Mrs. Helen R. Walton Launches Promise of Excellence With $20 Million Lead Gift
With luck we may, during the course of a lifetime, come in contact with a handful of individuals who truly influence our lives. I have been blessed with my share of influencers, but none has had the impact of Mrs. Helen Robson Walton. From our very first meeting, Mrs. Walton touched my life in a way that few others have.

In the fall of 1996, I applied for the presidency at Ozarks. The ensuing series of interviews, over a period of several months, were comprehensive and intense. All members of the search committee were well prepared and knew what they were looking for in a president. The fifth and final interview was with Mrs. Walton, and Sherée was asked to accompany me. We were nervous beyond adequate description. Meeting with Helen Walton, widow of Mr. Sam and half of the amazing Wal*Mart story, was a daunting proposition.

When we arrived at the room for our interview – a suite on the 31st floor of the Dallas Airport Hyatt Regency – the door was opened slightly. Standing a few feet inside was Mrs. Walton. Our eyes met, she smiled and winked at us both, and the anxiety melted away. At that moment I experienced the essence of Helen Walton, the magic of Helen Walton: her uncanny ability to make even the most common of us feel comfortable. The interview went well, and I was offered the most rewarding position in my long career as an educator.

The influence of Mrs. Walton and her family on the University of the Ozarks was evident long before I became president and will continue long after I leave. The Walton International Scholarship Program (1985), Walton Fine Arts Center (1987), The Hazel Carr Robson Scholarship (1988), Robson Library (1996), and the generous gift to start the $60 million “To Preserve The Pride, To Keep The Promise” Campaign (1998) are remarkable milestones in Ozarks’ history. Mrs. Walton’s mark on this campus is a mark of interminable distinction.

The gift to begin our new comprehensive “Promise of Excellence” Campaign comes from the heart of a generous lady who loves Ozarks and believes strongly in our mission, To Provide The Best Education Possible For Each Student Every Time. Her faith in how we educate students is a moving tribute to our campus.

Yes, Mrs. Walton touched my life at our first meeting, and she continues to touch all of us at Ozarks. Her touch will endure and grace our students for generation after generation after generation. Thank you, Mrs. Walton, thank you. That touch means more than I can ever express.

Dr. Rick Niece

President
Today, SPRING/SUMMER 2006

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ON THE COVER:
Ozarks received a wonderful blessing in February when it was announced that Mrs. Helen R. Walton had made a $20 million gift to the university. The gift kicked off the $40 million Promise of Excellence Campaign.

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Mrs. Helen R. Walton poses for a photo with several Walton Scholars in this late 1990s photo. The 2005-2006 academic year marked the 20th anniversary of the Walton International Scholarship Program, which Helen and her late husband, Sam Walton, started in 1985.

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University of the Ozarks
Volume 25 Number 1 Spring/Summer 2006
Mrs. Helen R. Walton of Bentonville, Ark., made Valentine’s Day 2006 a day to remember at University of the Ozarks.

University officials announced on Feb. 14 that Walton had made a $20 million gift to the university. More than 500 faculty, staff, students, friends and alumni gathered in Raymond Munger Memorial Chapel to hear the gift announcement from Ozarks President Dr. Rick Niece.

The gift launched a broader fundraising campaign in which the university will seek an additional $20 million in philanthropic support. The five-year, $40 million PROMISE OF EXCELLENCE Campaign will fulfill key elements of the institution’s long-range strategic plan.

The university had raised more than $21.6 million in the campaign by the end of May 2006.

The widow of Wal-Mart founder Sam M. Walton, Helen Walton is a longtime supporter of Ozarks and has served as chair of the university’s board of trustees. She has been the honorary lifetime chair of the board since 1984 and a member of the board since 1975.

In making the announcement of the gift, Niece told the gathering that the donation “comes from the heart of a generous lady.”

“Mrs. Walton’s faith in how we educate students here is a moving tribute,” Niece said. “This gift is consistent with Mrs. Walton’s long and active involvement with Ozarks and her love for our campus. Her touch will endure and grace our students for generation after generation.”

Executive Vice President Steve Edmisten said “this is a day that will launch the university on its next grand wave toward academic excellence.”

The overflow crowd erupted into a standing ovation when Niece thanked Walton for her commitment to U of O. “Mrs. Walton, this campus loves you,” he said. “Please join me in an applause that can be heard all the way to Bentonville.”

“Mrs. Walton, this campus loves you. Please join me in an applause that can be heard all the way to Bentonville.”

Walton’s lead gift provides dramatic enhancements to the university’s academic programs and creates a Teacher Education Program of Excellence that emphasizes the linkages between teacher education and other academic disciplines at the university. Another component of the gift builds up the general endowment to support all university departments.

Specific elements of the gift include the creation of three new professorships and two new technical support positions, and the strengthening of one of the university’s existing professorships.

The new faculty positions include professorships in science education, business education and computer sciences. The gift also provides an endowment for the chairman’s position in the teacher education division.

In addition, the gift provides for a coordinator of instructional technology to better link current and coming advances in computerized educational technology with the practice of teaching.

A director of institutional research will be added to closely monitor the teacher education program’s performance, as well as that of the entire institution.

The gift also provides funding for the early identification and recruitment of prospective teacher education students. A competitive loan/scholarship fund will be created to assist students seeking their teaching licensure and to encourage the program’s graduates to teach in Arkansas.

“This gift further enhances the university’s already excellent academic program and will benefit the entire state of Arkansas as more and better educators enter our state’s school systems,” said Niece.

The university’s teacher education division is based in the campus’ new Walker Hall building. Walker Hall, opened in 2003, was made possible through a gift from Pat Walker and her late husband, Willard, of Springdale, Ark.

The $20 million gift is the second-largest in the university’s 173-year history.

In October of 1998, the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation gave Ozarks $39.5 million as the lead gift of the $55 million Pride and Promise Campaign. The university ended up raising more than $60 million in the Pride and Promise campaign.
Supporting Promise of Excellence and ...

Honoring a Loved One

By Steve Edmisten
Executive Vice President

As Ozarks enters the Promise of Excellence Campaign, many of the University’s alumni and friends are giving thought to how they might support the campaign. Consistent with the university’s long-range strategic plan, gifts for outright support (including the Annual Scholarship Fund), endowments, capital improvements, and equipment enhancements will count toward the $40 million campaign goal.

Endowed scholarships at Ozarks are a wonderful, enduring way to honor or memorialize someone you care about, and, for many alumni and friends of the university, they stand as a testament to the enduring love and respect they have for the institution.

When working with individual donors to help them determine how they might best help Ozarks, the university’s first concern is, “What is in the best interest of the donor.” When we work with our supporters we always look for the gift vehicles that protect or enhance their financial security, and that provide the highest satisfaction in knowing their gift has indeed made a tremendous difference for the students we serve.

For example, in the case of recent graduates, retired persons on fixed incomes, or parents trying to save for college, gifts to the Annual Scholarship Fund (ASF) make a tremendous positive difference. Year-in and year-out, the ASF is the single most important philanthropic initiative of the university. Every gift to this fund, regardless of size, has a direct and immediate positive impact on students. Many of our ASF donors tell us their sense of satisfaction is just as immediate and positive the moment they drop their check in the mail.

Other supporters of the university find themselves in circumstances that allow them to make substantial, long-term contributions in the form of named endowments. Endowments may be established to support all sorts of academic and student support initiatives at Ozarks and can include endowed professorships, endowed program support for a specific academic area, or endowed scholarships. In fact, named, endowed scholarships have proven to be a particularly attractive gift option for many of the university’s supporters.

Named, endowed scholarships are easy to establish at Ozarks. Endowed scholarships at Ozarks are a wonderful, enduring way to honor or memorialize someone you care about, and, for many alumni and friends of the university, they stand as a testament to the enduring love and respect they have for the institution.

Bean siblings memorialize parents

The four children of Raymond and Lorena Vardaman Bean knew of no better way to memorialize their parents than by starting the Raymond and Lorena Bean Endowed Scholarship to aid future business students at the university.

Eddie Bean of Clarksville, Arvid Bean of Fort Smith, Loyce Ann (Bean) Taylor of Clarksville and Rena (Bean) Howe of Helena, Ark., established the scholarship with their respective spouses this year to honor their parents, life-long residents of Johnson County, who owned and operated Raymond Bean Furniture in Clarksville for 46 years. All four of the Bean children attended Ozarks.

“Our parents valued the university as being a very significant part of this community,” said Loyce Ann, who taught business courses at Ozarks after graduating from the university. “They believed in the mission of the college and the education it provided so much that they sent their four children to school there. All of us remember that it was never a question of if we were going to college. It was understood that we were all expected to go to college and graduate.”

The Bean children said one reason for starting the scholarship in memory of their parents was because their parents valued education and the opportunities it provides.

“We know how meaningful it would be to our parents to be identified with a process of helping to provide an Ozarks experience for other young people in a lasting and permanent way,” said Arvid.

By S t e v e E d m is t en
Executive V ice President

The Bean children (from left) Eddie, Rena, Loyce Ann and Arvid, established an endowed scholarship in memory of their parents.

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The Bean children (from left) Eddie, Rena, Loyce Ann and Arvid, established an endowed scholarship in memory of their parents.
At Ozarks, there are endowed scholarships that honor or memorialize parents, spouses, siblings, children, classmates, professors, friends, and even the donor’s entire family. Many feel that there is no better way to keep the memory of a loved one fresh, bright and vibrant. The same is true for endowed honoraria. It is difficult, in fact, to think of a better way of honoring someone or some group than through the establishment of an endowed scholarship that will help generations of young men and women realize their educational dreams.

That is exactly how an endowment is designed: To establish a fund of money that is invested in the university’s endowment and spins off scholarship awards for students every year, in perpetuity. The size of the annual scholarship(s) provided by the endowment depends upon the size of the endowment and upon the endowment’s performance over time.

Anyone can create an endowed scholarship by providing a gift for that purpose, of $20,000 or more, to the university. If you wish to establish an endowed scholarship, university staff will work with you to design an endowment agreement that conforms to your wishes. Many supporters choose to combine the establishment of a named endowment at the university with their estate planning by creating an endowment now and directing additional funding to the endowment through their will or trust.

Finally, some donors have the capability and desire to provide major outright gifts for capital construction or renovation, or to provide additional and/or upgraded equipment to the university. The university is looking for support to meet strategic construction/equipment needs. If you are interested in this component of the Promise of Excellence Campaign, or any of the other gift opportunities described earlier, just contact the Office of University Advancement at 479-979-1230, or email us at uopromise@ozarks.edu. We consider it a tremendous honor to help you fulfill your wish to help Ozarks’ students!

(Charitable contributions to University of the Ozarks are tax deductible as provided by law.)
Ozarks celebrates Class of 2006

“Everything that has a beginning has an end ... Neo.”

Those words, from the movie *The Matrix*, were repeated by Jorge Dieguez to his fellow classmates during University of the Ozarks’ Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2006, held on the campus mall on May 13.

Dieguez, a marketing and business administration major from Guatemala who graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors, spoke on behalf of the graduating seniors. The line from *The Matrix* helped set the tone for the ceremony, which was attended by more than 700 family and friends of the 118 graduating seniors.

“Everything that has a beginning has an end, my friends,” he said. “It is sad, but the good thing to remember is that every end is the beginning of something else. In this case, something even better.”

Dieguez, a Walton International Scholar, also thanked Mrs. Helen Walton of Bentonville, Ark., for her long time support of the University.

“Without her kindness and willingness to give, many of us would not be here today,” he said of Walton, who was not at the ceremony. “Through her humble and caring heart, and the love she feels for U of O, she has donated many gifts to this campus, including the Walton Fine Arts Center and Robson Library. Most recently, her $20 million gift to this campus reaffirms her long-lasting commitment to Ozarks. I learned something very special from Mrs. Walton: Invest in what is important to you, so that you can make it last.”

Former Arkansas Governor and four-term U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Bumpers, who grew up in nearby Charleston, Ark., had a sister, the late Margaret (Bumpers) Kahliff, who attended Ozarks and was a lifetime member of the Board of Trustees.

Bumpers told the graduating seniors to get involved in changing the world for the better and to support programs that can make a difference in this country.

“The deciding criteria for all political, social and economic programs should be, Does it strengthen our nation?” Bumpers said. “We are lucky to live in this country, and it is up to each and every one of us to ensure that it remains great.”

Other speakers included Dr. Elissa Heil, who offered greetings from the faculty, and Board of Trustees Chair Judy Borck of California.

Twelve seniors graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors (a cumulative grade point average of 3.85 or higher): Rebecca Alexander, Jose Barahona, Diana Confer, Seidy Cruz, Alfredo Garcia, Massiel Alejandra Garcia, Louisa Harris, Amisadday Ramirez, Courtney Schultz, Lindy Swatzell, Regina Understahl O’Connor, and Kendall Wagner.
Sarah Alderson, Forrest City, AR
Rebecca Alexander, Wickes, AR
Guisela Alfaro, El Salvador
Jennifer Alred, Ratchiff, AR
Latasia Armer, Alma, AR
Dale Ashlock, Clarksville, AR
José Manuel Barahona, Honduras
Kenley Barham, Van Buren, AR
Cody Bennett, North Little Rock, AR
Devon Bottoms, Prairie Grove, AR
Nathan Brown, Clarksville, AR
Regan Brown, Rogers, AR
Amy Bull, Clarksville, AR
John Burgess II, Winona, TX
José Miguel Calvo, El Salvador
Amberia Campbell-Walter, Mt. Judea, AR
Dustin Cole, Jacksonville, AR
Laura (Allie) Conejo, Costa Rica
Diana Confer, Harrison, AR
Kristan Cousar, Russellville, AR
Seidy Cruz, Belize
Jorge Diéguez, Guatemala
Jonathan Dillon, Little Rock, AR
Mihajlo Djordjevic, Serbia & Montenegro
Christina DuCharme, Waldron, AR
Melissa Francis, Cecil, AR
Alison Fritz, Houston, TX
Alfredo García, Nicaragua
Massiel García, Nicaragua
Luc Godin, Canada
Chase Hale, Bentonville, AR
David Hamilton, Mulberry, AR
Chris Harrell, Plaquemine, LA
Louisa Harris, France
Rodney Harris, Lamar, AR
Brett Hays, Little Rock, AR
Brian Heckmann, Little Rock, AR
Mario Hernandez, Mexico
Evelyn Hernández, Guatemala
Caleb Hilton, Clarksville, AR
Mark Hoenninger, St. Louis, MO
Ronald Hogsett, McKinney, TX
John Honeycutt, Center Ridge, AR
Cristina Irigoyen, Panama
Adam Ivy, Mountain View, AR
Bojan Jankovic, Serbia & Montenegro
Mark Jelks, El Dorado, AR
Justin Jennings, Fort Smith, AR
Brad Johnson, Ozark, AR
Josh Joyner, Little Rock, AR
India Judd, Sapulpa, OK
Amy Kampfer, Rockwell, TX
Rebecca Kimball, St. Paul, AR
Cassandra Koenig, Inola, OK
Brittany Lockridge, Benton, AR
Michael Luers, Dallas, TX
Betsabe Luna, Mexico
Richard Lyle, Kerrville, TX
Ana “Gaby” Mata, Costa Rica
Preston McCormack, Harrison, AR
Isaac Middlebrooks, Viola, AR
Lori Moon, Rogers, AR
Nathan Moore, Benton, AR
Carolyn Moreland, Hagarville, AR
Matthew Moreland, Indio, CA
Nataly Mouakar, Costa Rica
Trenda Neff, Lincoln, AR
Paul Northcutt, McAlester, OK
Alicia Nowotny, Clarksville, AR
Lars Nyberg, Georgetown, TX
Rachel Oakes, Jonesboro, AR
Gina O’Connor, French Lick, IN
Linnea Oosterman, Ferrisburgh, VT
Cameron Osborne, Dallas, TX
Kari Overton, Rogers, AR
Blake Owen, Memphis, TN
Digna Palencia, Honduras
Felix Palencia, Honduras
Jay Patel, Clarksville, AR
Aaron Pierson, Allen, TX
Valerie Powell, Monticello, AR
Sean Pratt, Conway, AR
Amanda Pyron, Ozark, AR
Sergio Quiroz, Nicaragua
Amisadday Ramirez, Spain
José Manuel Reverte, Panama
Blake Rexroat, Gordon, TX
Nestor Reynoza, El Salvador
Tom Riermaier IV, Chicago, IL
Sean Riordan, Little Rock, AR
Lourdes Rivera, Guatemala
Brett Sampley, Lamar, AR
Victoria Sayarah, Van Buren, AR
Zach Schiff, St. Louis, MO
Brandon Schulterman, Scranton, AR
Courtney Schultz, Walls, MS
Marcella Serrano, El Salvador
Jon Shiron, Russellville, AR
Jacob Sibley, Searcy, AR
John Sloan Jr., Little Rock, AR
Cyrus Smith, Jackson, MS
Karla Sosa, El Salvador
Lindy Swatzell, Westwood, KS
Alejandra Tabora, Honduras
Claudia Tovar, Honduras
Tommy Trimble II, Wylie, TX
Hanna Tsegaye Asfaw, Ethiopia
Sommer Umholtz, Clarksville, AR
Cecilia Valencia, Mexico
Miguel Vásquez, Panama
Honey Verser, Prim, AR
KC Visich, Dallas, TX
Kendall Wagner, Waldron, AR
Hal Walfeld, South Lake, TX
Annie Wheeler, Knoxville, AR
Malcolm Williams, Jackson, MS
Ashleigh Withers, White Hall, AR
Sean Pratt came to Ozarks four years ago with plans to pursue a career in engineering. But all that changed when he had a chance to work several church and sports camps after his freshman year.

“Something just clicked working with those kids,” said Pratt, a math and education major from Conway, Ark. “After that experience, I knew I wanted to work with kids and have a positive impact on their lives. I realized that I seemed to have a good rapport with kids and that I could be a good role model.”

Pratt said his ideal career path would include both student ministry and teaching math in schools.

“I’m not sure which one will be my career because I love them both,” he said. “I’ll probably end up doing both in some way or another.”

An active involvement in the student organization, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, (BCM) led to an internship at First Baptist Church in Clarksville, where he has spent the past two years doing everything from mentoring kids to playing guitar in music worship to teaching Bible Study classes for students in grades 7th through 12th.

“I’m pretty straightforward and blunt with students, and I think they like and respect that,” he said. “I try to keep my classes fun and interactive, and I think that helps. My (education) major definitely helps in student ministry and vice versa. They really complement each other.”

Pratt, whose father and an aunt attended Ozarks, said his love of math comes from a “stubborn streak.”

“I enjoy the challenge of figuring problems out, and I really enjoy being able to work with kids and watch them figure out math problems,” he said. “I don’t like to fail, and I think that’s what I enjoy about math. You can work on problems until you figure them out.”
The verdict is in for record-setter

Brett Hays is leaving Ozarks as the baseball program’s modern-day career hits leader, but he is even more proud of what he helped the team accomplish.

The political science and pre-law major from Little Rock completed a stellar four-year career by helping the Eagles’ baseball team make a remarkable turnaround. The Eagles averaged just 5.7 victories the previous four years before Hays and the other members of the baseball Class of 2006 arrived. During Hays’ four years as a smooth-swinging first baseman, the Eagles averaged 16.5 victories a season.

“I think when I look back on my career, the fact that we helped bring respect to the baseball program is something that I will probably be the most proud of,” said Hays, whose 178 career hits shattered the former record of 151. “When I first got here, teams couldn’t wait to play us because we were an automatic victory for them. The class that came in in 2002 wanted to change that mentality, and I think we did. Now when teams play us, they know they’re in for a game.”

Hays, who also set career records for games played (153) and runs scored (122), won numerous athletic and academic honors, but the most prestigious was being named a two-time ESPN The Magazine’s Academic All-American.

“That honor showed that I took care of business both on the field and in the classroom,” said Hays.

Hays, who plans to attend law school at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock in the fall, said the long, sometimes slow pace of a baseball game was conducive to arguments and debates over the past four years, a skill that he believes will work well for him as a future attorney.

“If you ask any of my teammates, they will tell you that I love to debate and play the devil’s advocate,” he said. “We’ve had some great debates in the dugout over the years, and that’s one reason why I love law and the courtroom. In a lot of ways it’s like an athletic competition; you’re putting all of your skills on the line to win a case.”

This scholar has come a long way

Ana “Gaby” Mata was just 17 years old and had never traveled outside of her home country of Costa Rica when she arrived at Ozarks in the fall of 2002.

“I was scared to death,” said the communications and business administration major. “My English wasn’t great, I was very timid, and I had a hard time making decisions on my own. On top of that, I had never been away from home. I didn’t know what to expect.”

Four years later, the Walton International Scholar is graduating from Ozarks with Cum Laude honors and brimming with self-confidence and independence.

“My family and friends are pretty amazed about how much I’ve changed and grown here the past four years,” she said. “Ozarks has helped me grow and mature in so many ways, and it’s given me confidence that I never had before. Now I’m ready to take that next step.”

Mata, who was heavily involved in such organizations as PBL, SIFE and SFB at Ozarks, will take her communications and marketing skills back to help her home country of Costa Rica.

“I would love to get into something like the tourism industry or perhaps television production,” said Mata. “I really enjoy working with people, and I like the creative aspects of marketing.”

Mata spent most of her four years at Ozarks working with the university’s television station, TV-6, as both an on-air personality as well as a producer.

“The experiences I gained and the friends I have from working with TV-6 are priceless,” she said. “I think about the many, many hours we spent working on newscasts and shows. It was a lot of work, but it was also great fun. I learned a lot of valuable skills, but I also made close friends. Those memories I will cherish.”

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Music ensembles take show on the road

The university’s music department packed its bags and took its show on the road during a Spring Break tour that visited eight churches in three states.

The University Chorus, the Select Ensemble and the University Ringers displayed their talents to estimated combined crowds of more than 2,000 people at Presbyterian churches in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

Approximately 30 students and several other faculty and staff members took part in Spring Tour 2006. It was the University Chorus’ first tour in more than three years.

“The tour was an amazing experience for all of those involved, and I am incredibly proud of the students’ achievement,” said Dr. G. Mikael Lindström, the first-year director of choral activities at Ozarks. “We built a great sense of ensemble and family faster in that week than we had been able to do in the semester and a half leading up to it. The students realized that you become a better performer by performing. They also relaxed and allowed the music to develop and improve with each concert. In the end we all learned a great deal, not just about the music and performing, but also what we can do better next year.”

The musical groups practiced for 20 weeks leading up to the tour, which was the first for many of the students.

“I think it was a great way to build some excitement about the choir and get some publicity about what we do,” said Amanda Stang, a junior music major from Albuquerque, N.M. “We were able to share our music with new people, and it was very motivating. I think it will also help us recruit new students for the choir because a lot of people were asking about it when they heard about the tour.”

The Rev. Tom Ulrich, co-pastor at one of the tour stops, Central Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, praised the performers.

“Not only did the quality of their performance reveal musical excellence, but the warmth and grace that they communicated through their interaction with our congregation enriched our hearts and souls,” Ulrich said.

The tour concluded with a Homecoming Concert on campus in Munger Chapel on March 17.

Lindström said he hopes to make the tour an annual event.

“I would like to make it longer and hit as many churches as possible in a four-year period,” he said. “The Spring Tour of 2006 was a great and definitely satisfying benchmark, but the next tour will raise the bar even higher.”
New chaplain to begin Aug. 1

The Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol, who most recently served as the associate pastor at First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Ark., has been named the university’s new chaplain, effective Aug. 1.

Benson-Nicol was one of five chaplain candidates who were brought to campus for interviews by the Chaplain Search Committee.

“I have been involved with a multitude of searches during my career as an administrator, but I cannot think of another search that was organized more effectively and structured more inclusively than this chaplain search,” said Ozarks President Dr. Rick Niece. “I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who assisted with the search and provided input.”

Benson-Nicol earned her undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College and her Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School. She has been at First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville since 2003. Before that she served as a minister at First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Benson-Nicol has had extensive training in crisis care and spiritual counseling, and she believes that is an area where she can benefit the campus community.

“I’ve been trained as a Stephen Ministry Leader, which shows how to provide Christian care,” she said. “I will be there if students have a concern, need someone who will listen to them, or help them through a conflict.”

Benson-Nicol has worked with college students in the past, including stints working at Harvard University and Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

“My personality in dealing with students is authentic,” she said. “What you see is what you get. What students can expect is someone with a fun personality, who is non-judgmental and happy to listen.”

Tragedy strikes campus community

The university held a memorial service in Munger Chapel on Feb. 22 for Josh Leverton and Trevor Morton, two Ozarks freshmen who lost their lives in a car accident in Oklahoma on Feb. 16.

More than 500 students, faculty, staff and family members attended the service.

Leverton, 18, from Corning, Ark., was a member of the university’s basketball team. Morton, 19, of The Colony, Texas, was a member of the soccer team.

Morton’s funeral service was held in Lewisville, Texas. The family requested in lieu of flowers, that memorials be made to the U of O Athletic Department. Leverton’s funeral was held in Corning. The family requested memorials be made to the Corning Gymnasium Fund.

Ozarks By the Numbers

0 Number of hits by Mid-American Christian University against three U of O pitchers in a 1-0 victory by the Eagles’ baseball team on Feb. 7 in Oklahoma City. Pitchers Chase Hale, Tyler Gideon and Kyle Hudson combined for seven strikeouts and three walks in the seven-inning game.

29 Number of first-place finishers from Ozarks in the Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) State Leadership Conference competition, held in Little Rock in April. Ozarks won the Sweepstakes Award for the most winners in the four-year university division, which included colleges from throughout Arkansas.

6 Number of graduates from the Class of 2006 who list Little Rock, Arkansas, as their hometown, second only to Clarksville (7). The Little Rock graduates are Jonathan Dillon, Brett Hays, Brian Heckmann, Josh Joyner, Sean Riordan and John Sloan.

197 Total number of musical pieces performed by the university’s music ensembles during its eight-stop Spring Concert Tour in March. The University Chorus, Select Ensemble and Handbell Ringers performed at eight churches in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma during the tour.

26 Number of years Shirley Walker worked in the Housekeeping department at Ozarks before retiring in July. Her colleagues held a retirement reception for her in April.
A year ago, Lori Moon had never heard of the national Fire Corps program. This summer she will become that organization’s program coordinator.

Moon, a marketing major from Rogers, Ark., graduated in May and promptly headed to Washington, D.C. to begin her new job. Fire Corps is an organization that allows community members to volunteer their time and talents to their local fire departments in a non-operational or non-emergency capacity. Established in 2004, it is one of five programs under the federal government’s Citizen Corps initiative.

Moon first got involved in Fire Corps last year when, as president of the university’s chapter of Phi Beta Lamba, she helped organize PBL’s involvement with Fire Corps through the Johnson County Rural Fire District #1.

Moon and her fellow PBL members volunteered more than 2,000 hours of service, mainly in the area of fire safety education and awareness throughout Johnson County as well as neighboring counties. One of the biggest impacts they had was going to schools and talking to children about fire safety.

U of O students helped RFD #1 educate more than 13,000 people in safety awareness programs throughout the year. Their educational efforts helped the district reduce its fire related economic losses by 34 percent in the past year.

PBL’s efforts with Fire Corps was the first of its kind in the nation and it garnered both the university’s PBL chapter and Moon state, regional and national recognition. They were featured in national magazines, publications, videos and Web sites. Moon even made a couple of trips to Washington, D.C. to discuss the fire safety efforts with national leaders.

Moon said her efforts with Fire Corps has also made her a better citizen.

“Our community needs help with fire prevention and awareness, and it wasn’t until I got involved with this organization that I realized this and was able to do something about it,” she said. “Through Fire Corps, I gained social responsibility and recognized the need for citizen involvement in the community.”

Moon said she had no idea that when she got involved with PBL and Fire Corps that it would lead to an administrative position in the nation’s capital.

“It’s really been a wild year because so much has happened so fast,” she said. “Fire Corps has had a remarkable impact on my life. As a student, I have been able to put into practice the knowledge I gained in the classroom. Now with my new career, I am able to utilize my business skills gained from Ozarks, and go to work everyday doing something that I love and doing something that can help people. Through Ozarks, PBL and Fire Corps, I was able to achieve this.”
U of O students chosen for program in Ireland

U of O students Katie Mobley and Kate Schoenhals have been selected for the Irish-American Scholar Program, which sends American college students to study at universities in Northern Ireland.

Schoenhals was accepted to study animal science at Queen’s University in Belfast, while Mobley was accepted to study art at Belfast Institution of Further and Higher Education, said Arlene Torrens, spokesperson for the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, which runs the scholarship program. The program is open to all students who attend participating universities.

Both will study for a year, beginning in the fall.

“They’re just going to be plunked down in Northern Ireland,” said Dr. Elissa Heil, chairperson of the study abroad committee at Ozarks, which nominated Mobley and Schoenhals. “It’s going to be an adjustment, but they’re up for it.”

Mobley, a sophomore art major from Pottsville, Ark., said she’s looking forward to finding inspiration for her painting all over the British Isles.

“It’s so old and full of history,” said Mobley, who plans to travel through England and the Scottish highlands, as well as Ireland. “There’s a certain magic surrounding it.”

She will follow the tradition of past Ozarks students who have won the scholarship.

“I got to travel to about nine different countries and see in person much of what I had initially learned in the classroom,” recalled Jon Vance, a 2003 Ozarks graduate, who studied at Queen’s University.

Schoenhals, a junior biology major from Medford, Oregon, has twice been named Ozarks’ Biology Student of the Year. She works in a veterinary clinic near campus, and hopes to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine after completing her Ozarks degree.

The program also sends Irish students to study in the U.S., including two who came to Ozarks this current school year.

Board of Trustees approves changes for majors

The Board of Trustees approved changes to the academic majors in communications and religion/philosophy during its annual spring meeting in April.

The communications major will be split into separate majors — a radio/television/video major and a strategic communications major. The strategic communications major is geared for those students who wish to pursue a career in public communications.

The Board approved adding philosophy and religion as separate majors. The religion/philosophy major will also remain for those students interested in both fields.

“The two different majors within the communications program – radio/television/video and strategic communications – will provide students with greater focus and depth of study that will better prepare them for careers in their chosen area,” said Dr. Daniel Taddie, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. “Similarly, separate majors in religion and philosophy will better serve students who wish to focus on one of those disciplines in preparation for graduate study or seminary.”

Kendall Wagner (left), a senior biology major from Waldron, Ark., was the recipient of the 2006 Hurie Award, which is given to the outstanding senior. The award, named after former Ozarks President Wiley Lin Hurie, was presented by Ozarks President Dr. Rick Niece (right). The award is voted on by the University’s faculty members and goes to the senior who “has been an exemplary scholar, a campus leader, and a person of outstanding character.” Wagner is a member of the Alpha Chi honor organization and served as president of both the Student Foundation Board and the Residential Housing Association. He plans to attend the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and pursue a career in medicine.
Athletic Standouts

Caleb Hilton, a 5-foot-9 senior catcher/outfielder from Clarksville, hit .400 and set single-season school records in hits (68), home runs (13), RBIs (39) and total bases (122) in 2006. The grandson of long-time Ozarks Coach Lonnie Qualls, Hilton hit a school record 27 career HRs.

Brad Johnson, a 5-foot-10 senior guard from Ozark, Ark., started 92 of a possible 101 games during a stellar four-year career for the basketball team. The quick and durable point guard set a school career record for steals (232) and finished second in career assists (358).

Kennedy highlights 2006-2007 Walton Series

Noted environmental attorney and activist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., will speak at Ozarks on April 26, 2007, as part of the 2006-2007 Walton Arts & Ideas Series.

The theme of the upcoming series is Blue and Green: A Look at Nature and the Environment.

Kennedy, the third of 11 children born to Ethel Kennedy and the late U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, serves as professor of environmental law at Pace University School of Law and is co-director of Pace’s Environmental Litigation Clinic.

He was named one of Time magazine’s “Heroes of the Planet” for his success in helping the Riverkeeper organization in its fight to restore the Hudson River. The group’s achievement helped spawn more than 130 Waterkeeper organizations across the globe. Kennedy also co-hosts Ring of Fire on the Air America Radio network.

Boreham left behind legacy at university

Ozarks lost a good friend and long-time supporter when Rollie S. Boreham of Fort Smith died on Feb. 5, 2006, at the age of 81.

Boreham was a lifetime member of the university’s Board of Trustees. The Boreham Business Building was named in his honor for his support of the university and its business program.

Boreham served as CEO of Baldor Electric Co., from 1978 to 1994, helping the company’s net sales increase by more than 430 percent during that span.

“University of the Ozarks was blessed by Rollie Boreham and his wisdom, grace, sense of humor and generous philanthropy,” said Ozarks President Dr. Rick Niece. “He believed in Ozarks, our students and the business program. He dearly loved this campus.”
Rowbotham, Robinson announce retirements

A combined 52 years of teaching at Ozarks came to an end in May when Physics Professor Dr. Noel Rowbotham and Education Professor Dr. Betty Robinson retired from teaching.

Rowbotham taught a total of 27 years at the university, including the past three years after a 12-year retirement. Robinson has been at Ozarks since 1981, the first 10 years as director of the Jones Learning Center and the last 15 as a teacher education professor.

Rowbotham graduated from Ozarks in 1961 before earning his Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. His association with Ozarks as a student and professor has spanned almost five decades.

“It’s been a very enjoyable, very rewarding career,” said Rowbotham. “The students who I taught that have been successful, that learned something from me, that’s what I want to be remembered for.”

Before his first retirement in the early 1990s, Rowbotham taught both math and science courses. When he returned in 2003 to fill a void in the science department, he taught only physics courses.

Over the course of the past 40 years, Rowbotham has seen many changes take place at Ozarks.

“When I started teaching in 1964, several of the buildings were old army barracks that had been converted into classrooms,” said Rowbotham. After I came back from getting my doctorate, the campus was a completely different place. The science department had moved from the first floor in the old Hurie Hall to the new Smith-Broyles building and several new dormitories had also been added.”

Rowbotham, who was born and raised in Johnson County, grew up in a family that worked together on a farm, and it soon became one of his passions. Since the 1970s, Rowbotham and his wife, Charlotte, have run a cattle and poultry farm. They have three daughters: Dr. Greta Marlow, professor of communications at Ozarks; Cara Flinn, university Webmaster and technology liaison at Ozarks; and Andrea Little, a teacher in Lamar.

“Our farm was a good place to raise a family, and farming, just like teaching, has been a rewarding experience,” said Rowbotham.

As Robinson approached retirement, she felt more than satisfied with her time spent in the classroom.

“I have taught at four other places and saw a great need for better teachers in the field. I wanted to teach teachers,” said Robinson.

Robinson earned degrees from the University of Tulsa and the University of Central Arkansas before earning her Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas. She said her career in teacher education has been a fulfilling one as she has helped prepare hundreds of teachers for the classroom.

“I came to be a teacher for the same reason that it states on our business cards; I wanted to make a difference in at least one student’s life, and I feel like I have done that several times.”

Robinson said one of the most exciting moments during her years at Ozarks was getting to see the dedication of the JLC.

“This was a big deal for me because my mom came to see the ceremony, along with Helen Walton and Mary Anne Shula. They are special people to me and got to see me be successful,” said Robinson.

Robinson also said working for the center was a special experience for her.

“I got to see kids graduate who would never have had an opportunity and now they’re out and successful.”

Aside from teaching, Robinson has had another on-going passion for 20 years.

“I have four mules and love to ride them,” said Robinson. “They keep me honest and challenge me every day.”

Robinson has taken her mules to 12 different states and plans to continue riding more after retirement.

Robinson also enjoys writing and has had two non-fiction novels published in the past. One of her main goals in retirement is to finish a thriller novel she has been working on. She would like to hold a book-signing for it on campus.
**Vincent France**, a junior political science major from Little Rock, was elected by the student body as Student Government Association president for the 2006-2007 academic year during elections held in April.

Twenty-eight Ozarks students were named to the 2006 edition of *Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*, a national publication that recognizes outstanding leaders on campus. They include: Jennifer Allred, Devon Bottoms, Mandy Carter, Jodie Clark, Sirena Evans, Buddy Faulkner, Olivia Fisher, Lucia Gomez, Heather Hartlerode, Ron Hogsett, Kyle Hudson, Kendall Johnson, Chad Milligan, Lindsey Niertert, Becky Obermueller, Aaron Pierson, David Ray, Blake Rexroat, Fidel Samour, Kate Schoenhals, Marcella Serrano, Cyrus Smith, Ember Smith, Karla Sosa, Amanda Stang, Anna Jo Terrill, Nathan Williams and Lauren Wilson.

**Buddy Faulkner**, a junior business major from Durant, Okla., was elected state president of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) during the state leadership conference in April.

**Scott Smith** was named the new head men’s and women’s tennis coach at Ozarks in April. Smith, a USPTA certified professional, has served as an assistant coach at Ozarks since 2004.

Founders Bookstore Manager **Kay Merritt** was named the organization’s National Manager of the Year during its annual meeting in March. Founders has 26 university bookstores throughout the country. Merritt has managed the university’s bookstore since 2000.

**Biology Professor Dr. Sean Coleman** and Religion Professor **Dr. David Daily** were both granted tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor during the Board of Trustees’ annual spring meeting. Also, Business Professor **Dr. Rickey Casey** was promoted from associate professor to professor.

**Edward V. Smith III** of Dallas, a lifetime member of the Board of Trustees, was awarded The Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice by the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in February. Smith is a 1963 graduate of the law school.

The chapter of **Amnesty International** was named the university’s Organization of the Year during the Student Awards Ceremony in April. Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works to prevent violations of human rights by governments. The Ozarks chapter had 24 members and sponsored several events during the school year, including Globalization and Human Rights Week.

A scholarly article by **Dr. Daniel Taddie**, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, was recently published in *Minds Playing: A Festschrift for W. T. Atcherson* (Iowa City: Flenzo, 2006). The article is entitled “Scale and Gamut: Historical Definitions and Concepts.”

**Lee White** and **Chris Allen**, both of Clarksville and members of the Board of Trustees, were presented with awards during the Clarksville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce 2005 Awards Banquet in March. White was given the Legacy Award and Allen received the Pillar of Progress Lifetime Achievement Award.

**A team of U of O students won first place in a business case study competition in Rogers, Ark., sponsored by the Kimberly Clark company in February. The team included (from left) Alfredo Garcia, Miguel Vasquez, Jose Barahona, Sergio Quiroz and Jorge Dieguez. The Ozarks team defeated teams from University of Arkansas and John Brown University.**

The 2006 winners of the Alvin C. Broyles Outstanding Professional Staff Award, the Broyles Outstanding Support Staff Award and the Richard and Katharine Bagwell Outstanding Faculty Award were announced during the Trustees’ Award banquet in April. The 2006 winners were (from left) **Dr. Noel Rowbotham**, professor of physics; Ginny Sain, director of the Walton Arts & Ideas Series and community education program; **Vickie Alston**, computer services assistant; Louis Aszod, office manager for the Jones Learning Center; and **Dr. Betty Robinson**, professor of education.
When the first Walton International Scholars stepped on to the University of the Ozarks campus in August of 1985, Lourdes “LuLu” Rivera was a 2-year-old girl in Guatemala and Allan Arroyo was still 16 months from being born in Costa Rica.

Rivera and Arroyo are among the latest in a long line of students from Central America who have come to Ozarks in the 20 years since Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and his wife Helen started the Walton International Scholarship Program (WISP).

The recently completed 2005-2006 academic year marked the 20th anniversary since the program was established at three Arkansas universities — Ozarks, Harding University in Searcy, and John Brown University in Siloam Spring. The program pays full tuition, board and fees for 180 students (60 at each university) from Mexico and seven Central American countries: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Belize.

Arroyo, a communications major who just completed his freshman year, said receiving the scholarship was a “blessing for me and my family.”

“My family didn’t have the economic resources to send me to college, so to be able to come to the United States and receive an education is a great opportunity,” he said. “This scholarship is like a special blessing for my whole family.”

Arroyo’s story is similar to hundreds of Walton Scholars who have preceded him the past 20 years. Since its inception, 273 Walton Scholars have graduated from Ozarks, including 21

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Most, like Arroyo and Rivera, are first-generation college graduates in their family. Their goal is to make the most out of the opportunity to study in the United States and then to return home to make a better life for themselves, their families and their countries.

“I want to go back and improve the quality of life for my family in Guatemala,” said Rivera, a marketing and management major who graduated in May of 2006. “The education I received at Ozarks thanks to the Walton Scholarship will benefit me and my family for many, many years.”

More than 900 Walton Scholars from the three universities are back home in Central America making a daily difference in their countries in areas ranging from business to education to government.

“I’ve seen first-hand the impact the Walton Scholarship Program has had, and I think it’s exceeded even the best expectations of Sam and Helen and the Walton family,” said Dr. Rickey Casey, who has been the director of Ozarks’ Walton program since August of 1987. “Over the past 20 years, this program has made a very significant impact in Central America.”

The program has also made a significant impact at Ozarks and in the Clarksville community. Walton Scholars are regularly among the top students at the university. During the 2006 Spring semester, the Walton Scholars had a combined grade point average of 3.6, the highest semester group GPA in the program’s history, according to Casey. The graduation rate of Walton Scholars since its inception is an amazing 91 percent.

“The Walton Scholars have helped raise the academic standards at Ozarks for all students,” Casey said. “When you have several outstanding students at a university, I think it encourages and challenges other students to do better.”

In addition, Walton Scholars contributed more than 4,000 community service hours during the 2005-2006 academic year in such programs as translation services for hospitals and schools, business education programs, computer literacy programs and Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

“A big part of the Walton Scholarship program is that you’ve been given this wonderful opportunity for an education, and it’s your responsibility to make the most of it by doing well in school and by helping others,” said Daniel Chue, a 1990 graduate from Panama who is now a successful businessman as well as the first Walton Scholar to be named to the university’s Board of Trustees. “The scholarship literally changed my life. It gave me a great college education that has helped me through the ups and downs of my professional career. I will forever be grateful for what it has given me.”

The Walton Scholarship provides full room, board, tuition, fees and books, a $125 per month allowance and health insurance. It also pays for taxes on the scholarships and round-trip airline tickets from their home to the university and back.

“I don’t think there’s any other scholarship like it in the world,” Casey said. “A student who receives this scholarship basically has everything taken

WISP Graduates by Country
__Total U of O Graduates: 273 (From 1987-2006)__

- **Mexico**: 20
- **Guatemala**: 53
- **El Salvador**: 37
- **Nicaragua**: 38
- **Costa Rica**: 28
- **Panama**: 36
- **Belize**: 21
The Early Years

The late Sam Walton and Helen Walton of Bentonville, Ark., first began thinking about a program that would send Central American students to the United States for a college education in the early 1980s after several trips to Central America. According to Dr. Fritz Ehren, Ozarks’ president from 1981-1990, Sam was disturbed by the fact that Communist-bloc countries were recruiting students in Central America and offering them scholarships.

The 1984 Kissinger Commission Report stated that Soviet-Bloc scholarships outnumbered United States-sponsored scholarships in Central America by a ratio of 14 to 1. Speaking at a May 20, 1985 news conference in Little Rock announcing the establishment of the WISP, Sam Walton said he hoped the program would have an impact in Central America.

“Reports show that several thousand Central Americans are studying on scholarships in Communist-bloc countries,” Sam Walton said. “We would prefer that we get some of those students exposed to American schools and cultures … Helen and I are proud to be partners with such a program. We hope that the students will go home and be involved significantly in their economy in whatever field they choose to study.”

Ehren first heard of the scholarship program idea from Sam Walton in the early 1980s when Sam and Helen were staying with the Ehrens for a marriage retreat on campus.

“I remember driving Sam back to the Clarksville airport so that he could check on his plane, and on the drive he asked me what I thought about a program that would bring students from Central America to the United States to attend college,” Ehren said. “He wanted those students to have a chance to come to the United States and attend a college and learn about democracy and free enterprise. He asked me to come up with a proposal for a program where Ozarks would be the college.”

Several months later, Ehren presented the proposal to Sam Walton, who by that time had decided to expand the scope of the program to include Harding and John Brown.

Karen Duncan Bevans of Belize was a member of the first class of Walton Scholars that enrolled at Ozarks in the fall of 1985. Bevans had attended a junior college in Belize and was a few years older than most of her Walton Scholar classmates. Because of the hours she had...
already accumulated, Bevans earned the distinction of being the program’s first graduate in May of 1987.

Bevans, who is the head of the business development, marketing and quality assurance programs of a large telecommunications company in Belize, remembers the Walton Scholars fitting in quickly at Ozarks.

“The people at Ozarks and in the Clarksville community were very accepting of us,” Bevans recalled. “I think we all realized what a great opportunity we had, and we wanted to make the most of it. We were pretty serious about our academics, but we also had fun. I think the thing that made it so successful so quickly was that it was set up like a family at Ozarks. We had a great support system in place.”

In the early years of the program most of the Central American students were recruited with the help of pastors and ministers in those countries. Now there is a system in place that utilizes Walton Scholar alumni who screen applicants and narrow the list of candidates to a small number. That smaller group is then interviewed by the program directors from the three universities during annual summer recruiting trips.

Karla Alvarado Bolanos, a 1994 WISP graduate, helps organize the recruiting efforts in El Salvador.

“We look for students who have good English skills, who have done well in their academic work, and who might not otherwise be able to afford a college education,” said Bolanos. “It’s not always an easy job to narrow that many applicants down.”

Casey said that between 4,000 and 5,000 applications for the scholarship are received each year from the seven Central American countries and Mexico. Alumni committees pare that number down and interview between 800 and 900. Of those, approximately 150 are chosen to be interviewed by the three program directors. A total of 45 (15 for each university), are chosen each year for the scholarships.

“It’s very competitive and a very selective process,” Casey said.

Casey and the WISP directors at Harding and John Brown have developed an evaluation system to help them choose students they believe will be the most successful. They not only look at a student’s English proficiency, high school grade point average and family income, but they also evaluate that student’s leadership skills, determination, purpose, character, personality and fit. There is even a plan to begin a psychological profile test in the future.

“We throw all these factors into the mix when we’re choosing students,” Casey said. “The one thing we’ve done in recent years is that all three of the program directors have to agree on a student before he or she is accepted. I think that helps us remain objective and to not miss anything.”

While the program directors usually are the sole recruiters, Helen Walton made a recruiting trip to Central America with Ehren and his wife Juanita in 1989. Juanita remembers that although the accommodations were lacking in many of their Central American hotels, Helen did not once complain.

“She just went with the flow, and she had such a good sense of humor about it all,” Juanita said. “One of the things I remember is that in the first three hotels we stayed in, when we arrived they always had Fritz and my room ready when we got there, but for some reason they never had Mrs. Walton’s room ready. After about the third time of this happening, Mrs. Walton looked at Fritz and me and said, ‘Are you trying to tell me something?’ She was such a good sport about everything.”

Juanita also remembers how Helen took a special interest in all of the students she met.

“You could tell that she genuinely enjoyed interacting with the students,” Juanita said. “I think that was her highlight of the trip, getting to meet the students.”

Success Stories

Ozarks President Dr. Rick Niece attended a group meeting of the 180 Walton Scholars from Ozarks, Harding and John Brown at the Wal-Mart Corporate Headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., this past March. Jim
Walton, the youngest son of Sam and Helen Walton, addressed the students, thanking them for making the program a success and explaining the reasons his family supports the scholarship.

“After the address, Jim and his wife Lynne greeted each student individually, giving the students an opportunity to thank the Waltons for their scholarships and life-altering learning experiences,” Niece said. “Lynne later told me as she met each smiling face, she felt the love and gratitude not only of the students, but of their families in Central America. I agreed and said that the program will impact the students, their families and their countries for generations to come.”

Niece and his wife Sherée will be making their fourth trip to Central America this summer to visit with WISP alumni.

“We always enjoy the alumni visits and are proud of our students’ amazing success stories,” Niece said. “I can only imagine how proud Mr. Sam would be. The dream that Helen and he had has become a reality.”

Casey constantly hears stories from Ozarks’ alumni who are making positive impacts at home. One such alumnus is Jose Urias, a 2002 graduate from El Salvador who is working as the regional director for a company in El Salvador. He is helping pay the way for a younger brother and sister to attend college in El Salvador.

“Jose has told me that without the scholarship he would never have had a job that would pay enough to help out his brother and sister,” Casey said. “That’s an example of how one scholarship can help many people for generations and generations.”

Luis Caceres is another one of those amazing success stories. When he applied to become a Walton Scholar in the early 1990s, Caceres was living out of a cardboard box in the streets of Panama City. His mother had sent him to Panama City when he was in his early teens to fend for himself when she could no longer support him and his siblings. Caceres worked at a McDonald’s and sent money to his mother in rural Panama.

“When you think of amazing success

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“It’s the least we can do for the opportunity we were given,” Cruz said of the requirement to return home. “We realize that the scholarship was given to us so that we can go home to help our countries. To me, it was an honor to take my education back home and put it to use in my country.”

When the Walton Scholars enroll at Ozarks, they sign a contract to abide by all rules and regulations of the university and to maintain a high level of ethics and values. Casey also requires all Walton Scholars to take a Walton Ethics and Values Class that he teaches. Freshmen and sophomores take the class in the Fall Semester and the juniors and seniors take the class in the Spring Semester.

“For the younger students, we talk about things like homesickness, personal and academic values, and goals of the Walton program,” Casey said. “For the older students, we discuss issues about returning home, finding a job, and assimilating back into their culture. We wanted a way to be able to help the students work through problems that we’ve seen arise each year, and the class was a good way to do that.”

Many Walton Scholars credit Casey for the success of the Ozarks’ program. The time, attention and effort Casey has put into the Walton program and its students over the past 18 years is almost legendary on the Ozarks campus.

“Dr. Casey is the person who deserves the credit for how well the Walton Scholar’s program has done at Ozarks,” said Otto Mejia, a 2000 graduate from Nicaragua. “He always motivated us to accept the challenges, and then he provided the tools, resources and counseling to help us succeed. He’s the ideal director for a program like that because he cares about the students.”

Adriana Jasso, a 2002 graduate from Mexico, said, “Dr. Casey is a very special person. He spoiled me when I needed it, but he also got mad at me when I didn’t behave. Anytime you needed something or just needed to talk, Dr. Casey was there. He is like a second father to all the Walton Scholars.”

In 1990 Karla Marquez of Honduras (above photo) was the first Walton Scholar to be voted Homecoming Queen by her fellow students. Yesenia Laitano of Costa Rica (right photo) was elected Queen in 1995.

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The Walton Scholars program has helped make Ozarks one of the most diverse campuses in the region. That diversity has helped give the American students a new perspective.

“I think the Walton scholars have given the American students and faculty a perspective of appreciation,” said Casey. “We sometimes take for granted that we have a roof over our heads and food anytime we want it. I’ve had Walton scholars who have lived out of boxes on the streets of Panama City. That’s where he lives, and his family forages for food in the dump. The Walton Scholars have been able to open the American’s eyes that we have a very rich country, and we sometimes take it for granted.”

The Walton program has also spawned numerous friendships between Walton Scholars and American students. One of the requirements that Casey has is that Walton Scholars room with American students to help them get acclimated to their new surroundings.

“We met in our first semester at Ozarks; two guys from completely different backgrounds and who seemingly had nothing in common,” said Barahona. “We became really good friends. I even took him home to Honduras with me a couple of years ago and had a blast. Those are the types of friendships that would never happen if it weren’t for the Walton program.”

The Walton Scholars also play a major role in events such as the International Festival, an event where they cook native dishes and perform cultural skits and dances for the campus and the community.

“I think it’s important to be able to share our culture here,” said Rivera. “The International Festival was a way to bring a little bit of our home here and to let people see it.”

Most Walton Scholars pursue communications or business-related degrees, according to Casey. Those skills
are much more valued back in their home countries.

“The students have to go home for four years, so professional school such as law school or medical school in the United States is not really an option,” he said. “It’s not easy for a student with a degree in biology, chemistry, psychology or something like that to go back home and find a good job. Business and communications degrees have been very successful, though. And, we tell students that when we’re recruiting them.”

Jasso, who works as a national account manager for a large Swiss chocolate company, handles the company’s biggest account in Mexico, the 390-store Wal-Mart account.

“I’ve had the opportunity to apply in the real life many things that my business professors at Ozarks taught me,” she said. “I was ready to take on this challenge because my business classes prepared me. I deal every day with the concepts and practices that we learned in class.”

Silvia Arias, a 2000 graduate from Costa Rica who works for IBM in San Jose, said learning about business practices at Ozarks has made her a more marketable employee in her home country.

“The world is getting smaller and the more you understand other cultures and other people, the better off you will be,” said Arias. “I believe that’s the great thing about the Walton Program. It gives students an opportunity to learn about different cultures at a small college in Arkansas. The Walton Scholars learn about the American culture and American students learn about Central America. That can only be a good thing as the world becomes more multi-cultural.”

It didn’t take Bolanos long to realize how valuable her Ozarks degree was when she graduated in 1994.

“The day I got back to my country, I was offered three jobs,” said Bolanos, who has worked for the American Embassy in El Salvador since 1995. “The scholarship has a great reputation in Central America, not only because of the Walton name, but also because the alumni from the program are doing so well in their countries. And, I think that is becoming more and more so. As a matter of fact, I had three companies call me in May asking me for resumes from the 2006 Walton Scholar graduates.”

Over the past 20 years, the program has survived civil unrest in several Central American countries and the end of the Cold War. And even though democracy and free enterprise are now prevalent in Central America, Casey believes the mission of the Walton Scholar program is as important as ever.

“I think now the emphasis is on economic growth,” Casey said. “Many of these countries are still Third World countries. They need students who are trained in the U.S. and who can promote economic growth, be entrepreneurs, be educators and be in government positions. I think that’s where the students can have a major impact in their countries.”

Dr. Casey (far right) with one of the first Walton Scholar classes in the late 1980s.
When Sam and Helen Walton began the Walton Scholar program in the mid-1980s, they envisioned these graduates going back to their home countries and making a positive difference. That is exactly what more than 250 U of O Walton Scholar alumni are doing. Here are a few of their stories:

**Otto Mejia**

**Class of 2000**

Otto Mejia is living in Nicaragua and working as an operations manager for an epublishing company that provides Spanish translation and Web site services. Mejia, like many Walton Scholars, used his talents to benefit Ozarks during his time as a student there by helping to develop and implement the university’s first Web site. “At Ozarks, I got a chance to work closely with computer and network infrastructures,” he said. “I had a chance to learn and display my own creations in Web, photography and graphics publishing. The whole Walton Scholar experience exceeded my expectations and I was able to leave with so many different skills and experiences. Those helped me become a resourceful professional.”

**Ivette Chin de Velasquez**

**Class of 1990**

Ivette Chin de Velasquez is living in Panama and working as an administrative manager for a large law firm. Her responsibilities include being in charge of the accounting and financial areas as well as the human resources department of the firm. She is also the supervisor of the computer department. “The education I received at Ozarks set the course I needed to become a successful professional,” said Velasquez. “Being able to get an education from the United States opened so many doors for me in my country. The Waltons have made such a difference in Central America because of the opportunities they have given so many students.” Velasquez met her husband, Elmer, at Ozarks and they have two children.
Daniel Chue
Class of 1990
Panama

Daniel Chue (shown with his wife Julie Boatwright Chue ’90) is living in Panama City where he is president and general manager of Ruperto H. Chue, S.A., a sales organization that operates in the automotive aftermarket industry. He is also general manager of a new Panama-based company that develops autoparts for China. He said being a Walton Scholar “helped me learn the importance of understanding different cultures in business. I am who I am today in large part because of the Walton program.” Chue became the first Walton Scholar to be named to the university’s Board of Trustees in 2002. “It’s been an incredible honor,” he said. “The people at Ozarks are the constant that makes the university such a magical place. I experienced that 20 years ago when I first came on the campus, and I experience it every time I’m back on campus at Board meetings.”

Adriana Jasso
Class of 2002
Mexico

Adriana Jasso is in Mexico City working as a national account manager for Lindt & Sprungli, a large Swiss chocolate company. Jasso credits her four years at Ozarks for helping improve her English tremendously, making her a much sought employee. “Being fluent in English and Spanish is something that multi-national companies are always looking for,” she said. “Being able to study in the United States was a dream come true for me. I met so many great people, received a wonderful education, and was able to learn and experience a new culture. My four years at Ozarks were probably the best of my life. I thank God and the Walton family because they helped me accomplish my dream and change my life. My Ozarks education was essential in me becoming the successful person I am today.”

Carlos Bethancourt
Class of 2005
Panama

Carlos Bethancourt works as a DVD and home theater product executive in the marketing department for Panasonic Latin America, S.A. He develops marketing goals and promotion strategies for the company in its Latin American markets. “Ozarks offered the opportunity to apply classroom theory into real life projects, and that experience has been very valuable to me,” Bethancourt said. “Being a Walton Scholar gave me the opportunity to fully develop as an individual. I had a chance to better my English, meet new people, live in a different culture, receive a quality education, and broaden my horizons.”

Silvia Arias
Class of 2000
Costa Rica

Silvia Arias is a supervisor for a compensation and benefits team of eight employees for IBM in San Jose, Costa Rica. She said she uses the practices and principals she learned in her business classes at Ozarks every day. “It was extremely valuable to learn how businesses are different and how they are the same in different countries throughout the world,” she said. “The professors at Ozarks put an emphasis on globalization and how the business world is all inter-connected.” Ozarks also broadened Arias’ view of the world. “I had never been out of Costa Rica before receiving the Walton scholarship, and it opened so many doors for me,” she said. “It gave me a much bigger picture of the world.”
Francisco Drummond
Class of 1990
Costa Rica

Francisco Drummond is living in Costa Rica where he is the Latin America Regional Sales Manager for ICC Structured Cabling Solutions, based in California. When he received the Walton Scholarship in the late 1980s, both of his parents had recently passed away. “My future looked really uncertain at the time because I didn’t have the resources for an education,” he said. “I can never fully explain the impact that the scholarship has had in my life. The education I received and the people I met were truly a blessing. I am grateful for the opportunity I had at Ozarks and am proud of being a Walton Scholar and a U of O alumnus. From the bottom of my heart, muchas gracias to the Walton family and Mrs. Walton.”

Karla Alvarado Bolanos
Class of 1994
El Salvador

Karla Alvarado Bolanos is working for the American Embassy in El Salvador as the public relations director for medical matters. After graduating from Ozarks, Bolanos helped send a younger brother, Carlos Alvarado ’03, to Ozarks. It is the perfect example of what the Walton family had in mind when they established the program to help Walton Scholars help their families and their countries. “Being a Walton Scholar helped me raise the level of expectation of what I could become,” said Bolanos, whose husband, Walter, is also a Walton Scholar. “When I help recruit students for the program, I tell them it’s one of the greatest opportunities a young person can receive. It can open so many doors for you.”

Elsworth Castillo
Class of 1991
Belize

Elsworth Castillo is living in Belize City with his wife and two children and working as an internal auditor for Belize Electricity Limited. Castillo said being a Walton Scholar “gave me an opportunity to get a college education that I probably would not otherwise had.” Castillo, who is also a professional musician in Belize, said being able to participate in Ozarks’ music department cultivated his passion for music. “Even though I was getting a business degree, I was able to learn and take part in a wonderful music program,” he said. “Most of my fondest memories were spent in the Walton Fine Arts Center, in the music wing.” Castillo is active in helping recruit other Walton Scholars from Belize. “It’s the least I can do to give back to a program that was truly life-changing,” he said.

Claudia Cruz
Class of 1995
El Salvador

Claudia Cruz handles corporate communications for one of the top power generating companies in El Salvador. She credits the hands-on experience she received in Ozarks’ communications program for helping her succeed in her career. “When you get to actually run a camera and handle all of the aspects of a television production like we did at Ozarks, that kind of experience is priceless,” she said. Cruz also said the Walton program’s emphasis on business ethics has stayed with her. “A lot of people and companies do not practice good business ethics, but those lessons I learned in the Walton Scholarship Program and at Ozarks are always in the back of my mind when I make business decisions. I ask myself, ‘Is this the ethical thing to do?’ ”
What was the process of you becoming director of the University of the Ozarks' WISP?

I had been working at a bank and just left there and was working with the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office as a criminal investigator. Dr. Randy Hilton called me and asked me if I’d be interested in applying for an opening at Ozarks for the upcoming fall as an adjunct instructor in business. At the time I was working on my MBA at the University of Central Arkansas and teaching a night class in accounting at Ozarks. The opening at Ozarks was to teach 12 hours in business and direct the Walton Program, which had just started the year before. The job came down to me and another guy who had a Ph.D., and I thought that there was no way I would get the job over someone with a Ph.D. But I did get it. A few years later I asked (President) Dr. Fritz Ehren why he had chosen me over the guy with the Ph.D. Dr. Ehren said the fact that I had been one of the youngest presidents of the Alumni Association, just two years out of college in 1981, and that I had worked all summer, driving to UCA and to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, to finish up my MBA had impressed him. Dr. Ehren said the fact that he knew me and that I had shown that type of dedication made the difference in getting hired.

What were those first few years of the Walton International Scholarship Program at Ozarks like?

I’ll never forget my first meeting with Dr. Ehren. I went to his office, and I asked him what my job responsibilities were as coordinator of the Walton Scholars Program. Basically I was asking him, “What do I do?” He said, “I have no idea what you do. Just run the program.” I had been a banker, and I was used to having very detailed policies and manuals that told you what to do, but nothing like that had been developed yet for the program. All I had that first year was a list with 60 names on it. I even called the directors at John Brown University and Harding to get some help and advice, but the program was so new at the time that they didn’t know a whole lot either. We just did what we had to do. A lot of my education those first few years came from my students. There were a couple of students from Bluefield, Nicaragua, Grace Kelly and Alan Budier, and I talked to Grace recently and she said, “Rickey, we probably had to teach you as much as you were teaching us.” And that was true because I had so many questions about the culture and the people in Central America. There is an interesting story about Grace and Alan. When they were trying to get their visas to come to the United States at the embassy in Nicaragua, the guy at the embassy had never heard of the Walton Scholarship Program. So this guy picks up the phone and personally calls Sam Walton in Bentonville, Arkansas, and asks him if this is legitimate. Sam tells the guy, “Yes, they’re Walton Scholars. Give those kids their visas.” Well later that school year, Sam Walton is on our campus, and he makes sure to find Grace and Alan. He wanted to know if those people at the embassy had treated them well.
Grace and Alan said that for the next four years, whenever Sam and Helen Walton were on campus, Sam made sure to find them and ask them how they were doing. There was a rumor going around at the time that in Cuba they were making soap out of old people, and Sam would always joke around and ask Grace and Alan, “Now if I come to Bluefield to visit you, you’re not going to make soap out of me, are you?”

**How involved in the program were the Waltons during those early years?**

They were very much involved with the program. They always asked a lot of questions, and every time they visited campus they wanted to visit with the students. I remember once calling Jim Walton right after the Americans had invaded Panama in 1989 to take out Manuel Noriega. I told Jim that our kids from that country were scared to go home with all the uncertainty in Panama, and I asked him if it was OK to keep them here at Ozarks for the summer. Jim said, “No, Rickey. We’re teaching and training those students to help their countries. I don’t think there’s a time in history when Panama needs help more than right now. Those students need to be home.”

**When recruiting a prospective student for the program, what criteria do you use?**

When I first started recruiting, I would go by myself. And what I would do was call Presbyterian Churches in those countries and let them know I was looking for some good kids. And it was mainly by word of mouth. I would interview students at these churches. I wasn’t able to go to El Salvador during those early years because there was a war going on there. It wasn’t a detailed process like it is now. It was more like, tell me your strengths and weaknesses. As the years went on, the directors at all three universities decided for the sake of consistency to start recruiting as a team. I had been trained at Baldor Electric Company in interviewing, so I suggested that we use the more indepth interview techniques that I had learned at Baldor. So we developed a format and a spreadsheet where we began to look at such things as leadership, determination, purpose, character and personality. We also look at fit, meaning if you want to major in engineering or you want to be in a big city, you might not be a good fit for Ozarks. We also look at family income. The maximum a family can make is $18,000, but we don’t have a lot of those. We look at grade point averages and their English skills. We give a 100-question English test to each student, and we would like to see an 80 or above on the test. When I interview, I also listen for verbal proficiency in English. So we look at all those factors when we interview a student. And we do the interviews as a team. The good thing about this process is that if there’s a student I like, but the other directors don’t like, then we don’t bring that student. I think that helps us recruit better quality students for all three programs. We generally have to all agree that the student is a good candidate for the program before we take them.

**How would you describe the ideal Walton Scholarship candidate?**

The perfect prospective student is one who attended a bilingual school on scholarship. That almost always means that their family income is pretty low and that they are a good student. The other big thing that is usually a good indicator of success in college is grade point average. I like to see a 90 or above in high school grades. There’s a saying that goes, “Present grades predict future grades,” and I’ve found that to be very true. I’ve gambled on students who had a 70 average in high school, and they ended up with about a 70 average here at Ozarks. A student may be a good kid, have a lot of determination and desire, but in the end the high school grade point is usually the tell-tale sign of how well a student will do at Ozarks. But, saying that, I still look for the leadership and character qualities that I mentioned earlier. You need to find students with those qualities, but who also have the grades.

**What have you found are the areas in which international students have the toughest time adjusting?**

The two big things are food and transportation. It takes awhile for them to get used to the food here, and there’s no public transportation in Clarksville like there is in their home countries. They think our food here in the States is very greasy, and they’re used to a lot of rice and beans as well as fruit and vegetables. I hear complaints about the food all the time. I think just getting used to the size of Clarksville is an adjustment as well. I’ll never

**Continued on Page 30**
You require your Walton Scholars to share a room with an American student. Why is that?

We wanted the Walton Scholars to learn about the American culture as well as to help them improve their English. I think it’s worked out great. In all my years here, I’ve had very few complaints about roommates. On the other hand, I’ve heard many, many stories about how they became great friends and would go home with the American students during Thanksgiving or Christmas. They become almost like brothers and sisters. I know cases where the former roommates continue to keep in touch years after graduation.

Before you became the director of WISP, you had never traveled outside the United States. How many trips would you estimate you’ve made to Central America in the past 18 years?

I’ve probably done about 74 or 75 trips to Central America since I took over the program. I tell you how bad I was with geography when I started. My first year, I had these two Panamanian students who bought this car here and told me they were going to drive it home to Panama. I remember thinking, “They must think I’m really stupid. You can’t drive across the water.” I didn’t even realize you could drive to Panama. I really knew nothing about Central America, or what countries made up Central America, and I had no experience with other cultures. It was quite a shock.

What were some of the cultural differences that you personally experienced that took some adjusting?

One of the first things I had to get used to is that when you meet a lady, like a student’s mom, you give them a hug and a kiss on the cheek. You do that in the United States, and you’ll get sued. You hug the guys too in those cultures. That took me a little while to get used to. The parents almost get offended if you don’t hug them. It’s a very warm culture.

How successful has the Walton Scholars Program been in your opinion?

I think we’re just now seeing the maturity level of the program. We’re at the point now where alumni are making a difference in their countries, through free enterprise, entrepreneurship and democracy. They are teachers and educators. They are leaders in business and government, and in professional positions throughout their countries. We’re starting to see the impact we expected.
Hundreds enjoy Alumni Weekend festivities

University of the Ozarks rolled out the red carpet for more than 450 alumni and friends who visited the campus as part of Alumni Weekend 2006.

Numerous events, including a golf tournament, campus picnic, an alumni lecture series, a young alumni panel, and an awards luncheon, kept the visitors busy throughout the weekend.

“Alumni Weekend 2006 was a tremendous success with alumni from 1933 to 2005 coming back on campus,” said Ozarks Director of Alumni Relations Brandy Cox. “It is a very special part of my work to see so many faces come home to Ozarks. Our alumni have so much to share with each other and the entire campus community.”

One of the highlights of the weekend was when Marie Ingram, Class of 1933, received an Alumni Legacy Award during the Awards Luncheon. The 93-year-old Ingram, who grew up near the university, spoke about her love for Ozarks.

“The very first school I ever attended was on these grounds in 1918,” Ingram said. “I’ve watched this place become the great university it is today. God has blessed this university with some wonderful leaders over the years. This is truly a special place.”

Other recipients of the Legacy Award included Dr. Fritz and Juanita Ehren, Wallace and Carolyn Dobbins, Bruce and Virginia Williams, and the late Gladys Ruth Farmer.

David Rawhouser received the Alumni Merit Award, Don Kessler received the Alumni Achievement Award and Richard Gaston was given the Young Alumni Service Award.

Kessler, the head athletic trainer at San Diego State University, presented the alumni lecture series. Kessler talked about a career in athletic training that has spanned more than 30 years and included working at the Summer Olympics in Greece.

“I’ve had an extremely rewarding career, and I have Ozarks to thank for that, said Kessler. “I’ve had some wonderful opportunities in my life, and it started because of the education and motivation I got from this university.”

Among the alumni who returned to campus for Alumni Weekend 2006 were (left photo) James “Pete” Waldo ’56 and Carolyn (Johnson) Waldo ’58 of Branson, Mo., and (right photo) James Young ’56 and his wife, Betty, from Magalia, Calif. The Waldos, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2006, are both retired. Pete Waldo spent 33 years as a teacher and coach in Missouri. James Young retired as a Lt. Col. in the U.S. Air Force before becoming a vice president for a large insurance and financial services company in California.

The Class of 1956 was inducted into the university’s 50-Year Club.
Alumni News

1940s

Burl McCartney ’49 and his wife, Nancy, of Clarksville celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a potluck lunch on Sept. 17, 2005.

1950s

Dr. Bill Eddington ’55 and Charlotte (Felkins) Eddington ’56 of Paragould, Ark., celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Sept. 17, 2005.

1960s

Sylvia (Kauffeld) Kinnear ’66 retired on May 26 after 39 years of teaching elementary school in Green Cove Springs, Fla. She is the last of the Kauffeld sisters to retire from teaching. Sylvia, along with Freda (Kauffeld) Willett ‘52 of Tampa, Fla.; Wanda (Kauffeld) Shively ’54 of Fremont, Ind.; and Sue (Kauffeld) Duff ’63 of Clarksville, taught a combined 144 years. Their mother, Ophelia, died in March 2006 at the age of 103. The Kauffelds credit their parents, Fred and Ophelia, for their rewarding careers in education.

1970s

Karen (Hilton) Rossmaier ’77 recently joined the Clarksville Medical Group as administrator. She earned her master’s degree in business administration from the University of Arkansas. She and her husband, Joel, have four children.

Gwen Usery ’77, who retired in May from teaching high school English at Clarksville High School, was awarded the Clarksville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year for the Clarksville schools during an

Psychologist is a rising star in her field

Evelinn Borrayo is one of the top young educational psychologists in the country and she has U of O to thank for her success.

A 1993 Ozarks graduate who was originally from Guatemala, Borrayo has been an associate professor of psychology at Colorado State University since 1999. In 2005, she was awarded the American Psychological Association’s Presidential Latina Leadership Citation for Early Career Psychologists. She has also authored and co-authored numerous books and scholarly articles in the field and is considered one of the top up-and-coming young psychologists in the areas of health psychology and diversity.

“My passion for psychology developed from the exciting psychology programs at U of O,” said Borrayo, who lives in Colorado Springs with her brother and another U of O grad, Boris. “I was particularly mentored by Dr. Tom Stephenson to pursue a career in psychology, particularly clinical psychology with a specialty in health psychology. Dr. Stephenson was the inspiration for me to become a psychologist, and all the professors at Ozarks required the highest academic standards that pushed me.”

After graduating from Ozarks, Borrayo earned her master’s and doctorate from the University of North Texas. It was there that she developed an interest in working with ethnic minorities and women.

“My master’s thesis chair, Dr. Charles Guarnaccia, had a program of research that focused on preventative health behaviors, such as breast cancer screening among older women. My contributions to his research team was a focus on Hispanic women and their breast cancer screening behaviors. I became interested in this ethnic group because of the higher breast cancer mortality rates that exist for Hispanic women.”

Borrayo’s research into the breast cancer and health screening behaviors of Hispanic women continued through her doctoral research as well as in her professional career. She has written numerous articles on the subject and continues to investigate the issue through her association with CSU and as a researcher with the Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging.

Another interest of Borrayo’s is in the area of teaching diversity and multiculturalism. She has co-authored two books on the subject, including “147 Tips for Teaching Diversity.”

“I really enjoy teaching because it allows me to mentor students who will be serving their communities upon graduation,” she said. “I enjoy helping students reach their highest potential and become well-qualified young professionals.”

Borrayo said her years at Ozarks helped her appreciate and understand the importance of diversity.

“I was always treated with the highest respect at U of O,” she said. “Being from a different country, I was treated very nicely by other students, the faculty and the administration. The Clarksville community, including many local churches, were always very embracing and supportive of international students. That helped me see that diversity and multiculturalism are very important in this world.”
Alumni News

David McGinnis ’82 recently completed his 17th season as head baseball coach at Springdale (Ark.) High School. McGinnis, a former standout pitcher for Ozarks in the early 1980s, also serves as an assistant football coach. In the fall of 2005, McGinnis helped the Bulldog football team win the Arkansas Class AAAAA state championship.

Amanda Pyron ’06 and Hector Ramon Lara ’05 were married on April 22, 2006, in Honduras at the Palma Real Hotel and Resort. The couple live in Honduras, where Amanda teaches kindergarten and Hector is a financial analyst for Dole Standard Fruit Company.

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Alumni News

As deputy communications director on the campaign to re-elect Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Matt had previously served as a special assistant attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Matt has hired two current U of O students, David Ray and Daniel DeHart, to work on the campaign over the summer.

Toby Jackson ’01 married on April 1, 2006. He and his wife, Jennifer, are living in Reston, Va.

Kelly Geigle ’01 is living in Bentonville, Ark., and is working as manager for The Shoe Department in Rogers, Ark.

Amanda Young ’02 is living in Elgin, Texas, where she works as a kindergarten teacher.

Audrey Crumbliss ’03 recently completed a master’s degree at the University of Oklahoma. In March she served as a team leader on a mission trip to Mexico with her church.

Valerie McClaine ’03 is teaching second grade at Pinewood Elementary in Jacksonville, Ark.

Gary McVeigh ’03 is living in London and recently joined the Territorial Army, Britain’s equivalent of the Army reserve. He is working toward officer commission status.

Michael Bollman ’04 and Anneke (Binkley) Bollman ’03 of Russellville welcomed a baby boy, Braden Drew, to the family on Jan. 1, 2006. Braden joins older sister Halle in the Bollman family. Michael is the head basketball coach at Dover (Ark.) High School and Anneke works for Shaptaw Labahn and Company in Russellville.

B.J. Greene ’04 is the head baseball coach and an assistant football coach at Norphlet (Ark.) High School.

Ricky Herrera ’04 has been a patrolman with the New Mexico State Police since December. He and Leslie Foster ’03 were married on July 1, 2006.

Cozax Lee ’04 was recently promoted to manager over all installers at the Lowe’s in Fort Smith, Ark. He and his wife, Kathryn, also recently purchased a home in Fort Smith.

Jennifer (Shaw) Merriott ’04 and William Merriott ’01 are living in Little Rock. Jennifer is working on a degree in medical technology at UAMS and will graduate in August.

Leanita Pelts ’04, the office manager and testing administrator for the Division of Education, earned a master’s degree in education with an emphasis in special education at the University of Arkansas in May.

Maria Lucienne Rodriguez ’04 is in Nicaragua after earning a master’s degree in marketing from the University of Kingston-upon-Thames in London, one of the top business schools in Europe.

Caroline Woodell ’04 earned a master’s of arts degree in art history from the University of Memphis in May.

Karrie Allen ’05 is living in Duvall, Washington, and is a high school teacher and tennis coach. She and her fiancee, Brett Harris, plan to be married on July 1, 2006.

Sarah (Rosenberg) DeVries ’02 works an education booth at the Carroll County (Ark.) fairgrounds recently. DeVries is a source water technician for the Arkansas Rural Water Association. She implements source water protection plans for rural communities. She also travels the state conducting education and outreach programs and helping communities develop emergency response plans. She said her job allows her to share her passion for promoting clean drinking water through the education of adults and children. After graduating from Ozarks, DeVries earned a master’s degree in environmental science and policy from Clark University. She and her husband, Christian, live in Little Rock.

Angie M. Forrest-Mock ’05 and her husband, Levi Mock, of Clarksville, welcomed their first child, a girl named Akira Rainae, on Dec. 28, 2005.

Maria Cornejo ’05 is living in El Salvador and working as an assistant to the national director of Compassion International, a Christian organization that benefits children in poverty through various academic, health, economic and spiritual programs.

Brian Fry ’05 is the head baseball coach at Fort Smith Union Christian Academy. He led the first-year school to the Arkansas Class AA state championship game in May.

Juan Carlos Garcia ’05 is working on his MBA with an emphasis in finance at the University of Regiomontana in Mexico. He is also working as a financial planning manager for Tubacero, a company that manufactures steel pipes.

Auxi Guerrero ’05 is in Nicaragua working for ProNicaragua, an invest-

Sinisa Popovic ’05 met former President Bill Clinton in March. Popovic interned at the Clinton Presidential Library during the summer of 2005. Popovic currently works in North Little Rock for Coulson Oil Company in sales and accounting.
Bill and Sandra Phiffer have not had your average run-of-the-mill careers, and that’s exactly the way they like it.

The Dallas, Texas, couple has been married for more than 50 years and their careers have taken many interesting turns since they graduated from Ozarks in 1956. Bill has dabbled in everything from acting to owning a business and is currently a mine developer. He has spent the last few summers mining gold and platinum in the wilds of Alaska. For Sandra, a long and distinguished career in science and engineering has afforded her numerous opportunities. She currently works in quality engineering for BAE Systems, a supplier of aviation components.

“It’s certainly been an interesting journey for both of us,” Sandra said during the couple’s visit to campus in April for Alumni Weekend. “I think we both like adventure and making the most of where the opportunities are.”

Married in 1953 just months before traveling from California to enroll at Ozarks, the Phiffers quickly found their niche on the small campus. After graduation, Bill worked jobs as a financial manager for an oil company and a sales engineer for an aerospace company before starting an aircraft fuel tank repair company near Dallas in 1972. During the 1970s he also did some acting in small-budget films in the area.

He sold the company in 1978 and began to get interested in precious metal recovery, a hobby that became a full-time profession over the next 25 years. He has prospected and developed gold, silver and platinum mines in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Alaska and Columbia, South America. He and his nephew have spent the past four summers working four 40-acre claims in Alaska. Because of weather conditions, the mining season is 100 days in Alaska.

“It’s exciting because you don’t know what’s around the corner,” Bill said. “You have 100 days to go there and see what you can find.”

Like most mine developers, Bill has had his share of disappointments in the search for precious metals. Plus, there is the high cost of the mining equipment as well as the many lonely nights in the wilderness. But times such as a clean-up from an 11-day run last year that produced more than $300,000 in gold makes it all worthwhile.

“I’ve had some success, but I certainly haven’t gotten rich in this business,” said Bill, who also works as an assayer. “I’ve made other people more money than I’ve made, but I think it beats sitting behind a desk all day.”

Sandra’s career in science and engineering has led to a career path that has seen her work as a research chemist for semiconductor and Nightvision manufacturers. She also spent time in the early 1990s working as a quality officer on the federal government’s Superconducting Super Collider project, an oval-shaped 54-mile long accelerator outside Dallas. The purpose of the laboratory was to collide protons into each other so scientists and physicists could study the resulting shower of smaller particles. Since 1994, she has worked for Boeing/BAE Systems, where she evaluates, approves and monitors the performance of the suppliers to the company.

“My career has allowed me to travel all over the country and the world, watch two space shuttle lift-offs and work on a major government research project,” Sandra said. “I never dreamed when I was at Ozarks that I would be able to do the things I’ve done in my career.”
Alumni News

Reynosa, Mexico, and working for TRW Automotive in a purchasing position. She reports that she is engaged and plans to marry in March 2007. She writes, “I am so happy because I have a good job, a car, and apartment and good friends. Thank you Ozarks for giving me the education I needed to succeed in life.”

Coumba Peterson ’05 is employed by the Department of Defense in the Human Resources department in Arlington, Va.

Kari Pridgin ’05 is teaching junior high math in Ozark, Ark.

Katrina Vaughn ’05 married Landon Rowe on May 20, 2006, in Mena, Ark.

Diana Confer ’06 is a production coordinator at Haven Falls Motion Picture Productions in Davis, Calif.

Ron Hogsett ’06 will begin studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science in the fall.

Victoria Sayarath ’06 is living in Little Rock and pursuing a pharmacy degree at UAMS.

Art major finds inspiration in another culture

By Michael Ream

Web site content manager

Ozarks graduate Amanda Alders set off on an adventure after college, heading deep into Mexico to experience another culture firsthand.

“This is my time to think and reflect,” said Alders by telephone from Cuernavaca, Mexico in November. Alders began teaching English in Cuernavaca shortly after graduating from Ozarks in May 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in art.

Alders, who taught English to Hispanic immigrants in Clarksville while a student at Ozarks, flew to Cuernavaca on spring break of her senior year, after researching several language schools in Mexico on the Internet. After she was offered a job at Cuauhnahuac Language Institute, a private English-language school, Alders plunged into an intensive training program, and soon after was teaching at the institute four days a week.

She found new challenges in teaching. “If (my students) don’t know what an English word means, I have to demonstrate it theatrically,” said Alders. “Sometimes I’m jumping around the classroom!” Her students have included engineers, physicists and biologists — “Some of my students are in their 40s!” said Alders — with some traveling up to two hours to attend her classes. She also found time to give private lessons, as well as study Spanish.

Alders moved into a colonia, or neighborhood, about a five-minute walk from the institute. It was unlike any place she has lived before, with family compounds encompassing people’s work as well as their living space. “People convert half their home into a business,” said Alders. “They’ll step away from their dining room table to sell me tortillas!”

“I feel like my day-to-day life is a lot healthier,” added Alders. “I walk everywhere, and I’m learning something new every day.” She embraced the local culture, including the rituals that surround Mexico’s Dia De Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, held every year on November 1.

Altars lined the streets for the national holiday, which included all-night ceremonies in a local cemetery. “It’s very family oriented,” said Alders. “People’s remembrance of their dead is very public.”

“As any mother would be, I was nervous,” said Susan Alders, Amanda’s mother, from her home in Cordova, Tennessee, just outside Memphis. “But I felt comfortable with her astuteness and her common sense.” She added that Amanda’s decision to live at the home of a host family probably eased her transition into another culture.

Inside her host family’s compound, Alders has her own bungalow, with a pool and garden nearby. She relishes the slower pace of life, which gives her the opportunity to concentrate on her art, converting one bedroom in her bungalow into an art studio and showing her paintings in local galleries.

Tammy Harrington, an assistant professor of art at University of the Ozarks, who taught Alders in painting classes, said she was as impressed with Alders’ determination to get to Mexico as she was with her painting technique. “She jumped in with both feet,” said Harrington. “She’s very passionate about things, and she wanted to combine her interests in art, psychology and Mexican culture.”

Alders feels her art studies at Ozarks gave her a good background for both her work and life. “Sometimes, to overcome a problem, it helps to take a different perspective, identify your strengths and weaknesses, and then focus on the strengths,” said Alders. “When I’m painting or sculpting, I build on what I like, and what I don’t like just dissolves away.”

Alders stands by one of her paintings in Mexico. The 2005 Ozarks graduate teaches art and English in Mexico.
Kristian Breton had no idea what awaited him when he decided to start a robotics team with students from Central Park East High School in New York City.

Breton, a 2001 Ozarks graduate, is a staff member at the East Harlem Tutorial program, an after-school program for disadvantaged youth in NYC. He was inspired to organize the robot-building team from his own experience in the competition when he was in high school in Mountain Home, Ark.

In the spring, Breton’s students from the small high school in East Harlem shocked the city by winning the regional robot-building competition in their first year and against much larger and more affluent high schools. With the victory, the team earned a trip to the national finals in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

That’s when the story really got interesting.

As Breton and his students prepared for the trip to the nationals, it became known that one of the students, senior Amadou Ly, was an illegal immigrant from Senegal, with no ID to allow him to board the plane that would take the team to Atlanta. Not only was Amadou an illegal immigrant, but he had been left alone in the city to fend for himself since the age of 14 after his mother had abandoned him. He was also in the midst of a two-year battle against deportation.

The story quickly drew national attention, and Amadou’s plight was major news from coast to coast. His story was especially big news at the time because of the raging debate about immigration legislation.

As the sponsor of the team, Breton found himself in the middle of the media circus. He did numerous local and national interviews, including with the New York Times, CBS Evening News and News Hour with Jim Lehrer.

Every chance he got, Breton defended Amadou and his right to stay in the United States.

Amadou eventually joined the team in Atlanta by train and competed with the rest of his classmates in the national event.

Though the team from Central Park East did not win the national competition, Breton said he couldn’t have been happier with how his students competed.

“I’m proud of the team and how they handled themselves despite all the media distractions,” Breton said. “I just hope all this leads to Amadou being permitted to stay in this country and that this time next year we are talking about his first year in college.”
The Ramblers

The Ramblers was a country music band formed at Ozarks in the early 1950s to help the university in recruiting efforts. The 1953 photo (left photo) shows (from left) Paul “Pip” Parker ’55, Bill Crowder ’56, Foy Howard ’57 and Eddie Harrington ’56. The group held a reunion in 1993 (right photo) with (from left), Howard, Crowder, Bettye (Masterson) Aydelott ’55, Parker and Harrington. In the early 1950s, the band was formed with the help of then admissions recruiter Fritz Ehren to play at high school recruiting events throughout the state. Crowder remembers playing before a large group of students at Little Rock Central High School one year. “All the colleges would have bands or put on skits, and we were the only ones who received a standing ovation,” Crowder said. “It was an enjoyable time because we got to talk about the college and then play music. I’m sure we helped the college in both public relations and recruiting.” Though Aydelott did not perform with the band on the road, she often provided vocals when the Ramblers performed on campus or in the Clarksville area. Parker lives in Tulsa; Crowder lives in Fort Smith; Harrington lives in McAlester, Okla.; and Aydelott lives in Sallisaw, Okla. Howard passed away in 1995.

Help Us Find Tomorrow’s Eagles!

Tell us about promising, college-bound high school students in your family or in your neighborhood because we would like to get to know them and send them information about University of the Ozarks. Please take a minute to complete and mail the form below.

**Prospective Eagle**

Student’s Name______________________________________________
Male _____ Female_____
Address_____________________________________________________ City___________ State_______   Zip______
Telephone Number(_______)___________________________  Student’s E-mail__________________________
Student’s High School__________________________________ Year of high school graduation________________

**Current Eagle**

Your name__________________________________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________ City_____________ State_______  Zip______
Telephone Number(________)_________________________________________________________________
Your relationship with student_________________________________________________________________

_____ Please check here if you’re willing to help with student recruitment efforts in your area.

Please return this form in an envelope addressed to: Patti Schuh, Enrollment Data Manager,
University of the Ozarks, 415 N. College Ave., Clarksville, AR 72830.

Robert C. Ehren ’55 (1930-2006)

Robert C. Ehren of Paris, Ark., passed away on May 14, 2006, at the age of 75.

Ehren, a 1955 Ozarks graduate, also earned degrees from the University of Tennessee and the University of Arkansas. He served as a high school principal at Paris from 1961 until 1968 and superintendent of the Paris School District from 1968 until his retirement in 1989.

Ehren was a member of First Baptist Church in Paris, Gideons International and Promise Keepers.

At Ozarks, Ehren was a standout football player, earning Conference Back of the Year in 1954.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Laura Sue Hill Ehren; three children; and four siblings.

Robert C. Ehren ’55 (1930-2006)
Lois (Agee) Barnsley ‘32
Lois (Agee) Barnsley of Malabar, Fla., and formerly of Clarksville, died May 1, 2006, at the age of 94.

Richard Chuculate ‘34
Richard Chuculate of Sallisaw, Okla., died Feb. 5, 2006, at the age of 92.

Gladys Ruth Farmer ‘37
Gladys Ruth Farmer of Little Rock, died Feb. 1, 2006, at the age of 91. She taught in public schools in Arkansas, Texas and Arizona for 43 years. She was a recipient of the U of O Alumni Merit Award and the Legacy Award.

Lucy (Basham) Pyron ‘38
Lucy Pyron of Clarksville died March 1, 2006, at the age of 88. She was a retired secretary and bookkeeper.

Paul M. Buchanan ‘47
Paul M. Buchanan of Dallas, Texas, died March 6, 2006, at the age of 79. He was a veteran of World War II and a retired certified public accountant in Dallas and Los Angeles.

The Rev. Joseph E. Taylor ‘47

Elmer Mooney ‘48
Elmer B. Mooney of Fort Smith, Ark., died on Feb. 6, 2006, at the age of 85. He was a retired U.S. Postal worker and a veteran of World War II.

James L. Ragon ‘48
James L. Ragon of Edmond, Okla., died Nov. 10, 2005, at the age of 82. He was a retired store manager.

Mary (Dillin) Yarbrough ‘48
Mary (Dillin) Yarbrough of Clarksville, died Aug 22, 2005, at the age of 77. She and her husband, Lloyd, were longtime peach growers in Johnson County.

Dr. Floyd R. Hendricks ‘49
Dr. Floyd R. Hendricks of Fort Smith, Ark., died April 16, 2006, at the age of 81. He was a retired pharmacist and a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

William S. “Bill” Park ‘50
William S. “Bill” Park of Clarksville died April 13, 2006, at the age of 85. He was a veteran of World War II and a retired sales and office manager.

Charley Roffine ‘50
Charley Roffine of Greenwood, Ark., died March 19, 2006, at the age of 83. He was a retired coach, dairy farmer and city employee. A veteran of World War II and the Vietnam War, he is a member of the Ozarks Sports Hall of Fame.

Dr. Aldridge Marlin Yates ‘51
Dr. Aldridge Marlin Yates of Fredericksburg, Va., died Feb. 19, 2006, at the age of 81. He was a veteran of World War II and a long-time pharmacist in the Fredericksburg area.

Richard “Dick” Holmes ‘53
Richard “Dick” Holmes of Van Buren, Ark., died Oct. 31, 2005, at the age of 76. He was a retired teacher.

Margaret (Oldham) Pierce ‘64
Margaret (Oldham) Pierce of Arkadelphia, Ark., died Feb. 17, 2006, at the age of 93. She was a teacher for several years in Clarksville and also owned H.R. Pierce Lumber Company in Clarksville with her husband for many years.

Bobbie Jean (Head) Hamill ‘66
Bobbie Jean (Head) Hamill of Lamar, Ark., died Jan. 23, 2006, at the age of 61. She was a retired kindergarten teacher.

Jimmy C. Wright ‘68
Jimmy C. Wright of Lamar, Ark., died Nov. 17, 2005, at the age of 59. He was a coach and teacher and led Scranton (Ark.) High School to the 2001 state baseball championship.

Dan Hayston ’71
Dan Hayston of East Brunswick, N.J., died March 2, 2006, at the age of 56 following a long illness. He taught high school for 30 years and coached soccer for 22 years in East Brunswick. His teams compiled a career record of 358-91-24 and a league-record 10 conference championships.

Jimmy Ray Kirby ‘74
Jimmy Ray Kirby of Barling, Ark., died April 10, 2006, at the age of 54. He was a teacher in Arkansas for 30 years.

Jerry Wayne Fultz ’81
Jerry Wayne Fultz of Hartman, Ark., died March 16, 2006, at the age of 55. He was a general contractor and a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Elizabeth I. Hays ’05

Gen. Victor L. Cary
Gen. Victor L. Cary of Houston, Texas, a former trustee, passed away on April 30, 2006, at the age of 89. He was a retired brigadier general in the U.S. Army.
Sept. 17, 2005 through April 30, 2006

Memorials

J. Harper Albritton
Jim Bob Henderson ’51 and Christine Henderson

Charles Angell
Dorothy Angell

Annabel Applegate
Peggy Bort Jones

Alton C. and Eula H. Baker
Joseph Baker ’69 and Marge Baker

Lorena Vardaman Bean ’41 and
Raymond Bean
Arvid Bean ’78 and Sharon Bean ’78
Eddie Bean ’68 and Georgia
Reynolds Bean ’72
Loyce Ann Bean Taylor ’72 and
Harve Taylor
Rena and Joe Howe

Otto Blades
Connie and Michael Booty
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Rick and Sherée Niece
Dawn J.M. Scarborough and Gary
Scarborough ’82

John E. Bock ’49
W. C. and Barbara Jetton

Roland S. Boreham, Jr.
Baldor Electric Company
Hazel I. Ballman
Judy Borck
Allyn and Tammy Donaubauer
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita
Blackard Ehren ’71
Pat Farmer
Husty Bake Inc.
Stanley and Mary Henson
Robert Hilton ’81 and Dayna
Trembley Hilton ’86
Peggy Bort Jones
John and Kimberly McFarland
Betty R. Morris ’58
Rick and Sherée Niece
Jeff and Amy Scaccia
Dawn J.M. Scarborough and
Gary Scarborough ’82
Gene and Lynda Stephenson
Eugene and Kristan Still

Loyce Ann Bean Taylor ’72 and
Harve Taylor
Robert and Carolyn Terry
Lee and Mary Margaret White
Jerry Yarbrough

Howard L. Bost ’39
Margaret Bost Douglass ’41

John Bridgman
Cara Rowbotham Flinn ’85

Laura Hardwicke Brooke
Barbara Oldham Caldwell ’87

Alvin C. Broyles ’41
Joe and Carol Hoing

Marian Riddell Cargile ’64
John W. Cargile ’61

Betty Emery Carter ’52
Georgia Johnston ’53 and
O.G. Johnston

Clarissa (Shorty) Stith Cole ’50
Kenneth C. Blanchard ’50 and Pat
Blanchard
William Eddington ’55 and Charlotte
Falkins Eddington ’56
Bill Holder ’52 and Jane Wilson
Holder ’55
Peggy Bort Jones
Dorothy Carlisle Kelly ’51 and
James Kelly

Audra M. Cowan ’40
Roger Bost ’43 and Kathryn King
Bost ’43
Margaret King Cowan ’43
Rick and Sherée Niece

Jeffery P. Crosson
J. Clayton Gilliland

Armil O. Curran, Sr.
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Rick and Sherée Niece
Ron and Kerry Taylor

Eva M. Davis
Peggy Bird Cogan ’80 & ’89 and
Dan Cogan
Sonja McCuen ’88

Helen Turner Donaldson
Claude Donaldson ’60
Hilda Turner

Winslow Drummond
Katherine Drummond

Gloria Delatte Eddington ’55
William Eddington ’55 and Charlotte
Falkins Eddington ’56

Elizabeth Eisenmayer ’00
Julia Frost and John Frost ’89

Nancy McCabe Hill ’85 and Troy Hill
Forrest Hoefffer ’65 and Helen
Groskopf Hoefffer ’81
Edith McChesney

Ethel Farmer
Jenny (Trillian) Stevenson ’99

Gladys Ruth Farmer ’37
Joel and Ann Anderson
Bruce Brown and Louis Aszod ’00
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita
Blackard Ehren ’71
Pat Farmer
Andrew and Martha Frits
Helen Rader Fulton ’40
Donna M. Heyer
Louise King
Rena Sue Laster ’71
Rick and Sherée Niece
Dorcas Farmer Pate
Lois D. Farmer
Ray Adkins Farmer
Edna Elkins Patterson ’67 and John
Patterson
Tom D. Patterson ’57
Dawn J.M. Scarborough and Gary
Scarborough ’82
Jenny (Trillian) Stevenson ’99
Loyce Ann Bean Taylor ’72 and
Harve Taylor

James Cecil Farmer ’41
Gladys Ruth Farmer ’37

Ruth Boddie Farmer ’41
Jenny (Trillian) Stevenson ’99

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Harold and Maurine White

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Rick and Sherée Niece

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Groskopf Hoefffer ’81

Catherine Haigwood ’33
Joseph Baker ’69 and Marge Baker
Paula and Roger Glasgow
Edna Elkins Patterson ’67 and John
Patterson

Douglas Haigwood ’36
Martha Boyd Haigwood

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Margaret Hamilton
Virginia Hammerschmidt
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita Blackard Ehren ’71
Peggy Bort Jones
W. Ernest King, Jr. ’41 and Maribeth King
Rick and Sherée Niece
Gene and Lynda Stephenson
Lee and Mary Margaret White
Francis Joseph “Cotney” Hardin ’33
Emmy and Dale Brown
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita Blackard Ehren ’71
Rick and Sherée Niece
Dawn J.M. Scarborough and Gary Scarborough ’82
Mildred Morris Hardwicke ’45
Paula and Roger Glasgow
Daniel J. Hayston ’71
Rick and Sherée Niece
O.D. Hightower ’49
W. C. and Barbara Jetton
Richard “Dick” Holmes ’53
Armeda Evans Holmes ’68
Mr. and Mrs. Orville S. Hubbard
Ellen M. Hubbard
Hickory H. Hurie ’37
Jane Hurie
Frank Ingram ’48
William Eddington ’55 and Charlotte Felkins Eddington ’56
Martha Dee Jones
Arvid Bean ’78 and Sharon Jones Bean ’78
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Rena and Joe Howe
Rick and Sherée Niece
Loyce Ann Bean Taylor ’72 and Harve Taylor
Melvin Kallenbach
Masel Kallenbach
Ophelia Kauffeld
Joanne Willett Taylor ’60
Clio Thompson Kettlethul ’34
Rickey Casey ’79 and Lisa Casey
Dawn J.M. Scarborough and Gary Scarborough ’82
Keith Kilcrease ’64
Arlon Horn ’58 and Patricia Horn Amanda Collins Kilcrease ’79
Edmund W. King ’73
Geraldine King Morgan ’52
W. E. King, Sr.
Roger Bost ’43 and Kathryn King Bost ’43
Shelli Stewart Lamberson
Julia Frost and John Frost ’89
Nancy McCabe Hill ’85 and Troy Hill Forrest Hoeffer ’65 and Helen Groskopf Hoeffer ’81
Tina and Bryan McCain
Debby Stallings Mooney ’82 and Charles Mooney
Glen Yarbrough ’54 and Margie Yarbrough
Jobelle Laster ’73
Rena Sue Laster ’71
Edna Elkins Patterson ’67 and John Patterson
Joshua Levement ’09
Rita Mitchell-Harvey
James E. Lewis ’41
Marie Baskin Lewis ’41
She Ze and Chen Wei Lu
Joseph Baker ’69 and Marge Baker
Ruth Bost May ’51
Roger Bost ’43 and Kathryn King Bost ’43
Margaret Bost Douglass ’41
Mackie McLeroy
Charlene McMillan Watson ’44 and William Watson
Hurlen Moore
Jennifer Cleveland
Trevor Morton ’09
Wendell and Linda Black
Keith and Barbara Chambers
Mack and Mary Newton
Lucile Lucas Murphy ’33
Lillian Hunt Zawrel ’33
Betty New
Steve Askins ’05 and Marian Askins
Connie and Michael Booty
Forrest Hoeffer ’65 and Helen Groskopf Hoeffer ’81
Reg Johnson ’88 and Melody Johnson
Rick and Sherée Niece
Debbie and Delbert Pfeiffer
Fred Starkey ’68 and Bonnie Renfrow Starkey ’68
Carolyn Walker
Linda White ’96 and Don White
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James and Catherine Nichols
Dortha Niece
Brenda K. Leasure
Kurt Niece
Margaret “Peg” Niece
Garry Niece
Tommy E. Owens ’70
Robert Gibson ’76 and Glenda Gibson
Bobby Page
Calvin Shahan ’50 and Martha Smith Shahan ’51
William S. Park ’50
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita Blackard Ehren ’71
Rick and Sherée Niece
Betty Ann Eustice Riley ’49
Joanne Willett Taylor ’60
Edward Myron Parker
Thomas and Judy Parker
J. T. Patterson ’38
Peggy Bird Cogan ’80 & ’89 and Dan Cogan
Don Pennington ’68
Lucile Sanders Patterson
Peggy Bird Cogan ’80 & ’89 and Dan Cogan
Don Pennington ’68
Ann Payne
Wilson and Barbara Pearson
Ben H. Phillips ’46
Alan M. Phillips
Philip B. Phillips ’35
Kathleen T. Phillips
Jim Pledger
Joanne Willett Taylor ’60
Collin Andrew Pyron
Alan M. Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Rader
William Rader, Jr. ’42 and Birdie Rader
Michael A. Rain ’80
Peggy Bird Cogan ’80 & ’89 and Dan Cogan
Georgia Johnston ’53 and O.G. Johnston
Wayne Roble
Dawn J.M. Scarborough and Gary Scarborough ’82
Charley Roffine ’50
Bill Holder ’52 and Jane Wilson Holder ’55
Lora E. Shelton Petri Cram
Eva Niece ’31
Ertal-Ee Shrigley ’30
Rickey Casey ’79 and Lisa Casey
Bill Holder ’52 and Jane Wilson Holder ’55
Edna Elkins Patterson ’67 and John Patterson
Arnie Sims
Connie and Michael Booty
Rickey Casey ’79 and Lisa Casey
Don Chappell ’72 and Janie Krohn Chappell ’73
Jennifer Cleveland
David and Malea De Seguirant
Karla Dickerson
Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita Blackard Ehren ’71
Stephen Fisher and Laurie Fisher
Larry Isch
Claude and Tona Newland
Rick and Sherée Niece
Laura Peyton and Wayne Jackson
David Priggin ’71 and Reba Priggin ’81
Jeff and Amy Scaccia
Dawn J.M. Scarborough and Gary Scarborough ’82
Ron and Kerry Taylor
Vinnie and Cody Tran
Willis L. Stowers
Rebecca Stowers
Jean Sutto
Robert K. Bennett
Philip Wayne Taylor, II ’54
Joanne Willett Taylor ’60 and the Phil Taylor Family
Honoraria

Sept. 17, 2005 through
April 30, 2006

Rebecca Trammel
   Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
   Rick and Sherée Niece

Charles Wallick
   Doris and Huie Bird
   Don Chappell ’72 and Janie Krohn
      Chappell ’73
   Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita Blackard
      Ehren ’71
   Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
   Pat Farmer
   Ann Filyaw
   First Security Bank of Clarksville
   Sue Frueauff
   Katherine Rader Garrett ’39
   Robert Hilton ’81 and Dayna Trembley
      Hilton ’86
   Rick and Sherée Niece
   Jay and Bonnie Parrot
   David Pridgin ’71 and Reba Pridgin ’81
   Jennifer Fisher Rowe ’93
   Stephen Rowe ’90
      Jeff and Amy Scaccia
   Dawn J.M. Scarborough and Gary
      Scarborough ’82
   Loyce Ann Bean Taylor ’72 and
      Harve Taylor
   Lee and Mary Margaret White

Ryan Walton
   Peggy Bird Cogan ’80 & ’89 and Dan
      Cogan
   Charles Mark Walton ’79

Jonathan Weaver
   Seneca Pointe, Inc.

Harold White
   First Security Bank Gang, Clarksville
   First Security Bank, Mountain Home
   First Security Bank, Conway

Edgar Woolsey
   Robert and Martha Williams

Wendell J. Workman
   Rick and Sherée Niece

Jimmy C. Wright ’68
   David Pridgin ’71 and Reba Pridgin ’81
   David Pridgin, Jr. ’07
   Robert Taylor ’72 and
      Joanne Taylor ’74

Mary Yarbrough ’48
   Doris and Huie Bird
   First Security Bank, Clarksville
   Dennis and Kathy Standridge
   XI GAMMA OMICROM Sorority

Almeta Blackard Yerby ’53
   Georgia Johnston ’53 and
      O.G. Johnston

Faye Young
   William Eddington ’55 and
      Charlotte Felkins Eddington ’56

        Sherrie Arey
          Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
          Darrell Williams ’76 and
             Debbie Tipton Williams ’81
          Steve Askins ’05
             Marian Askins
          Anne Cameron
             Rev. Tom Ulrich and Rev. Cathy Ulrich
          Jane Cater
             Paula and Roger Glasgow
          Nic Colvin and Megan Colvin
             Larry Isch
             Ursula Salas
          Chad Cox ’98
             Brandy Rhodes Cox ’99
          Steve Edmisten
             Sherrie Arey
             Jeff and Amy Scaccia
             Darrell Williams ’76 and
                Debbie Tipton Williams ’81
          Fritz Ehren ’53 and Juanita Blackard
             Ehren ’71
                Ann Patterson ’75 and Max Snowden
          Julia A. Frost
             Chapter “Q” P.E.O.
          Helen Rader Fulton ’40
             Richard, Barbara, and Andrew Fulton
          Larry Glass
             Robert K. Bennett
          Bill Grashoff ’75
             Crista Grashoff
          Jana Grobe Hart ’85
             Sherrie Arey
             Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
             Darrell Williams ’76 and
                Debbie Tipton Williams ’81
          Marie Hervey Ingram ’33
             Bill Holder ’52 and
                Jane Wilson Holder ’55
             Hoyt Kerr
             Mira Ann Ingram Leister ’63 and
                Marvin Leister
             Ann Patterson ’75 and Max Snowden
             Lillian Hunt Zarwell ’33
          Norma M. Johnson
             Marie Hervey Ingram ’33
          Carolyn Jones
             Rev. Tom Ulrich and Rev. Cathy Ulrich
          Polly Taylor Kennon ’46
             David Pridgin ’71 and Reba Pridgin ’81
          Willie and Carolyn Kimbrell
             Wilma Harris ’03 and Ed Harris ’75
          Brittany N. Lockridge ’06
             Wilma Harris ’03 and Ed Harris ’75
          Diana McCormick ’65
             Paula and Roger Glasgow

Helen McElree ’47
   Charles W. McElree

Lewis Niece
   Brenda K. Leasure

Rick and Sherée Niece
   Sherrie Arey
   Luella Baughman
   Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
   Jeff and Amy Scaccia
   Darrell Williams ’76 and
      Debbie Tipton Williams ’81

Sherée Niece
   Presbyterian Women’s Association,
      First Presbyterian Church

Lonnie Qualls ’55
   Lonnie Hardgrave ’50 and
      Dorothy Hardgrave

Ruby Steuart Reynolds ’48
   Cara Rowbotham Flinn ’85
   David Pridgin ’71 and Reba Pridgin ’81
   Kenneth Stewart ’87 and Janette Stewart

Jeff Scaccia
   Sherrie Arey
   Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
   Darrell Williams ’76 and
      Debbie Tipton Williams ’81

Dawn J.M. Scarborough
   Presbyterian Women’s Association,
      First Presbyterian Church

Gary David Scarborough ’82
   Dawn J.M. Scarborough

Daniel Taddie
   Sherrie Arey
   Steve and Dorinda Edmisten
   Darrell Williams ’76 and
      Debbie Tipton Williams ’81

Charlene McMillan Watson ’44
   Charles W. McElree
   Darrell Williams ’76
   Sherrie Arey
   Steve and Dorinda Edmisten

Ruth Steuart Young ’48
   David Pridgin ’71 and Reba Pridgin ’81

If you would like to memorialize or honor a
loved one with a gift to the
Annual Scholarship Fund,
please contact the
Office of Advancement at
479-979-1230 or
e-mail uopromise@ozarks.edu
Several students (photo above, far left) worked on a Habitat For Humanity project in Fort Smith in March. Senior Gina O’Connor of Clarksville (photo above, center) held her Senior Art Exhibit in April. Lori Moon of Rogers, Ark., (photo above, right) was crowned Homecoming Queen and David Hamilton of Mulberry, Ark., was voted King. Senior infielder Tyler Gideon (left photo) completes a double play during the 2006 season.

World famous oceanographer Jean-Michel Cousteau (right photo) visits with students and staff after his speech on campus during the Spring Semester. Junior Lee Short fires a backhand (bottom photo, left) in a tennis match against Hendrix College in April. Students in Instructor Sally Wood’s yoga class (photo below, right) take part in an exercise that requires balance and coordination.
Congratulations to the Class of 2006