

# Ozark Visitor

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*Finding Friends, Family in the Pacific*



# PROMISES TO KEEP

## What's Right in Higher Education



**Jerry C. Davis, President**

**A**mid all the negative news about higher education (i.e. the student loan crisis, scandals plaguing athletics, cheating), it's comforting to know a college exists that does things right. Principles matter at College of the Ozarks.

In fact, the College's Women's Basketball Team recently received the "All That's Right in Sport Award" from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance. This national recognition came as a result of the team's demonstration of outstanding sportsmanship, citizenship, character, ethical conduct, and community service. This type of leadership and character can be found in College of the Ozarks students.

The College intentionally encourages leadership and character in students. This process begins with Character Camp, a week-long freshman orientation program that acclimates incoming freshmen to campus life. During this intensive one-week orientation, students learn about the College's expectations of work ethic, Christ-like character, and academics. At the end of the week, they are asked to sign an Honor Code. As many students learn, and student Austin Plummer attests in his article on page 12, Character Camp really lasts four years at *Hard Work U.*

In four years, students develop into citizens of Christ-like character who are well-educated, hardworking, and patriotic. The College's unique program continues to be highlighted nationally. During several debates and speaking opportunities, GOP presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich touted College of the Ozarks as a solution to the nation's student loan debt crisis. During one debate, Gingrich said the College's model "is so different, it will be a culture shock for the students of America to learn we actually expect them to go to class, study, get out quickly, charge as little as possible, and emerge debt free by doing the right things for four years."

In 1995, College of the Ozarks ceased participation in all government student loan programs. At that time, the College was chided for deviating from mainstream higher education. Our graduates are glad we did.

Another shining example of the College's departure from mainstream higher education is its commitment to provide a patriotic education to young people. As part of the Patriotic Education Travel program, in December, students escorted Pearl Harbor survivors and Veterans (who fought in the Pacific Theatre) to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous attack and then to Okinawa and Hiroshima, Japan. This particular trip garnered national attention by *USA Today* and the Associated Press. You may read about this incredible journey on pages 6-10.

During its fall meeting, the College of the Ozarks Board of Trustees unanimously approved the proposal for a college preparatory lab school (grades 9-12) that will be named School of the Ozarks.

The school will focus on faith, flag, and the future by interweaving a rigorous classical education, Biblical worldview, character education, patriotism, and service learning in a small class setting. Like the College, the lab school will provide an opportunity for a quality, Christian education for deserving young people who may not have the financial means to procure such training. You may learn more about this exciting new program on the next page.

There is much to be cherished at College of the Ozarks as it continues to be a beacon of hope in higher education.

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***Incorporated in 1906  
as The School of the  
Ozarks***

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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# ON THE HORIZON

## *College Preparatory Lab School*

**D**uring its fall meeting on Tuesday, October 25, the College of the Ozarks Board of Trustees unanimously approved the proposal for a college preparatory lab school (grades 9-12) that will be named School of the Ozarks.

"School of the Ozarks will reflect the College's philosophical views by integrating a Biblical worldview, character education, and patriotism into a rigorous academic curriculum; our program will provide area young people an opportunity for a unique, quality Christian education," said C of O President Jerry C. Davis.

The Board's vote followed a presentation by Dean of Character Education Sue Head on her findings from a feasibility study on opening a college preparatory lab school on campus.

The feasibility study included information gathered from site visits to several model high schools, an online survey the College conducted in September, and a review of the College's existing facilities.

The survey participants represented 330 families and included towns from Branson to Springfield to St. Louis. When asked to identify the aspects they felt were important to their child's education, 93 percent of respondents indicated "academics," 79 percent indicated a "Christian education," 80 percent indicated "character education," and 55 percent indicated "patriotic emphasis and education."

The feasibility study also included sobering statistics from the Josephson Institute Center for Youth Ethics annual survey of 40,000 high school students on values, as well as College Board (a non-profit organization, based out of New York, that conducts educational research) findings that the average SAT reading and writing scores



**Mr. Brad Dolloff**

of the class of 2011 were the lowest ever recorded. "With the help of Mr. Dolloff, the College will begin to focus on building curriculum, hiring teachers, and working on classrooms for the School."

As Headmaster, Mr. Dolloff's duties will include hiring teachers, implementing a classical, Great Books curriculum, maintaining an environment of high standards, and working with departments across the College to create innovative programming. He also will be responsible for incorporating the goals of the five-fold mission of the College—academic, Christian, vocational, patriotic, and cultural—into the overall program of the School.

Prior to accepting the position as Headmaster, Mr. Dolloff served as the Branson Junior High Assistant Principal and Athletics Director since 2003. His experience in secondary education spans more than three decades and includes administration, coaching, and teaching mathematics. Additionally, he has proven himself to be community-minded through his participation in numerous community service initiatives.

Mr. Dolloff's educational background includes a Specialist in Education (Educational Administration) certificate from Missouri State University in 2011, an Administrative Certification (M.A. in school leadership program) from Baker University in 2002, Master of Science in education from Southwest Missouri State University in 1993, and a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics teaching from Bethany College in 1986.

"The College is honored to continue taking a leadership role in character education and to have Mr. Brad Dolloff as member of its team," Dr. Davis said.

In the spring, the College will hold a town hall meeting to provide information about enrollment and how interested parents can apply to the School for their children. Also, information about employment opportunities will be posted to the College's website—[www.cof.edu](http://www.cof.edu)—as it becomes available.



The third floor of the R. M. Good Memorial Center (formerly the Good Center Motel) is being renovated to house the School of the Ozarks.





# Understanding Planned Gifts and their Benefits

**Planned giving** is a way for you to **integrate your personal, financial and estate-planning goals** by making lifetime or testamentary charitable gifts.

## Examples of Planned Gifts:

### GOALS OF BEQUEST

You may desire to support C of O but are unable to make gifts during your lifetime. For example, you may have property that is needed during your life to cover your living expenses or health care costs.

### GOALS OF CGA

You want to make a gift to C of O and receive fixed income for the future. This plan works well with a gift of cash or appreciated stock that is providing little or no income.

### GOALS OF CRT

You own appreciated property that produces little or no income and would like to sell without paying capital gains tax. You may desire income for retirement.

### GOALS OF LIFE ESTATE

You want to remain living in your home and desire a current income tax deduction.

### GOALS OF A CLT

You want to pass specific property to your family without paying a lot of gift estate tax.

### Bequest

A bequest is a gift made through your will or trust. A bequest is the simplest type of planned gift for you to make and one of the easiest to implement.

### Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)

You make a gift of cash or property to us and we agree to make fixed payments for one or two lives.

### Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)

You transfer your cash or property to fund a trust that makes payments for your lifetime, or a number of years, then remainder passes to C of O.

### Life Estate Reserved

You transfer your personal residence or farm to us and retain the right to use the property for your lifetime.

### Family Lead Trust (CLT)

You transfer your cash or property to a trust that makes payments to C of O for a number of years and then passes the trust property to your family with no additional tax.

**For more information call us at 417-690-2209  
or visit our planned giving tab at [cofo.edu](http://cofo.edu).**



# PERSONALITY PROFILE

## Mr. Shawn McKenzie, Board of Trustees

By: Ashley Bench

**M**r. Shawn McKenzie grew up in a military home. The Army bases served as secure communities, offering the same opportunities as non-military communities. At the age of four, Mr. McKenzie's father departed for duty in Korea. Unfortunately, the Army required his family to move off the base in his absence. As his family moved on and off different bases, he became accustomed to frequently changing locations. "Moving was just normal for me," he said, "and it never disrupted the quality of my family life, because my parents raised us with a solid, Christian foundation." With a strong foundation, self-discipline came easily for Mr. McKenzie, and he learned to pursue his goals and interests out of self-motivation.

One of those interests included horses; therefore, Mr. McKenzie became a member of a local horse club in Arizona. His involvement with this club led to a connection with a person familiar with the College of the Ozarks (The School of the Ozarks). He learned more about the College and all of the opportunities it presented students. His visits to the campus confirmed that Mr. McKenzie and the College fit perfectly.

In 1979, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and political science. Now a distinguished College of the Ozarks Board of Trustees member, Mr. McKenzie has sought God to direct his way. "As a young Christian I was very interested in what God wanted me to do with my life," he said. "In order to begin taking steps in the right direction, I began seeking wise council, speaking to friends, and praying." During college, he explored various areas of study by taking a wide variety of classes, including political science and introduction to business. As he pursued those courses more



intensively, his objective changed. With a new perspective, he changed his major from biology to business administration and political science. As a sophomore, he went to interviews with different companies (that had been facilitated by the College and were intended for seniors) and made connections with Southwestern Bell (SWB). Persistence and discipline were required to develop a quality relationship with SWB, the company that grew into SBC Communications and eventually acquired AT&T. Mr. McKenzie recognized the quality opportunities presented to him and stepped forward in faith.

Immediately after graduation, he began working for SWB in an entry-level management position in the Residence Customer Service Center. Mr. McKenzie learned about the business and his position in the company and quickly rose in company ranks. After three years, he was responsible for all SWB employees who installed telephone service in homes and businesses in Neosho, Missouri, and the surrounding area. He had a home, financial stability, and remained true to his walk with Christ. "At this stage in my life, I felt stable and firm in my relationship with Christ," said

Mr. McKenzie, "so I started thinking about the possibility of a wife." He and Valerie met that year. They remain happily married with two grown children, Chesney and Bryce.

As his family grew, so did his responsibilities with SWB. By 1997, he was President of Southwestern Bell in Kansas, and by 2001, President of Southwestern Bell in Texas, the home of SWB. He retired from the company in 2004 as AT&T's, Senior Vice President—Corporate Real Estate.

"I learned a lot at S of O," Mr. McKenzie said, "but one of the most important lessons came from a quote I once heard: 'People don't care what you know until they know that you care.'" To him, nothing in life holds significance if people are not treated with dignity and respect. In fact, during his senior year of college, Mr. McKenzie received the "Golden Rule Award" and "Bartlett Respect Award." Still given annually by the College, these awards honor students who have exemplified the Golden Rule in their everyday living and respect for God, their country, and fellow man. He remained connected to the institution, and in 2001, Mr. McKenzie joined the College's Board of Trustees. "I kept track of the College, because it was important to me and provided me with great opportunities when I was in school," he said. "I wanted to enable other men and women with the same opportunities."

Shortly after joining the Board, Mr. McKenzie was assigned as the Chief Operating Officer of Telkom South Africa, a major international acquisition of SBC Communications (SBC). In two and a half years, he and his team, including C of O Board member Ken Raley (who also worked for SBC Communications) dramatically improved the profitability and value of Telkom. "For two years

*continued on page 14*



# PATRIOTIC EDUCATION TRAVEL:

**F**or two weeks in December, ten College of the Ozarks students traveled with WWII Veterans to Pearl Harbor, Okinawa, and Hiroshima. The following are excerpts from the journals in which students took turns writing entries each day.



## **DAY 1: "A PRICELESS GIFT"**

**Ciera Carson**

Remember when you were a kid, and you just couldn't wait for Christmas to come? You made paper chains to count down the days and couldn't sleep for nights before the big holiday. When the anticipated event finally arrived, you were overwhelmed with excitement. After looking forward to Christmas for so long, you just wanted to soak up the smells, colors, surprises, and fellowship. The big day had finally arrived. This great event, patriotic travel to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, has finally arrived. I have counted down the months, weeks, days, and now hours. It is time. Just as the child on Christmas day, I want to take advantage of every moment, sight, conversation, story, and experience. Christmas day comes around only once a year, but touring Okinawa and Japan with World War II Veterans and hearing their personal stories at historic sites in the Pacific Theatre...this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I want to take pictures in my mind that will stay in my heart forever. I don't want to miss anything. But how can I soak it all up? What can I do to take it all in? I am packing my journal, pen, and recorder. I am ready to listen. I am ready to learn. I am ready to serve our noble Veterans, and to pass their heroic stories on to the next generation. I am ready to begin the trip of a lifetime.

## **DAY 2: "KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF HISTORY"**

**Heather Isringhausen**

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to cross paths with a hero, allow me to fill you



in on the angels with whom I am blessed to spend the next week and a half. We arrived on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, earlier this evening, but this story begins last night on the College of the Ozarks campus. I took a deep breath just before knocking on Clarence Pfundheller's motel door at the Good Center at C of O. I knew little about him and hadn't had the chance to even talk with him prior to our dinner date with fellow trip participant Bryan Cizek and his wife Elizabeth. With little knowledge and the predetermined vow not to talk about the war during dinner, I didn't know what to say. I was anxious and speechless, but I knocked anyway. Only a few short seconds later, I was looking at a hero. Mr. Pfundheller served nearly seven years in the United States Navy. He was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Fiji Island, Okinawa, and the Philippines, but focuses primarily on Pearl Harbor. I immediately knew this was going to be the opportunity of a lifetime.

## **DAY 3: "FROM TARAWA TO TOKYO"**

**J. Christopher Yankey**

On our first full day in Honolulu, I had no idea of the gravity of events that I would have the opportunity to witness. My Veteran is Mr. George Beden, and our day began at the Kaneohe Marine Base as we toured a P-3 "submarine hunter" aircraft, learning about its components and capabilities, and spending time with the airmen who operated it. It was a blessing to witness the excitement in Mr. Beden; he struck up a conversation with all servicemen we came in contact with and asked them question after question about their responsibilities and lives. Being a pilot himself, Mr. Beden was able to speak to and learn the technical side of flying the aircraft, which only widened the smile on his face.

Mr. Beden told stories about being a part of the third wave of attack on the island of Tarawa and how, before the first wave was sent, his ship was called upon to move back and forth along the beach to draw fire. The leader of the fleet wanted to use them to locate the hidden anti-naval artillery that would be revealed upon firing. Story



# FINDING FRIENDS, FAMILY



after story illustrated the bravery of these ordinary men placed into extreme situations. The look on his face while sharing stories about victories and defeats will be etched in my mind and forever remind me of the significance of their actions.

## DAY 4: "WHERE AM I?"

Carissa Westfall

Our group had the amazing and blessed opportunity to spend the night on the famous battleship, the USS Missouri. It was on these decks where the bloodshed of World War II finally came to an end. The feeling all of the girls had last night as we crawled into our very "authentic" bunks was the realization that many men who gave their lives for our country lived on this very ship many years ago.



Six a.m. can sometimes approach very quickly, and whoever created lights that automatically turn on at this time was not my favorite person this morning. That was something my mom would occasionally do, and I have never been very happy about it. Nonetheless, as I rolled over on my very "comfortable" cot, my initial thought was, "Where am I?". I was so confused. Then it all came rushing back to me; I was actually waking up on one

of America's most famous ships, and it made me realize that one constant on this amazing trip will be the question, "Where am I?"

I am on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, spending three nights on a military base. We are literally staying in Pearl Harbor, and it feels like such a fairy tale I still can't believe it! Last night I stayed on an actual battleship, and this morning we watched with tear-filled eyes as our new grandfathers saluted our nation's flag being raised amidst a beautiful sunrise over the waters and mountains of Pearl Harbor.

## DAY 5: "THE START OF THE GREATEST GENERATION"

Bryan Cizek

Words cannot adequately describe how truly amazing this experience has been, especially today, December 7, 2011. Seventy years ago, on that "infamous" Sunday morning, the Japanese forever changed the lives of our five Veterans. It has been an honor and a privilege to listen and relive their stories, such as when Clarence Pfundheller, so focused on shooting down Japanese Zeros and protecting his ship, was unaware of the tragedy that befell the Arizona, only a few ships away. Or another hero, Parke Piper, who was worried about the fate of his brother Guy, stationed at Pearl Harbor on that tragic day. In a touching story by Guy Piper, he recalled watching the first wave of Japanese planes flying over Ford Island from his barracks, which was in perfect view of Battleship Row, and feeling helpless. These were the experiences that would transform these brave men's lives forever. This was a time when patriotism soared and men were possessed with a passion of joining the fight and serving their country.

Today, during the Pearl Harbor 70th anniversary ceremony, the brave men and women who suffered that horrific attack, were honored by F-22 Raptor fly-bys, a Destroyer class navy ship pass by review, a 21-gun salute, and a "Walk of Honor," which was one of the most





touching events of my life. I was privileged, along with Heather Isringhausen, to escort Mr. Pfundheller through the "Walk of Honor." Over 200 perfectly aligned military service men and women, from a Navy Seaman to an Army Major General showed their respect by saluting the WWII survivors. This moment was absolutely perfect for these brave souls who risked and sacrificed so much so many years ago.

Just as millions of Americans will never forget December 7, 1941, I will never forget today.

## DAY 6: "VESSEL OF DEATH"

Kaytlyn Vandeloecht



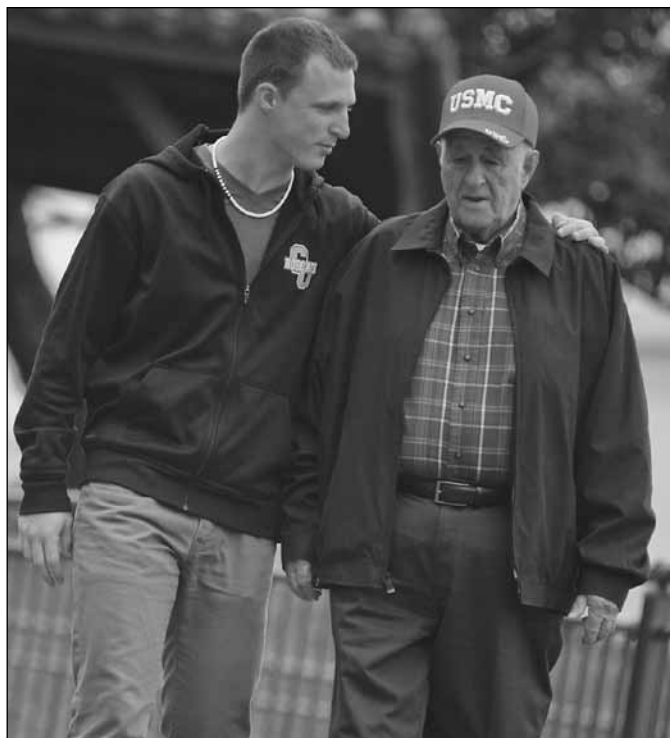
This morning, we visited the USS Arizona Memorial. The whole time we were there I couldn't help picturing the events that took place on December 7, 1941. I looked at the remains of the ship, just lying there, empty, cold, and dead. I was looking at a massive vessel of death. Undoubtedly, many come to the Memorial to honor the 1,177 men entombed below and rightfully so. But we were there to honor Heather Isringhausen's great uncle, Lloyd Bryant, who was aboard the Arizona 70 years ago. We had the honor of visiting the Memorial alone. It was such a privilege to witness and be a part of such an intimate moment, observing a moment of silence, and dropping flowers into the water below. I prayed for the men and women who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, for them to be comforted and to remember that it is God's hands that hold the breath of all mankind. And I prayed for the fallen. As I watched my flower float away, I was lost in the reenactment in my mind. I would like to think that things really didn't happen the way that I picture, but with the help of our Veterans, I understand that war is not a love story as depicted in the movie "Pearl Harbor," but battles where men fight and die. As we left, I remembered Exodus 3:11 "God has made everything beautiful in its time."

## DAY 7:

### "I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU..."

Nathan Brown

I think of Parke Piper now when I hear the phrase, "Once a Marine, always a Marine." Whenever he enters a building, he takes off his USMC ball cap and carries it



with him, promptly putting it back on as soon as he exits the building. He is a quiet man, but has plenty to say if you sit down and listen. I stayed up several hours one night with "Sgt. Piper" listening to his military experiences. As I sat next to him listening and looking through some of his wartime memorabilia, my respect for him only increased. In two years of service, this man had seen and experienced more than most people do their entire lives. Once, while he was serving on the aircraft maintenance crew at Ewa Airfield, he witnessed an airplane crash nearby. He was one of the first on the scene and pulled the pilot out of the cockpit. Because of severe burns from the gasoline and oil fires in the airplane, Mr. Piper said the pilot's face was completely black, but he was surprisingly very conscious and looked up at him and said, "Marine, as long as I live, I will never forget you." Unfortunately, the pilot died the following morning. I've read about these types of things, but at that moment they became real to me.

## DAY 8: "PRAYERS"

Chelsea Kliethermes

Today was an extraordinary day. It began with a time of worship at a Marine Corps base chapel where our group was warmly welcomed, especially the Veterans. Chaplains Kobena Arthur and Wesley Scholtz prayed for us and our continued safe travels. Our next stop was at the Okinawa Peace Prayer Park, whose beautifully maintained grounds included breath-taking views of the Pacific Ocean, an eternal flame as well as hundreds of marble slabs, reminiscent of the Vietnam Memorial, with the engraved names of over 200,000 men, women, and children from Okinawa, Japan, and the United States whose lives were lost in the 1945 battle for the island. My Vet-





eran, George Beden, looked through the names expecting to see a familiar one, but was unsuccessful. Our next destination was a cave where Mr. Beden, being a youthful 88 years old, joined the students on this adventure. Hundreds of Japanese hid in this cave during the war; its tunnels were used to keep them out of harm's way. This was

an extraordinary piece of history we were able to experience together. Once outside the cave, Mr. Beden and I walked to a bluff that overlooked the Pacific Ocean where he confessed he was never scared to kill the enemy because they were trying to kill Americans. After being out at sea for 61 days during the battle for Okinawa, he witnessed 3,755 men die aboard his ship.

## DAY 9: "STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS"

Daniel Keech

Admiral Nimitz once stated that during World War II "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." Over the past several days, I have been given the opportunity to spend time with American heroes who proved the Admiral right. They were ordinary men, thrust into unfortunate circumstances and did extraordinary things motivated by patriotism, duty, and love. One Veteran in particular, Dr. E. Bruce Heilman, proved to me that perspective in any situation can change the outcome. Dr. Heilman was just a young Kentucky boy when the war began. As a high school dropout, he joined



the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17. After a fast-paced boot camp, he was deployed and saw action in Okinawa. Dr. Heilman said, "The things that strike me most about Okinawa were the mud, blood, wind, and rain." As we spend more time in Okinawa, I clearly understand what he means. It's been raining since we arrived.

As the day ended, I reflected on a question I posed to Dr. Heilman. I asked him what part of his service time was the worst and why. He responded in a way I should have expected--with optimism. "There is no part of war I regret. Each event led me to the next and brought me where I am today." His truth gives me hope for my future, and makes me realize how a paradigm shift is all that is needed to make a negative situation into one that will change your life.

## DAY 10: "FIRST IMPRESSIONS"



Danielle Sailors

Flying through the clouds into Hiroshima this morning created an eerie sensation. I can only imagine the feeling of helplessness the people of this city would have felt on the morning of August 6, 1945. The Pacific Ocean and mountains that surround Hiroshima on three sides created a "Death Bowl," if you will, trapping hundreds of thousands on that fateful day. Our first stop was the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum where Mr. Keiji Matsushima described his experience on August 6, as a typical 16-year-old headed to school. For Mr. Matsushima, the sight of the planes first brought beauty [He said that they looked like "ice candy."] and the next, terror, confusion, and destruction. He said that at 8:15 a.m., "I felt like I was thrown into an oven for a moment." He and the rest of his classmates felt the impact of the atomic bomb so violently they assumed it had been dropped right outside the school, but they were many miles away. Little did he know that the entire city was affected. He then described that everyone he saw was suffering horribly from fire and radiation burns. While this story had a tremendous impact on the students, one of the most important things Mr. Matsushima shared with our Veterans was that we need to "think about the future, not the past."



## DAY 11: "PERSPECTIVE"

Bryan Cizek, Ciera Carson, Heather Isringhausen, Carissa Westfall, and J. Christopher Yankey



Perspective. It defines how we live and how we view life. Perspective determines who we are and who we choose to be. But it is also the structure of indifferences. When we think about history, we tend to focus on our story, our side. What did we do and what did others do to us? But, like every other story, there is another side. Someone else lived the same experience through different eyes. In order to live a life free of ignorance we have to have the bravery to step back and see life through someone else's perspective. You still may not agree or see eye-to-eye, but at least you took the time to see their perspective and understand how the situation affects them. We had that opportunity today as we journeyed back to significant places in Japan's history.

We began our day with a ferry ride to Etajima, a small island off the coast of Hiroshima, for a private tour of the Japanese Naval Academy where, since 1869, Japan's naval officers and midshipmen have received their education. After the beautiful drive through curvy mountainous roads, we were greeted by men in Japanese naval uniforms, who offered the traditional bow. The sight of World War II American Veterans and Japanese naval officers not only being in close proximity to one another, but greeting each other with the utmost respect, was a sight that none of us thought we would ever see. During our time at the Academy, we got a brief glimpse into what life as a current member of the Japanese navy looks like as well as seeing various monuments in honor of those who lost their lives during World War II. These naval officers are extremely proud of and loyal to their country, just as our Veterans are of our military and country. Visiting the Academy allowed us, as Americans, to realize the part we have played in Japanese history. After the war was over, America helped rebuild Japan, which wasn't necessarily something we had to do, but it was the right thing to do.

## DAY 12: "THE END IS JUST THE BEGINNING"

Nathan Brown, Daniel Keech, Chelsea Kliethermes, Danielle Sailors, and Kaytlyn Vandeloecht

With our trip nearing its end, we had time for an origami lesson or a brisk morning walk before we boarded a ferry that took us across the bay to the island of Miyajima and a Japanese shrine. It was certainly interesting for us, as Christians, to view traditional Japanese religious culture. We then hiked up a beautiful mountain while our Veterans took a taxi to the top. The area was untamed, with dirt and gravel paths, flowing streams, and a variety of plant life. On the way back down, we found a quaint little village with several small local



shops for some last-minute souvenirs. And, it provided us with one final chance to use the few Japanese words and phrases we picked up along the way.

Though we are all looking forward to returning home, this trip has been an opportunity of a lifetime; now we are prepared for some difficult goodbyes. Not only have we each gained nine new friends and built trust and bonds with our faculty and administration through our group's phenomenal chemistry, we have each adopted five new grandfathers from whom we can continue to learn. Our paths now diverge, but George Beden, E. Bruce Heilman, Clarence Pfundheller, Guy Piper, and Parke Piper will never be far from our thoughts and prayers. We will never forget the sacrifices of the "Greatest Generation" and our responsibilities as American citizens.

*For more information on the Patriotic Education Travel Program, please visit [www.cofp.edu](http://www.cofp.edu).*



# NURSES ON MISSION

## *Cameroon, Africa*

By Ashley Bench

**T**his past summer, five College of the Ozarks nursing students left on a life-changing trip to Cameroon, Africa. The students eagerly set out to put their training into action, and the trip provided the opportunity they needed. Along with supervising C of O RN Lori Vanderpool, nursing students Rebecca Anderson, Joyelle Francke, Kristen Maynard, Brittany Smith, and Karis Willcock were selected to spend 18 days volunteering in Cameroon hospitals and clinics. "I felt so blessed to be chosen as a representative of the College of the Ozarks nursing students," said Kristen Maynard. "We all want to help people, and so we brought supplies and our knowledge to help the people of Cameroon." The team brought basic first aid, along with the standard clinical gloves, stethoscopes, scissors, and pen lights, in order to assist the clinics and hospitals they visited.

The trip began at Banso Baptist Hospital in Kumbo, Cameroon, Africa. The students stayed there for a period of six days and experienced third-world nursing first-hand. Most of the nursing students had never been out of the states, let alone to Africa. "I didn't know what to expect, but I wanted to minister to the faculty, staff, and patients," says Maynard. "We just wanted to show we cared." The students rotated to different departments in the hospital each day to experience care for different cases.

The first day Maynard volunteered in the emergency room, and it is one she will never forget. Maynard saw a boy, four or five years of age, come into the hospital. Covered in second- and third-degree burns, the boy cried out with pain as his mother urged the nurses to help him. Although the mother urged the doctor and nurses to help, the boy's father vehemently protested and forced the boy, with painful festering wounds, and mother to leave. With the bleak, almost surreal scene, Maynard realized that nothing could be done to help him. "I felt helpless," said Maynard. "There was nothing we could do to change his mind, but pray." Confronted with difficult circumstances, each nurse sought comfort in each other. After discussing their concerns, the group prayed together asking God to take the burdens of their heart. "We found that it was very important to not rely on our emotions," said Karis Willcock. "That is why we would pray and ask God, 'Give us the strength to be able to handle what we are going to see today and help us be a blessing to the people we assist.'"

Even though they witnessed many unfortunate situations, they also saw many people heal. "In the pediatric department, there was a baby that had died that morning," said Karis Willcock. "But that same day, a baby was



**C of O student Kristen Maynard spends time with some children of Kumbo in Cameroon.**

born, and it was truly amazing!" College of the Ozarks desires to give each nursing student the experience of real world training, and this trip to Africa provided them the opportunity.

At the Torchbearer Foundation Medical Clinic in Binju-Nkambe, the student nurses served under the supervision of Dr. Martin Niboh, Founder and President of the Torchbearer's Foundation. Even though it was not as equipped as the hospital in Kumbo, the Torchbearer Clinic used its supplies efficiently. "There was a man with a case of severe vomiting, and the clinic did not have proper IV needles," said Maynard, "but they used what they had, a butterfly needle (typically used for taking blood), to restore his fluids." The nurses learned how to effectively utilize every supply they had in order to help a patient.

Many of the girls expected the trip to provide the experience of serving a third-world country, but they did not realize how bright the light of Christ would shine there. In many places around the world, the influence of Christianity is scarce, but the staff in the Torchbearer's Clinic inspired the C of O nursing students, giving them a greater desire to serve. "The hearts of all the staff members at the clinic were so genuine," said Willcock. "When you find Christianity, it beams, for some of those places were very dark."

"It did not take the students long to figure out how blessed we are here in the United States and how much the people of Cameroon are able to do with the little resources they actually have," said Vanderpool. "The education our nursing students received through this trip was like no other."



# CHARACTER CAMP

## *Lasts Four Years at Hard Work U*



By: Austin Plummer

**A**t the beginning of every semester, new faces appear on the College of the Ozarks campus. Most students are recent high school graduates, beginning their journey in higher education. It is not uncommon to have a freshman orientation program, but College of the Ozarks does it a little differently. C of O's program is designed to develop character and inaugurate students into the College's five-fold mission.

Character Camp is a week-long freshman orientation program packed with nonstop learning and fun. Freshmen are placed into groups called "families," each led by a "Pop" (male upperclassman) and a "Mom" (female upperclassman) who demonstrate good character and leadership.

Each "family" is encouraged to use creativity to increase interest in the program and establish relationships with other freshmen, acclimating the new students to campus life. Matching outfits, t-shirts, hats, face paint, and bandanas are a common sight during Character Camp week.

The students work together to complete service projects on and off campus. One popular service project takes place at the campus dairy. Students clean the facility, paint railings, and help with other chores. Whether it's planting trees at a state park off campus or cleaning the campus dairy barn, the "families" work together to complete each project while building relationships and having fun along the way.

At the end of Character Camp week, each student must sign an "Honor Code." The code states: "I agree to be an honest, trustworthy, caring, and responsible citizen. I will uphold these values in others and myself." Each student is held to the standard of the code.

Character Camp is only the beginning. Students continue to develop character traits throughout their time spent at C of O, through numerous activities, curricu-

lum, and programs centered on the five-fold mission.

Academics are taken seriously, and students must maintain a grade point average above 2.0. Character is developed throughout the four years of college by not only requiring students to maintain studious discipline but through curriculum, such as the course *American Ideals of Character and Civic Engagement* that provides character enrichment through coursework.

Through the Work Education Program, the vocational mission of the College is practiced each semester. Students learn to balance work, along with their class schedules. All students are required to participate in the Work Education Program and, in the process, learn teamwork and responsibility.

Moreover, the College is intentional in helping students seek and develop their Christian faith. Several convocations, featuring Christian speakers and topics, are held each semester to help students continue to build a strong, Christian foundation.

Ways to develop character do not end there. Patriotic growth is encouraged in several ways, including the Patriotic Education Travel Program, which allows students to relive history by accompanying Veterans back to battle sites. Several campus events, such as a 9-11 Memorial and Veterans Day activities, take place throughout the year, giving students an opportunity to learn about and appreciate our American heritage.

Additionally, the College welcomes well-known speakers such as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former President George W. Bush, and Christian Financial Advisor Dave Ramsey to speak on topics of character.

### College of the Ozarks HONOR CODE

**I agree to be an honest, trustworthy,  
caring, and responsible citizen.  
I will uphold these values in others and myself.**

The five-fold mission provides building blocks of character for students, and Character Camp is a perfect way to begin a character-driven college endeavor. Each student walks away from Character Camp week with a better understanding of the College's mission and values. They begin to learn about responsibility, trust, and teamwork all in one week, but character development continues throughout a student's education. One might say that Character Camp really lasts four years at *Hard Work U*.



# MORE GREAT NEWS

## *Most Influential Women of Southwest Missouri Professor Kara Swofford*

By: Sarah Unruh

**T**he *Springfield Business Journal* (SBJ) named College of the Ozarks Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Kara Swofford one of the “20 Most Influential Women” of southwest Missouri for 2011.

Dr. Swofford was selected out of a group of 200 women who were nominated for recognition based on their contributions to improving southwest Missouri business, civic, and charitable communities. She was anonymously nominated for the honor.

“Upon receiving the congratulatory letter, I was most humbled by the honor,” said Dr. Swofford. Nominees submitted a questionnaire, resume, and a letter of recommendation to a panel of independent judges who determined the top 20.



Dr. Swofford's selection was based on her dedication to go above and beyond the normal expectations of a college professor. She possesses a natural ability to motivate her students to “get involved” in classroom activities and discussions. As part of her curriculum, she collaborates with public school employees to visit her classes, allowing her students to hear about authentic teaching experiences. Dr. Swofford also spends much of her time and effort mentoring young women who are preparing to enter the teaching field. She has helped raise funds to provide appropriate clothes, eye glasses, and even hair appointments to prepare young women for the professional world.

Dr. Swofford began her career as an elementary school teacher in the Republic R-III school district. She taught third and fourth grade for six years before moving up to an administration role. She spent four years as an elementary school principal and is now in her fourth year of teaching at College of the Ozarks.

## *Operation Christmas Child*

By: Chelsea Kliethermes

**E**ach year, College of the Ozarks participates in Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a project of Samaritan's Purse which collects shoeboxes filled with gifts to send to children living in poverty-stricken or war-torn countries worldwide. This year, an OCC broadcast crew produced a story regarding the College's participation in the project. Broadcast Producer Charles Parker said, “When we heard the story of *Hark Work U* and learned that it had been an Operation Christmas Child partner for many years, we knew it would make a great story to share.” The footage and stories will become part of a Samaritan's Purse promotional video that is distributed to more than 250,000 churches throughout the nation. Footage and stories from Winston-Salem (NC), Charlotte (NC), Indianapolis (IN), New York City, the Dominican Repub-

lic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Liberia, Kenya, Lithuania, Philippines, Peru, and Panama, also will be included in the video.

College of the Ozarks collected more than 4,879 boxes this year for Operation Christmas Child.



College of the Ozarks student Daniel Tirlle, who grew up in Romania, received a shoebox gift as a child. OCC documented his amazing story.



# "HARD WORK U"

## *Among the Best*



By Matt Farmer

College of the Ozarks consistently ranks as one of the best colleges in the nation. In their 2012 reviews, *Forbes*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Washington Monthly*, and *The Princeton Review* rank College of the Ozarks one of the best colleges in the nation. The acclaimed rankings attest to the College's focus on mission and academic excellence. Among the accolades, *Washington Monthly* rated C of O as the ninth "Top Baccalaureate College" in the nation, *Forbes* named the College the sixth "Best Buy," *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the College 12 "Best Regional College," in the Midwest, and the Princeton Review's *The Best 376 Colleges* named C of O one of the top "Stone Cold Sober Schools."

In comparison to thousands of other colleges reviewed, *Hard Work U* sets itself apart. The institution has consistently provided a Christian education of the head, heart, and hands to every student that has graduated in the last 105 years. "I think these national rankings are a great reflection on the entire institution—faculty, staff, and students," says President Jerry C. Davis.

According to the College's profile by *The Princeton Review*, "'Between the 16 to 18 credit hour classes, 15 hours of work on campus, and studying, students here are kept pretty dang busy.' As on many Christian campuses, 'Partying is almost nonexistent,' but students don't seem to mind."

The College was included in lists for "Stone Cold Sober Schools" (#19), "Town Gown Relations are Great" (#3), "Most Conservative Students" (#12), and "Most Religious Students" (#7).

Following an evaluation of America's colleges and universities on social mobility, research, and service, *Washington Monthly* ranked College of the Ozarks the ninth "Top Baccalaureate College" in the nation.

After reviewing over 6,000 college and universities in the United States, *Forbes* determined College of the Ozarks the #191 "Top College" in America and #6 "Best Buy" in the nation.

According to *Forbes* writer/blogger Michael Noer, *Forbes'* lists "focus on the things that matter most to students: quality of teaching, great career prospects, graduation rates, and low levels of debt."

Since 1989, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked College of the Ozarks one of the best colleges in the nation. This year, the national publication ranked C of O the #12 "Best Regional College" in the Midwest, #1 "Great Schools, Great Price," and #1 "Least Debt" in the Midwest. *U.S. News* recommended the College as one of its "A-plus Schools for B Students" and C of O's service learning as one of its "Programs to Look For."

*U.S. News* bases its ranking on several key measures of quality, including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, and alumni giving.

## PERSONALITY PROFILE

*continued from page 5*

the College of the Ozarks had two board members running the largest telephone company in Africa," says Mr. McKenzie. "We quintupled the value of Telkom's stock and not only made up what was lost in the business before, but we made up a little bit more." The value of SBC's interest in Telkom South Africa increased by more than a billion dollars. SBC's eventual sale of their interest in Telkom was facilitated by an IPO of Telkom South Africa in March of 2003

on the New York Stock Exchange and Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Becoming a board member enabled Mr. McKenzie the opportunity to help preserve the institution that provided him a solid education. He now enjoys watching the College grow and hone in on its mission. Mr. McKenzie believes that staying true to the original mission of the College, "providing the advantages of a Christian education for youth of both sexes, especially those found worthy,

but who are without sufficient means to procure such training," is most important.

Mr. McKenzie's leadership, Christian faith, and positive attitude serve as wonderful additions to the Board of Trustees. His impressive work ethic and Christ-like character, which served as the driving forces of his amazing climb within Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and its successors, exemplify the *Hard Work U* success.





# Memorial Gifts

## SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

**Craig Amundson** from Mr. & Mrs. Orland Amundson  
**Captain George E. Bryan** from Jim Bryan  
**John Dyer** from Reverend & Mrs. Robert F. Langwig  
**MARGARET EDWARDS** FROM MR. CHARLES G. EDWARDS  
**Coral Crandall Hodde** from Kathryn H. Flaten  
**Jim Taylor, III** from Dr. & Mrs. James H. Taylor  
**Bill Tebow** from Mr. Barney Forbes & Dr. Charles B. Wilson  
**Helen Todd** from Mr. & Mrs. Tim Huddleston, Dr. & Mrs. Howell W. Keeter, Mr. & Mrs. Don E. Baker, Mrs. Vera Goodall, Jeff & Tamara Schneider, Dick & Vicki Neal, Ms. Billie Cook, Ms. Mary Cook, G. Stanley & Jeanette Fry, Dr. & Mrs. Mayburn Davidson, Dr. & Mrs. Jerry C. Davis, Bob & Johnna Welch, Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Bearden, & Mr. & Mrs. Mark Payne  
**Pat Trainor** from Mr. Gilbert D. Vezina  
**ELOISE WHITTEN** FROM MRS. VIRGINIA L. EDWARDS  
**Russell Wilson** from Mr. & Mrs. James R. Broyles

## SEPTEMBER HONOR SCROLLS

**Linnea Abrahamson** from Dr. & Mrs. James H. Taylor  
**SSGT A. M. De La Fuente** from Martin Keene  
**Amanda Henson** from Dr. & Mrs. James H. Taylor  
**Sarah Holmes** from Marsha Holmes  
**Amy Lawman** from Dr. & Mrs. James H. Taylor  
**Betty McKenzie** from Dr. & Mrs. James H. Taylor  
**Amber Milligan** from Dr. & Mrs. James H. Taylor

## OCTOBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

**Donald Lee Ashcraft** from Mrs. Dorothy D. Miley  
**Marjorie Bernard** from Dr. & Mrs. Robert R. Anderson  
**CONRAD CARSON** FROM CONRAD R. MARTIN  
**Gene Combs** from Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Jack Graves  
**Vince Elfrink** from Dr. & Mrs. John N. Goodwin, Dr. & Mrs. Donald P. McMahon, Jack & Becky Brown, Gabe & Lori Miller, Gene & Pat Kenyon,

Charlotte A. Cobler, Daniel & Carolyn Crisp, Dr. & Mrs. Howell Keeter, Dr. M. Glen Cameron, Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Bearden  
**MARIETTA KEMPER HOLLAND** FROM MRS. KATHLYN H. RUTTEN  
**Myrna Little Kelly** from Dorothy D. Miley  
**E. J. McCannon** from Ms. Peggy T. King  
**John Mizell** from Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Van Leer  
**Nancy Perry** from U.S. Daughters of 1812 in Arizona  
**Betty Brazeal Stoller** from Mr. Steven Stoller  
**Helen Todd** from Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Jack Graves, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Mobley  
**Russell Roger Wilson** from Sharon K. Vandaveer, The Peters family

## OCTOBER HONOR SCROLLS

**SSGT A. M. De La Fuente** from Martin Keene  
**Ruth Naucke-Hagen** from Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Nauke

## NOVEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

**Lynne Booker** from Donald F. Brittingham  
**DAVID K. BROOKS** FROM CONRAD R. MARTIN  
**Virginia Carson** from Janne Laird  
**Furkin Family** from Lavenia S. Davis  
**Harold E. Davis** from Lavenia S. Davis  
**Jesse & Letha Dunn** from Mr. & Mrs. Ray W. Dunn  
**Vince Elfrink** from Bob & Johnna Welch  
**SHARON STRIBLING GREENER** FROM MR. CONRAD R. MARTIN

**MRS. MICHELLE HALE** FROM MR. CONRAD R. MARTIN

**Ed Howard** from Evelyn Howard  
**CHARLES WALKER KELLY** FROM MR. CONRAD R. MARTIN  
**SAMUEL CLAYTON KELLY** FROM MR. CONRAD R. MARTIN  
**Clyde Moore** from Evelyn M. Peterson  
**Roy Nokes** from Edward H. Tutun  
**Private Harry Rosen** from Lisa Hawkins  
**Louise Saunders** from Rosado M. Wiseman  
**Eleanor Schweizer** from Earl Goodman  
**CLARK & BELLE SINGLETON** FROM MARY S. SMITH  
**FRED SMITH** FROM MARY S. SMITH  
**Eli Taylor** from Mr. & Mrs. Larry E. Claypoole, Ms. Carolyn L. Herren, Ms. Virginia M. Wood, & Mrs. Norine Dunlap  
**BRYANT MASON WILBANKS** FROM MR. CONRAD R. MARTIN  
**Denver M. Wright** from Mr. & Mrs. Edwin L. Harper

## NOVEMBER HONOR SCROLLS

**SSGT A. M. De La Fuente** from Martin Keene  
**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.**

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.



ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Incorporated in 1906 as The School of the Ozarks

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

# FLAG PLAZA

## *A Place of Reflection*

By: Ashley Bench

To honor Veterans who sacrificed for freedom, College of the Ozarks erected a memorial, Veterans Grove Plaza. The beautiful stone monument, inscribed with a quote from a student participant of the Patriotic Education Travel Program and featuring the American flag, along with the five military flags, stands at the College's entrance, next to Veterans Grove. The Plaza Dedication took place on Thursday, November 10, 2011, during the week of Veterans Day.



WWII Veterans Andy Anderson of the 348<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers, John Primerano of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, and Lou Rabesa of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force, who accompanied students on Patriotic Education Travel, raised the American flag during the dedication.



College of the Ozarks Executive Vice President Dr. Fred Mullinax said, "The Veterans Grove Plaza is meant to be a quiet place of reflection, to remember the sacrifices that have been made for freedom." The College also dedicated three trees in Veterans Grove in honor of Veterans Mr. Andy Anderson, Mr. John Primerano, and Mr. Lou Rabesa, making 54 trees total. The College hopes to plant 100 trees for Veterans who participate in the Patriotic Education Travel Program.

The memory of those who fought in the battles of WWII will never be lost, for a part of history lies within the construction of the Plaza. Mixed throughout the cement and mortar are sands from Omaha and Utah Beach in Normandy, Anzio Beach in Italy, and the black sands of Iwo Jima. The Plaza is open to the public sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.