

PROMISES TO KEEP

A Time to Remember



Jerry C. Davis, President

The opening of The Keeter Center at the entrance to campus has captivated public attention. This magnificent structure reflects much about the history and operating philosophy of Hard Work U. It reminds us of the importance of roots, both institutional as well as personal.

My own roots go back to such a school as this and some very special people. It was, in fact, my grandparents who took me to a work school many, many years ago. A school such as Hard Work U provided the “gates of opportunity” for my life and subsequent career. My grandfather pastored churches in small towns. He was a big man, so we called him “Big Daddy.” But more than his big physical status was his even bigger heart. He and my grandmother (Mammow, as we called her) weren’t rich in possessions but they were in spirit. For me, at age 5 (and my two brothers) they became parents—one of God’s greatest blessings.

In the recently-completed Gittinger Campus Ministries Center, the student Chapel is a memorial to my grandparents. Shirley and I were pleased to take a leadership role in providing for it. Others have joined. We are deeply grateful to other family and friends who contributed to the construction of Collins Memorial Chapel.



It was dedicated in 2004.

As we face the future at College of the Ozarks, we do so in the belief that students who continue to come will have their lives changed. Having started my journey in a work school constantly reminds me of my own past, but more importantly the future of students following a similar path at this remarkable school.

This past year was busy and productive, as

Collins Memorial Chapel at

dusk. Photo by Shann Swift

you will note in this issue. The groundbreaking ceremony for McKibben Hall, named in honor of a special benefactor, was held on Homecoming day (see page 3). The College hosted a Veterans Day Convocation, and several employee Veterans participated in Branson-area Veterans Day activities (page 5). You can also read about our staff and students collecting gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Chairman of the Board Mr. Larry Walther is featured in this issue.

The New Year holds even greater promise at C of O. Your partnership in our effort is essential. May this New Year be filled with happiness and fulfillment.

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

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MAKING PROGRESS

McKibben Groundbreaking at Point Lookout

By Amanda Levesque

The dawn of a new and unique building was marked on the cliffs of Point Lookout on the morning of Saturday, November 6. As part of the 2004 Homecoming activities at College of the Ozarks, President Jerry C. Davis began the McKibben Hall groundbreaking ceremony with a welcome, followed by an invocation given by Rev. Charles Zehnder.

Dr. Garry Joe Hardin, assistant professor of music at C of O, directed the College of the Ozarks Community Band as the National Anthem was played. Business Manager Rick Hughes proudly held the American flag steady while a crowd of about 150 attendees paid tribute.

President Davis then introduced the McKibben family and pointed out their continued contributions to the College.

"College of the Ozarks has awarded over 100 McKibben scholarships," said Davis. "This is the most prestigious scholarship the College gives."

Shortly thereafter, Davis recognized recipients of the McKibben scholarship who were also in attendance.

The weather cooperated nicely for the event. "What a beautiful day the Lord has made," said Davis. "I ordered it just like this," President Davis joked lightheartedly.

During the ceremonial groundbreaking, sunshine glinted off the gold shovels as President Davis, Mr. Donald McKibben, nephew of the late Dr. Joe T. McKibben and Doug McKibben, Donald's son, turned over the first small piles of earth on the future grounds of McKibben Hall; this marked the beginning of a facility that will reinforce the C of O mission and add even more opportunity for students.



Architectural sketch of McKibben Hall courtesy of Butler, Rosenbury & Partners.



Mr. Donald Dean McKibben (left), son Doug McKibben (right), and Jerry C. Davis hold shovels with fresh earth.

Photo by Shann Swift

McKibben Hall is being constructed in honor of Dr. McKibben, one of the College's most generous donors. The three-story tall structure will be built by the College through the utilization of staff and student labor. "I think this is a proper tribute to one of the College's great benefactors and a facility that will be put to good use," said Davis.

McKibben Hall will house classrooms and offices, as well as some additional offices for the Education Department. It will also serve as the future home of a nursing program.

"Having the nursing program in this building makes it even more special as far as I'm concerned," said Davis. "I know Joe would be pleased with that...we talked about nursing."

During his first meeting with President Davis, Dr. McKibben, a retired surgeon from California, said, "Tell me more about this school that **The Wall Street Journal** called Hard Work U."

The doctor had respect for young people who were willing to work for their education. He had grown up in the Ozarks during tough times, and the work ethic at C of O appealed to him and inspired him to donate.

"He wanted to provide a good education to students who were willing to work for it," said Davis. "He fiercely believed in a good work ethic."

McKibben Hall will overlook the College's Point Lookout, which offers a scenic view of Lake Taneycomo and the beautiful Ozark hills. The project is expected to take approximately 18 months, with completion aimed for the fall of 2006.

DEVELOPMENT NOTES

A Gentle Nudge



Rodney Arnold
Dean of Development

The reason I want to encourage you to obtain or update your will is because I have seen the difficulties that arise when a person dies intestate (without a will). I also know that many people who intend to include College of the Ozarks in their will fail to get their wish, unless the bequest has been clearly stated in a valid will.

Most of us can use a nudge now and then to do something we know we should do—like writing or updating a will. We find it easier to procrastinate than to accomplish the task, and a good nudge can get us moving in the right direction. If this describes you, consider this article a little nudge.

Another reason I want to gently encourage you is because we know you will be glad when the chore is done. You will have peace of mind about your final affairs...and you can thank me for the nudge.

One way I can assist you is to make things as easy as possible. Our complimentary Will Information Kit is designed to do just that. It contains basic information that helps you think through the various issues and prepares you for your visit with an estate-planning attorney. If you need assistance finding an attorney, I will help you locate one.

I hope this gentle nudge prompts you today to complete this extremely important matter, while you are able to thoughtfully consider the options and make sound decisions. If you would like your free Will Information Kit, please complete the response form below and return it in the enclosed business reply envelope, or call me at (417) 334-6411 x. 2209.

Request Form

- Please send me your free Will Information Kit.
- I (we) have included College of the Ozarks in our estate plans.
- Please contact me (us) about a personal visit. The best time to call is _____.
- I am considering College of the Ozarks in my estate plan. Please send me information on how to do so.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please complete and mail to:
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College of the Ozarks
PO Box 17
Point Lookout, MO 65726

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VETERANS REMEMBERED

Veterans Day Activities

By Amanda Levesque

College of the Ozarks remembered veterans this year with a flag-raising/wreath-laying ceremony and a Veterans Day convocation. Staff and faculty of the College also participated in the 2004 Branson Annual Veterans Day Parade.

The day literally began with a bang as Dale Carley, supervisor of mail operations, pulled the lanyard on the Bobcat Company's 75 mm Howitzer at the flag-raising ceremony. Immediately after the cannon blast, members of the College of the Ozarks ROTC Bobcat Company proudly raised the American flag.



C of O veterans brave the rainy weather to march in the Branson Veterans Parade.

Photos by Elizabeth Andrews and Amanda Levesque

Carley joined the Marines in 1960 and completed two tours in Vietnam. He retired in 1982 with the rank of Gunnery Sergeant.

Senior Cadet Brandon Montang spoke at the ceremony on the value of veterans and the sacrifices they make, as well as the effect those sacrifices have on their families.

"With the death of each soldier, a mourning family is left behind," said Montang.

Montang also commented on what comes to mind when he hears the word "veteran."

"I see a soldier who has sacrificed many things to defend his or her family and this great nation," said Montang.

President Jerry C. Davis followed Montang's speech by participating in the wreath-laying ceremony. The memorial wreath honored all veterans who could not be there and also symbolized both the beauty and brevity of life.

Cadet Chris Gilmer, member of the C of O ROTC Bobcat Company, shared his thoughts on the importance of veterans and ceremonies that honor them.

"I think it's the most important thing that we do," said Gilmer. "These veterans are national treasures."

Many people are not aware that these amazing men and women are among us every day and usually go unnoticed. "A lot of guys like me join the military because of how much we respect veterans that we meet," said Gilmer. "There are heroes walking around, and we don't even know it."

"These veterans are national treasures."

Gilmer was recently honored at a military gala for being the youngest marine in Branson. During the gala, the oldest marine cuts a cake with a marine officer sword and presents the youngest marine with the first piece of cake.

"This symbolizes the older men passing the torch on to the younger men," said Gilmer.

Later that evening, Brigadier General (USAF Retired) Philip Conlon spoke during a Veterans Day convocation on the "Secularization of the American G.I."

He began by telling a humorous anecdote involving C of O's own Captain James Schreffler, assistant professor of military science.

"Captain Schreffler told me I wouldn't see a penny of my military pension if I didn't come," said Conlon. He admitted he was reluctant to speak at the College initially because he felt that he was "too old and too far removed from academia." But after his speech it was clear that he was still in touch with the values that all of us should strive to reflect.

Conlon spoke candidly to his audience regarding the world's compromised standards and how Christians should continue to set the bar high.

Conlon pointed out how valuable the work ethic is at College of the Ozarks and encouraged students to be thankful for the opportunities they have.

"I think you are so blessed to be able to attend the small school called Hard Work U that is a tremendous

continued on page 6



The College remembered veterans by laying a wreath by the main flagpole on campus.

AN OLD FRIEND

You Can Always Come Back Home

By Mary Margaret Lenk

The College of the Ozarks welcomed home a special guest to chapel service on October 24, 2004. This guest is no stranger to the Chapel, because he was the “man up front” from 1956-1959. Reverend Charles Brown was the first man to preach a sermon in the Williams Memorial Chapel.

After leaving S of O, Rev. Brown returned to the Westminster Presbyterian Church located in Springfield, Missouri, where he preached for 11 years. From there he and his family moved to El Dorado, Arkansas, and remained for 23 years before his retirement.

Rev. Brown says he felt the School was a special blessing in his life and one that he didn't see coming. He and his wife, Jo Anne, visited the School and were warmly welcomed by Dr. M. Graham Clark, S of O president. He shared the Word that morning in the newly-finished chapel, and then he and his wife started out for home deep in thought.

“Neither one of us felt as though we were called to the School of the Ozarks,” said the Reverend. But that all changed when they picked up three young hitchhikers on their way into town.



Rev. Charles and Mrs. Jo Anne Brown stand in front of one of many beautiful stained glass windows in Williams Memorial Chapel.

Photo by Mary Margaret Lenk

“It was the conversation with them and their appeal,” said Rev. Brown. “When they said how much they needed a young chaplain like me, that convinced us to accept the call.”

Life at the School was new and exciting for the Browns. Two of their children were born in the time they were at S of O. Jo Anne accompanied the school choir on the piano and was also a sponsor for the Religious

Council. The Browns even ate some of their meals in the school cafeteria, and Rev. Brown said how the students always, “made our children feel much loved.”

Rev. Brown and his wife have retired to Fayetteville, Arkansas, but still maintain an active life. He serves as alternate preacher for other pastors who are out of town. “Jo Anne began teaching learning disability programs while we lived in Springfield and El Dorado,” said Rev. Brown. “She is currently tutoring children with learning problems here.”

The Browns enjoyed their return to the place they once lived years ago and all the memories that it revived. The visit reminded Rev. Brown of the time when he and some of his children stood high on some scaffolding to watch the placing of the keystone above the chancel. He also remembered the installation of the carillon and organ.

Reverend Brown jokes about the connection of his name, Charles Brown, and the famous comic strip “Peanuts.”

“Yes, I have benefited from Charles Schulz' wonderful comic strip,” the Reverend said. “I too, love to fly kites, but I have problems with trees!”

VETERANS REMEMBERED

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model,” said Conlon. “Here patriotism and faith in God get instilled in you every day.”

Conlon's message was encouraging, though it did not claim that the challenge of upholding high values and standards was easy. To conclude his message he said, “Christianity has not been found wanting. It has been found difficult.”

The morning flag-raising/wreath-laying ceremony and the evening

convocation were complemented by the mid-morning Branson Annual Veterans Day Parade. Several faculty and staff members, some retired, from College of the Ozarks participated in the parade including Ray Groves, retiree; Tom Smith, farm manager; Kurt McDonald, purchasing director; Dale Carley, director of mail operations; Charles Zehnder, dean of campus ministries, and his father Carl Zehnder; Richard Carroll,

payroll; Roy Johnson, professor of agriculture; Lynn Behrends, print shop; Mark Bryant, alumnus; Herb Trimble, retiree; and Robert Osburne, also a retiree.

With the combined efforts of students, faculty, staff, and hundreds of veterans, this year's Veterans Day activities were a successful tribute to those who have fought and continue to fight for our great nation.

FANTASTIC FRUITCAKE, INC.

SIFE Students Teach Free Enterprise

By Tamra Jane Corbin

College of the Ozarks Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) hosted the annual Fantastic Fruitcake, Inc. project on October 19 and 21. Fifth grade students from Kirbyville and Taneyville middle schools learned basic skills of running a business and investing in stocks through hands-on experience.

The C of O SIFE Team works on a variety of projects throughout the year. The primary goal of these projects is to teach principles of free enterprise. The Fantastic Fruitcake, Inc. project is one of the largest and in-depth projects on which SIFE members work.

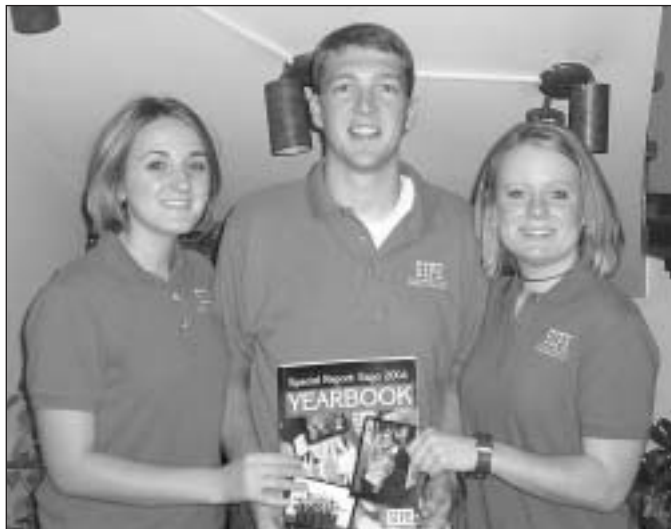
"We build on this project every year," said Nick Burkin, project leader. "This year we made it a competition between two middle schools instead of just one school participating."

Schools participating in this project from previous years include Forsyth, Branson, New Life Christian Academy and Hollister.

C of O SIFE members first traveled to the middle school classrooms and taught students basic skills of running a business and investing in stocks. Students then had the opportunity to purchase stock in their own business, Fantastic Fruitcake Inc.

Students were brought to the Fruitcake and Jelly Kitchen on the C of O campus, where kitchen workers and SIFE members taught them how to mix batter, bake, wrap, fold boxes, and label one-pound fruitcakes that they will later sell to the community.

"This project gives students a real, hands-on experience," said Tonia Silvey, Kirbyville Middle School teacher. "It's always good to change the environment to learn new things."



C of O SIFE students display the national Yearbook that features last year's fruitcake project.



Kirbyville fifth graders strategically place pecans on the fruitcakes.

Photos by Mary Margaret Lenk and Tamra Corbin

Although this project is 100 percent educational, the students enjoyed this activity. "My favorite part was mixing the batter," said Dustin Barendregt, fifth grade student at Kirbyville Middle School. "I wish I could stay longer. This is fun."

But the fifth graders were not the only ones that learned something from this project. "This is my first experience with this project," said Jessica Stroud, SIFE member. "I'm learning just as much as the kids are."

The Kirbyville and Taneyville students sold their products to local businesses such as grocery stores and gas stations. Then they will choose which organizations to donate the profits from their venture. They will also donate 25 extra fruitcakes they made to the organizations they chose.

This year Kirbyville students decided to sell their fruitcakes for \$8.25, and Taneyville students will sell theirs for \$8.

Last year's fruitcake project, which they called Forsyth Fruitcake, earned the C of O SIFE Team a write-up in the national SIFE Yearbook Special Report: Expo 2004. They worked with 90 Forsyth Middle School students to make, market, and sell 200 fruitcakes to various businesses in the community.

Last April the C of O SIFE Team was named Regional Champions at the regional competition in Memphis where they presented several projects to a panel of local business leaders and entrepreneurs. The projects presented included many different aspects, but the primary goal was teaching free enterprise. One of the projects presented was Forsyth Fruitcake.

SIFE Headquarters selects projects that best exemplify what the SIFE mission is all about to be featured in the publication.

HOMECOMING 2004

Feels Like Home

By Rachel Davis

School of the Ozarks alumnus Ron Stanley sat on the curb and leaned against the green fence surrounding the activity field located behind Williams Memorial Chapel. A paper plate rested on one knee, and one hand held a chilled can of soda while the other gestured towards the low stone wall across the street.

"I built that," Stanley said, pointing to the wall that crosses in front of Youngman dorm. He nodded at the section that winds around behind Foster Hall and added, "My brother John was in charge of that one." The memory made him smile.

Ron is one of five siblings who attended S of O in a stretch from 1947-1972. This year the three brothers with their two sisters returned for C of O Homecoming 2004, joined for the first time by the newest C of O graduate of the family, Nathan Sanders.



Ron Stanley sits and reminisces with two of his siblings and his nephew—all alumni.

Photos by Rachel Davis

Ron and his family, along with over a thousand other alumni, congregated on the C of O campus for a weekend of activities, memories, and fun.

This year's homecoming theme was "Feels Like Home." Whether a graduate of the class of 2003 or celebrating their 50th reunion, attendees trekked back to the campus that was their home for several years.

New buildings have been constructed and old buildings renovated and renamed. The face of the College has dramatically changed since many of the alumni received their degrees, but the theme of the weekend shows that home isn't just a familiar building or campus. The feeling of being home comes from the people you are surrounded by and the memories you share.

Homecoming 2004 was an opportunity for those

alumni to come home not just to the campus but to their friends.

As always, the College kicked off events with the Friday night coronation of 2004's Homecoming Queen. Jones Auditorium chimed with the greetings of old and new friends as former and current students, faculty, and staff flocked in to see over 40 young ladies compete for the opportunity to represent their college.

Dean of Students Chris Larsen, Dean of Development Rodney Arnold, and Dean of Admissions Marci Linson, all C of O alumni, hosted the evening's affair, while student Stephen Friar played softly on a grand piano situated in the corner of the stage.

*"I helped build this school,"
said Ron Stanley.*

Three judges were faced with the exceedingly difficult task of narrowing the field twice and then finally choosing the young lady they felt best emulated the mission of College of the Ozarks.

Weeks of preparation came to a climax as Tonya Bilyeu was announced this year's Homecoming Queen. The audience's applause nearly obliterated the background music, "You are so Beautiful," as retiring queen Sarah Farris gently placed the sparkling crown on Bilyeu's head.

A variety of activities continued all day Saturday, beginning with an alumni breakfast. Surrounded by the rustic beauty of The Keeter Center's Dobyns Dining Room, attendees enjoyed a buffet-style breakfast and watched while the College presented four alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards. The College honored Dr.



Student Bonnie Harrell greets parade attendees from the Bonner Community Service float.

Roy Johnson with The Distinguished Service to College of the Ozarks Award, while Raymond Winsky received The Distinguished Community Service Award. Earl Woodard was honored with The Distinguished Achievement Award, and Dr. John Friesen accepted The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award.

After the breakfast, many of those in attendance retired to the majestic Royal Oak Forum, the 275-seat auditorium in The Keeter Center, for the annual alumni business meeting.

Homecoming attendees were also given the opportunity to remember and pay tribute to deceased friends in a special service at Williams Memorial Chapel. Alumni were invited to participate in the proceedings, many of them joining the choir to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus."

One of the most anticipated events of homecoming weekend is the parade, and crowds lined Opportunity Avenue from Youngman Hall to the McDonald Administration Building.



Current students are an important part of the homecoming activities.

Every organization did its best to make its float original and creative, but in the end, the Aviation Club won first place in the competition. Their creation featured a replica of a battle cruiser with go-carts disguised as jets that shot off the cruiser deck and circled around in front.

Also present were Bruiser the Bobcat, C of O's mascot, and the Bobcat Cheerleading Team. With a series of stunts and cheers, they infused the crowd with team spirit in preparation for the afternoon's basketball game.

Indeed, team spirit was rampant in Keeter Gymnasium when C of O's men's basketball team faced off against Si Tanka University. One section of the audience stayed on their feet the entire game, and the whole crowd joined in with special chants and cheers. Spurred on by their supporters, the men emerged victorious with a final score of 87-68.

The crowds attending this year's festivities were fed and entertained by C of O clubs, dorms, and other organ-



Homecoming Queen Tonya Bilyeu waves to parade spectators.

izations that set up a variety of booths selling food, games, and plenty of prizes.

There, on the activities field, hundreds of people wandered about searching for friends they made at C of O years ago. For many, visiting with old friends is the whole point of returning for homecoming.

Etta Galloway, class of '53, said she comes "looking for old buddies." Her husband laughed and said his favorite part of homecoming is "getting together and seeing who's falling apart."

Marianne Horn and her longtime friend Norma Boatwright have kept in close contact since their graduation day 50 years ago and look forward to homecoming for a chance to relive all of their old memories.

"It's just like it used to be," Horn continued. "It is so fun to remember all the stuff we did and learned when we went here."

At the end of the day merry-makers strolled throughout the campus, revisiting old sites and drawing

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These alums enjoy lunch provided by campus organizations.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Candace Sullinger Named Athletic Administrator of the Year

By Rachel Davis

Over the years, College of the Ozarks faculty, staff, teams, and clubs have won a variety of awards recognizing everything from athletic triumphs to academic achievements. But one of the staff members most recently honored is Sports Information Director Candace Sullinger, who received the 2003-2004 Charles Morris Athletic Administrator of the Year Award.

The award was introduced five years ago by the NAIA's Council of Affiliated Conferences and Independents. Although the Council already offered an award to athletic directors, they decided to look at others who also fulfilled essential roles for the NAIA, such as sports information directors or conference commissioners.

"She does a tremendous job and is a true professional," said Scott McClure, NAIA representative. "In the four years I've worked with her, she's never been the kind to seek any attention or recognition. She's definitely someone who deserves this award, and it's nice that this committee can recognize that."

"She's definitely someone who deserves this award, and it's nice that this committee can recognize that."

Sullinger is the first sports information director to receive the Charles Morris Award. When asked about the award she smiled and quietly said, "It's good for all sports information directors."

In addition to being information director, she is also co-tournament director for the NAIA and administrative assistant to the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Commissioner. Sullinger fulfills so many roles for the College that it is sometimes difficult to pin down exactly all that she does.

"Probably a lot of people don't know what we do, but it's interesting—and it's a lot of fun, too," said Sullinger.

One of her biggest responsibilities, of course, is coordinating the annual NAIA tourney. For the past several years, she has played a major role in pulling the event together, contacting sponsors, finding volunteers, managing ticket sales, and performing many other tasks.

Al Waller, athletic director and assistant professor of Physical Education, believes that Sullinger is a major asset



Sullinger

to College of the Ozarks. "Her strongest points are her organizational skills and personality," said Waller. "Everybody loves Candy and loves working with her."

Her friendly and personable character comes in handy when coordinating the tournament by cultivating valuable ties to the community. "The people in the community know her and like her, and that helps a lot with finding volunteers," Waller added.

The tourney is a huge event for both Branson and the College. "We estimate 20,000 in overall attendance," said Sullinger. "The community is really supportive and helps us put it on."

She was adamant to attribute much of the credit for the tournament's success to the hundreds of people involved in bringing it about. "When you consider that we have approximately 700 volunteers who make this tournament work—who are not paid—it's amazing."

Such an undertaking requires massive amounts of preparation; she and her assistants have been planning 2005's tournament for months already. "We begin working on next year's tournament as soon as the current one is over," she said.

Almost five months before the tournament begins, her office receives daily phone calls and e-mails requesting information about the event.

With several successful tournaments behind her, she is constantly looking for ways to fine-tune the event. "We always hope to do better than the previous year, and I think we continue to make it more successful each year," Sullinger said.

So although her desk at the time was littered with earmarks of fall, like a seasonal hazelnut candle and a wooden pumpkin figurine, her thoughts were already centered on this spring's March Madness, which will take place March 9-15. "It's really a year-round job," she said.

It is in recognition of all this year-round dedication and hard work that the NAIA chose Sullinger as the Athletic Administrator of the Year.

For 2005 NAIA tournament ticket info, call 334-6411, extension 4385.



PERSONALITY PROFILE

Larry Walther, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

By Elizabeth Andrews

College of the Ozarks cultivates academic, spiritual, patriotic, cultural, and vocational growth through hard work by its students. Larry Walther, chairman of the Board of Trustees of College of the Ozarks, believes in that mission.

It's what drew him to the College many years ago. The values reflected in the five-fold mission have played essential parts in his life.

It wasn't until the early 90s that he found a college that mirrored the ideals which he upholds. He had made many fishing excursions to the Branson area, but he only came to learn about the College through Robert M. "Mike" Duncan, the chairman of the board of Alice Lloyd College, whom he met while in Washington D.C. Shortly after, he was invited to visit the C of O campus.

Walther was elected to the Board of Trustees in October 1993 and was elected chairman in 2001. Currently, he is serving his second term as chairman, after his re-election in the spring 2004.

During this time, the Chairman has not only been active in the Board, but also in student trips, concerts, and the NAIA Annual Tournament which C of O hosts.

"As well as being a prominent executive, Mr. Walther is especially student oriented," said Dr. Jerry C. Davis, C of O president. "This is reflected in his attendance at student functions and special activities."

He and his wife, Janice, traveled with the C of O Chorale on a trip to Austria in the summer of 2002. They escorted a group of several chorale students throughout the trip.

Janelle Silengo, a student from the group that traveled to Austria, said, "Mr. Walther is quick to find out who we are and where we come from. From then on, he is very encouraging and supportive of our



Larry Walther

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

talents. He takes a vested interest in all of us."

Even though he enjoys the activities the C of O offers, he remains serious when it comes to the business of the College.

Walther, along with all the Board members, uses the same values and principles to steer the College that the mission works to achieve in its students.

"Those who serve on the Board not only value high moral and ethical principles when making decisions, but also use sound management and fiscal doctrines to guide their judgments," said the Chairman.

Besides working on the C of O Board of Trustees, Walther works full-time for the state of Arkansas. In 2003, Governor Mike Huckabee appointed Walther as the director of the Arkansas Department for Economic Development. He has traveled far from the cotton farming town he was raised in, but remembers what carried him to his success.

"I was on my own from a very young age, and the Lord blessed me with a wonderful family and good

jobs," said Walther. "I want to see more and higher-paying jobs available for my fellow residents of Arkansas, and I believe that education will lay the foundation for a growing economy. More educated citizens render you greater potential."

Walther grew up in towns with no more than 1,000 residents in Louisiana and Arkansas, and even though opportunity in those towns was limited, he took advantage of what was offered. He finished high school in Parkdale, Arkansas, where he played football, basketball, and learned the ways of a Boy Scout and an Eagle Scout.

Then, as he described, he "escaped from Parkdale," a sleepy Delta community of about 500 people and went on to earn a degree in mathematics and economics at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. It was there where Walther found reward through working with people for the greater good.

"Monticello was the place where I did my first volunteer civic, community work, and I found through those experiences that I enjoyed serving the public."

He joined a fraternity, served on the student senate as the speaker, and became actively involved in the surrounding community. Walther, since then, has achieved many things as a result of his willingness to work hard.

He's worked in private industry and in the government, including a stint under President George H.W. Bush in 1989. He was one of only 20 private-sector executives appointed to one-year terms who worked with the administration. There, he worked in the Department of Treasury as a special assistant to help improve efficiency.

During that year, he also served in the White House Office of Public

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C OF O LADY BOBCATS

Triple Threat

By Mary Margaret Lenk

They may have their own qualities, dislikes, opinions, and ideals in life, but nothing will come between the ladies in the Howard family. Kallie, Katie, and Kellie Howard are three individuals who when put together make quite an impact.



The terrific trio from front: Kallie, Katie, and Kellie.

Born on October 19, 1982, these girls have given togetherness an entirely new meaning. Growing up as identical triplets, they all might have at one time or another fought to keep their own identity, but say they would never succeed without the other two. "They are my best friends," is what all the girls say.

Athletics played a large role in the lives of the Howard girls, with volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and softball in the summer. Kellie and Kallie were both named Pilz and Friends All-Stars while attending Reeds Spring High School. Katie earned First Team All American and the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Year. Katie was also named M.V.P. of the 2003

and 2004 Coca Cola Classics and the CAMJAM Tournament Team in 2004.

Their parents were always there to support the girls. They attended games, taxied them to practices, and rooted them on through every win or loss.

They have always led normal lives filled with normal everyday chores, but have endured various moves around the state. Francis and Tammy, their parents, have a passion for buying, fixing, and reselling homes which has resulted in several relocations for the family.

The Howard family spent the first five years in Viburnum, Missouri, before moving to Salem and then to Ava. After a year in Buffalo, Missouri, they moved to Spokane, where their parents currently reside.

The girls all say, while growing up, the biggest influence on their lives has been their parents. They were taught from an early age that they could set any goal and were capable of achieving it. They grew up as individuals and their parents always saw them as that.

Katie says, "To most people I am thought of as a 'we,' but to my parents, I am just Katie." Their parents saw potential in them and helped the trio to reach their dreams.

Many parents understand that sending a child to college is, of course, a major financial undertaking, and with three girls attending at the same time, it's no picnic. "Why not C of O?" asks Kellie Howard. "It is the best opportunity for me and economically for my parents. My parents will have three daughters graduating in May, and they won't owe a cent. There is no other place I would have wanted to go. I love it here!"

With only one semester before these girls enter the real world, they are fully taking advantage of being together. They share a room in

Ashcroft dorm that is filled with memories from past events at C of O.

Between receiving the Kodak All American Team Award this year, playing basketball, going to classes full time, and participating in the C of O work program, the girls have not been without their share of activities.

Katie's work station is in the campus library. She has worked there since her freshman year and thinks a lot of her surrounding co-workers.

"Ms. Anderson, our library director, has become so much more than a supervisor. She's become a wonderful friend in the past three and one-half years," says Katie.

While attending C of O, she has been pursuing a degree in Sociology and hopes to be a social worker after graduation.

Kellie, the baby of the family, by a mere minute, has been an active student worker in the campus hospital for the past four years. Her time in McDonald Hospital has prepared her for her future in medicine. She hopes

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Kellie goes up for the shot with sister Katie guarding the opponent.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Sharing God's Love

By Naima el Qantarali

Operation Christmas Child is a wonderful project that enables people to fill shoeboxes with presents for underprivileged children worldwide. The shoe box ministry is a part of Samaritan's Purse, headed by President Franklin Graham. Each year, the ministry shares God's love with millions of needy children from war-torn countries by hand-delivering shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies, candy, and other gifts.

People fill shoeboxes for needy children and take them to the nearest drop-off site. Like previous years, the College of the Ozarks set up a drop-off site on campus. Students collected shoeboxes at the chapel parking lot from November 15 through 21, every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The First

Baptist Church from Kimberling City dropped off 1,158 shoeboxes on a rainy afternoon during the collection week this year. "It was amazing to see great people working hard in the pouring rain to bring joy to precious girls and boys around the world they have never met," said Campus Ministries Executive Assistant Linda LeNeve.

On the evening of November 17, the Campus Ministries Building opened for volunteers to decorate shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The building was packed with enthusiastic students who were all there to help bring cheer to underprivileged kids. "I'm so excited that students gave up their precious time to give to needy children," said LeNeve. "And they're having a blast doing it!"



Operation Christmas Child Coordinator Jackie Hartman works with C of O students to pack up all the shoeboxes.

The Campus Ministries Building was festooned with Christmas decorations and a festive cheerful atmosphere filled the air. "This is the spirit of Christmas, coming together as a community and working together," said Bonner Community Service Secretary Jackie Hartman. "Isn't that what Christmas is all about?"

Operation Christmas Child turned out to be a great success again. College of the Ozarks collected around 4,000 shoeboxes this year. That means that four thousand children worldwide were surprised with great presents, but more importantly with the love of God.



The Samaritan's Purse semi-trailer was parked in the Chapel parking lot so it could be loaded full of gifts for needy boys and girls.

Photos by Naima el Qantarali

TRIPLE THREAT

to assist mothers-to-be with fitness and exercise. Before joining her sisters on the basketball team, Kellie was a part of the Lady Bobcat Volleyball team for her first two years at C of O.

Kallie, the oldest of this tremendous trio, can be seen sweeping the gym before a big game at her work station in Custodial North. Kallie has worked in custodial throughout her stint at college. She will receive her degree in Broadcast/Journalism and hopes to get job broadcasting for sports radio. She says she would like

to one day have her own morning radio sports show.

The trio says having been involved in basketball throughout their time at C of O has taught them a lot. The experience has taught them that teamwork is not just something you use on the court, but something you use in everyday life as well. It also taught them self-discipline and respect for one another. You have heard it all your life, but it's reinforced by these ladies that there is no "I" in team.

Katie summed up how basketball

has made a positive impact on her. "The friendships you make with your teammates will last much longer than any basketball season."

Although in five months these girls will say goodbye to routine and knowing they were only one bunk away, they will never lose the tight bond that has helped them through life.

Kellie says, "One day, we will eventually go our separate ways and have our own families, but you can bet we will talk to each other at least five times a day!"

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Memorial Gifts

SEPTEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Agatha Allen from Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wright
Mrs. Ashby from Miss Carolyn Hackman
Forest Bumgarner from Mr. and Mrs. Wayne B. Bumgarner
Tom Busalacchi, Jr. from Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Martin
Bill Cameron from Dr. and Mrs. A. Alan White
Lorna Cibulka from Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Martin
Bertie Cleino from Ms. Eloise Mae Turner, Mrs. Barbara H. Collie
Donald Coultas from Mrs. Virginia S. Coultas
Timothy L. Cramer from Mrs. Nan L. Bartelson
Jesse D. and Letha R. Dunn from Mr. and Mrs. Ray W. Dunn
Ralph E. DuRain from Mr. and Mrs. Rolland DuRain
Ann E. Ewing from Mr. and Mrs. W. William Young, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan

H. Scharp, Mr. and Mrs. Perry E. Ewing, Mrs. Sidney J. Kimbell, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Orr, Ms. Myrt A. Rollins, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Redington, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Brubaker, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory A. Marshall, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Nicolai, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Al Litteken, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dowell, Republic Roofing Company, Inc., Mr. Michael C. Curran, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Frevert, Ms. Mary L. Ehrler, St. Joseph Hospital – Kirkwood, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cain
Gilbert Gehrenbeck from Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Wahlstedt
Coral Crandall Hodde from Mrs. Kathlyn Flaten
Wilbur and Mary Kratzer from Mary C. Berghoefer
Mary Potter Kunkler from Mr. James E. Kunkler
Kenny Morris from Dorothy and Louise Miley
Aaron Powell from Mrs. R. J. Powell

Bruce Powell from Mrs. R. J. Powell
Mrs. Ray Roberts from Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. August, Jr.
Norman W. Springett from Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Reitz
Don Stuart from Dr. and Mrs. E. R. Walker
Mrs. John Walker from Dr. and Mrs. E. R. Walker
Betty Harms Whaley from Mr. and Mrs. Arnold G. Focken

SEPTEMBER HONOR SCROLLS

Glen Cameron from Mr. Robert L. Nichols
Wallace Dittrich from Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Crawford
Hayden and Sue Robinson Head from Ms. Lynda Lipscomb Wexler

OCTOBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS

Marvin H. Anderson from Mrs. Evelyn H. Anderson
Delora R. Broughton from Mr. and Mrs. Calvin A. Broughton
Ann E. Ewing from Mrs. Margaret R. Baker, Ms. Mi Ann Gwin
Marietta Kemper Holland from Mrs. Kathleen H. Rutten
Lucille Jones from McNairy County Farm Bureau, Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Griffin
Pearl Jordan from Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Griffin
Denzel Koontz from Algene and Dixon Graff
Elinore Mason McCarthy from Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Root
Mr. and Mrs. William Rex McKinney from Mrs. Fran Lundgren
Roy E. Nokes from Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Tuton
Dr. Harold Roberts from Miss Carolyn Hackman
Flavia Schmidt from Ralph E. Schmidt
J. C. Stewart from Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mounts
Fritzi Tanzer from Miss Carolyn Hackman

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.

Bill Tucker from Mr. and Mrs. F. Russell Zartler
Kenny Walker from Mr. and Mrs. F. Russell Zartler
John Ward from Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cassese

OCTOBER HONOR SCROLLS
Dr. Leonard Gittinger from Mrs. Mary L. Perkins

NOVEMBER MEMORIAL SCROLLS
Irma Adair from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Hall
Mary Lucille Crews from Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Schaffer
Doyle Hickman from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Hall
Coral Crandall Hodde from Mrs.

Kathlyn Hodde Flaten
Eleanor McCarthy from Mrs. Robert Werner
Katherine Miller from Mr. and Mrs. Flemon Miller
Josephine Mueller from Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Meredith
W. Henry and Pearl Nelson from Mr. and Mrs. George R. Shannon
Max Oliver from Mr. and Mrs. Flemon E. Miller
Louise Rosado from Ms. Rosado Wiseman
L. Edgar and Hazel Shannon from Mr. and Mrs. George R. Shannon
Clark and "Marian" Belle Singleton from Mrs. Mary S. Smith, Mrs. Ruth S. Kime
Fred Smith from Mrs. Mary S. Smith

Warren Stokes from Mr. and Mrs. Milton A. Wallis
Don Thomas from Mr. William F. Schreiber
Roxanna Wells from Dr. Janet Hesel, Dr. Elizabeth A. Jacklin
Irene Wright from Mr. John Wright
Joan M. Zeller from Mr. and Mrs. Albert Martin

NOVEMBER HONOR SCROLLS
Reverend and Mrs. Mike Bearden from Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Boggs
Reverend and Mrs. Johnny Dyer from Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Boggs
NAMES IN CAPITAL LETTERS REPRESENT GIFTS OF \$1,000 OR MORE.

PERSONALITY PROFILE

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Liaison, which he said was the "fun part." He helped coordinate major public events, and that allowed him the opportunity to work closely with President Bush and his administration.

Walther has worked in private industry as well as public, though. Soon after he finished college, he found a job as an engineer for Southwestern Bell.



Walther, wife Janice, and chorale students in Europe

Walther climbed his way up the ranks over many years, and by 1993, he was named executive director of regulatory and industry relations for the Arkansas division, where he worked seven years.

Then, in 1999, Walther moved to San Antonio, Texas, to work as the company's vice president for corporate services and as the chairman of the SBC Foundation, the philanthropic wing of the telecommunications giant.

"Working for the SBC Foundation has been one of the

most rewarding experiences of my career," Walther said with a smile of satisfaction. "There, I had the opportunity to evaluate charitable organizations and help them on behalf of SBC."

Besides serving on the SBC Foundation, Walther has continually been involved with civic and charitable organizations. He cherishes working for foundations that promote character, help people prepare for and find jobs, and ones that aid children and families afflicted by health problems.

Senator Doyle Childers, vice chair of the Board said, "Walther exemplifies 'service' through his dedication to his church and all the service organizations, like SBC, for which he works so hard."

Currently, he serves as a member of the executive board for Quapaw Area Boy Scouts and serves on the boards of the Sam M. Walton College of Business and Arkansas Easter Seals. He has also been involved in the Arkansas Policy Foundation, the Southern Technology Council, the West Little Rock Rotary Club, and the Little Rock Sertoma Club.

Most notably, possibly, is that Walther devotes much time teaching Sunday school class for the five-year-old age group called the "Kingdom Kids" at Fellowship Bible Church. He said he took on this challenge after seeing that his church needed help teaching.

But Walther is a pro by now with youngsters. He and Janice, his wife of more than 30 years, have two children and five grandchildren ranging in ages from five and a half to only a few months old.

God, family, and community—Walther values these things more than anything.

After taking a closer look at the Chairman, it is apparent that all things endeavored and all things achieved in his life mirror what the College of the Ozarks mission works to instill.

THE LAST WORD

A Special Trip to a Special Person

By Natalie Hinds

It is a rare occasion for someone to travel close to 2,000 miles just to deliver a birthday gift, but C of O President Jerry C. Davis did just that. On October 17, 2004, he made a special trip to Hemet, California. The intent was to visit Pearl Rogers, a dear friend of the College, on her 100th birthday and present her with a student-made, one-of-a-kind, stained glass clock. The students had crafted it with her initial, "R," surrounded by red roses.

Davis became acquainted with Rogers after she and her sister visited the campus about ten years ago. After her visit, they stayed in touch and became good friends. Originally, Dr. Davis had looked forward to Rogers visiting once again and the students gathering together to sing to her for the marking of her hundredth year. However, this was impossible; therefore, Davis decided to visit her instead.

"She is very upbeat, cheerful, likes people, and enjoys helping others," said Davis describing Rogers. Davis said he really enjoyed visiting this kind-hearted friend and had an enjoyable conversation with her. A

remark she made that really made an impression on him was, "It's not where you are in life, but rather how far you've come." Davis said he could definitely relate to this, when looking back on his struggle in his younger years.

When Davis gave Rogers her gift, she was "thrilled to say the least." He said that she treasured her new clock, not only for its uniqueness but for what it represented: hard work, strong character, and gratefulness. He noticed she had a large stack of birthday cards but only one stained glass clock.

Rogers is an outstanding woman who has been very gracious to C of O because she likes what she sees and hears. She has been particularly interested in improving the Student Dining Hall, which will become the Pearl Rogers Dining Hall. Renovation to that building will begin directly after McKibben Hall is finished, if not before.

Davis said, "I believe Mrs. Rogers is typical of many people in the greatest generation that support this school and are responsible for its financial welfare. It is these gifts that are making a big difference."

HOMEcoming 2004—FEELS LIKE HOME

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this year's homecoming experience to a close.

College of the Ozarks Homecoming is just a single day—a very short amount of time in which to pack four years of memories. It is a time dedicated to the thousands of students who have, over the past 98 years, made this school into the highly-regarded institution that it is.

"I helped build this school," said Ron Stanley. Every alumnus who

comes back for homecoming can say the same thing.

C of O students, past and present, can truly claim Point Lookout as home. They didn't just live here for four years—they built the walls, hoed the fields, and milked the cows. Some of them laid the foundation for

Jones Learning Center, while others began work on The Keeter Center. Those alumni, both old and new, are the reason that this school exists.

The College is proud to dedicate homecoming activities, even if just one day, to those people.

ON THE COVER: Historical photos capture students and leaders that helped lay the foundation for the highly-regarded institution that College of the Ozarks is today.

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