



A bi-weekly newsletter published by the University of the Ozarks Public Relations Office

New employees join University family

The University has welcomed several new employees to campus in the past year.

Chad Cox was hired as an Admissions Counselor in August. Chad is a 1998 Ozarks graduate.

Barbara Lindström joined Ozarks last September as Office Manager in the International Studies Office.

Ana Gentry, a 2004 graduate of Ozarks, joined us last September as an Admissions Counselor.

Louis Aszod, a 2000 graduate of Ozarks, joined us in October as Office Manager in the Jones Learning Center.

Coley Webb also joined Ozarks in October as Groundskeeper.

EmmaLee Morrow returned to Ozarks in November as Office Manager and Campus Visit Coordinator in the Office of Admissions.



Some of the new faculty and staff members at Ozarks include (front row, from left) Emma Lee Morrow, Ana Gentry, Kelly Bennett, Barbara Lindström, Rebecca Holt, Lynnett Krachey, Kody Eakin, Andrea Dixon, Glenda Ezell, (back row, from left) Dr. Donna Wake, Johnny Fitts, Coley Webb, C.J. Smith, Alexander Hausladen, Travis Smith, Steve Knight, Dr. William Clary, Mike Smith, Dr. Salomon Itza, and Justin Jennings.

Johnny Fitts joined Ozarks in November as a Maintenance Technician.

C.J. Smith, a 2006 graduate of Ozarks, is a Residence Hall Director as well as an assistant men's and women's soccer coach.

Nancy Benson-Nicol joins Ozarks as University Chaplain. Nancy received her B.A. from Swarthmore College and a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School.

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Ozarks named No. 1 in value among Southern peers

Ozarks has been ranked No. 1 in the category of "Great Schools, Great Prices" among Comprehensive Colleges (Bachelor's) in the Southern Region by *U.S. News & World Report* in the magazine's annual publication that analyzes institutions of higher education.

In the 2007 edition of "*America's Best Colleges*," released on Aug. 17, Ozarks was ranked first in the category of "Great Schools, Great Prices" among 105 universities in the South Region that are considered Comprehensive Colleges (Bachelor's). It is the second time in the past four years that Ozarks has been ranked first in the best value category. The value rankings evaluate the cost of attending a college or university relative to the

quality of the institution, according to the magazine's ranking system.

In the overall rankings of the universities, Ozarks was named a "top tier" university in its category for the eighth consecutive year. Ozarks was ranked 10th out of the 105 universities that fall in the Comprehensive Colleges (Bachelor's) category in the South Region. The overall rankings examine such criteria as academic reputation, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

"I am extremely pleased that the University of the Ozarks is again recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as being a top-tier campus in the Southern Region," said U of O President Dr. Rick Niece. "To

be ranked among the top 10 is a tribute to our faculty and staff and their unwavering commitment to the education of our students. Ozarks continues to be recognized throughout the region and nation as a campus of academic excellence. Most of all, I am truly proud of our being ranked as the best value in the South. To be ranked first among a number of prestigious campuses, comparing the quality of our education to the cost of that education, says a great deal about Ozarks and the tremendous value we are."

The South Region consists of colleges and universities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia and Virginia.



I love this time of the year. Beginning a new academic year and welcoming faculty, staff, and students back to Ozarks are always highpoints for me. During the past six weeks, the campus was too quiet and inactive. I hope that, by now, all of you are settled in and enjoying the teaching and the learning.

We have a number of new students and employees joining us this fall semester. Their being in a different place among people they do not know is not easy. Because we are a campus community of caring individuals, I ask those of you who are veterans at Ozarks – faculty, staff, and students – to go out of your way to help our new friends adjust and be comfortable. No one here should feel like a stranger.

Being at the University of the Ozarks is a privilege, the privilege of a lifetime. A major part of that privilege is our association with one another. I am glad you are here!

Dr. Rick Niece
President

Woodturning art featured in University's gallery

E.M. Willey will display his works in an exhibit titled Contemporary Woodturning as part of the University's Artist of the Month program for September.

The exhibit will run from Sept. 5 to Sept. 30 in the Stephens Gallery, located in the Walton Fine Arts Center on the U of O campus. There will be a reception to meet the artist from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, in the gallery.



A native of Hunt, Ark., Willey is a self-taught artist who began woodturning in 1989 following his retirement from the concrete business in Clarksville. He has turned more than 850 pieces, which includes bowls, vases, candleholders, bird-houses, Christmas ornaments and lamps. He uses mostly native wood, such as walnut, birch, dogwood, cherry and persimmon. He has displayed his works at art shows in Hot Springs, Subiaco, Fairfield Bay and Fort Smith.

Woodturning is a form of woodworking that is used to create wooden objects on a lathe. Woodturning differs from most other forms of woodworking in that the wood is moving

New Faculty & Staff, Continued from Page 1

Mike Smith joins Ozarks' Advancement Team as Director of Major Grants. Mike earned a B.A. from Ouachita Baptist University.

Kody Eakin joins Ozarks' Advancement Office as Gift Records Coordinator. Kody earned a B.A. from San Francisco State University and is married to Dr. Bill Eakin, Associate Professor of Philosophy and German.

Lynnett Krachey joins Ozarks' in the Housekeeping department.

Rebecca Holt also joins Ozarks' in the Housekeeping department.

Melissa Nichols also joins Ozarks' in the Housekeeping department.

Dianna Stepp joined us in February in the Housekeeping department.

Andrea Dixon will be joining the Advancement Team September 1 as Director of Major and Planned Giving. Andrea earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas – Little Rock and a Master of Law from the University of Denver.

Kelly Bennett joins Ozarks as Campus Nurse. Kelly earned a BSN from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Kay Merritt, Manager of Founder's Bookstore, will serve as Cheerleading Advisor this year.

Travis Smith is the new assistant tennis coach.

Justin Jennings, a Fall 2005 graduate of Ozarks, and **Robert Preli** are new assistant baseball coaches.

Jennifer White has joined Housekeeping.

Alexander Hausladen is the new assistant men's basketball coach. Alex earned a B.A. from University of Arkansas.

New Faculty

Dr. Glenda Ezell, a 1990 graduate of Ozarks, returns to Ozarks as an Associate Professor of Education. Glenda holds an Ed.D. from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Dr. Donna Wake joins us as an Assistant Professor of Education. Donna earned a B.A. from Hendrix College and her Ed.D. from Temple University.

Dr. William Clary joins Ozarks as Assistant Professor of Spanish. Bill earned a B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri.

Steve Knight joins us this year as a temporary Assistant Professor of Theatre. Steve earned his B.F.A. from Emporia State University and an M.F.A. from University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Salomon Itza joins us as Assistant Professor of Physics. Salomon earned a B.S. and an M.S. from Merida, Mexico, and a Ph.D. from Tulane University.

Changes to Positions or Titles

Promotions:

Joel Rossmailer is now an Assistant Professor of Accounting and Business. **Deborah Sisson** is now an Assistant Professor of Accounting and Business. **Dr. Sean Coleman** is now an Associate Professor of Biology. **Dr. David Daily** is now an Associate Professor of Religion. **Dr. Rickey Casey** is now a Professor of Business and Management. **Ed Harris** has moved from Admissions Counselor to Development Officer for Athletics. **Leanita Pelts** is now a Coordinator for JLC.

Around Campus



Student Government Association will be taking nominees for positions until Sept. 1. Elections will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 5 ... The first event in the **Omega Series** for the Fall 2006 Semester will be held at 7 p.m., Aug. 28, in the Walton Fine Art Center's Rowntree Auditorium. The topic will be: "Mary Magdalen: Saint or Sinner? Are You Sure?" Joan Baldrige, who recently completed a master's degree in medieval art history from New York University, and University Chaplain Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol will be the guest presenters. Convo Credits will be available ... **Intramural sand volleyball** sign-ups are currently underway in the Student Center. The deadline to sign up for the four-on-four, coed event in Aug. 30 ... The **Mabee Gym athletic facility**, including the weight room, pool, racquetball courts and basketball court, will be open for general recreation from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. (pool: 6:30 to 9 p.m.) on Monday through Thursday. On the weekends, the facility is open from noon to 3:30 p.m.... In observance of **Labor Day**, all campus offices will be closed and there will be no classes on Monday, Sept. 4.

Get to know...

Mike Smith, who recently joined Ozarks as the Director of Major Grants, received his degree in accounting from Ouachita Baptist University. Smith has two sons: Mark, a 2005 Ozarks' graduate, and Chad, a senior at Harding University. Before coming to Ozarks, Smith worked in the health care and banking profession.

What brought you to Ozarks?
My son Mark graduated in 2005, and we have wanted to move here for the last couple of years. This is a nice town with a great college atmosphere.

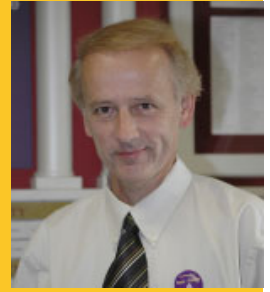
When is your birthday?
January 22.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to golf and travel Arkansas and the surrounding area.

What are some interesting things about you that most people don't know?
I played golf for Ouachita Baptist University, and I taught 19-25 year olds in Sunday school. I've also coached little league baseball and youth basketball and we were the host family to (former Ozarks Walton Scholar) Carlos Bethancourt from 2001 to 2005.

What is your favorite restaurant?

Mike Smith Director of Major Grants



Susans in Clarksville.

What are the best movies you have seen?

Shane, The Sting, Raiders of the Lost Ark, and Rocky I.

What word(s) describes you best?
Easy-going.

What is your favorite genre of music?
Primarily Christian, but I do like The Beatles and soul music.

Describe some of your favorite childhood memories.

Going hunting with my dad, playing football in the streets of my neighborhood, and playing golf all day as a teenager.

What is something that makes you smile?

When my family is happy and when I see young people in the critical age of 19-25 make positive choices that enhance their character rather than diminish it. A good quote I heard once, "One day can make your life, one day can ruin your life, and three or four days can change everything."

Trips to Australia, Italy planned

Now is the time to be thinking about taking part in Study Abroad trips to Australia and Italy, which are planned for the Spring 2007 Semester.

There will be an organizational meeting at 6 p.m., Aug. 30, in the Walton Fine Arts Center for anyone interested in the Ozarks Abroad Trip to Australia. The trip will take place over Spring Break in 2007, and will consist of a 13-day tour of the main geographical areas of Australia, including New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

Theatre professor Bruce Brown is one of the organizers of the trip to Australia.

Following graduation in May, there will be an Ozarks Abroad trip to Italy where students will get to explore the Sistine Chapel in Rome, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and other famous landmarks. Anyone interested should contact Dr. Bill Eakin in the Walton Fine Arts Center, Room 219, Ext. 1457 or by e-mail at beakin@ozarks.edu.

Contact Us

If you or your organization would like to submit information for the *Campus Communique*, please bring it by the Public Relations Office, located in the Mabee Administration Building, or contact editor Tiffany Rose at trose@ozarks.edu or (479) 849-5238.

Calendar of Events

August

- 28 Last day to register for classes
- 29 Chapel, 11 a.m.
- 30 Ozarks Live/RPI, 6:30 Smith-King Plaza

September

- 1 Soccer (H), 2 p.m./ (A) 3 p.m.
- 2 Soccer (H), 2
- 3 Soccer (A), 1 p.m.
- 4 Labor Day Holiday-No class
- Soccer (H), 2 p.m.
- 5 Chapel, 11 a.m.
- New Student Dinners begin, 5:30
- 8 Texas Holdem Tournament, 6 p.m. SC
- 9 Soccer (A), 1 p.m./ (H) 3 p.m.
- CAB Outdoor Event, 4 p.m. Mall
- 10 Soccer (A), 1 p.m.

Eagles counting on defense to carry them in '06

The 2006 version of the men's soccer team will again feature a stout defensive unit, giving the Eagles a chance of returning to the American Southwest Conference playoffs for a seventh consecutive season.

Ozarks returns their major components from its 2005 record-setting defensive team. A total of six starters are back, with four of those earning All-Conference honors last season. Defensively, the Eagles allowed only 11 goals in league play and recorded 11 shutouts, tying an ASC record. The team also set a new school record for fewest goals allowed (19).

"Defense is our strength," said head coach Dave De Hart. "We always want to start with defense and I'm comfortable with this area of the team. We have three starters in the back returning, two of which were All-Conference players. Overall this group is experienced and solid."

The Eagles benefit with the return of All-Conference goalkeeper Brian Sarber. Sarber, a sophomore, led the ASC in goals against average (0.82) and finished 13th in NCAA III in that category. He accumulated six shutouts while collecting 97 saves.

While the Eagles are strong defensively, De Hart believes



Jared Gordon



Ryan Skelly

his team needs to improve on the offensive end.

"Scoring goals is my biggest worry at this point," said De Hart, who owns a 90-46-10 record in seven seasons at Ozarks. "We have to put the ball in the back of the net. But, that was my biggest concern at the end of last season. So we made a big effort to address that with our recruiting and I think we have. I expect some of these freshman to score some goals."

Seniors Ryan Skelly and Jared Gordon finished second and third, respectively, on the team in points last year. The midfield will see a considerable amount of competition for playing time, according to De Hart. Junior midfielder Jason Caskey started in 20 matches last season and sophomores Wilson Jones and Sebastian Teeling saw plenty of action last season. Junior Nate Abbott returns to the midfield after playing in just one match due to an injury in 2005. Other starters returning are defenders Darren Clark and Dan De Hart, both of whom received All-Conference recognition last season.

The 2005 Eagles finished with a 13-4-5 overall record and an 8-2-3 league mark and made the ASC championship match for the fourth time in the past six seasons.

Lady Eagles reloaded for 2006

U of O head women's soccer coach Justin Neese has reloaded his 2006 team with a large crop of incoming freshmen, giving the Lady Eagles a solid group of young and old to provide Ozarks with an optimistic outlook for the upcoming season.

Neese's team returns seven starters and he expects immediate help from 13 talented incoming players.

"This is the biggest recruiting class in the program's history, and in my opinion it is also the best," said Neese, who is entering his second season at Ozarks. "I think they can come in, considering they work hard during the preseason, and play this season as well as the majority of their four years here. They are very driven and dedicated kids. They want to be successful here. I'm tremendously excited about our freshman class."



Jessalyn Halstead

Ozarks finished the 2005 season with a 3-15-0 overall record and a 3-10-0 mark in league play. "In a lot of ways, this is the first year of a brand new program," said Neese. "I think that is how the freshmen and returning players should look at it. We are doing the work to build a strong program and now we have the tools to be successful in our building."

Aside from an influx of newcomers, Neese can count on starters Katie Adan, Amanda Bohon, Emma Cantele, Mandi Carter, Olivia Fisher, Jessalyn Halsted and Ember Smith returning for game experience.

Eagles & Lady Eagles 2006 Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
9/1 (W)	Lambuth University	Home	2:00 p.m.
9/1 (M)	Menlo College	Away	3:00 p.m.
9/2 (W)	Central Bible College	Home	2:00 p.m.
9/3 (M)	UC Santa Cruz	Away	1:00 p.m.
9/4 (W)	Mid-Am. Christian	Home	2:00 p.m.
9/6 (M W)	Hendrix College	Home	4:00, 2:00 p.m.
9/9 (W)	Agnes Scott College	Away	1:00 p.m.
9/9 (M)	Bacone College	Home	3:00 p.m.
9/10 (W)	Oglethorpe University	Away	1:00 p.m.
9/15 (M W)	Univ. of Texas-Tyler	Away	4:00, 2:00 p.m.
9/16 (M W)	Concordia-Austin	Away	4:00, 2:00 p.m.
9/19 (M)	Harding University	Away	4:00 p.m.
9/23 (M W)	Univ. of Texas-Dallas	Home	4:00, 2:00 p.m.
9/24 (M W)	Austin College	Home	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
9/29 (M W)	Louisiana College	Home	4:00, 2:00 p.m.
9/30 (M W)	Mississippi College	Home	4:00, 2:00 p.m.
10/6 (M W)	McMurry University	Away	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/7 (M W)	Hardin-Simmons Univ.	Away	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/13 (M W)	Mary Hardin-Baylor	Home	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/14 (M W)	Howard Payne Univ.	Home	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/20 (M W)	Schreiner University	Away	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/21 (M W)	Texas Lutheran Univ.	Away	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/27 (M W)	LeTourneau University	Home	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/28 (M W)	E Texas Baptist Univ.	Home	3:00, 1:00 p.m.
10/31 (M)	Central Baptist College	Home	2:00 p.m.
11/3-5 (M W)	ASC Championship Tournament*		