

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**OTC Technical Courses** Page 1  
**On Campus Activities** Page 1  
**From the President's Desk** Page 2  
**Financial Aid Opportunities** Page 2  
**Alumni Success Story** Page 3  
**Schedules now online** Page 4  
**In the Spotlight Faculty/Staff** Page 4

**ON THE CALENDAR**

**Open Registration for Summer classes** April 16-27, May 16-25  
**Senior Day** April 17  
**Voyage to Success workshop (TRiO A309)** April 19 11:30-12:30  
**What it Means to be a Notary, B102** April 19 2:00P-4:00P  
**Awards Program, A300** May 4 6:00P  
**Semester Final Exams** May 7-10  
**OTC Graduation, Malvern High School Auditorium** May 12 2:00 p.m.  
**Postage Increases to 41 cents** May 14  
**Electrical Apprenticeship Banquet, A300** May 21  
**Memorial Day (Campus Closed)** May 28  
**Summer I & II Classes Begin** May 29

**OTC Technical Courses, Ahead of the Rest**

**Innovation and Flexibility**

Ouachita Technical College leads the way in course delivery by being the first college in the state to offer most technical courses in a blended format. Blended classes allow students to do their work over the Internet and come to campus to complete the required labs. OTC's approach to the labs for the blended classes allows students to virtually make their own schedule. The labs are open labs so students may come day or night, Monday through Friday, when it is most convenient for them. This type of scheduling allows anyone to earn a degree regardless of work or personal responsibilities.



**Prepare for Certifications**

OTC's Network Management AAS Degree prepares students to enter a highly competitive career field. Certification is highly sought by industry so many of the classes offered in the Network Management Degree prepare students to take certification tests in several of the most desirable areas of network

certification. Along with the opportunity to earn certifications, students also earn certificates of proficiency in Computer Programming, Cisco, Microsoft Professional, Network Security, and many choose to earn a Technical Certificate in Computer Repair. Most of the Network Classes are offered on-line or blended, as well as traditional classroom delivery. New courses added to the degree plan are Computer Security Fundamentals, Network Security, and Introduction to SQL.

**Recent Activities On OTC Campus**



Congressman Mike Ross visited with students and staff during a recent visit to campus.



Members of the "Strength Team" demonstrated feats of strength and spoke to students and staff during Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week.



During Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week, speakers from the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission informed of possible injuries as a result of drunk driving.



# From the President's Desk



**“Many of our policies/practices are now being reviewed to make things better for our students.”**

Ouachita Technical College prepares skilled workers for a variety of medical occupations. Because of that, we stay close to medical practitioners, listen to what they say, and involve them in our instructional programs. One of the big concerns of medical practitioners who work in clinics and hospitals is infection. They hate infections of every type, keep data on infection rates, establish many policies and protocols to reduce or eliminate infections, and have zero-tolerance policies on infection rates.

To the faculty and staff of the College, the causes of student drop outs are a lot like medical infections. We love and respect our students (patients) but we hate the things that keep them from getting a certificate or degree (patient wellness). So, we ask ourselves, what student drop out (infection) rate is acceptable?

We remember that when we started college a long time ago we were told in freshman orientation that if we worked hard, persisted, and graduated that the odds were that the person sitting next to us would fail and drop out because only about half the students make it to graduation. That's the way it was. It was sort of like the "mud on the wall" theory of success (when you sling a hand full of mud on a wall, some of it sticks and some of it runs down and falls off). Higher education is, after all, very hard; only the real hard working smart people ever gradu-

ate and most don't. That's the way it is.

I am happy to report that at OTC, we do not accept that "inevitability of failure" theory. The drop out rate that we find acceptable is zero. Why? Because, as professionals, we have read, studied, and tried different methods of instruction of students, relating to students, and supporting students that resulted in an increase in the graduation rate. Second, we are reviewing every policy and practice that effect students by asking ourselves, "Does this policy/practice help students to graduate or does it represent some type of barrier to graduation?" Some policies are easy to evaluate like a graduation fee. We learned several years ago that some students didn't graduate because the money to pay the graduation fee at the end of their last semester was hard to get and it didn't effect their ability to transfer their courses to the university anyway. So, we dropped the graduation fee and our graduation rate went up a little. Other policies/practices are much more difficult to evaluate.

I am proud of our faculty and staff who constantly bring forth ideas to help students succeed. Recently, we were assessing the impact of course withdrawals. If students have a personal or academic problem that prohibits course completion, most of them will talk with the instructor and then drop the course by filing a drop form. When

this happens, their transcript lists the course and shows a "W" grade meaning it was dropped during the semester and the grade point is not effected. However, a portion of our students who are not savvy about college and not achievement oriented will simply stop attending the course without fully understanding the full consequences of that and they end up with an "F" grade on their transcript. This negatively impacts graduation because it reduces the student's grade point. Some of our people just asked a simple question; "What is wrong with initiating a course withdrawal resulting in a "W" grade for those students who just disappear without dropping the course themselves?" After looking into it, we learned that our policy said that if a faculty member initiates the course withdrawal an "F" grade must be assigned!! I am happy to report that we have a group of faculty and staff working to rewrite that policy to make it better for our students. Many of our policies/practices are now being reviewed to make things better for our students.

"Access without success is not opportunity." - Vincent Tito

## State announces Financial Aid Opportunities for students



Flanked by education officials and legislators as well as members of the press, Governor Mike Beebe passes out pens from the signing of the Higher Education Opportunity Grant (HEOG) April 4. The need-based scholarship program was one of a number of legislative issues on the governor's agenda during the recently concluded session. The scholarship program allows lower income students to qualify for up to \$1,000 annually in scholarship assistance to attend one of the state's higher education institutions. The HEOG Program is available to any recent Arkansas high school graduate or GED recipient who is accepted to a college or university

in Arkansas, who pledges to remain drug-free and meets the financial requirements. Standing left to right are Ben Pickard, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at ASU-Beebe; Senator Shane Broadway; Senator Percy Malone; Representative Steve Breedlove, the primary sponsor of House Bill 2299; Representative Eddie Hawkins; and Dr. Linda Beene, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (Photo courtesy of Kirk Jordan/Arkansas Governor's Office, Source: Arkansas Department of Higher Education).

*Continued on Back Page*

# OTC Prepared Jones for Future



**OTC Graduate and Malvern Elementary School fourth grade teacher, Carmen Jones**

After being away from any type of academic environment for a number of years, Carmen Jones decided that Ouachita Technical College was the best place for her to further her education. Jones said, "I feel that OTC

prepared me for a 4-year college experience, because the campus was appealing and the staff expected the best out of their students. The instructors at Ouachita Technical College helped me to feel confident and enthusiastic about school."

While at OTC, Carmen Jones took full advantage of a variety of assistance programs offered to her, including TRiO (Student Support Services) and

financial assistance. Jones graduated from Ouachita Technical College in 2001, before transferring on to Henderson State University where she received a BSE in education in the fall of 2003.

Jones is currently a fourth grade teacher at Malvern Elementary School. She and her husband of 13 years, Larry, have five children. With hopes of one day starting an after school-reading program and eventually working with older children, Jones is presently attending graduate school and hopes to finish this year.

*"The instructors at OTC helped me to feel confident and enthusiastic about school."*

## OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Pete Paladino.....Chair
- Don Tackett..... Vice-Chair
- Ray Ollar.....Secretary
- Dale Jenkins
- Jimmy Lea
- Kristi Norris
- Bill Stilwell

## OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Floyd Parker.....Chair
- Kinney Black.....Vice-Chair
- Dee Edie
- Joe Keith
- Pete Paladino
- Tom Poston
- Fred Smith
- Bill Stilwell
- Darrel Teeter
- Don Walsh

## OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION GIFT FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT DESIGNATION:**

**I would like my gift to be designated for:**

- Unrestricted—Please use where the need is greatest
- Instructional Technology Center
- Scholarship Endowment (Matched dollar for dollar by Title III grant funds)

My total tax-deductible one-time gift **OR** five-year pledge for the Major Gifts Campaign in support of the Ouachita Technical College Foundation is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**I choose to fulfill my gift/pledge:**

- In full with a payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. My check made payable to OTC Foundation **OR** cash is enclosed **OR** I wish to donate via credit card. I would like to use my:
  - VISA     MasterCard     Discover    Card # \_\_\_\_\_
  - Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for the next five years for a total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ five-year pledge.  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*The College understands that you reserve the right to alter this commitment due to unforeseen causes.*

# OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

One College Circle

Malvern, AR 72104

Phone: 501-337-5000

Fax: 501-337-9382

E-mail: [info@otcweb.edu](mailto:info@otcweb.edu)



## *Changing Lives...Building Futures!*

### **Financial Aid Opportunities cont.**



Governor Mike Beebe prepares to sign SB839 into law as Act 840 of 2007, amending the Academic Challenge Scholarship program by making it possible for even more middle-income students to qualify for the scholarship and reduce dependence upon student loans. The scholarship, which previously made eligible students from families making \$60,000 a year, will now allow students from middle-income families making up to \$65,000 a year to be eligible. Looking on as the governor signs the bill are (left to right) Dr. Linda Beene (ADHE Director), Tara Smith (Coordinator of Financial Aid), Dr. Steve Floyd (ADHE Deputy Director), Janet Lawrence (Coordinator of General Administration), and Senator Jim Argue, sponsor of SB839 (Photo courtesy of Kirk Jordan/ Arkansas Governor's Office, Source: Arkansas Department of Higher Education).

### **Summer and Fall Schedule of Classes Now Available**

To view the class schedule for Summer I, II, III, and Fall 2007 semesters, you may go to the OTC home page at [www.otcweb.edu](http://www.otcweb.edu). Hard copies of the schedules are also available in the Office of Student Affairs and other various locations on campus.

### **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**SHARI DOUGLAS**

**BOOKSTORE MANAGER**



Started at OTC in July 1998.

My job responsibilities include ordering books, supplies, clothes, graduation caps and gowns, and helping students purchase textbooks.

My family includes my daughter, Heather, son-in-law, Dirk, son, Aaron (my marine), and son, Trevor (in high school).

The last book I read was *The Memory Keepers Daughter*.

One thing that people might not know about me is I'm actually very quiet away from work.

As a child, I wanted to be a fashion designer when I grew up.

My favorite thing about OTC is there are lots of people here that I really enjoy their company.

My dream vacation would be in Bora Bora in a villa over-looking the water.

My first vehicle was a 1974 Ford ugly-green Maverick.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is jet ski or working in my garden.

My biggest pet peeve is people that beat around the bush. If you have something to say, say it!

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is go to the lake and have a blast with my lake buddies.

With one hour of free time, I would soak in my tub.

### **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**WENDY SULLIVAN**

**INSTRUCTOR OF COSMETOLOGY**



Started at OTC in August 2005.

My job responsibilities include being a teacher, counselor, and friend.

My family includes my 4-year old dachshund companion.

The last book I read was *Haircutting for Dummies*.

My dream vacation would be on an island with an umbrella drink and a cabana boy!

My favorite food is ice cream.

One thing that people might not know about me is I collect ladybug paraphernalia.

As a child, I wanted to be a hairdresser when I grew up.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is hang out with family and friends.

My first vehicle was a 1992 Mercury Tracer.

With one hour of free time I would catch a nap or go to the park.

The furthest I have traveled is Florida .

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is sleep late and attend all of Paige's, my niece, activities.

My favorite thing about OTC is the camaraderie in our cosmetology building.

My biggest pet peeve is when people are unwilling to learn or change.