Our Heroes:
Honoring the 101st Airborne Division
The year 2011 ushered in a new class of students ready to learn, work, and grow in character. It also marked the completion of a tremendous previous year. During 2010, the College celebrated its 104th birthday, graduated its largest class ever, pinned the first class of nursing students, received national accreditation of the Armstrong McDonald School of Nursing, and sent nearly 50 students to escort WWII Veterans to battle sites in Europe and the Pacific. Each achievement provided moments to cherish. Reflecting on the past year, the values of faith, hope, and hard work are present in every endeavor in which the College embarks. The Armstrong McDonald School of Nursing began as an idea, then a goal, and, through hard work, is now a thriving program producing nurses.

Faith, hope, and hard work are evident in College of the Ozarks students, too. Last May, 300 young people realized their dream of a college education because of opportunities afforded at Hard Work U. Chaste Higgins was among the 2010 graduating class. Because of his faith, hope, and hard work, he was awarded two substantial scholarships to law school.

The word opportunity is defined as “a combination of circumstances favorable for the purpose; fit time; good chance or occasion.” College of the Ozarks provides the opportunity for young people to work for a college education and graduate debt-free. While the personal circumstances of individual students at the institution may vary, a common thread remains—the guarantee of a quality Christian education for those who may not have financial means to procure such training, but are willing to work.

Recently, the College welcomed to campus Mr. S. Truett Cathy, founder, chairman, and CEO of Chick-fil-A, Inc. Even though Mr. Cathy came from modest circumstances, he made the most of the opportunities provided to him. Through hard work and faith, Mr. Cathy has achieved much, and with his success has helped countless people. In order to recognize his exceptional character, the College presented him a “Great American Award.” Please read on the next page his inspiring story and what he had to say to College of the Ozarks students during his visit.

Several treasured moments occurred on a recent Patriotic Education trip, wherein students escorted Veterans of the 101st Airborne Division to Europe. One in particular, involved Veteran John Cipolla locating a Birch tree planted in his honor in Bastogne, Belgium’s “Peace Woods.” The finding of the wiry Birch touched Mr. Cipolla in such a way that the students accompanying him were inspired to action. Please turn to page 7 to read more about Mr. Cipolla’s tree. You may find pictures on pages 8 and 9 of a few of our heroes of the 101st Airborne Division and their life-changing trip with students.

With the year just underway, the promise of many new opportunities and cherished moments awaits.

Jerry C. Davis, President

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THE OZARK VISITOR
There was no lack of enthusiasm when Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy stood up to speak at the opening session of the S. Truett Cathy Poverty Summit in October. Members of the packed-in audience greeted him waving cow fans that read “Eat mor chikin,” the slogan of the second-largest quick-service chicken restaurant chain in the United States (based on annual sales).

As the opening speaker and honored guest of the Poverty Summit, Mr. Cathy genuinely shared his personal experiences with poverty, as well as his advice for overcoming such adversity. He emphasized that it is how one handles a difficult situation that makes a difference. The now self-made billionaire grew up during the Depression, and like many others, faced the hardships of doing without.

“I was eight when I got started in the restaurant business,” he said with a Georgian drawl. “I would buy 24 Cokes for 80 cents and then sell them for 5 cents each. At the end of the day, I made 40 cents profit. To me, that was big business.”

That start did turn into big business. S. Truett Cathy is the founder, CEO, and chairman of Chick-fil-A, Inc. Presently, there are more than 1,480 Chick-fil-A restaurants in 38 states and Washington, D.C., and remarkably, Mr. Cathy has led Chick-fil-A to a record of 42 consecutive annual sales increases.

While his is a story of rags-to-riches, Mr. Cathy has never forgotten his humble roots and has never forgotten to put God first, which is indicated by his closed-on-Sundays Chick-fil-A policy. He built his life and business based on hard work, humility, and biblical principles.

During the opening session, the College recognized Mr. Cathy with a “Great American Award,” designated for those who exhibit exceptional character and dedication to our country.

In presenting the award to him, College of the Ozarks President Jerry C. Davis said, “Mr. Cathy faced adversity at an early age and learned early on that the only way out is through faith, hope, and hard work. He is a great example of a servant leader and a role model for me. He is truly a great American.”

Mr. Cathy has devoted much of his time and energy to helping those in need. Through his WinShape Foundation, Cathy has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships to deserving young people and Chick-fil-A employees, created a Christian camp for young people and families, built eight foster care homes, and generously supported many other philanthropic causes.

He also joined with the College’s Keeter Center for Character Education in addressing the poverty issue in the Ozark Mountains. Funded by a generous gift from Mr. Cathy, The Keeter Center for Character Education created the S. Truett Cathy Poverty Summit.

Beginning in 2007, the annual event has not only provided awareness about the realities of living in poverty, it has provided powerful tools for reaching out and more effectively helping those in poverty. Through education and tools, the vision for the Summit is to reduce the number of people living in poverty in the Ozarks.

For those looking at poverty or another adverse circumstance as an insurmountable mountain, Mr. Cathy gave this advice: “We can do anything, if we want to bad enough.”
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His story resembles that of many Americans. Raised in a poor family, his father’s unexpected illness and death left him, his mother, and younger sister in desperate financial circumstances. Yet, out of the dire situation, Gary Wortman found strength and determination.

To make ends meet, his mother cooked meals at a nursing home, and he worked at a gas station and retail store until his high school graduation, which was an unprecedented event. Wortman was the first of his family to receive a high school diploma. Though, that achievement did not quench his thirst for knowledge.

During his senior year of high school, one of his teachers observed his interest in attending college and drove him to The School of the Ozarks for a campus tour. The opportunity to work for his tuition would be the only way he could afford to attend college.

Wortman gladly enrolled in The School and began his training at Hard Work U in 1966. As a freshman, he was assigned to work in The School’s furniture factory. He also worked in the dining hall and at the dairy, but his final campus job as student body president proved to be his favorite.

“I learned so much about the College and dealing with people,” said Wortman. “This was a real key to my later success. It forced me out of my shell and reinforced my desire to succeed.”

Immediately after receiving his bachelor’s degree in 1970, he began his accounting career at the St. Louis firm Arthur Andersen, which was one of the largest accounting firms in the country at the time. Later that year, Wortman married Norma, also an S of O graduate. (The two celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in October 2010.)

A couple of years later, he accepted a position with Baird, Kurtz & Dobson (currently known as BKD, LLP in Springfield, Missouri.). Wortman’s determination and work ethic earned him partnership in the firm. Throughout the years his duties expanded within the firm, and he remained at BKD until his retirement in 2004.

Wortman indicated that lessons learned at S of O had a profound impact on his professional life. In fact, he said that he would have to write a book to list them all. He did share a couple of them, however. “Always be on time. Learning continues for a lifetime. You can do it. Always seek out people with integrity.”

In 2007, the College of the Ozarks Board of Trustees sought to add him to the Board. Since that time he has served as a Board member, returning to campus as often as possible. Wortman said that he wants to do whatever he can to further the mission of the College.

As a graduate of Hard Work U, he offers this advice to current students: “Your education at C of O is equal to any other, plus you have the added advantage of an experience that places you in a select group that has learned a lot more than books can contain. The C of O experience educates and develops you into a well-rounded individual with experiences most college graduates have never experienced. The future is yours.”

Mr. and Mrs. Wortman reside in Springfield, Missouri, where they attend the Second Baptist Church. They have two grown sons, Mark and Scott, and one grandchild, Max. Mark is an attorney, and Scott works for the Catholic Schools of Springfield.
Gray, wrinkled, and worn were the five men I saw sitting before me. They sat at a small table in the airport, talking quietly to one another. As I approached, one of them reached out and touched my arm. His calloused hand found its way into mine and he introduced himself with a mischievous, crooked grin. “John Cipolla, Company C, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, of the 101st Airborne Division.”

I will never forget the smile of John Cipolla.

For two weeks, John Cipolla was the man on my arm and the voice in my ear. Each new site brought a story of lengthy battles, heroic acts, and fallen friends—friends who never made it home. He would accompany his stories with the shaking of his head, the clearing of his voice, or a muffled, “Oh, my God”—as if the pain of the sites was slowly seeping back into his memory. We walked through churches with blood stained benches and walls spotted with bullet holes. The reality of history began to overwhelm us.

But in the midst of the past, we found peace.

On the seventh day of the trip, we arrived in Bastogne, Belgium, where the horrible Battle of the Bulge was fought. Here we found a forest known as the “Peace Woods,” and at the edge of the forest stood a tall, crooked tree.

“I can’t believe we found my tree,” said Cipolla. He then pointed to a shiny gold plaque at the base of the tree. As we looked closer we read the inscription “John Cipolla 101st Airborne Division.” We were informed that the Belgian people planted the trees to honor the remaining Veterans who had fought in the Battle of the Bulge and had returned to Europe since the battle.

For the first time in seven days, I saw the steps of an 88-year-old man lighten.

He held my hand as we walked through a sea of white crosses at the American cemetery in Normandy, France. We did not have the time to read each name; the crosses covered far too great an area. At times I had to close my eyes to keep out the image of those crosses, each representing a soldier buried there, whose body never made it home. Finally, we sat silently on a bench in the middle of the cemetery, both overcome with the vastness of the fields. I watched his face as his eyes scanned row after row of crosses, becoming more somber with each name he saw. As his eyes met mine, I realized how proud I was of the man sitting before me. I thought how lucky I was to be sitting beside a man who, 66 years ago, fought alongside these men and was willing to die with them for the freedom of his country, for the safety of his family, and for his love for people he had never met—like me.

He lifted himself off of the bench and turned to face me. “Someone was looking out for me,” said Cipolla. “I should be there with all the rest of them.”

I will never forget the sacrifice of John Cipolla.

Of O student Cherah Higgins and Veteran John Cipolla share a laugh.
Veterans Grove
An Idea That Took Root

By Dr. David Dalton,
C of O Professor of History/College Historians Adviser

F or two weeks, I had the great honor and privilege to walk in the footsteps of history with five World War II Veterans of the 101st Airborne Division. Each day was special, but one was particularly important to Mr. John Cipolla.

Outside Bastogne, in the midst of the Ardennes Forest, stood a grove of Birch trees planted to honor and remember the sacrifices made to save that city from Hitler’s last offensive push, the Battle of the Bulge. One tree, amidst all the others in the so-called “Peace Woods,” was dedicated by a plaque to Mr. Cipolla. He was thrilled to find it.

As we walked backed to the tour bus, Doug Melton, a student, suggested to me that College of the Ozarks should do something like this to honor the Veterans who have and will accompany our students on trips as part of our Patriotic Education Travel Program.

By day’s end, the plan was in motion, with a few variations. The College would honor each Veteran with a Sugar Maple in a configuration that replicated the unique, symmetrical pattern of marble crosses at the American cemeteries the group had visited in Normandy, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Upon returning to campus, the Alumni Center Lawn, an open field at the campus entrance, was selected for “Veterans Grove.” The College Historians student organization will assist in the planting and maintenance of the site, which will provide a natural, beautiful, and living tribute to the men who sacrificed so much for our country. The trees will create a shaded canopy in about 30 years, and the tremendous legacy of these Veterans will live on, forever.

Veterans John Cipolla and Alvin Henderson helped plant trees during a visit to campus. A formal dedication of “Veterans Grove” will be held in April.

Veterans Grove
An Idea That Took Root

Patriotic Education Travel

The six Veterans who traveled with the students all served in the 101st Airborne Division. The trip included visits to Paris, Normandy (Omaha Beach and Utah Beach), Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany.

By the end of the fall 2010 semester, 95 College of the Ozarks students had the privilege of accompanying Veterans to Europe, Africa, and Asia as part of the Patriotic Education Travel Program.

In the spring of 2009, College of the Ozarks began to provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences for students by accompanying World War II Veterans back to the battlefields where they fought. The program’s mission is to educate the younger generation about the sacrifices of American soldiers so that their stories will never be forgotten.

The College recognized the trips as a powerful opportunity to reinforce one of the five goals of the College, patriotic education. The rich educational journey provides a life-changing experience for College of the Ozarks students, who not only learn volumes of history from World War II participants, but grow to love and appreciate them as well. The students who have participated in the trips have returned with renewed respect for Veterans and dramatically increased love for their country.

For more information on the Patriotic Education Travel Program, contact The Keeter Center for Character Education at 417-690-2242.
The 101st Airborne Division—“Screaming Eagles”—is a U.S. Army modular infantry division trained for air assault operations. The 101st is renowned for its action in WWII’s Normandy landings and Battle of the Bulge.

In October, C of O students escorted five Veterans of the 101st Airborne Division to Paris, Normandy (Omaha Beach and Utah Beach), Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. This was the sixth Patriotic Education trip.

During the Patriotic Education trips, Veterans and students become lifelong friends. Students talk, listen, laugh, and sometimes just sit quietly with their Veteran friends. The students who go on the Patriotic Education trips take seriously their task—to learn about their Veterans and all WWII Veterans.

Pictured at top of page are members of the 101st Airborne Division.
HONORING THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Ralph Manley

Wilson Colwell
Cows and student workers of the W. Alton Jones Dairy at College of the Ozarks have recently undergone a schedule change. Since the founding of the dairy, the cows have been milked twice daily. This November, a third milking was added to the daily schedule.

Student workers are currently milking the herd, which varies between 40 and 50 cows, at 5 a.m., 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. This new milking schedule will continue until May 1, when the herd will transition back to milking twice a day. Next September, a third milking will return to the schedule.

The new schedule is already benefiting both student workers and the cows. “I’ve already seen an increase in the herd production average, and we’re anticipating a 12 percent jump overall,” said James Penn, Dairy Manager. “The new routine is schedule-friendly for students as well, allowing them to eat at normal meal times in the cafeteria and avoid rushing during the evening milking to attend the required convocations.”

Most of the cows bear their young in the beginning of September and the additional milking helps them reach their full potential in production. “We have a very well-bred Holstein herd, but the competitive milk production numbers just weren’t there,” said Penn. “The extra production will improve the pedigrees of our cows, which will greatly benefit their potential in registered sales and shows. Also, milking the cows three times daily has a huge impact on udder health and overall milk quality.”

Other recent changes at the dairy include the production and feeding of second-cutting grass hay balage, which is similar to corn silage, and genomic testing. Tammy Holder, the new Assistant Dairy Manager, has a strong agronomy background and has been instrumental in the implementation of a rotational grazing system. Also, she has initiated the re-establishment of pastures with annual rye grass and brome to improve the nutritional value of the hay produced and to enhance the agronomy curriculum.

The W. Alton Jones Dairy is a valuable curriculum tool for agriculture students at the College. In the future, Penn and Holder hope to begin feeding the herd a TMR, which stands for Total Mixed Ration. While TMR requires additional equipment, it would greatly improve the nutrition program of the dairy cows while enhancing the education of the 32 student workers in modern dairy practices.

The milk produced by the herd is processed by the student workers at the dairy, and it is delivered fresh to The Keeter Center, the Pearl Rogers Dining Center (student dining hall) and the Child Development Center (CDC).

A lot of science goes into the final product, which is enjoyed by many. “It’s cow milk. I really like it,” said Alina, a five-year-old student of the CDC.

Three kinds of milk are available—whole, low fat, and nonfat—for purchase by faculty, staff, and students.

Students Charlie Laber and Rebecca Kozak milk 60 Holstein cattle at the College’s on-campus dairy farm as their work assignment.
Three longtime College of the Ozarks employees received a special honor during the Homecoming basketball game on November 6. They were honored by having parts of the athletic complex named for them. Having a gym, court, or athletic complex named in someone’s honor doesn’t happen every day, but even more unique is the years of service these particular individuals have given to College of the Ozarks.

College of the Ozarks named the entire athletic complex for Dr. Howell W. Keeter, who, over the course of 40 years, has served in various positions, including work coordinator, chancellor, trustee, acting president and (currently) Vice President. Additionally, he has been an avid supporter of the athletic program and was instrumental in securing C of O as host of the NAIA Men’s Division II Basketball Tournament. His name now adorns the stone front of the athletic complex.

In honor of her 40 years of dedicated service to the College and its students, the gymnasium in the new Garrison addition to the complex will be named for Dr. Marilyn C. Graves. During her tenure, she has been a coach, professor, academic division chair, and (currently) Dean of the College. She was instrumental in starting the women’s basketball and volleyball teams and was the first coach of both teams. A bronze plaque featuring her name will hang in the entrance to the new gymnasium.

The court in the athletic complex has been named the Al Waller Family Court, for Athletic Director Al Waller and his family. Waller has worked 33 years for College of the Ozarks. He coached the Men’s Basketball team for 25 of those years and has served as the Athletic Director. Waller also teaches college math classes. He, too, has been a driving force in the College’s hosting of the NAIA Men’s Division II Basketball Tournament.

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A panel of judges selected C of O student Austin Black of Deepwater, Missouri, as one of the 2011 Missouri Farm Bureau Ambassadors during the organization’s 96th annual meeting December 5 at the Lake of the Ozarks.

The Missouri Farm Bureau ambassador program selects a male and female student, 17-22 years of age, to represent agriculture and Farm Bureau for one year. Each Ambassador receives a $1,250 educational scholarship, travels to Washington, D.C., in March on a Farm Bureau legislative trip, and assists Farm Bureau with several Missouri events.
“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” —Henry Brooks Adams

By Ashlyn Moore

William Butler Yeats once said, “Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.” This quote could be described as the driving force of the College of the Ozarks Education Department. With more than 2,200 graduates since 1967, the Education Department has created a reputation of excellence in the field of pedagogy. In 2009-2010, 49 students graduated from C of O with a degree in education.

Students in the C of O Education Department can expect seven semesters of classroom training and one semester of full-time student teaching at an area school district. Courses such as Child Growth and Development, Foundations of American Education, and Psychology of the Exceptional Child help to prepare students to enter into the classroom setting.

Along with the standard curriculum courses, education majors spend their last semester as a full-time student teacher in a local public school district. As a student teacher, they are assigned to a classroom in the community for the duration of a semester. They start by aiding the teacher in whatever areas he or she may need and eventually completely oversee the class for a two-week span.

Miranda Snowden, 4th grade teacher at Branson Elementary School and 2007 C of O graduate said that the Christian values reinforced at C of O have made the difference in her teaching career. “C of O prepared me in the best way that it could, by establishing a spiritual baseline of truth and cementing my Christian faith.” Snowden strives to reach her students on a deeper, spiritual level. “At the end of each school day I know that it wasn’t about tackling every last to-do on my list, but loving every child unconditionally and showing Christ to every person with whom I came in contact.”

Assistant Professor of Education Marcia Mahlman feels confident about sending C of O graduates into the workforce. “We hear time after time that our students make some of the best teachers that administrators have ever seen.” Mahlman contributes some of this success to the responsibility students learn through the Work Education Program. “Schools know that our students have a strong work ethic and an even stronger sense of character.”

Henry Brooks Adams said, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” One way or another, every person has had a special encounter with a teacher who inspired them. Faculty, staff, and students alike in the College of the Ozarks Education Department continually strive to become better educators to ensure a brighter future for generations to come.

C of O student-teacher Stephanie Simkins (foreground) helps a 4th grade student with her math assignment. Simkins student-taught under the supervision of 4th grade teacher Miranda Snowden, a 2007 C of O graduate.
Honors
Alumnus Receives Scholarship to Law School

By Cherah Higgins

College of the Ozarks alum-nus Chaste Higgins received scholarships to Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, and to the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law (UMKC).

Higgins is from Kansas City, Missouri, and graduated from College of the Ozarks in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and double minor in Rhetoric and Criminal Justice. He graduated summa cum laude and received the Ozarks Fellowship Scholarship.

Higgins scored in the 88th percentile on the Law School Admissions Test, LSAT, and applied to UMKC and Cooley Law School. He received the Honors Scholarship, a merit-based, full tuition scholarship for three years, a total value of $98,370, to Thomas M. Cooley Law School, ranked 12th among the nation’s law schools by the Official American Bar Association Guide to Approved Law Schools.

UMKC offered to name Higgins a Second Century Scholar, a scholarship that awards $15,000, as well as a Research Assistant position. This award is part of UMKC’s investment in the second century. The selection of scholars is based on a record of demonstrated achievement and is given in the hopes that it “will play a major role in advancing the legal profession over the next century.”

Higgins chose to attend UMKC Law School to be closer to his family and girlfriend. “We’re happy to have [him] back in Kansas City to study law. We appreciate students with a strong work ethic,” said Dean Ellen Suni of UMKC Law School.

Eye-Opening Internship
Student Works in Emergency Room

By Veronica Barrientos

College of the Ozarks Nursing student Nancy Fry has always dreamed of working in a hospital emergency room.

Fry, a senior from Blue Eye, Missouri, had the privilege of interning at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Stationed in the Emergency Department for ten weeks, she worked three 12-hour night shifts per week.

Along with getting hands-on experience, Fry was required to take a Nursing Externship course from the University of Missouri in St. Louis on Mondays for four hours. Different nursing student interns used the course to complete assigned projects, listen to lectures, and to debrief their clinical experiences from the previous week.

Fry had an eye-opening experience her first night working at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and immediately had to put her skills to the test.

A motorcyclist was hit by a car, and his leg became detached in the accident.

“The police officer walked in and put a bag next to me with the leg in it,” Fry said.

More situations requiring quick thinking and calm reactions occurred throughout her time at the hospital.

Fry realized she made the right decision to work in the ER when she realized the impact she could have. A lady who came in with a heart attack was not responding. Fry was able to perform CPR on the woman and she survived.

The potential for intense, stressful situations is the reason why students are required to have so many observations and hands-on hours at a hospital. Fry’s confidence level increased due to the many nights of working in the emergency room. She said that her time at Barnes-Jewish Hospital bettered her as a future nurse and an individual.

“I have learned so many life lessons from this internship. Working with different people and cultures, I feel more prepared for my future,” Fry said.

Fry aspires to work at a large city hospital in the emergency department or on the medical surgery floor.

“So many wonderful opportunities are ahead,” she said.
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.

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Walter Hulen from Mr. and Mrs. Bill F. Wright
Gene Kletchka from One Stroke Inks
Rev. Richard Kroeger from Ms. Marie Walker
Bud Mauser from Dr. and Mrs. Calvin E. Engelmann
Thomas Lynn McBryde from Rev. and Mrs. L. W. McBryde
Flemon Miller from Mrs. Marjorie Miller
J. C. “Jake” Redmon from Mrs. Hazel Redmon
Eloise Reeder from Mr. Walter F. Reeder, Jr.
Geneva Runer from Mr. and Mrs. William W. Merhege
Paul Schmidt from Dr. and Mrs. Calvin E. Engelmann
Larry E. Shoaf from Mrs. Rosellen H. Sheaf
Clark and Belle Singleton from Mrs. Mary S. Smith and Mrs. Ruth S. Kime
Fred Smith from Mrs. Mary S. Smith
Clair E. Tornatore from Mr. Joseph Tornatore
Robert N. Walker from Ms. Marie Walker
Kathleen Wilson from Ms. Claudine Wilson and Miss Mary A. Smith
Arthur Witt from Mrs. Ruth E. Witt
Denver M. Wright from Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harper

NOVEMBER HONOR SCROLLS
Dr. Carl Johnson from Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Rockey, Jr.
Claire Miller’s 90th Birthday from Mr. and Mrs. Ron Kirchen

NAMES IN CAPITAL LETTERS REPRESENT GIFTS OF $1,000 OR MORE.
College of the Ozarks celebrated Christmas with its annual Lighting of the Tree at The Keeter Center. This year’s tree lighting was particularly special because the College welcomed nearly 70 Camp Lookout campers and their families to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony began with the true Christmas story. The children gathered around the fireplace as C of O student Philip Burnett, a Camp Lookout counselor, read the story of the birth of Christ. Through this story, the children learned that Jesus Christ truly is the “light of the world.” Following the story, Alissa Etcheson, a Camp Lookout camper, was chosen to light the tree to signify Jesus Christ as the “light of the world.”

After the lighting of the Christmas tree, the children received a surprise visit from Old St. Nicholas. Every child’s face lit up at the sight of the jolly man, who made his way through the crowd of children, patting their heads and saying, “Ho, ho, ho!” St. Nick also shared about the true meaning of Christmas.

“Jesus is God’s gift of salvation to the world. We can also be gifts to each other this Christmas,” he told the children.

As the children received a sweatshirt and a pencil bag from Old St. Nicholas, the hugs were abundant and the smiles were countless.

The evening concluded with cookies, hot cocoa, and caroling.

“Jesus is God’s gift of salvation to the world.”
Nursing Program Receives National Accreditation

The College of the Ozarks Armstrong McDonald School of Nursing Program received national accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

“College of the Ozarks launched the Armstrong McDonald School of Nursing in 2007 with the intention of creating a program that addresses both a regional and national professional need and produces highly-qualified nurses,” said C of O President Jerry C. Davis. “The addition of a fully-accredited nursing program to the Ozarks ensures more qualified nurses available to the region.”

After a comprehensive report and on-site evaluation, the CCNE team reported that the program fully met all accreditation standards and presented no compliance concerns.

“The site surveyors spoke very highly of the students’ ability to think critically with complex patient care issues,” said Nursing Program Director Janice Williams. “The success of the program is a reflection of overwhelming college and community support.”

The accreditation is retroactive to April 7, 2010, granting the charter graduating class of nurses a BSN degree from an accredited program.

All 2010 BSN graduates passed the NCLEX-RN® exam and have found nursing employment—80 percent of them in southwest Missouri. Presently, 60 students are enrolled in the program; 20 nursing students are slated to graduate May 2011.

“The CCNE recognition and accreditation for the College of the Ozarks program is confirmation of the caliber of students and curriculum provided,” said Cox-Health Director of Nursing Lynn Yaggy. “Student nurses are highly motivated, prepared graduates with the foundational work ethic of the College. It is a pleasure to serve on the advisory board and provide clinical experience for the future nursing workforce!”

The mission of the Armstrong McDonald School of Nursing is to present a Christ-centered, biblically-based, character-driven nursing education program while preparing qualified individuals for a role as a professional nurse, providing service to Christ and humankind.

“We feel so fortunate to serve as a clinical site for the C of O nursing program,” said Lori Brown, chief nursing officer of Skaggs Regional Medical Center. “The quality of their students is outstanding, and we love it when we are able to recruit them upon graduation.”

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