

Ozark Visitor



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

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Family, Faith, Flag

PROMISES TO KEEP

Spring 2005



Jerry C. Davis, President

Spring is a special time of year here at the College. The flowers are beginning to blossom, and the students are reaping the rewards of hard work sewn. For some, this time of year marks new beginnings, but for others it represents the close of another successful school year. I enjoy watching our students develop their skills and become adults of strong character.

The past months have been busy with the Spring Forum, featuring General Tommy Franks, and The Keeter Center Dedication. To our delight, these events proved to be memorable. The General, our special guest at both events, stressed the importance of “family, faith, and flag” and was pleased to see College of the Ozarks displaying these same values.

In particular, the Forum rendered several opportunities for reflection as the College honored two dear families, the Copleys and the Hammonds, who recently lost loved ones in the war in the Middle East. Additionally, the men and women of the 1107th AVCRAD, along with their commander Col. Don McMahon, were recognized at the Forum.

The following day, C of O friends and family gathered for the Dedication of The Keeter Center, the newest addition to the college campus. Times such as this provide an opportunity to reflect on our many blessings and appreciate those who were integral in making dreams reality.

Another vision, McKibben Hall, is currently under construction, and as you will read in this issue, a treasure of sorts was unearthed during excavation.

ON THE COVER

General Tommy Franks, former Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, visited College of the Ozarks April 14. After his speech, Dr. Jerry C. Davis presented him the traditional Hard Work U sweatshirt.

Photo by Plumlee Photography

We are pleased that the Young America’s Foundation listed C of O as one of the “top ten conservative colleges” in the nation (see back cover). The College’s students and faculty have also received several honors. We are proud of the men’s and women’s basketball teams for bringing home first-place trophies in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference tournaments (see page 5).

Best wishes for a pleasant summer.

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A SYMBOLIC DONATION

C of O Campus Even More Beautiful

By Amanda Levesque

Although the weather was a bit chilly, anticipation for spring blossoms had already begun at the College of the Ozarks campus January 6. The College invited Jack and Noriko McDowell to help plant one of the first Yoshino cherry trees that they donated to the College. The brief planting ceremony took place at 2 p.m. near The Keeter Center at the entrance to the College.

The McDowells, who have played an active role with College of the Ozarks for many years, donated 50 Yoshino cherry trees which were delivered in November. The trees are now planted in several groupings across campus.

Throughout the years, Noriko has made it a personal priority to assist Japanese foreign exchange students who have come to C of O. She first got the idea through a friend, O.K. Armstrong, with whom she attended church in Springfield. Armstrong was involved in helping foreign exchange students and

eventually convinced Noriko to do the same.

"After that, people just started calling me," said Noriko. "I was eager to learn (English and American culture), and the best way to get to know things is to teach them."

Noriko traveled to the United States from Japan 51 years ago after meeting Jack while he was serving in the Air Force; she knows what it's like to be surrounded by unfamiliar things. It is this experience that has made her so qualified and willing to help Japanese exchange students who came to College of the Ozarks. She answered their questions about the country, explained American advertisements, and even had them over for dinner. It was her mission to provide every opportunity possible for them to succeed at C of O.

"Students really need a little touch of back home," said Noriko. "I appreciate what the school offers, and I want to help the students do their best."

In recent months Noriko has not been as involved with the exchange



This is the first tree planted in early January by Jack and Noriko McDowell. Photos by Elizabeth Andrews

students, due to her husband's diagnosis with cancer; however, she still keeps in touch with students she's helped throughout the years.

One in particular, Saori Miura, graduated from College of the Ozarks, earned a master's degree from Central Missouri State University (CMSU) in Warrensburg, and is currently a teaching assistant there. Many of the Japanese exchange students are as fond of C of O as Noriko is of them.

"Saori wants to come back to C of O and teach someday. She learned so much here, and she really wants to give something back," said Noriko. "She could hardly speak (English) when she came, and then she made straight As. She'd do anything to come back."

Without the help of Noriko, Saori might not have achieved her current level of success.

"My meeting with Noriko changed my life a lot," said Saori in a

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Although the newly-planted trees did not produce much bloom, in a few years they will be as stunning as these found in the McDowell's front yard.

DEVELOPMENT NOTES

Making Good Use of an Old Life Insurance Policy



Rodney Arnold
Dean of Development

Do you remember why you invested in life insurance originally? At the time, it was probably because your estate was small. You wanted to make sure your beneficiaries would receive funds immediately if something happened to you.

Perhaps you don't need all that coverage today. You may have other investments and benefits now that will yield a good income for your family after your lifetime. Yet, you still have those policies gathering dust.

If you're thinking about making a gift to College of the Ozarks or to your favorite charity, your life insurance could be a sensible way to make such a gift. You might consider these benefits:

- (1) You receive a tax deduction. By naming the College as beneficiary and assigning it ownership of the policy, you can get a valuable income tax deduction.
- (2) Your income isn't cut. A gift of an insurance policy will not reduce your current income.
- (3) Your cash flow may increase. If you stop paying

the premiums, you'll enjoy an increase in available cash. Or, if you continue to pay the premiums on a policy you give to the College, you may claim the premium amount as an annual tax deduction.

(4) Your gift is easily arranged. You can transfer ownership of an insurance policy to the College without the legal expense of having to prepare a will or amendment to your estate plan.

(5) You are giving the College helpful options. If the policy has a cash surrender value, the College may wish to cash in or convert it to a paid-up policy.

When you no longer need the protection of your life insurance, your charitable gift to the College will strengthen its work and save you money on taxes. When you contribute a policy where premiums remain to be paid, your charitable deduction is generally close to its cash surrender value—actually a bit more. When you contribute a paid-up policy, your deduction is generally what it would cost to replace the policy at your age and state of health at the time of your gift. Assuming you itemize deductions, your gift is deductible up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income with five additional years to utilize any remaining deductions.

Maybe you still need your life insurance for the future financial security of your family. If so, consider the College as the contingent beneficiary of your insurance.

Your gift will support this institution's unique educational mission and help students to help themselves.

Should you have any questions or would like additional information on donating a life insurance policy, please complete and return the request form. I will be pleased to send information to you.

Request Form for Donating Life Insurance

- Please send me a packet on donating a life insurance policy.
- I am considering a bequest to College of the Ozarks. Please send me additional information.
- Please call me. The best time to call me is _____.
- I have remembered College of the Ozarks in my estate plan.

Name _____

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Please complete and mail to:
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C of O BASKETBALL MADNESS

A Year for the Record Books

By Tamra Jane Corbin

As the 2004-2005 basketball season comes to an end, the C of O athletes, coaches, and fans can sit back and enjoy the many accomplishments and memories of one of the most exciting years in C of O basketball history. With both the women's and men's teams bringing home a conference championship in late February, the table was set for some extreme madness in post season play.

When the NAIA National Tournament rolled into the C of O campus for the sixth straight year, there seemed to be a little more buzz than normal. This was the first time the C of O men's basketball team had earned a spot since becoming the host of the tournament. After beating Bellevue University 71-69 in the MCAC Championship, the Bobcats were primed for what looked to be an exciting tournament.

"We were all very excited to earn our way in. It's something that we've wanted since I've been here," said senior Mark Schweitzer. "It made us feel more like we belonged because we knew we deserved to be there."

The Lady Bobcats continued their legacy by winning their fourth consecutive conference championship, beating the College of Saint Mary 72-55. This winning tradition is



The Lady Bobcats led by Coach George Wilson proudly display their first-place plaque.

not something new for the Lady Bobcats, having won their tenth championship in eleven years.

"We were very confident going into the tournament," said senior Laura Forgey. "We didn't have any doubt that we would win. We knew that we had to play well, and we did."

Following the conclusion of the regular season, many of our C of O athletes and coaches received distinguishing honors. Men's head coach Steve Shepherd and women's head coach George Wilson were both honored for their hard work and dedication to their respective programs with the Coach of the Year Award in the MCAC. Along with these presti-

gious coaching honors, several bobcat athletes received some nice hardware themselves.

Sophomore Brandon Argo and sophomore Michael Bonaparte were both named to the MCAC First Team All-Conference team. Senior Mark Schweitzer and sophomore Heath Sittton were also given Honorable Mention. For the women, senior Katie Howard was named Player of the Year in the MCAC. Also receiving honors was sophomore Cara Painter, who was named to the MCAC First Team All-Conference team. Junior Renee Garrison and sophomore Magan Curry received Honorable Mention.

It was a hard-fought battle in the first round of the men's national tournament for the Bobcats against a tough Indiana Tech squad. The warriors tripped up the Bobcats 81-76. Even with the slight let down, the young team had no reason to hang their heads.

The Lady Bobcats took their winning ways and headed north to Sioux City, Iowa, to the Women's NAIA Division II National Tournament. After dominating their first two



2005 Men's Basketball Team

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A SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING

Dedicating The Keeter Center

By Christine Marcink

"Head, heart, hands; family, faith, flag; values, leadership, and the American dream--all that is right here today." said General Tommy Franks on April 15, 2005, at The Keeter Center Dedication. The formal dedication began at 11 a.m. in the Royal Oak Forum. The Forum was filled with friends of the College along with faculty, staff, and students.

Since September 13, 2004, guests have enjoyed the various services that The Keeter Center offers. It is home to a relaxing atmosphere provided by Dobyns Dining Room, the welcoming Silver Dollar City Parlor, the Beulah Winfrey Gift Shop, which sells various products (such as fruitcake and stained glass) made by the students at C of O, and several private dining and conference rooms.

"Head, heart, hands; family, faith, flag; values, leadership, and the American dream--all that is right here today."

The Keeter Center is architecturally inspired by Dobyns Hall, the first building on The School of the Ozarks Point Lookout campus. Dobyns Hall was formerly known as The State of Maine building, which had been bought by a group of physicians at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Interestingly, Dobyns Hall/The State of Maine building was built by 30 men and three teams of oxen.

In addition to a restaurant, lodge, and gift shop, The Keeter Center houses The Keeter Center for Character



C of O student Amy Leaming presents Mr. and Mrs. Keeter with a stained glass rendition of The Keeter Center.

Photos by Shann Swift



(left to right) Executive Director of the Keeter Center for Character Education Sue Head, Julie Keeter, James P. Keeter, General Tommy Franks, President Jerry C. Davis and U.S. Congressman Roy Blunt.

Education. The Character Education program is nationally-recognized and incorporates formal education with a focus on character development of the head, heart, and hands.

With a spirit of patriotism and pride, the Chorale men's ensemble led those gathered for the celebration in the National Anthem. C of O President Jerry C. Davis followed with a warm welcome. Several prominent leaders, along with those responsible for making The Keeter Center reality, helped the College dedicate the building, including U.S. Congressman Roy Blunt, Branson business leader Edd Akers, student body president Jordan Couturier, and General Tommy Franks.

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Keeter were surprised and speechless when presented with a stained glass replica of the building in which they took a leadership role in bringing to life. The audience was amazed upon seeing the unique and intricately-detailed rendition of The Keeter Center, created by C of O student Amy Leaming at her workstation. In the stained glass piece, an American flag catches the air in the blue sky as it holds its post atop The Keeter Center. The stained glass image captures the essence of what both The Keeter Center and College of the Ozarks represent.

Following the Dedication was a reception in the U.S. Bank Foyer for all who attended. Since The Keeter Center provides more than 180 students with a workstation to support their education, dedication guests were served by several of the student-staff.

The dedication of The Keeter Center is another watermark on the timeline of the College. The College thanks Mr. and Mrs. Keeter and all who made The Keeter Center possible.

DIGGING UP THE PAST

Stevenson Hall Unearthed

By Mary Margaret Lenk

How much history are we sitting on everyday without really knowing it? There very well might be a few lost artifacts or a missing piece of the puzzle buried right under your feet. We all have “undiscovered” history, and C of O has uncovered a piece of its own. A treasure hidden down in the depths of the Ozark hills was found by College of the Ozarks construction workers in early February while excavating near the scenic Point Lookout. Little did the workers know that they were uncovering the past while digging for the future.

While excavating for McKibben Hall, construction workers came across a set of concrete stairs which, upon observation, date back to the early 1920s as part of an old dormitory, Stevenson Hall. Stevenson, a ladies’ dorm, for what was then The School of the Ozarks, was demolished in the early 1960s, with the exception of these stairs and part of its foundation. The all-girls dorm had a few secrets revealed when names such as “Charlene + Paul,”

“Fate Keeton,” and “Bill Patrick” were discovered.

Stevenson Hall accommodated 60 women, and its facilities included a kitchen, dining room, and laundry room. The steps led from the main floor down to laundry. Male and female students used the same laundry facility, which could be one explanation why there were boys’ names painted in a girls’ dormitory.

The discovery of the stairs also sparked many memories, including a sentimental story from a couple who live in Forsyth, Missouri, a town located about 15 minutes from the campus. Jack and Jackie Reeves, happy after 57 years of marriage, reminisce fondly about their time at S of O. When an article came out in the Branson Daily News about the unearthing of a staircase at C of O, Jack brought the article home with a big grin on his face and showed his wife “their spot.”

“I would have written our names, but there was nothing to write with!” Mr. Reeves said. Jackie, who was then Jackie Jackson, graduated in 1946 and spent the following



Mr. and Mrs. Reeves stand above the stairs where they first became engaged to marry, many years ago.

year on campus as a housekeeper and nanny for the S of O principal. On May 11, 1947, Jackie was busy working in the laundry room, located in the basement of Stevenson, and the young man she was “going with” appeared and asked her hand in marriage. “Step two is our step; that is where I proposed,” said Mr. Reeves.

As for the stairs, they will remain anchored just like the memories that they evoke. The new building will be constructed without causing any damage to the steps and will adjoin the old steam tunnels. Completion for McKibben Hall is aimed for fall 2006 and will house offices for the Education department, as well as classrooms. Plans are also in the works for it to serve as the future home of a nursing program.



Students line up in front of Stevenson Hall to have their picture made with the beautiful blooming pear trees.

FAMILY, FAITH, AND FLAG

General Tommy Franks

By Rachel Davis

A southern drawl, a strong sense of patriotism, and impeccable comedic timing were all rolled into an entertaining, but candid, speech given by four-star General Tommy Franks on April 14, at College of the Ozarks Keeter Gymnasium.

Franks, appearing as key-note speaker at the 2005 Spring Character Forum, spoke to an audience of more than 3000 people and shared his thoughts on life, America, and the current war in Iraq. The night was deemed particularly special because the College not only welcomed General Franks, but also Captain Scott O'Grady, an Air Force fighter pilot who was shot down over Bosnia while enforcing the no-fly zone. O'Grady survived six days in enemy territory, avoiding capture until his rescue by a unit of Marines.

In addition, more than 200 members of the 1107th AVCRAD unit, a helicopter-repair unit that recently returned from service overseas, were the College's honored guests. These



Franks makes serious points without forgetting humor.

servicemen and women were recognized during the convocation, along with their commander, Col. Don McMahon, who also teaches psychology at C of O.

After O'Grady and the 1107th AVCRAD were recognized, Franks began his speech with the concept that "family, faith and flag," are the

most important things in life. His dedication to all three of these values was evident, but more than any other outstanding theme of the evening was his patriotism and love for America. "I don't care what your politics are," he told the audience. "You are blessed to live in this country."

He was impressed with the patriotism that envelops the College of the Ozarks community. "What a genuine hoot it is," he said at the beginning of his speech, "to come to C of O and look around at real Americans who aren't afraid to stand up and pledge allegiance to the flag."

Going on to describe why he considers the U.S.A. to be a wonderful nation, Franks spoke of the many opportunities in life that have been afforded to him and noted that only in America does one receive such a multitude of chances to make something of one's life.

"I don't care what your politics are. You are blessed to live in this country."

"One, two, three, four chances. That's what our country gives us. Isn't it a great country?" the General asked with a broad smile.

Besides numerous accolades made to America, Franks also discussed various other topics. He revisited his emphasis on the value of family with stories about lessons learned from his father. Using this story, he offered advice to the thousands in the audience.

"My father once asked me if I knew the difference between intellectual acuity and wisdom." Franks said. After a brief pause, he revealed the answer his father had shared with him years ago. "Experience."

Franks applied this principle to



More than 200 members of the 1107th AVCRAD attended the convocation as the College's special guests.



Colonel Don McMahon, commander of the 1107th AVCRAD, was honored by the College and General Franks.

the hundreds of students sitting before him. “They only need one thing to lead this country,” he said. “Experience. They start here by working, focusing, and developing spiritually. They start here by developing a work ethic.”

Along with stories and lessons about family and flag, Franks communicated the role that faith has played in his life. Referring to the Biblical passage in Ephesians, he affirmed that the “armor of God” was a permanent part of his wardrobe. Spirituality is a key component in working through the trials of life, and especially the horrors of war.

“I’ve never met an atheist in a foxhole,” he said jokingly. Then, after the laughter ceased, he continued. “When things are tough,” Franks said in an earnest, sincere tone, “put on the armor, and you can deal with it.”

The General shared with the audience that his thoughts and beliefs are guided by his dependence on faith, family, and nation. These values have also guided him throughout his career.

As Commander in Chief of the U.S. Central Command, he led America in two full-scale campaigns—Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. A four-star general, his history of dedicated service is illustrated by the multitudes of awards bestowed upon him. From three Purple Hearts to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States’ highest civilian award, and everything in between, General Franks is recognized as one of the prominent leaders of our nation.

College of the Ozarks President

Jerry C. Davis, while introducing General Franks, quoted the General as saying, “Family, faith, and small-town values have made me what I am.”

These things have made him into a great many things: a strong leader, dedicated Christian, husband, father, grandfather, and a “soldier’s soldier.” These values have made him into a multi-dimensional man who can face the responsibility of making life and death decisions without waver, but who can also tell a joke or lovingly share stories of his father.



The General helps the College recognize another great hero, Captain Scott O’Grady.

All of these facets of Franks’ character work together to create a man who stands firmly beside his love for his faith, his family, and his flag. College of the Ozarks was pleased to have the opportunity to meet this man and learn from him.



The General receives the traditional Hard Work U sweatshirt, fruitcake, basket, and stained glass clock from Dr. Jerry C. Davis and students Justin Copley and Jason Copley.

Photos by Shann Swift

EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

The Life of Varian Fry

By Christine Marcink

"I look around the room. We are not the rich and powerful...yet you never know when one of us will be placed in a position to do extraordinary things." Dr. Stephen Kneeshaw, a College of the Ozarks professor of history, offered this thought-provoking statement on a warm March evening. A small group of faculty, students, and members of the community were gathered to honor writer Varian Fry.



In this picture taken by a refugee Fry had saved, Jacqueline Lamba Breton looks on as Fry signs paperwork.

Excerpts from his manuscripts accompanied by striking pictures of refugees, seemingly hopeless under the oppression of the Nazi-Germany rule, and images of people involved with the refugee rescue efforts were on display for the first time at the Ralph Foster Museum. Several pictures on display were taken by Fry himself during his 13-month stay in France. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Washington D.C., allowed the C of O museum to display the Varian Fry Art Exhibit during March 2005.

In one excerpt from Fry's manuscript, posted next to a black-and-white picture displaying a confident Fry relaxed behind a desk, he described how he obtained the position to go to France as a representative of the private American Relief Committee. "I told the committee, 'I'm not right for the job. All I know about being a secret agent, or trying to outsmart the Gestapo, is what I've seen in the movies. But if you can't find anyone else, I'll go.'"

This committee developed The Emergency Rescue, located in Marseilles during World War II. Fry writes,

"The sole purpose of this committee was to bring the political and intellectual refugees out of France before the Gestapo got them." Many were suffering under the Surrender-on-Demand clause of the Franco-German-Armistice.

Fry saw the need for a greater rescue effort than anticipated by the committee for those under Nazi-German rule. In response, Fry, under legal permission from the French government, established The American Relief Center. During the day, Fry and colleagues helped Jews in need of relief. During the cover of night, the workers forged documents, created false passports, and crafted false identification cards in attempts to smuggle people out of France to freedom.

In the Fry exhibit, there is oversized picture of a woman shown seated behind a desk while Fry reviewed papers, in attempt to plan an escape from France. A gentleman was beside her, while artist Max Ernst stood in the background observing the interaction with a solemn look on his face. Further down the exhibit, is a picture of an exhausted Ernst as he completed his escape from France into the safety of New York—mission a success.

Due to the numerous scientists, writers, artists, and musicians that came to America because of the underground rescue efforts of The American Relief Center, America's culture has been reshaped.

College of the Ozarks was given the privilege of displaying Fry's exhibit in its museum. History professors Dr. Michael Howell and Kneeshaw shared with guests the history on the Holocaust and the life of Fry at the opening reception. Also, C of O student Liz Cambers shared her experience interacting with a woman who created a safe adoption program for Jewish children during the same time of Fry's relief efforts.

Kneeshaw spoke on the life and leadership of Varian

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Fry's colleagues, as pictured above, dressed in disguise as farmers and vineyard workers to evade suspicion.

SIFE COMPETITION

Regional Champions

By Rachel Davis

It was a tense moment for 12 C of O students and four faculty/staff sponsors. After a long day of competition, the awards ceremony for the Students In Free Enterprise Regional Competition had arrived, and the College of the Ozarks SIFE (COSIFE) team sat at two round tables in the ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. Waiting anxiously for the results of their league to be announced, they finally heard the announcer ask for the competing teams to join her on stage. With rubbery legs and queasy stomachs, they walked to and ascended the stage.

After COSIFE was joined by the other teams, they stood in front of hundreds of other students crowded into the ballroom, their stomachs growing tighter as the announcer ran through the list of winners. Then, the announcer paused, leaned towards the microphone and said "And the Regional Champions are . . ."

A moment of silence filled the room until the words fell from her tongue – "College of the Ozarks and St. Bonaventure University."

This triumphant scene, and the glass trophy presented to the team, represented a year of hard work contributed by each COSIFE member. Students in Free Enterprise is an international organization that is dedicated to principles of free enterprise. Teams learn, practice, and teach these principles in a variety of projects that they present to SIFE officials and business leaders at the end of the spring semester.

The COSIFE team executed 17 projects this year, devoting more than 1000 hours to their successful completion. The presentation that won COSIFE a regional championship and qualified them for nationals showcased the team's projects that have most influenced the campus and local community for the past school year. Approximately 20 judges evaluated COSIFE's presentation, assessing their success in fulfilling SIFE's mission.

Some of these projects have lasted for many years, such as Fruitcake, Inc. In its fifth year, the fruitcake project continued to teach local fifth graders the principles of entrepreneurship by helping them start their own fruitcake business.

Brand new projects were also featured in the presentation, including the Small Business Exposition. For this project, COSIFE recruited professionals from a variety of fields, including accounting, legal, and web design, to provide free counseling and advice to local small business owners.

After completing these projects and others, the team-



While in New York, the students were able to do some sightseeing, including taking a walk down Wall Street.

mates devoted themselves to preparing a high quality multi-media presentation. COSIFE met several nights a week, in addition to regular meeting times, to write the script, select video, and weave the story of what they had accomplished in a year. In the weeks immediately prior to the competition, the six-person presentation team met nightly to rehearse and memorize the 24-minute presentation.

All of this labor certainly paid off for the COSIFE team, securing them a place at the National Expo in Kansas City, Missouri, for the ninth year in a row.

The trip wasn't all about hard work, however. The College of the Ozarks group also had a chance to tour New York City. In only a few days, the group walked through Central Park, haggled prices in Chinatown, viewed the sobering sight of Ground Zero, experienced a Broadway play, and visited Museum of Natural Finance, among other things.

COSIFE even appeared on national television. Waking up early to get in line for the **Today Show** audience by six a.m., the team was briefly interviewed by the anchors.

Despite the many hours of fun, the highlight of the trip was the competition. COSIFE held its own against all of the big-city schools and represented their school in May at the national SIFE competition.

EMPLOYEE ACCOLADES

Donald Hoeck Receives Governor's Award For Excellence In Teaching

By Amanda Levesque

College of the Ozarks Associate Professor of Physical Education Donald Hoeck was awarded the 2004 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He received the award on December 1, in Columbia, Missouri.

Governor Bob Holden spoke at the awards ceremony. During his address, Holden praised Missouri higher education and the award recipients. "This year's award recipients exemplify the ideal of quality education," Holden said. "They are committed to upholding a standard of excellence and improving the lives of Missouri citizens by educating and inspiring the individuals around them."

In addition to his work as a professor, Hoeck serves as the head vol-



Assistant Professor of Physical Education Donald Hoeck and Governor Bob Holden.

leyball coach and the advisor of the Physical Education Majors and

Minors Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes for College of the Ozarks. He has been a teacher of physical education for more than 14 years.

"It is extremely rewarding to be involved in the professional as well as personal development of young men and women during their collegiate experience," said Hoeck.

The Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching is a prestigious, statewide award and is presented to outstanding faculty members from various higher education institutions. Recipients must meet criteria such as effective teaching, service to the university community, commitment to high standards of excellence, and success in nurturing student achievement.

Outstanding Contributions

By Tamra Jane Corbin

Of O employee Dean Siler received the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award from the Federal Aviation Administration for his "many years of dedicated service, technical expertise,



Dean Siler receiving Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award

professionalism and many outstanding maintenance contributions to further the cause of aviation safety."

This award was created by the FAA in honor of Charles Edward Taylor, the first aviation mechanic. The award recognizes and honors those who have worked in aviation maintenance for 50 years or more.

Siler was presented with a certificate, letter of appreciation, and a lapel pin during the Mechanics Inspection Authorization Renewal Seminar on March 8. His name will also be displayed in the Federal Aviation building in Washington D.C.

Siler is retired from the Air Force after serving his country in two wars. He currently supervises the flight line at M. Graham Clark Airport at College of the Ozarks.

EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

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Fry stating, "People are not born a leader, rather they become a leader." Fry who was the editor for the Foreign Policy Association left his life in America for 13 months to save the lives of thousands. Later, he was forced to leave France due to government charges on protecting Jews and anti-Nazis.

Displayed in the Fry exhibit was an excerpt from a manuscript written by Fry. He wrote, "If I had any regret at all about the work we did, it is that it was slight. In all we saved some two thousand human beings. We ought to have saved many times that number. But we did what we could."

Kneeshaw accurately summed up the life of Fry by saying, "Varian Fry was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things."

MOLDING MINDS

Master Sculptor, Master Teacher

By Elizabeth Andrews and Rachel Davis

Creative designs in fired pottery have earned Professor of Art Jeff Johnston several honors these past two years. But he does more than sculpt clay; he molds the minds of talented art students. His accolades demonstrate his capabilities and so do the beautiful clay pieces produced by the students he teaches.

Last year, the Missouri Arts Council honored Johnston by featuring his sculpture, Taiwan Folk Bench II, on the Missouri Arts Awards poster, invitation, and program. This year the Council asked that Johnston design/sculpt the awards to be given to selected recipients at the awards ceremony in Jefferson City, Missouri, in February.

"For the awardees, becoming the proud owner of an impressive piece of art from a Missouri artist completes the experience," says Susan Cole, award recipient and coordinator of state programs at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "I am proud to have the work of Jeff Johnston as representation of the Arts in Education award."

Also, last fall he was honored with the Purchase Award presented by the Springfield Art Museum at MOAK 4-State Regional Exhibition. As part of the honor, his sculpture will remain in the Museum's permanent collection.

"I'm very excited to have one of my favorite sculptures purchased by the museum to be put on public display and be seen by generations to come."

Besides crafting beautiful works of art himself, Johnston passes on his knowledge to students in the pottery department. "Every artist likes to leave a legacy," said Johnston. "The primary legacy I will leave is the knowledge I pass along to my students."

The pieces these students have been creating are so impressive that visitors who come to the C of O campus seek them out at The Beulah Winfrey Gift Shop in The Keeter Center.

Two pottery students, Deborah Lockerby and Rachel Reuter, agree that working under Johnston has helped them to grow as artists. "He really encourages us to do our own thing. He is very good at what he does, but he doesn't push us to do the same," said Lockerby.

Generally, only art majors work in the pottery department as part of the work program. And just four students and their supervisor, Johnston, run the work station. They attend class in the clay studio, and then practice what they have been taught at work. Each year, students shape more than two tons of clay into inspired, artistic pieces of pottery.



Johnston puts the finishing touches on the MAC awards before they are fired in the kiln.

Photo by Mary Margaret Lenk

The complicated process each piece must go through can take up to two weeks. It includes shaping the piece by throwing it on a wheel, firing it in a bisque kiln, glazing the piece, and then firing it again to make sure it's water tight.

For the Gift Shop, students "throw" items such as vases, bottles, plates, bowls, and mugs. Each piece has a distinct look and feel bearing marks from the kiln, and that is what adds to its beauty and uniqueness.

The students who create these distinctive pieces of art have learned the necessity of flexibility.

"Generally, you have an idea of what you want, but it doesn't always end up the way you had planned," said Lockerby.

Rachel Reuter agreed, saying "You just have to go with it and see what happens."

The successful growth of these emerging artists is gratifying to Johnston, who has guided them through their academic and artistic career at the College. He is, of course, pleased to have his work featured in the Springfield Art Museum, but seeing his students succeed is also rewarding.

With all the awards and honors, Johnston finds the most reward in teaching. "Having your students do well is the greatest form of flattery."



Memorial Gifts

DECEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

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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 that 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 here at Point Lookout.

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

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The James Cantrell Family from Mr. Donald M. Perry
NAMES IN CAPITAL LETTERS REPRESENT GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE.

C OF O BASKETBALL MADNESS

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rounds, they came up against the very tough Cedarville, Ohio, team. Losing by only three points, 75-78, the ladies have come back more motivated than ever.

Some of the Bobcats were also recognized for individual accomplishments at their respective national tournaments. Sophomore Michael Bonaparte received an All-American Honorable Mention; senior Katie Howard and sophomore Cara Painter were two of only ten players in the nation to be named to the All-American First Team. Junior Renee Garrison, sophomore Cara Painter, and senior Amber Melton also earned Academic All-American Awards.

With a successful and exciting 2004-2005 season behind them, both teams can now begin working to create memories for next year when "bobcat madness" strikes again.

COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS

One of America's Top Ten Conservative Colleges

By Amanda Levesque

The Young America's Foundation (YAF) has chosen College of the Ozarks to be on its first annual "Top Ten Conservative Colleges" list.

YAF published this list in order to provide an alternative to lists such as "America's Best Colleges" published by **U.S News & World Report**, which ranks institutions based on things such as graduation and retention rates, peer assessment, and student selectivity. YAF wanted to create a list that ranked the overall experience that colleges offer. The colleges on YAF's list are institutions that offer "a holistic conservative experience for students."

The Foundation also desired to inform students seeking conservative alternatives to higher education who may not have been aware that there are many institutions that fit this description.

YAF was impressed with the standards and values at

C of O. "Overall, the College of the Ozarks offers a robust array of programs and excellent opportunities to receive a well-rounded education."

According to the YAF website, it is America's largest campus outreach program. It is "committed to ensuring that increasing numbers of young Americans understand and are inspired by the ideas of individual freedom, a strong national defense, free enterprise, and traditional values."

"As the principal outreach organization of the Conservative Movement, the Foundation introduces thousands of American youth to these principles. They accomplish their mission by providing essential conferences, seminars, educational materials, internships, and speakers to young people across the country."

To learn more about the Top Ten Conservative Colleges, visit the Young America's Foundation website at www.yaf.org.

A SYMBOLIC DONATION

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paper she wrote while attending College of the Ozarks. "If I hadn't met her, I probably wouldn't have come to the U.S. to study. She is the person who gave me an opportunity to come to the U.S. and who taught me how wonderful my life is...I am still learning a lot from her."

It is this kind of positive relationship with the exchange students and the College that prompted Jack and Noriko to make their generous donation. During the planting, Mr. McDowell remarked that they had chosen to give 50 trees to symbolize their upcoming 50th wedding

anniversary. He also said they have several of the cherry trees in their own yard and enjoy their blooms year after year.

Noriko said she's had the idea for the donation for quite sometime, but being aware of the College's perpetual growth, she wanted to wait for the right place and the right time.

"I've had this in my mind for some time, but the school's landscape is always changing," said Noriko. "Then, I saw The Keeter Center, and I thought it was perfect—and Jack agreed."

Plantings of cherry trees origi-

nated in 1912 as a gift of friendship to the United States from the people of Japan. This tradition of friendship has been carried on with the McDowell's donation and devotion to helping College of the Ozarks Japanese exchange students.

The McDowells value hard work as much as the College, and they have used their wisdom and generosity to instill this value into students over the years.

"The main thing I tell every student is 'work hard. You must work hard,'" said Noriko. "If it is a hand out, it's not of much value."

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