

Ozark Visitor



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

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Point Lookout, Missouri 65726



The NAIA Championship

PROMISES TO KEEP

Forward into Spring and a Bright Future



I am always happy when Spring arrives. It seems to me that God is telling us He loves us despite everything when the flowers start to bloom, and the world turns from brown to green. We didn't have a difficult winter in Point Lookout, but it was still nice to see warm weather and longer days return.

In March, we played host for the fifth year in a row to the NAIA Division II Men's National Basketball Championship. The teams that made it to the Final Four were a different group this year; some of the old regulars and top seeds got eliminated early.

Our congratulations go to the Oregon Institute of Technology, this year's overall winner. OIT defeated Bellevue of Nebraska in the exciting final with lots of finesse and some hot three-point shooting.

In particular, we were happy for OIT's Coach Dan Miles, who has been coaching there since 1969. Coach Miles had the most wins of any coach in the NAIA Division II, but up until this year, he had never won a national championship. We couldn't be more pleased for him.

We also congratulate Bellevue of Nebraska, University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota and St. Ambrose of Davenport, Iowa, for making it to the Final Four.

In addition to information about the tournament, this issue of the **Ozark Visitor** contains a number of stories I hope you find interesting. On page 6, you can read about Math Professor Craig Haile, who was honored by Missouri Governor Bob Holden, and Art Professor Jeff Johnston, whose artwork is featured on the Missouri Arts Council's annual poster.

There's also a feature you should enjoy on staffer Darrel Back, who oversees the College paint shop. It's safe to say Darrel has been a busy man with the construction of the new Keeter Center, and when you read about him, you'll see what an extraordinary worker he is. Of course, where College of the Ozarks is concerned, he's just one of many extraordinary workers. We have an outstanding staff here and are proud of their many accomplishments.

Particularly close to our hearts these days are our servicemen, especially those deployed to the Middle East. Psychology Professor Don McMahon is commanding officer of a unit trained to repair helicopters, and he

and his soldiers recently left for Kuwait and Iraq. You can read about these brave men and women on page 3.

There are also stories on our College Fire Department, a local chef who serves as an adjunct professor when he's not cooking and creating ice sculptures, two new exhibits at the Ralph Foster Museum and our ever-busy Landscaping Department. Great things like our beautiful campus and an interesting museum don't just happen—it takes lots of hard work.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy and prosperous summer, and if your vacation plans bring you to the Branson area, please drop by and visit us. The Gates of Opportunity are open to you.

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PATRIOTISM IN ACTION

National Guard Unit Deployed to Middle East; C of O Professor is Colonel and Unit Commander

By Linda LeNeve

For the 1107th Missouri Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD), goodbye memories of loved ones will have to last 18 months. In the midst of flashing camera strobes at the deployment ceremony, the National Guard Army unit gave their last hugs and kisses to their husbands, wives and children.

One of the persons saying goodbye was Colonel Don McMahon, C of O professor and the unit's commander.

At the ceremony held at Springfield/Branson Regional Airport on January 17, 2004, the 1107th members stood at attention under an American flag while various dignitaries read letters of encouragement.

The unit was also presented with United States and Missouri flags to fly while overseas. Chaplain Major Gary Gilmore gave the benediction. But before he finished he said, "Like your grandfather and like mine, you are writing a chapter of history, my friends. You also reported for service."

Colonel McMahon, who is also a psychology professor at College of the Ozarks, had a heavy cross to bear as he boarded a plane with his troops for the Middle East.

He is commander of more than 200 men and women who were deployed that day. This Army National Guard unit is one of four in the United States and will assist with U.S. Army helicopter and repair.



Colonel Don McMahon, who is the unit commander and professor of psychology at C of O, pauses with President Jerry C. Davis before the ceremony.

Photo by Linda LeNeve

When asked if he was ready to go, McMahon replied, "This unit has trained for the mission since becoming activated in November, and morale is high."

McMahon is a native of Missouri and comes from a family of educators. The 2003-2004 school year marked his 23rd year at the College. He has been married to Dr. Dana McMahon, Director of Teacher Education at C of O, for 37 years. They have two children and one grandchild.

The ceremony ended with the Army song, "The Caissons Go Rolling Along." A number of C of O faculty and staff including President Jerry C. Davis attended the ceremony to support the unit with a great sendoff.

The College, which has deep ties with the 1107th, wanted to show support. It adopted the unit to support the families, increase soldier morale and show appreciation for the peacekeeping efforts of our deployed soldiers.

Also serving in the 1107th are Spc. John Mize, husband of C of O business office secretary Tina Mize and Sgt. 1st Class David S. Thurman, C of O alumnus.



The 1107th stands at attention during the deployment ceremony.

Photo supplied by the U.S. Army

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DEVELOPMENT NOTES

Revocable Living Trusts... An Alternative to a Will, Which Keeps Your Assets Completely Confidential



Rodney Arnold

A revocable living trust looks a lot like a will. However, trust law controls revocable living trusts, not probate law as with a will. Revocable living trusts are simple to create and may be an inexpensive alternative to your last will and testament when considering probate court costs and maintaining control of your assets (even if you become disabled or incompetent). This can be a useful advantage with today's health

care options and rising costs.

The trust terms are private and confidential. The details concerning your assets and beneficiaries within the living trust are not a matter of public record as is the case with a will. Your wishes are recorded in the trust and are to be respected and administered by the trustee privately.

The living trust is fully revocable and amendable. The terms of the plan may be changed and a portion, if not all, of the assets can be withdrawn anytime you wish. You keep control with the right to add or withdraw the principal and are also entitled to all the income. You may also change the beneficiaries or other terms of the trust.

Revocable living trusts are simple to create and may be an inexpensive alternative to your last will and testament when considering probate court costs and maintaining control of your assets...

With the revocable living trust you are the beneficiary for life, perhaps with one or many family members as surviving beneficiaries. You have the security of knowing that your plan will stay your plan and not be changed by a court or a family member.

If you desire, you can name yourself as trustee or assign a professional trustee such as a bank or trust company to serve in your stead. If you name another as trustee, you tell the trustee your income needs and growth expectations and monitor performance. If the trustee's performance doesn't meet your expectations, the revocable living trust provides the flexibility to change management.

The advantages of a living trust multiply after your lifetime. The trust assets avoiding probate is the greatest. Whether the trust continues or terminates, none of the assets will be included in your probate estate; therefore, probate costs, delays, and publicity are eliminated.

A living trust can embrace provisions designed to minimize estate taxes. The estate tax exemption for 2004 is \$1,500,000 per person. With a special type of trust arrangement, a married couple can pass \$3,000,000 free of any estate taxes to family or loved ones. Assets distributed to charity through a revocable trust completely avoid estate taxes as well.

It is my desire to provide accurate and understandable information about this estate-planning tool to those that are interested. I would be pleased to give you a copy of a book that provides a comprehensive review of the revocable living trust. If you are interested in receiving this book or more information on revocable trusts, please complete the request form below and return it to me in the business reply envelope provided.

REQUEST FORM

- Please send me a copy of the book on revocable living trusts.
- Please send me additional information on trusts and other estate planning tools.
- Please call me regarding a question I have on living trusts.
- I am considering College of the Ozarks in my estate plan. Please send me information on how to do so.
- I have remembered College of the Ozarks in my estate or trust.

Please complete and mail to:
Rodney Arnold, Development Office
College of the Ozarks
P. O. Box 17
Point Lookout, MO 65726

Name _____ Age _____

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WE'RE COOKIN'

Master Chef Lends His Expertise to Students

By Mary Margaret Lenk

Robert Stricklin, executive chef of Big Cedar Lodge and adjunct professor at College of the Ozarks, literally slipped into town on a sheet of ice. He wasn't skiing or skating, however—he was carving this block of ice as a centerpiece for a birthday party.

That was 10 years ago, and today Stricklin oversees a staff of 65 people, including five sous-chefs. Together with these assistant chefs and staffers, Stricklin is responsible for five restaurants within the Big Cedar resort complex, as well as banquets, room service and the associates' cafeteria.

Despite his busy schedule, Stricklin has taught at College of the Ozarks for the past five years. Jerry Shackette, associate professor of hotel/restaurant management, hired Stricklin to demonstrate ice carving at a C of O Homecoming, and before he knew it, the Chef was part of the College's adjunct faculty.

Although Stricklin teaches courses on the principles of cooking and professional cooking, his most popular class is titled The Culinary Experience. This is an intense, five-week elective that allows students the opportunity to get actual hands-on cooking experience.

Chef Stricklin was also instrumental in designing the kitchens in the new Keeter Center. Originally, the kitchens were laid out functionally, but surrounded by what Stricklin considered too much office space. "I found out in my classes that students learn better when the atmosphere is exciting," he said. "I took out about a third of the office space and turned it into lab space instead."

Stricklin's road to C of O has been a well-traveled one—a moving sidewalk might be a better analogy. Growing up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Stricklin's first passion was art, and



Chef Robert Stricklin demonstrates his abilities at ice carving.

he was especially interested in photography. Eventually, he discovered the culinary world and decided it was his true calling, although his artistic talent would continue to play a large role in his future.

After graduating from high school, Stricklin attended Lansing Community College and then went on to a three-year apprenticeship with the American Culinary Federation. When this apprenticeship was complete, Stricklin moved to Chicago and worked as a sous-chef for the Chicago Hyatt Regency. He next moved to Lincolnwood, Illinois, where he continued to work for the Hyatt. While in Lincolnwood, he met with a group of extremely-talented Swiss chefs, who made him want to travel and work in Europe.

"The Hyatt wanted to send me to Saudi Arabia," Stricklin said, "but I wanted to go to Switzerland."

Getting into Switzerland was tough, however. "You couldn't get a job without a visa in Switzerland," he said, "and you couldn't get a visa

without a job."

Finally one of his old Swiss chef friends called and had a job to offer that came with a visa. Stricklin and his wife moved to Villars, Switzerland, where he worked at a small Michelin five-star hotel. When that hotel closed for its off season, Stricklin again joined the Hyatt, at the company's property in Montreux.

After his year-long work visa expired, Chef Stricklin stayed in Switzerland and enrolled in the Ewald Notter Confectionary School in Zurich. Here, he had the privilege of learning under Chef Notter, who is considered the "best in the world in sugar art and chocolate art," Stricklin said.

After Switzerland, Stricklin returned to the States in the mid '80s and worked at a variety of restaurants and hotels. The first stop was The Intercontinental, in New Orleans, for two years. During this time, Stricklin continued developing his skills at ice sculpture. "I was interested in photography and art," Stricklin said, "but I decided there were a lot more starving artists than starving cooks." Ice sculpture helped him build a bridge between his artistic and culinary talents.

Ice sculpture is what took him next to New York to the Adirondack Mountains to join the team at Sagamore Resort. While in New Orleans, the Chef had freelanced as an ice carver at the Royal Orleans Hotel, and he accepted a position at the Sagamore from a man he had previously worked for at the Royal Orleans.

Upon arriving at the Sagamore, Chef Stricklin became acquainted with the resort's Assistant Food and Beverage Director, Tony Shill, who would later become General Manager at Big Cedar Lodge near Branson.

Next, Stricklin moved to

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FACULTY ACCOLADES

Math Professor Receives Governor's Award

By Megan Still

Dr. Craig Haile, associate professor of mathematics at College of the Ozarks, received the 2003 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The criteria for this award include effective teaching, innovation in course design and delivery, effective advising, service to the institution's community and commitment to high standards of excellence.

Haile is in his 7th year as a C of O professor. He graduated from Lamar High School, where he was Valedictorian. He then received a Bachelor of Science in mathematics in 1992 from Southwest Baptist University. Haile next earned his Master's in 1994 and Doctorate in 1997 from the University of Missouri Columbia.

In addition to his teaching

duties, he is the math department work supervisor, and co-sponsor of the Math Club and the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Haile is a member of the Mathematical Association of America and Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences. He has been published in the

Electronic Journal of Differential Equations and the **Missouri Journal of Mathematical Sciences**.

His awards include the J.F. Hurst Mathematics Award from Southwest Baptist University and the G.E. Hugins Graduate Fellowship from the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Haile is also an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve. He received a direct commission in 2002.



"I have been fortunate to serve in a department and institution with colleagues who have given me support, mentorship, and friendship," said Haile. "My students have been a great source of encouragement and constructive criticism as I strive to be a better teacher."

"Dr. Haile has a true desire to help his students," said Kisheena Youngblood, senior mathematics major. "He makes himself available anytime they need him. In fact, I can't remember one time when his door has been shut."

Haile and his wife, Sheryl Haile, assistant professor of psychology at C of O, have two children, Ethan and Gracelyn.

Johnston's Artwork Selected for Publications

By Elizabeth Andrews

Jeff Johnston, professor of art at College of the Ozarks and accomplished local artist, has been chosen by the Missouri Arts Council as the featured artist for the



Jeff Johnston is shown here with his award-winning poster.

Photo by Elizabeth Andrews

2004 Missouri Arts Awards poster, invitation and program.

"I am so pleased that my work was chosen," Johnston said. "After spending time in Taiwan as a visiting faculty member at a university there, and after hosting Taiwanese professors at C of O, I have a great respect, admiration and interest in Asian art. I am honored that my work, based on their traditions, was selected by the Missouri Arts Council."

Johnston's wood-fired ceramic sculpture entitled "Taiwan Folk Bench II" is the featured piece. The sculpture is also featured on the cover of the spring issue of **Artlogue**.

"Taiwan Folk Bench II" was chosen as the featured piece for the 2004 MAA by a panel of judges last summer at the Missouri 50 Years Exhibition. Johnston's sculpture also won him prize honors at the exhibit.

"Having his art chosen is a great achievement and honor and could bring Mr. Johnston many opportunities," said Keiko Ishida, program specialist for the MAA.

More than 5000 MAA invitations displaying "Taiwan Folk Bench II" were sent to artists and art organizations throughout the state and nation. Some 1000 MAA posters were sent to Missouri public officials.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

Our Man is “Back” in Business at The Keeter Center

By Amanda Levesque

While it's not easy to overlook the huge structure at the top of the hill that we now know as The Keeter Center, it can be easier to miss all the behind the scenes work it's taken to get it where it is today.

A key player in the progress of The Keeter Center has been C of O's very own Darrel Back, paint shop supervisor extraordinaire. Darrel has spent countless hours painting, staining and sanding The Keeter Center, and with his help, it is constantly becoming more and more impressive.

Before a foundation was ever laid, work on The Keeter Center had already begun. Darrel, along with a few student workers, has been there since the beginning. Sophomore Dave Parrish remembers staining boards to be used on The Keeter Center during Character Camp two years ago. He is now in his fourth semester at the paint shop and he, as well as other student workers there, enjoys having Darrel as a work supervisor. “He's really good at teaching you how to paint . . . he's patient,” said freshman Graham

Hutton. Other student workers there described him as “easygoing,” “fair,” and “a really cool boss.”



Darrel Back

“The Keeter Center is the biggest project I've worked on,” said Back. “It's the biggest building this campus has seen.” More than 1000 gallons of stain have been hand-brushed onto the exterior log siding and more than 30,000 feet of cedar have been stained for the building. Each individual board

has to go through a four-step process before it's ready to be used. First, the board is stained, then a coat of polymer is applied, next the board is sanded and finally one more coat of polymer is added.

In addition to staining all the wood used at The Keeter Center, the paint shop is responsible for painting all the light fixtures, ceiling vents and speaker housing to help them blend in better with their surroundings.

Darrel and the students working for him say they get a great sense of satisfaction knowing they contributed to the completion of a structure like The Keeter Center. To contribute to something so perma-

nent is history in the making. “A lot of these boys will come back and say, ‘I worked on that,’” said Back.

Although The Keeter Center is the number one priority currently, Darrel and the paint shop are still responsible for numerous other tasks on campus. Darrel took on another big project when he tackled the three-month task of acid washing the chapel in the summer of 2002.

The paint shop is going to have even more work cut out for it with the upcoming transformation of the Friendship House into an alumni building and the addition of the new Pearl Rogers Dining Center, the new student cafeteria.



This is just a small portion of the 30,000 feet of cedar that have been stained for The Keeter Center so far.

After growing up in Reeds Spring, Darrel painted during his first four years out of high school and worked with general contractors. He has been working at College of the Ozarks for just over four years now. When he first came to C of O in February 2000, he started out in the carpentry shop and later took over the paint shop.

Work on The Keeter Center is expected to be finished in August, and you can bet Darrel will be there every step of the way. He is always busy doing something to make our campus look better, so the next time you pause to admire The Keeter Center or stop to look at the beautiful limestone of our campus buildings, remember who we have to thank and how much work it takes to maintain and improve our growing campus.



Paint shop workers, from left to right, include Andy McNeely, John Wishall, Dave Parrish, Graham Hutton and their supervisor Darrel Back.

Photos by Amanda Levesque

SPORTS SHOTS

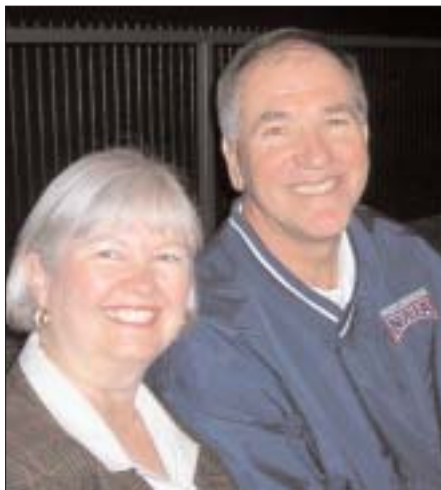
NAIA Basketball Championship Enjoys Fifth Year:

By Elizabeth Andrews

2004 marks the fifth year that College of the Ozarks has hosted the NAIA Tournament, and during that time the College, as well as Branson, has grown from the experience. Hard work and love for the game have succeeded in creating a tournament area locals and visitors can anticipate and appreciate.

It has been referred to as the "Little Dance," but even though it is somewhat overshadowed by the NCAA, the NAIA Tournament hosts a line-up of dedicated and talented teams that display nothing less than big hearts.

The NAIA Tournament is an annual Division II basketball championship, which features the champions of the Division II regional tournaments and at-large berths in a 32-team single elimination tournament. College of the Ozarks secured the bid for hosting the championships after Northwest Nazarene College of Idaho, former tournament host, moved to NCAA Division II after the 1999 season.



Al and Marty Waller enjoy the championship's kickoff banquet at Dixie Stampede. A few nights later, at the Final Four Banquet, Al was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

Photos by Linda LeNeve and Camille Howell



Candy Sullinger, Sports Information Director and Tournament Coordinator, tries to grab a bite to eat while coordinating activities via her walkie-talkie.

Of course, most would agree the highlight of past years would be C of O's Cinderella performance in 2000, the first year C of O held the tournament. "You just can't explain it with words," said Coach Al Waller, who led the Bobcats to near tournament victory that year. "It was so amazing; you couldn't have written a better storybook ending."

The intensity built after each elimination round. C of O fought and won its way to the Championship Game against Embry Riddle of Florida. During the final game, the excitement of the cheering fans superseded anything ever seen at Keeter Gymnasium. But it was not enough; unfortunately, C of O lost by only a few points. It was an awesome beginning to the legacy of the tournament and baited the

hook for basketball fans hungry to see some good competition.

More than anything, C of O has added some Ozarkian personality to the NAIA Tournament. Hospitality, good music and down-home fun make C of O's interpretation of what a national tournament should be unique. The College has made a special effort to incorporate area schools and businesses into the competition. During the first three days of the tournament, students from area elementary schools are invited to watch the morning games and serve as honorary cheering sections for the visiting teams.

Since the visiting teams use area school gymnasiums to practice in before game time, students have the opportunity to meet some of the players in advance. Loyalty develops fast, and the kids come to the games with signs in hand ready to get rowdy and cheer their teams on.

Every year the College looks for new ways to improve on the event from the previous year. Candy Sullinger, co-director of the tournament and C of O Sports Information Director, helps assess the tournament's success after it ends each year



The team from Bellevue University of Nebraska, which is a member of the same athletic conference as C of O, is introduced at Opening Ceremonies.

NAIA TOURNEY

There's More Behind the Scenes than Meets the Eye



Jim and Jennifer Justus, Branson residents, worked as tournament volunteers, checking passes and making sure no unauthorized personnel got past the gate.

and begins preparing for the next. She uses the never-fail Ozarks philosophy, "If it ain't broke don't fix it," to accomplish this. That plus a common vision held by all tournament administrators have been the key ingredients for continual improvement on the event.

No matter how well-planned the tournament is, it would not be a success without the help of hundreds of volunteers who donate their time to prepare for the event, work the event and clean up after it's over. Many faculty, staff and students help out, and through their efforts the Tournament has run smoothly each year. Members of the community, ranging from high school students to senior citizens, donate their time. There is never a shortage of jobs, from parking cars to selling programs. Every volunteer is important and appreciated.

Area businesses have also offered much support for the event and have helped welcome the visitors through a sponsorship program. Many Branson businesses sponsor teams competing in the tournament, and are named honorary coaches for their

selected team. The sponsors host the visiting teams around Branson and cheer them on from the bench at the games.

If teams from previous years return, the same businesses that hosted them in years past will often try to sponsor that same team again. This has come to be popular with all involved as some businesses continue to follow the progress of their team, not only during the tournament, but also throughout the season.

The tournament has dually benefited both the College and the Branson area. It has become an opportunity to welcome visitors from all over the nation, show off C of O's beautiful campus and show them what true Ozarks hospitality is. The tournament's impact has not only brought in prospective students but has also offered financial relief to the Branson area during one of its slowest times of year.

"As a city we look forward to the Tournament because of the economic benefits and the opportunity to showcase Branson," said Jerry Adams, public information director for the city of Branson.

Before the tournament, Branson's hotels and restaurants were mostly vacant and the city's streets abandoned. The tournament has offered much-needed business during some of the slowest, dreariest days of winter and can be credited to boosting the Branson economy during the March month by close to one million dollars.

From 2000 to 2003, the March sales tax revenue for Branson increased 39%. This spending, of course, helps area businesses, but it also benefits the city and its residents by funding public works like street improvements. The visitors the tournament brings in are frequently tourists who have never been to the Branson area before. After they experience Branson's beautiful vistas, spectacular attractions and warm hospitality, they are likely to return, which makes the NAIA Tournament an even more welcome event.

College of the Ozarks will host another NAIA Tournament in 2005 before its contract expires. The College and the NAIA will review the contract this summer to decide on future tournaments after 2005.



A local video crew recorded each game and made tapes and DVDs available to interested spectators after the contests.

CAMPUS BEAUTY

Landscaping Department Gets Ready for Summer

By Ilse Rook

College of the Ozarks has always been known for its lush landscaping and beautiful flowerbeds. Without the Landscaping Department, however, this would not be possible. Supervisor David Ray and his crew of 72 are responsible for maintaining approximately 100 acres of campus grounds and the greenhouses, in which they grow all the campus flowers.

"To prepare the campus grounds for their colorful springtime we usually start with our fertilizing program around March 15," Ray said. "We planted around 175,000 plants this spring, so the soil had to be in good shape."

Being in good shape is also an advantage of working for the Landscaping Department. Students get lots of fresh air and exercise. Renee Anderson, a senior with a major in Horticulture, has always loved working outdoors.

"My first interest used to be in Wildlife Management, but when I started working at Landscaping my interest for plants and nature preservation grew even more," Renee said. "The best part is that you can do a little bit of it all, and work through the whole process, starting at seeding the flowers to planting them on campus grounds."

Beautiful examples of Ray and his crew's work are the artistic flower arrangements near Foster Residence



Student workers from Landscaping plant pansies that spell "NAIA" in front of the Fieldhouse before the 2004 tournament.

Photo by Ilse Rook

Hall and the Ralph Foster Museum. These neat flowerbeds, in the colors of the College, represent C of O's five-fold mission: Academic, Vocational, Spiritual, Patriotic and Cultural growth.

Using the school colors does not always influence Ray in his choice of flowers. "We pick our colors mostly according to the trends of the season," Ray said. "This year blue will be a very popular color. But most of all it's about expressing a message to everyone that enters the C of O grounds. We want to provide a better learning environment and give people the enjoyment of color on this campus."

Besides managing the day-to-day needs on campus, Landscaping also has responsibilities at special activities. During occasions such as major convocations or commencement, appropriate flowers are chosen to welcome guests. The "Barbara Bush Rose," "Billy Graham Rose" and "Veterans' Honor" have all been used before.

With the opening of the new Keeter Center coming up, new challenges are also arising. Planning to plant up to 400 annual and perennial flowers, 700 flowering shrubs and 150 native trees, Landscaping will be very busy this summer.

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BE PREPARED

Firefighters Ready to Respond to Those In Need

By Elizabeth Andrews

Although the focus of their service is preparation—to respond quickly to fire or disaster calls and save those in need of help—friendships and comradery are the bonuses of their sacrifice. The men and women of the C of O Fire Department often form solid bonds that last long after their student days end.

“Many of us came here for the opportunity to work at a fire department, but stay for the friends,” said John Borel, co-captain of the Fire Department. Students have always manned and maintained the College of the Ozarks Fire Station ready to respond to any call and help their fellow students or anyone else. In fact, the College’s Fire Department is the oldest in Taney county.

“We are here to serve the school and community,” said Jordan Courturier, Chief of the Fire Department. “It takes a certain kind of heart and commitment to be a firefighter, and we have the finest willing to meet the challenge.”

The Fire Department officers apply their work hours toward the College’s work program. The rest of the firefighters work at different work stations on campus and volunteer their time. For some like Borel, the experience they have gotten through the department has led to career changes. Borel, an aviation-science major, has decided to become a career firefighter. For others, the experience has left a permanent impression in their lives inspiring them to continue to serve their communities by volunteering after graduation.

To become a firefighter for C of O, there is a multi-step process. First an application must be filled out, and then the applicant is interviewed by a panel of existing firefighters. The department works like a family in the decision-making process, and it is a group decision which applicants make the cut. Everyone’s input is vital to the decision because of the level of trust required in this line of work. “With the possible danger involved, you have to trust everyone you work with,” said Heath Lytle, co-captain of the fire department. Applicants who are chosen must go through a year-long probationary period.

Along with the preliminary steps to becoming part of the department, a physical agility test is required annually to certify who is qualified to enter a burning building. The test, which must be completed within five minutes, is focused on strength, endurance and skill. It includes racing to the top of a four-story building with a rise-pack (fire hose) over the shoulder, unrolling the hose, simulating chopping through a roof by chopping at railroad ties with a sledge hammer, aiming the hose

with a charged line at a target and hitting it, and dragging a person the length of a large parking lot.

Students must be in supreme condition as the rise-pack and bunker gear weigh close to 90 pounds. There are currently two women students who volunteer for the department, and they are required to pass the same rigorous test under the same conditions as the men. Currently the record for the test is one minute 48 seconds. Along with the physical test, the department prepares regularly by practicing gearing up in their bunker gear and taking written, driving and engineering tests.



David Green, John Borel and Jordan Courturier in front of the C of O Fire Station.

Photo by Elizabeth Andrews

C of O has been a relatively fire-event-free place over the past three years as the common call is only a triggered fire alarm. The last major fire was in January, 2001, when the old construction building burned down.

However, occasionally firefighters are called to respond to local house and commercial fires. Last fall they aided in the Shepherd of the Hills fire that destroyed a restaurant. The C of O Fire Department provides services that include EMS, fire, and first-responding as well as maintaining all campus fire extinguishers and informing work places on fire safety and prevention.

Rick Hughes, the C of O business manager, supervises the department. Current firefighters include: Jordan Courturier, chief; Heath Lytle, captain; John Borel, captain; David Green, engineer; Justin Freihaut, engineer and crewmen, Elizabeth White; Shelly Theobald; Christopher Johnston; Justin Urbanek; Jonathon Roller and Jason Kluey.

AT THE MUSEUM

New Exhibit Focuses on the Life of a Country Doctor

By Amanda Levesque

Another piece of Ozarks history is being kept alive at the Ralph Foster Museum with the C.E. Miller “Country Doctor” Exhibit.

The exhibit was created in hopes of keeping the memory of Dr. Charles Edward Miller alive and was donated to the College by his grandchildren, Lois Francis and Joy Lee Miller.

After graduating from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, in 1901, Miller took the medical board exams and was licensed to practice medicine in Missouri and Arkansas. He chose to take root in Blue Eye, Missouri, just a few miles south of Branson and Point Lookout. This would be the location of his practice for the next 50 years.

On September 18, 1907, Charles married Mellie McCracken and a year later, Mellie gave birth to their son, Charlie March Miller. Two days after giving birth to Charlie, Mellie passed away due to complications she experienced during labor. A widower, Dr. Miller was left to care for not only his little boy, but also to the medical needs of hundreds of others.

The rugged terrain of the Ozarks in the early 1900s proved to be challenging for Dr. Miller, just a young man at the time. There were no paved roads, and his practice was ninety percent house calls he made on horseback.

Along with the unforgiving countryside, much more was expected of a general practitioner at that time than now. He had the skills of a surgeon, orthopedist, pathologist, oncologist and was trained in obstetrics and gynecology. He was also able to pull teeth and prescribe the right set of eyeglasses to correct vision problems.



In the early 1900s and for years to come, this leather bag was typical of the ones carried by countless physicians as they made their rounds.



At the time, there were no drugstores to send his patients to, so he had his own makeshift pharmacy in his small saddle bag that he brought with him on his house calls.

Dr. Miller mixed and distributed his own medicines, which included quinine, laudanum, paregoric and iodine. Since pills didn't yet exist, most medicines were powders or mixed with syrup to create a kind of elixir.

As time wore on, age and experience constantly increased Dr. Miller's knowledge as he learned of diseases that afflicted those living in the Ozarks, and also diseases found all over the world.

Money was scarce, and people paid as they went with what little they had. It wasn't uncommon to sell or trade crops or cattle as a means of payment.



Dr. C. E. Miller's desk, microscope, typewriter and other familiar items from his office.

Photos by Amanda Levesque

Some of the items in the exhibit include Dr. Miller's saddle bag medicine kit, operating table, medicine bottles, glass case of instruments and family pictures.

The “Country Doctor” exhibit provides a window into the history of Ozark Mountain Country, the humble beginnings of practicing medicine in the rugged hills and also into the life of one man who dedicated his life to helping others.

The Ralph Foster Museum is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$4.50 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens, and children high school age and under are free. For more information contact the museum at (417) 334-6411 ext. 3407.

SPORTS SHOTS

Two Former Teammates in Sports Hall of Fame

By Wiley Hendrix

Courtesy, the Branson Daily News

Teammates Todd Crighton and Zach Easterly helped lead the College of the Ozarks men's basketball program to three NAIA Division II National Tournaments in the mid-1990s.

In February, the duo was back together as C of O Sports Hall of Fame inductees.

"These guys helped carry our program to a new level," said Athletic Director Al Waller, who was also their basketball coach at C of O. "It was a pleasure coaching them."

Crighton played for the Bobcats from 1994 to '97 after transferring to C of O. He finished his career as the all-time career steals leader (246), the fourth-leading career scorer (1,362 points), the sixth all-time career assists leader (327) and the 15th all-time career leader in rebounds.

He was also named to the All-Conference second team his sophomore and junior years.

"This is a great honor and a lot of people helped me get to this point," Crighton said. "I love the game of bas-



Coach Al Waller (C) is shown here with former players (L to R) Mark Fultz, who introduced Zach Easterly; inductee Easterly; inductee Todd Crighton; and Brad Crighton, who introduced his brother Todd.

ketball, and I wouldn't change a thing about my time at C of O."

Easterly was a four-year letterman in basketball from 1993 to '97 and ended his career as the third all-time career scoring leader (1,371 points.) The 'Cats won more than 20 games each season Easterly played and ended up with a 97-34 record during his career.

He received all-conference honorable mention honors during his sophomore and junior years. During his senior year, Easterly was name first-team all-conference and honorable mention NAIA All-American.

"As long as I can remember, basketball has been a part of my life," Easterly said. "While at C of O, I made some great friends and I couldn't be here without them. It's also been great to have a friend like (Crighton.) We have played basketball together for the last 10 years—even though we aren't as good as we used to be."

Crighton and Easterly were each presented with Hall of Fame plaques. Identical plaques are on display in the Hall of Fame at Keeter Gymnasium.



Babies seemed to be everywhere at this year's Sports Hall of Fame Luncheon. Pictured here are a group of proud Dads (L to R): Todd Crighton, Brad Crighton, Aaron Dalton, Mark Fultz and Zach Easterly.

PATRIOTISM IN ACTION

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Current C of O students also serving in the Middle East (but not with the 1107th) are Ssg. Gage S. Marcum, Spc. Caleb Padgett, Nathan Parks, Joshua Sullivan and Linnea Shirley.

Children of faculty and staff include Capt. Joey Sullinger, son of Candy Sullinger who is sports information director; Spc. Lanny Hamp

Jr., son of Arlene Ogden and stepson of Scott Ogden who manage the campus laundry; and Douglas A. Forman; son of Fran Forman, the College's Registrar.

Alumni currently serving include: 2nd Lt. Michael Hazen, Lt. General Gary Hughes, Clayton Shackelford, Sam Forrester, Aaron Haynes, Capt. Brad Leonard, 1st Lt.

Bryan Schroeder, Derek Parks, David Paladino, Jeff Blue, Spc. Gary Scott Trucks, Tiffany Cox, 2nd Lt. Amy Cory and Jay Lovelady.

Please note that every effort was made to get a complete list of C of O family, students and alumni serving abroad. Some persons may have inadvertently been left off. For this we apologize.



Memorial Gifts

JANUARY MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Leon Samuel Barnes from Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Griffin
Lois Dene Binns from Mrs. Jo Ann Largen
Darwin A. Brock from Mr. and Mrs. Andrew G. Bittson, B. J. Farley
John Buending from Mrs. C. W. Buending
C. W. Buending from Mrs. C. W. Buending
Tom Edmondsun from Mrs. Marilyn A. Maddux
GEORGE E. GWINUP FROM MRS. ERRAS GWINUP
Melivn Hoare from Mr. and Mrs. Bill F. Wright
Coral Crandall Hodde from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten
Colonel Travis Hoover from Mr. and Mrs. Bill F. Wright
Miss Haley Johnson from Dorothy and Louise Miley
Leta K. Smith from Mr. Stephen V. Smith
Adrienne Tirmenstein from Miss Carolyn Hackman
Jack Vandergriff from Mr. and Mrs. Bill F. Wright
Charles B. Wright, Sr. from Mr. and Mrs. John Carrabino, Ms. Eunice Farmer, Mr. Charles R. Stamp, Sr.
Captain Vernon Zachow from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turbeville

JANUARY HONOR SCROLLS

Pat Walker from Dr. and Mrs. John P. Shock

FEBRUARY MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Thea A. Anderson from Mr. Oscar O. Anderson
WILLA E. CORKRAN FROM

LINDA SMITHSON
Dan Gibbs from Mr. and Mrs. Russell Zartler
Carol C. Metcalfe from Mr. and Mrs. James Metcalfe
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Dorothy J. Reilly from Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Reitz
Robert Ronan from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Leps
Harold Reed from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Halstead
Rebie Shaeffer from Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Case
Ms. Betty Vogel from Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Martin
Charles B. Wright from Rosa Espinosa, Larry and Mary Brassfield, Larry and Diana Brassfield, Mike Espinosa, Charles Espinosa Family, Brad and Rita Barnett, Aaron and Rosie Shanahan

FEBRUARY HONOR SCROLLS

Dr. Jerry C. Davis from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten
Wallace Dittrich from Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Crawford

MARCH MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Robert W. Albrecht from Mrs. Charlotte M. Albrecht
Doug Anderson from Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Meier
Doug and Mary Jo Anderson from Ms. Norma L. McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Etheridge, Ms. Cheri Winger, Mrs. Shirley Day
Dorothy Gaskill Barnard from Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Thomas
Mrs. Eileen McDonald Brewer from Dr. and Mrs. E. R. Walker

Darwin A. Brock from Mr. and Mrs. Stewart W. Miner, Mr. Johnny R. Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Chamberlain
Marian L. Brostrom from Mr. Donald Brostrom
Nancy Ellen Gorder from Miss Elizabeth Gorder
Elizabeth Y. Haston from Trio Club, American Legion Post 223, Higginsville Garden Club, Mrs. Jo Ann Shafer, Mrs. Doris Rhodes, Ms. Grace Niemeier, Ms. Marie B. Clark, Ms. Mary K. Bridges, Mrs. W. C. Wieggers, Mr. Frank F. Haston
Luther Hendrix from Mr. and Mrs. David Turner, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. England, Mr. and Mrs. Ray J. Wittman, Missouri Federation of Square and Round Dance Clubs
Coral Crandall Hodde from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten
Ralph and Mary Morgan from Mr. and Mrs. Gerry N. Lawler, Mr. and Mrs. Gary W. Stadler, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Tague, Mr. and Mrs. Al Jackson, Mrs. Lindsay Lauver, Aerocare, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Monaghan, Mrs. Jean Covey, Ms. Cindy Green, Paulette Bates
Mary Morgan from Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Cook, Ms. Susie LeFlore Morgan, Mrs. Robert W. Schoen, Mr. Bert Blackwell
Virginia Mueller from Miss Elizabeth Gorder
Avo (Billie) Ott from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Hall
Laverne Raney from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Hall
Opal Shelby from Mr. J. T. Harris, Jr.
Forrest Williams from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Hall
NAMES IN CAPITAL LETTERS REPRESENT GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE.

MAKING MUSIC

Si Siman Sheet Music Collection on Display

By Megan Still

The Ralph Foster Museum at College of the Ozarks is featuring an unusual exhibit of sheet music during the upcoming months titled the "Si Siman Art and History of Sheet Music." The exhibit will be on display until October 30, 2004.

Ely Earl "Si" Siman Jr. was born in Springfield on January 17, 1921. Under the tutelage of radio pioneer Ralph Foster, Siman, Lester Cox, and Si's partner John Mahaffey produced syndicated radio shows with such stars as Smiley Burnette, Tennessee Ernie Ford and George Morgan.

Si produced the first country music network television show, "The Ozark Jubilee" for the ABC network. In the late 1950's Si became active in the music publishing industry. Siman published worldwide hits such as "The Letter" and "Always on My Mind," which landed Siman a Grammy Award and the "Song of the Year" award in the years 1982 and 1983.

Siman was an original member of the Country Music Association; he is also listed in "Who's Who in Country."

He was a member of the College of the Ozarks Pres-

ident's Council and he was on the Ralph Foster Museum Board of Directors.

Si Siman died December 16, 1994.

This wonderful exhibit features historic sheet music, song books, hymnals, musical instruments and related artifacts. The Siman collection of sheet music was used and collected primarily for KWTO radio and later for the stage and television productions of the Ozark Jubilee.

The exhibit also includes many different categories of music including: traditional and popular country songs, minstrel songs, protest songs, sentimental songs, patriotic and political songs, spirituals, dance music and songs from vaudeville and musicals.

Artifacts representing the musical heritage of the Ozarks will also be displayed throughout the exhibit. There will be artifacts associated with well-known personalities and families from this region.



Si Siman

WE'RE COOKIN'

from page 5

Philadelphia to the Bellevue Stratford, then two years later, he relocated to Nashville and the Opryland Hotel, where he became senior sous-chef.

It was in Nashville that his former colleague from the Sagamore, Tony Shill, reappeared in Stricklin's life. "Tony came to the Opryland Hotel on business," Stricklin said, "and noticed some ice carvings there." When he sought out the artist, Shill learned it was his former co-worker from the Sagamore and invited Stricklin to Big Cedar to create some ice carvings for the birthday party of owner Johnny Morris. "We kept in contact, and about six months later, the executive chef at Big Cedar left. Tony offered me that position in 1994."

Big Cedar proved to be a turning point in Stricklin's career, because it was his first time to be executive chef. Still, he admits that while he



The Chef offers a bounty of tempting breakfast pastries.

Photo by Mary Margaret Lenk

loves to cook and to create new dishes, it hasn't always been food that's gotten him noticed. "Ice carving has opened a lot of doors for me," he said.

Chef Stricklin has been in the Branson area longer than anywhere else in his professional career. He won't rule out never leaving--if an even better dream job came along--but he loves the Branson area and is in no hurry to leave. "I keep busy with my wife and our three children," he said. "There's always something to do between home remodeling and the children's extra activities."

"We are so fortunate to have someone the caliber of Chef Stricklin teaching at C of O," Shackette said. "His outside experience, friendly personality and great talent are real assets to our academic program and to our students personally."

OUR WORLD VIEW

Davis Attends Eisenhower Fellows Reunion

By Elizabeth Andrews

Jerry C. Davis, College of the Ozarks President, attended the Eisenhower Fellows reunion in Taipei, Taiwan, the first week of December 2003. Davis and his wife, Shirley, were honored to attend the reunion and return to the island that welcomed them in 1994.

“Shirley and I went for the privilege to represent the United States,” Davis said. The reunion offered Davis the opportunity to become acquainted and enjoy the company of other Eisenhower Fellows as well as Jeffrey

L.S. Koo, Chairman and President of the Eisenhower Fellows Association in the Republic of China.

The impact from his experience as a Fellow to the Republic of China has followed Davis home to the United States. “The opportunity made me appreciate how many countries strive to emulate America,” Davis said. “It gives one a broader appreciation for the way we live.” Davis was impressed by the work ethic of the Taiwanese people and understood how that had rendered Taiwan its title as one of the “Asian Tigers.”

In 1994, Davis was selected as the United States Eisenhower Fellow to the Republic of China. He and his wife went to Taiwan and spent several weeks visiting and studying the culture.

They had the privilege of witnessing the first direct elections held in the Republic of China during their first visit. Both Davis and his wife were honored and humbled by the experience.

The Eisenhower Fellowship Association began in 1954. This international leadership exchange program was conceived by American businessmen and educators and given to President Eisenhower as a birthday present to recognize his contributions to the world as a statesman and soldier. The hope for this program was to cultivate international goodwill and understanding through exchanges of ideas, points of view and information among chosen representatives at leadership level.



Pictured from L to R are: Jerry C. Davis, President, College of the Ozarks; Larry N. Vanderhoef, Chancellor, University of California – Davis; Adrian A. Basore, President of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships; E. Bruce Heilman, Chancellor, University of Richmond; and Jeffrey L. S. Koo, Chairman and President of the Eisenhower Fellows Association in the Republic of China.

ON THE COVER:

NAIA “Little Dance” fever hit the C of O campus March 10-16, with one of the most exciting tournament’s in its five-year history at Point Lookout. Here are just a few shots of a great week’s entertainment.

Photos by Shann Swift

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