role in establishing The Keeter Center for Character Education. The late Ruby Keeter, matriarch of the family, is shown accepting the plaque.

RUSTY NO MORE

Tractor Renovation Takes Respect

By Joshua Mollenkamp

For several years the George A. and Sophia L. Gaetz Tractor Museum has been a growing attraction for those interested in the history of agriculture. The original donation by George A. Gaetz included a collection of tractors in need of restoration and enough money to build the initial building. These tractors, as well as tractors from a display in the Ralph Foster Museum, were the core collection of the Tractor Museum. Dr. Howell Keeter, Vice President of the College, is actively involved in the continuance and expansion of the Museum. Restoration expert Joe Robbins was brought in to work on the rusty lot of tractors.

It's easy to see the passion Joe Robbins has for tractors by the energy and pride he exudes when talking about the restoration process. Robbins grew up with a farming background, as well as having been a beef and hay farmer for 26 years. He has always had an interest in machines. "The biggest reason for my interest in machines is because they ease man's burden of work," Robbins said. "For this reason, I feel both gratitude and respect toward the machine." According to Robbins, it's important to remember the



One of the antique tractors ready for renovation

College of the Ozarks receives most of the tractors for the Museum through donations. The school is currently searching for a late model 30, early 40 8-N, 2-N Ford and/or a Ferguson.



Joe Robbins, Restoration Expert

people who first built the tractors. By restoring the tractors to their original look, he views his work as a way to honor them. "The people who built these tractors took a lot of pride in their work," he said.

When work is begun, a tractor will often resemble little more than a rusted heap of metal. A picture is always taken before and after for reference. Many of the tractors are missing parts. Original parts are often found on ebay.com or at salvage yards. Generally, all the necessary parts are not found in one place. A pile at a salvage yard may only render one part, but it is still considered a success. Often there are parts that need to be beaten back to their original shape.

The tractors are disassembled and receive a good cleaning to start the process. The larger metal parts are then taken to Harrison, Arkansas, for sand blasting, while the smaller ones are put through a glass bead blasting. Any decals on the original tractors are reproduced with the help of the College Graphic Arts Department.

When every part has been restored, they are primed and painted, and the tractor is reassembled. The tractors aren't rebuilt to run; they are simply for display—a representation of the tractor as it looked when it was new.

Robbins uses old pictures and manuals as his guide. He is serious about doing a quality renovation. "When integrity is compromised, one begins to cut corners, and the quality of the restoration goes down," said Robbins. "You don't cut corners when you wash dishes. You don't leave food on the plate." Robbins will only walk away from a tractor he works on, when he is satisfied with the accuracy and quality of the job. "The whole process starts with love," said Robbins, "then add desire, and stir in respect."



Inside the Gaetz Tractor Museum, you will find many restored antique tractors, as well as antique farm implements. Admission to the museum is free.

CHARACTER CURRICULUM:

By Amanda Manuel

A walk through scholastic achievement in the heart of a bustling campus inspires the imagination. Students spend the course of an hour strolling through literature like a scholar roaming the colonnade. They discover a dimension of early church history to be as captivating as a courtyard with just one empty bench. Leaning over balustrades and resting in the cool dim chambers of a main hall, students join discussions about Plato, Cicero, Augustine, and Luther with distinguished professors and other outstanding young people excited about literature and ideas.

This walk is just a preview of college life on a beautiful campus in America where students fervently cherish a learning environment. This past semester, 174 students enrolled in the Character Curriculum and are discovering the value of bookmarks as they read the great works of literature required to complete their courses.

“Taken together, faith, reason, and imagination enable the student to know what character is, not merely as a set of precepts or rules, but as an inclination of the heart to nobility, integrity, and love.”

Since the Fall of 2002, students have had the opportunity to meet certain general education requirements by taking courses in Character Curriculum. For example, students may take Medieval/Renaissance Ideals of Character in place of Drawing for a fine art credit.

The Character Curriculum is open to all interested students. Fur-



thermore, students may choose to take one or all courses according to their interest. Students who successfully complete four of the five character classes will receive a notation on their transcripts recognizing their participation in the program. Also, students who participate in the College of the Ozarks Academy of Lifestyle Leadership (CALL) are required to take at least one course from the Character Curriculum.

The Character Curriculum at College of the Ozarks is founded on the supposition that moral truths can be known and practiced. Professors Hayden Head, Mark Rapinchuk, Gary Hiebsch, and Larry Isitt served on the committee to establish character as an object of thought at the College. The committee believed character education to be more than programs, speakers, and volunteerism. From this belief, they worked to form a historical and chronological approach to the academic examination of character.

Many freshmen begin their study of character with Biblical Ideals of Character and learn from examples such as Joshua and Deborah. Consequently, faith becomes the best tool in knowing and practicing eternal

truths that help define character. “Taken together, faith, reason, and imagination enable the student to know what character is, not merely as a set of precepts or rules, but as an inclination of the heart to nobility, integrity, and love,” Dr. Hayden Head said.

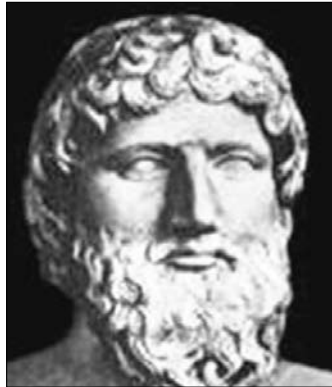
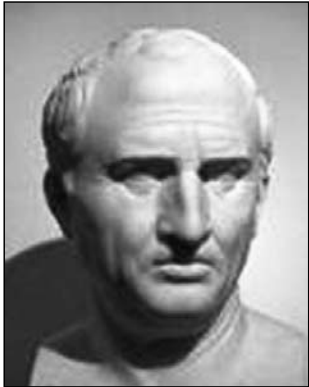
Close reading and persistent questioning of the assigned text is the typical format of a character course. Students enrolled in Classical Ideals of Character fulfill their literature requirement by engaging in several works of the Western tradition.

Conversation among readers and thinkers is meant to influence how future leaders will view political order and the development of a good citizen. “Literature rightly understood reveals the role of character in the human experience,” Dr. Head said. “Great authors from Homer to Dante to Shakespeare present readers with imaginative visions of the human condition and sweeping backgrounds against which we can see the significance of human decisions and the consequences of character.”

Leadership lessons in the curriculum come from historical characters whose decisions raise questions

PLATO, CICERO, AND MORAL TRUTHS

Cicero, Author of *On the Republic*



Plato, Father of Western Philosophy

about virtue. The hero will often struggle to define natural law or absolute truth while challenging conventional wisdom.

Overall, students study almost 12 centuries of Christian literature, history, theology, and philosophy with the hope that working through the virtues of the past will enable them to maintain their freedom to live happier, more virtuous lives today.

In every course, character is addressed when there is a break in convention. “Every culture in every age professes certain ideals of behavior, moral norms, and conventions by which the people of that epoch strive to govern their lives,” Dr. Head said. For example, Hamlet’s beliefs and behavior change as a result of seismic scientific discoveries and crumbling old verities.

The Character Curriculum strives to recognize students as active citizens—citizens who will be forced to address the theories and speculation of science, deal with innovations in technology, new artistic expressions, the shifting moral climate, and changes in political regimes. “The relationship of Christians to the world’s discoveries, its triumphs, and its failures is the tension that has driven Christian culture since the Apostolic age,” Dr. Head said. “As things change, perspectives of God and his relationship to man have the potential to change, which inevitably affects the ideals by which we live.”

Finally, students may take the junior level course, American Ideals of Character, a class that explores what the founders of our country believed about character and the relationship between a virtuous citizenry and self-government.

“That’s how education works. Hopefully you get enough of a taste of something that you become intellectually curious,” Head said. “It’s not as if you challenge the great books to undermine them. You put them on the table with the scope of history to see how they interact. It makes us able to deal with other ideas curiously rather than just rejecting them out of hand. It also shows the

The greatest thinkers in history have all been concerned in one way or another with the question of character.

strength, as well as the weakness, of our positions and makes us more compassionate. Ultimately, I think that undergoing this kind of rigorous academic and intellectual experience helps create better character just by going through the process.”

“How can you pick up the *Illiad* and not say this is a great book? Is it flawed?” Head asks. “Yeah, they are worshipping pagan gods; they are fickle; they have Zeus who is an adulterer, but it is still how men relate to each other, how women become victimized by war, how there is a irrationality attached to physical beauty and desire, and how that kind of fatal attraction works against monogamous relationships. There is no more brilliant work than the *Odyssey* and the way that Homer deeply understands the human psyche,” he explains. “I think Odysseus, according to Christian standards, is deeply flawed. He is largely in it for himself, but Homer privileges the relationship, the marriage of one man, one woman, raising a son to carry on his kingdom.”

The greatest thinkers in history have all been concerned in one way or another with the question of character. Until recently, Cicero was required reading for every educated man or woman. The virtues that define character—wisdom, justice, prudence, and courage—do not change with time; they are among what Faulkner has called the “eternal verities,” moral truths that have been engraved on the heart, the conscience, and the soul. Indeed, the definition of character, therefore, is an interior disposition to do what is right.



THE SHACK

A Learning Experience for Students

By Stephanie Bell

Not very often does a best-selling author make his way to a college campus, but that's just what William Paul Young, author of *The Shack*, did by arriving at College of the Ozarks on September 11, 2008. The night of *The Shack* convocation, students and the general public poured into Jones Auditorium to hear the newly-famous William Paul Young share his testimony, which was the impetus for his book.

The Shack, which has remained as the #1 Paperback Trade Fiction on The *New York Times* Best-Seller list for 34 consecutive (as of 1/21/09) weeks to date, tells the inspirational fictional story of Mackenzie Phillips' unusual and life-altering encounter with God.

At the convocation, Mr. Young opened the evening with a creative remix of multiple Bible stories, which earned quite the laugh from the packed audience. Young said he has always enjoyed writing a variety of short stories, songs, and poetry, and wrote them especially as gifts for his family and friends. Then a few years ago, his wife urged him to take a new venture in his writing – to put his unique experiences about growing up and his arduous spiritual journey with God onto paper. This endeavor produced *The Shack*, a book originally intended as a gift to his children. However, as word got out through his family and friends, the book grew into an overnight success.

"I am humbled by the widespread attention this book has received and know that all the glory goes to God. I never dreamed anything like this would happen," Young said.

The story begins with the abduction of Mackenzie Phillips' (Mack) youngest daughter, Missy, and Mack's subsequent struggle with the emotional trauma of this tragedy. Mack receives a letter in the mail, appar-



William Paul Young, author of *The Shack*

ently signed by God, requesting him to come to the rundown shack where Missy's murder took place. Mack's experiences weave an intricate tale of God's triune nature, ever-present forgiveness, and immeasurable love.

Interestingly, the characters in *The Shack* represent people and circumstances in author William Young's life. Most notably, the main character, Mack, symbolizes Young himself. The book's telling of how Mack deals with his anger, faces hurts from his past, and reconciles with God as the loving Father he never had on earth, describes key events that occurred in Young's own life.

At the convocation, Young recounted his personal testimony and the occurrences that comprise the book's backbone. He grew up as a missionary kid in the highlands of West Papua, New Guinea, among the primitive, cannibalistic Dani tribe.

"Missionary kids have some unique abilities, but we sometimes have unique damages as well," Young said. "We get the 'big picture' and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, but often we don't know where 'home' is or have a very solid concept of family life because our parents are so busy."

One damage that Young tragi-

cally sustained first occurred at age four when he was sexually abused by the Dani men.

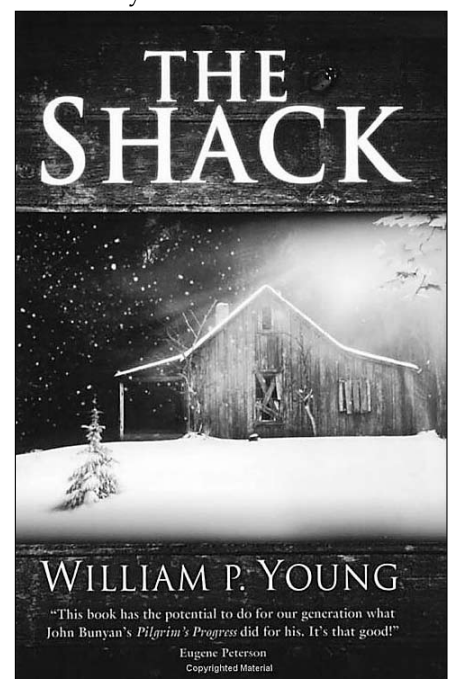
"The Dani people practically raised me. Because they were like family, I didn't fully realize the wrong that was happening to me," Young said.

His parents, extremely focused on the work there, never knew.

At age ten, Young and his siblings were sent off to boarding school. Here, too, Young experienced unsolicited abuse by the older boys who attended the school. His relationship with his father was rocky as well, contributing to his internal turmoil.

"He was a very stern disciplinarian, and no matter what I did, I couldn't seem to please him," Young said. "I was terrified of him."

In response to all this, Young said he became a performer. He put up an external facade of "having it all together" that he wanted others, God, and even himself to believe. Because his relationship with his earthly father had never been loving, he had a difficult time believing in a heavenly Father who is uncondi-



HOMECOMING 2008

"Great Expectations"



Homecoming, held November 1, 2008, met all expectations for attendees. Sunny skies and mild temperatures provided a perfect environment for all the Homecoming activities. The McKibben Center, the most recent addition to the campus, was formally dedicated, with Mr. and Mrs. McKibben and daughter Donna (family of the late Dr. Joe T. McKibben) present for the ceremony. Annual events, such as the Homecoming Coronation and Parade, were enjoyed by all.



continued from page 10

tionally loving, and he began to turn away from his faith.

The "shack" became the internal place where Young hid secrets about his past.

"The shack was the ugly place where I stuffed all my hurts, abuses, failures, and addictions. It was my soul, the place I thought God despised," Young said. "The ironic part is that the 'shack' was the very place God met me in order to heal me from the inside out."

As he faced his anger toward God, the horrible things that had happened to him growing up and his dysfunctional relationship with his father, he began to see that his true value wasn't dependent upon perfec-

tion, but was based on a relationship with Jesus.

"*The Shack* is a manifestation of the healing God did in my life," Young said.

This story has swept across the country from the grassroots up and has sparked many conversations regarding its contents. The story is fictional, but it tackles some big areas about God, namely what the Trinity might be like.

In response to some criticism regarding these spiritual themes the book presents Young said, "My book is fiction, not systematic theology. The great thing about controversy is that it sparks conversation. The fire that's started is really a God-thing,

and He's using it to draw people into a deeper relationship with Himself."

The Campus Ministries department at College of the Ozarks used Young's convocation as an opportunity for learning and discussion. Following the convocation, religion faculty held a question and answer session that offered students training on how to discern what is theologically sound from what is not. Students came away with the ability to better understand and appreciate fictional, Christian literature.

Ultimately, *The Shack* challenges readers to see that God is bigger than the box that He is often put into and offers readers an example of God's unfailing love for all mankind.

WHAT'S COOKING?

Executive Chef Adds Flare to Curriculum

By Kayla Thomas

There can be more to a classroom than chalkboards, paper, and books. Hands-on learning is one aspect that Executive Chef Robert Stricklin incorporates into his curriculum.

Prior to becoming the Executive Chef of The Keeter Center this past fall, Stricklin served as Big Cedar Lodge's Executive Chef. During that time he served several years as an adjunct professor in the College's Restaurant Management Program. When it was decided that the Hospitality Program should be expanded, Stricklin was asked to become the new chef instructor.

In Stricklin's first semester as a chef instructor, he taught two classes, Professional Cooking II and Garde Manger, a class focusing on cold foods. Each class had less than ten students, which allowed for Chef Stricklin to provide one-on-one assistance to every student.

During the construction of The Keeter Center, Chef Stricklin assisted a committee in choosing a layout for the new kitchen. He suggested that it would be best to incorporate plenty of lab space. "I have found



Executive Chef Robert Stricklin

that the students learn more and are more interested in what is going on around them in this type of atmosphere," said Stricklin. "We are actually putting real world experiences into play."

Chef Stricklin now utilizes this lab area to provide hands-on learning experiences for his classes. If the class period requires a demonstration or a lecture, each of the students stand in the kitchen while listening to the lecture.



Chef Stricklin demonstrates how to plate and garnish the soup de jour.

In Stricklin's professional cooking class, they learned about different types of poultry such as duck, chicken, and Cornish game hen. The students got the opportunity to break down an entire case of chicken and prepare it to be served to customers in Dobyns Dining Room.

Advanced Hotel Restaurant management students in the Garde Manger class focused on the preparation of cold foods. They made cheese and exercised their creative side by cutting fruit and vegetable flowers. Sausage, pate', and smoked salmon are some other dishes they prepared.

Along with being a classroom instructor to students, Stricklin is also a head supervisor over 51 students working in the Dobyns Dining Room kitchen. Student workers come with little to no experience in a professional kitchen. These students require the same amount of instruction as the classroom students.

"Every employee in this kitchen is a student," said Stricklin. "Each day you are required to teach the employees the daily procedures and operations of the restaurant."

In the "real world," employees in the kitchen have already gained the experience and the knowledge it takes to make sure each daily task runs smoothly; while in this kitchen, all the employees are continually learning.

One of Stricklin's first passions growing up was art. While spending two years in New Orleans working at InterContinental Hotels and Resorts, he developed a passion for ice sculpting. This talent helped him build a bridge between his artistic and culinary talents.

Stricklin hopes to teach serious culinary arts students about this specialized skill. "This is a skill, when mastered, that would set our students apart from others in the workplace," said Stricklin.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes Filled With Love

By Joshua Mollenkamp

Christmas is a time for giving, a time when people put others before themselves and remember the ultimate gift God gave us, His Son Jesus. Children all over the world wake up Christmas morning eager to unwrap the presents waiting for them under the tree. For some children, though, Christmas is not such a happy time. For children living in orphanages or in war-torn areas around the world, Christmas is just another day. For those children, there is Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry with the mission to bring Christmas and the message of what Christmas is about to children in desperate situations across the globe. Shoe boxes that are filled with toys, candy, school supplies, and hygiene products for the children are sent all over the world to children in need.

Franklin Graham, President of the Christian relief and evangelism organization Samaritan's Purse, made Operation Christmas Child a part of Samaritan's Purse in 1993. Since then, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. Operation Christmas Child is not restricted to the United States. The U.S. collection goal for 2008 was 4.9 million boxes, with another 3.1 million boxes anticipated from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and participating countries in Europe.

College of the Ozarks has participated in Operation Christmas Child as a drop-off point for the last 13 years.



Students Jennifer Burns (L) and Hannah Andrews wrap shoeboxes that will be sent across the globe.



Student Miranda Fugitt (L) and BSU sponsor and C of O alumna Megan Cummings sew quilts for Operation Christmas Child.

The College collected shoe boxes from the students, as well as the community for a nine-day period in November. The final count collected totaled 4,600 boxes.

One of the ways the students contributed to OCC was helping with a quilting party. Students worked together to sew quilts that the shoebox recipients can use as blankets for their dolls. The students involved came from groups on campus such as Baptist Student Union, Bonner Service Department, and Campus Ministries. These students assembled 42 quilts, made out of brightly-colored fabric scraps, to be sent out in boxes for children all over the world.

For Senior Lindsay Wisley, who spent a semester in Africa living alongside people in need, the experience is rewarding. "I know what it's like to rely on your faith that God will provide. I like to think that some of the boxes will go to the children I lived with."

For many it provided a way to unite the campus. "It's great to see the students come together for a like cause and get involved in reaching out," said Dean of Campus Ministries Charles Zehnder. "Many don't realize the eternal impact they are making in children around the world."

Senior Jordan Bright had the privilege to meet children who had received boxes when he spent a semester in Kampala, Uganda. The children were excited to show him the boxes (which sat at the end of each bed), they had received for Christmas. "For most of these children that was the only tangible gift they had ever received. Besides the clothes on their back, these boxes held the only possessions that these children owned personally. This shoe box is much more than a gift; it is a hope that reaches the most deprived children of God in the world."



Memorial Gifts

SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Ruth Asher from Ms. Reatha Asher Lloyd, Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Asher, Mr. & Mrs. Lance Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Shannon Martin, Ms. Tonja R. Martin, Mr. Ansel Asher, Mr. & Mrs. Jason Jewett, Ms. Kim Baxter, Mr. Philip E. Tearney, Ms. Sharon Asher Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tearney, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Asher, & Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reece
Ethel Cornelison from Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. August, Jr.
Bill Cameron from Mr. R. L. Bartley, Jr.
Helen Felix from Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. August, Jr.
Glen Gregory from Mr. & Mrs. Theodore B. Kelly
Coral Crandall Hodde from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten
Winnie Hunt from Ms. Barbara E. Miller
Dorothy Kirkpatrick from Mr. Paul H. Kirkpatrick
Henry R. "Tex" Lyle from Mr. & Mrs. James L. Dameron, Ms. Frances E. Harvey, Ms. Mary V. Knutson, Mr. & Mrs. Darrin Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hendricks, Mr. & Mrs. James Drasher, Mr. & Mrs. Dwight H. Alexander, Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Descombes, Ms. Marilyn York, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Dorrell, III, Ms. Helen E. Grimes, Ms. Wilma J. Berks, & Mr. & Mrs. Warren D. Smith
Roy Nokes from Mr. & Mrs. Edward H. Tutun
Glen E. Randall from Mrs. Wanda Randall
Eloise Reeder from Mr. Walter F. Reeder, Jr.
Frank Sisley from Mrs. Inez G. Sisley
Kenneth Taran, Sr. from Mr. & Mrs. Theodore B. Kelly
Richard Taran from Mr. & Mrs. Theodore B. Kelly
James Watts from Mr. & Mrs. Wayne E. Bumgarner

SEPTEMBER HONOR SCROLLS

Mr. & Mrs. Todd George from Mr. & Mrs. Carl W. Andris
Floyd & Gussie Redfearns 52nd Wedding Anniversary from Mr. & Mrs. Mike Boyer

OCTOBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Bud Bolton from Equity Realty, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, Ms. F. Carol Lee, Ms. Andrea K. Crews
Connie K. Boner from Mr. Marion S. Boner
Jo Cromer from Mr. & Mrs. Theodore B. Kelly
Ruby Dodd from Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Griffin
Jesse D. & Letha R. Dunn from Mr. & Mrs. Ray W. Dunn
Mary Y. Feeter from Mr. John M. Feeter
Clyde E. Gardner from Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stocker
Dr. & Mrs. R. M. Good from Mrs. Lorraine P. Whitesides
HENRY HOLMAN, JR. FROM MR. & MRS. CONRAD MARTIN
MARIETTA KEMPER HOLLAND FROM MRS. KATHLEEN RUTTEN
Coral Crandall Hodde from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten
PATRICK KAVANAUGH FROM MR. & MRS. CONRAD MARTIN
Henry R. "Tex" Lyle from Ms. Connie S. Hamilton
HENRY & PEARL NELSON FROM MR. & MRS. GEORGE R. SHANNON

PAUL NEWMAN FROM MR. & MRS. CONRAD MARTIN
Robert N. Pigg from Dr. George E. Kiser
Aaron Patrick Powell from Mrs. R. J. Powell
Bruce Douglas Powell from Mrs. R. J. Powell
Dr. Ross J. Powell from Mrs. R. J. Powell
Martha Richardson from Miss Nada D. Poole
Louise Rosado Saunders from Ms. Rosado Wiseman
JIM SAMMIS FROM MR. & MRS. CONRAD MARTIN
HAZEL & EDGAR SHANNON FROM MR. & MRS. GEORGE R. SHANNON
CLARK & BELLE SINGLETON FROM MRS. MARY S. SMITH
Victor Daniel Sissom from Mrs. Carolyn Sissom
FRED SMITH FROM MRS. MARY S. SMITH
Samuel "Beryl" Swearngen from Mr. & Mrs. James R. Swearngen
Emagene Walker from Mr. & Mrs. Dan Newton, Mrs. Ann B. Spence, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Krumins, Mr. Steve C. Cocanower, Ms. Ann M. Cocanower,

A GIFT ANNUITY is a means of providing yourself with a guaranteed income for life at the same time you provide financial support for College of the Ozarks. Many friends of C of O over the years have created Gift Annuities, which eventually result in a gift to the College as a memorial to themselves or friends and relatives whom they may designate.

In brief, you give C of O a specific sum of cash, securities, or other property. In consideration of this gift, C of O guarantees to pay you a fixed annual income for life. This income is based on the amount of your gift and your age (ages) at the time the gift was made. If you are considering a survivor beneficiary or a two-life gift annuity, the income is based on the information for both lives. At the time of your death, the principal of your gift is used in support of our program at Point Lookout.

The Gift Annuity offers many advantages as a way to make a contribution. It insures a guaranteed, fixed annual income for life, and in the year you make your gift a large percent is deductible from your Federal Income Tax Return as a charitable contribution. If the deduction exceeds the amount allowed by law in any one year, you may apply the deduction over a period of as many as five years. In addition, a large portion of your annual income from the annuity paid to you by C of O will be tax free. It frees you of any management or investment worries, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to the education of young men and women who otherwise could not aspire to a college degree.



Cocanower & Cocanower, P. L. L. C., Mr. & Mrs. Clay Cummins, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Holcombe, Ms. Joan Jacques, Mrs. Jesse Worten, Mr. & Mrs. Hank Benson, Dr. & Mrs. Tom David, & Ms. Jacqueline Vigola
Mary Watson from Ms. Erin K. Coffey
Wilbert Wegener from Mr. & Mrs. Peter Skelly
Henry T. Wilson from Mrs. Mildred L. Wilson

OCTOBER HONOR SCROLLS

Sharon Friesz from Dr. & Mrs. Hayden Head
Gary Herchenroeder from Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor

NOVEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Lloyd Divine from Mr. & Mrs. David C. White, Mr. & Mrs. Mikeal J. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Anderson, & Mr. & Mrs. Ron White
Jim Ewing from Mrs. Linda A. Noyers

Jennifer Frank from Dr. & Mrs. Hayden M. Head
Clifford S. Graham from Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Reitz
The Hughey Family from Ms. M. L. Gentry
Eldon & Pearl Kingsborough from Mr. & Mrs. Theodore L. Heim
Troy Duane Law from Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Griffin
James Biles Lowe, Sr. from Mrs. Dorothy Miley and Mr. & Mrs. Vince Johnston
Henry R. "Tex" Lyle from Ms. Susan S. Novak
Eloise Reeder from Mr. Walter F. Reeder, Jr.
Emagene Walker from Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Guzman & Ms. Betty Stuart
Richard Williams from Dr. & Mrs. Hayden Head

NOVEMBER HONOR SCROLLS

Dr. Carl Johnson from Mr. & Mrs. Francis C. Rockey, Jr.
Reverend Don Johnson from Mr. & Mrs. Francis C. Rockey, Jr.
Dr. Roy Johnson from Mr. & Mrs. Francis C. Rockey, Jr.

NAMES IN CAPITAL LETTERS REPRESENT GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE.

COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS REMEMBERS

Mr. Skip Cobler

Mr. Skip Cobler, longtime employee at College of the Ozarks, died November 16, 2008. He was born December 20, 1945, in Sacramento, California. He graduated from Fort Scott High School in Fort Scott, Kansas. He attended Fort Scott Junior College and College of the Ozarks. He also participated in many culinary schools and workshops. Skip was a Production Manager at the Pearl Rogers Dining Center at the College. He married Charlotte Daugherty on June 22, 1968. He was a member of the Cedar Valley Church, where he was the organist, pianist, and served on the Church Board.

Survivors include his wife, Charlotte, of Hollister, his mother, Gracie Cobler of Fort Scott, a sister Veretta Cobler of New York, New York, mother-in-law Bonnie Daugherty of Galena, Missouri, Van and Darlene Daugherty of Walnut Shade, Missouri, Jess and Jody Daugherty of Galena, and Larry Daugherty of Anchorage Alaska, as well as other family members. He was preceded in death by his father.



COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS NAMED TO CONSERVATIVE COLLEGES LIST

College of the Ozarks was recently notified by **Young America's Foundation (YAF)** that it has again been named to YAF's "Top Ten Conservative Colleges" list. This is the fifth year for the list and the fifth consecutive year College of the Ozarks has been included on the list. YAF names the "Top Ten Conservative Colleges" annually, in order to make public the conservative institutions it recommends.

"Inclusion on the 'Top Ten Conservative Colleges' list speaks highly of College of the Ozarks' determination to hold to traditional values," said Public Relations Director Elizabeth Andrews. "Lists such as this one and the 'Stone Cold Sober Schools,' published by **The Princeton Review**, provide great publicity for the College. If a prospective student sees the College's name on either of these lists, there shouldn't be any confusion as to what type of school it is."

According to the YAF website, "the list features ten institutions that proclaim, through their mission and programs, a dedication to discovering, maintaining, and strengthening the conservative values of their students. The listed colleges offer an alternative to the liberal arts status quo, because they allow and encour-



age conservative students to explore conservative ideas and authors. Furthermore they avoid trends in the academe by continuing to study Western Civilization instead of straying toward the study of Marxism, feminism, sexuality, postmodernism and other distractions that do not give students a complete understanding of our country, our culture and its founding principles."

Other institutions included on

the list are Grove City College, Hillsdale College, and Thomas Aquinas College.

For more information on the "Top Ten Conservative Colleges," please visit www.yaf.org.

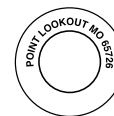
...dedication to discovering, maintaining, and strengthening the conservative values...

College of the Ozarks®
P.O. Box 17
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