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**ON THE CALENDAR**

Graduation May 9  
 (Malvern High School Auditorium) 2:00 pm  
 Open Registration May 11-21  
 Summer I & II 2009  
 Open Registration May 11-  
 Memorial Day Holiday May 25  
 Summer I Classes Begin May 26  
 New Fall Practical May 28  
 Nursing Student Registration (9:00am or 1:00 pm)

**368 to Receive Awards at Spring Commencement**

The Ouachita Technical College Commencement Exercises will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., at the Malvern High School Auditorium. A reception will be held in the Malvern High School Cafeteria following the ceremony.

Dr. Charles Welch, President of Henderson State University, will speak to the 2008 - 09 graduating class of Ouachita Technical College.

Dr. Charles Welch assumed his position as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of HSU on July 1, 2008. Dr. Welch came to Henderson after serving as the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, a position he assumed in January 2005. He is the youngest person to ever serve as president or chancellor of an Arkansas community college, is currently the youngest college president in Arkansas, and is believed to be the youngest college president in the United States.

Dr. Welch is a native of Jonesboro, Arkansas and was a

first-generation college student. In fact, he is the only member of either side of his extended family to receive a graduate degree. Welch received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Arkansas where he served as president of the student



Henderson State University president, Dr. Chuck Welch

body. He received a Master of Arts degree in political management from the George Washington University, and a doctor of education degree in higher education administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Dr. Welch previously served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Arkansas State University at Beebe and Dean of University Studies at Pulaski Technical College. Welch also worked at UALR and has served as an instructor of education and political science at three different colleges in Arkansas.

Dr. Welch also has considerable experience in the governmental affairs arena. He served as a White House intern and also served on the staffs of Senator David Pryor and then-representative Blanche Lincoln while he earned his graduate degree.

Welch is active in numerous higher education activities. He was president of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges in 2007, and serves as a consultant-evaluator for the Peer Review Corps of the Higher Learning Commission. In 2005, *Arkansas Business* selected Welch to *40 Under 40*, which profiled 40 "intriguing

business and political leaders under age 40." He has also been active in the communities where he has worked, serving on a variety of boards and committees.

Dr. Welch and his wife Mandy are the proud parents of two daughters—Wheatley Grace (5) and Emma Caroline (3).



# From the President's Desk...



It is hard to believe that it is graduation time. It seems that the year just started a few weeks ago. However, we are making preparations for our OTC

at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Welch has been a long time friend of OTC and he greatly appreciates the fact that more OTC students choose HSU to pursue their Bachelors Degree than all other universities in the state. HSU is a great partner with OTC as our two institutions endeavor to expand educational opportunities for our students.

The graph shows that our efforts have been successful. We have specific goals to continue growing of graduation numbers and percentages. The graph shows some projections (dashed lines) based on the goals and objectives of several initiatives that we have underway.

All in all it has been a great year and we are looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our students in the above mentioned graduation events. And, we are excited about the future because we continue to have success recruiting students and helping them to succeed in each course each term with our improved support services, tutoring, case management, financial aid, advisement and counseling.

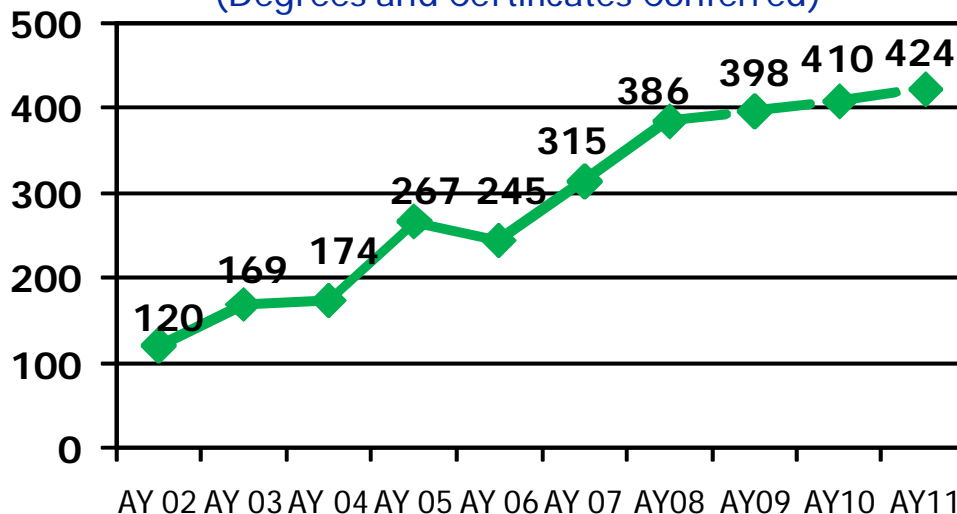
Graduation on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and the GED Graduation on June 25, 2009. We recently held our Ouachita Area High School Center Graduation on April 30, The Annual Awards Program on May 1, and the LPN Pinning Ceremony on May 7. It is a very busy time for students, faculty and staff.

We are pleased to announce the Dr. Charles Welch, President of Henderson State University (HSU) in Arkadelphia, will be the speaker during the College graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 9

We are also pleased to announce that we are expecting a record number of graduates this year and the largest number ever participating in our graduation exercise. The Registrar reports that so far we have 67 graduation applications for the Fall Semester, 155 graduation applicants for the Spring/Summer Semester, and 134 graduation applicants (Certificates of Proficiency) for the Ouachita Area High School Career Center. In recent years our faculty and staff have made a concerted effort to increase our retention and graduation rates.

## OTC Graduates

(Degrees and Certificates Conferred)



## OTC Library, Award Recipient

Ouachita Technical College Library has been chosen by the American Library Association to receive Picturing America. Picturing America is a new initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities, bringing masterpieces of American art into classrooms and libraries nationwide. Through this innovative program, students and citizens will gain a deeper appreciation of our country's history and character through the study and understanding of its art.

The nation's artistic heritage—our paintings, sculpture, architecture, fine crafts, and photography—offers unique

insights into the character, ideals, and aspirations of our country. By bringing high-quality reproductions of notable American art into public and private schools, libraries, and communities,

Picturing America gives participants the opportunity to learn about our nation's history and culture in a fresh and engaging way. Collectively, the masterpieces in Picturing America, used in conjunction with the Teachers Resource Book and program Web site, help Students experi-

ence the humanity of history and enhance the teaching and understanding of America's past. To view the display, visit the OTC Library Monday-Thursday, 7:00am-5:30pm.



*The County Election, 1852*

By George Caleb Bingham

## AACAE Scholarship Awarded to Brenda Keisler

The Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education Executive Board has awarded the annual Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) scholarship to Brenda Keisler of Ouachita Technical College Adult

Education. Ms. Keisler, who won the AACAE Outstanding Teacher award in 2007, will receive reimbursement for up to \$2,000 for travel, lodging, and conference registration at the 2009 COABE Conference in Louisville,

Kentucky. She will report on her COABE participation at the 2009 AACAE conference in Springdale. Brenda Keisler has worked as an adult education instructor at OTC for 24 years, following 8 years of teaching in public schools.

## TRiO Hosts Annual Recognition Banquet

TRiO Student Support Services Second Annual Recognition Banquet was held recently. This event is designed to acknowledge OTC TRiO students and their accomplishments while in the program. Those on the Dean's or President's Lists along with club and organization members were recognized. Bro. Thomy Green, pastor of Third Baptist Church in Malvern, spoke at the banquet



## OTC Commends Committed Faculty/Staff



to OTC and their accomplishments. Also awarded is an Outstanding Faculty member and Staff member, this is voted on by employees. Sherree Hughes, Medical Office Administrator and CNA Instructor, was chosen as this year's Outstanding Faculty member.

May is a time for celebration on OTC's campus. Aside from the more obvious, being finals week, awards ceremony, and graduation, this is also the month of the annual OTC Employee Service Recognition Luncheon. Each year at the end of the Spring semester, employees are recognized for every five years of commitment

Chosen as Outstanding Staff member was Lloyd Melton, Computer Security Specialist.



25 year Service recipient, Adrian Ashley with Dr. Ballard



Outstanding Faculty member Sherree Hughes with Dr. Ballard



Outstanding Staff member Lloyd Melton with Dr. Ballard

## Sixteenth Annual Awards Ceremony Held

Ouachita Technical College held its Sixteenth Annual Awards Ceremony Friday, May 1, 2009. During the evening, twenty-one new members were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for the 2009-2010 year, and forty-two honor graduates received honor cords to be worn at graduation.



OTC Outstanding Alumni of the Year, David Karrar



OTC Outstanding Student of the Year, Christina Cantrell

## Ouachita Area High School Career Center Skills Awards and Conferring of Certificates of Proficiency



# OTC SkillsUSA Brings Home Gold

The Arkansas College and High School SkillsUSA competitions were held on April 14 & 15, at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Over 2,000 students, educators and business partners were in attendance. OTC High School and College SkillsUSA members competed in various skill areas including: Criminal Justice, Medical Terminology, Medical Coding, Health Knowledge, and Job Demonstration.

SkillsUSA is a national organization with chapters located in high schools and colleges throughout the United States. The students pictured received gold medals in several different areas. These students will represent Arkansas at the national SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City, Missouri, June 22-27.



OTC High School and College SkillsUSA Teams

## Donation to OTC Foundation



Dianna Reggans, Branch Manager of Southern Bancorp, presents Ouachita Technical College President, Dr. Barry Ballard, with a \$2,000 payment towards Southern Bancorp's pledge to the OTC Foundation.

### OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Bill Stilwell ..... Chair
- John Cole ..... Vice-Chair
- Dee Edie
- Jean Harper
- Jimmy Lea
- Pete Paladino
- Don Tackett

### OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Floyd Parker ..... Chair
- Kinney Black ..... Vice-Chair
- Dee Edie
- Amy Homan
- Joe Keith
- Von Michael
- Pete Paladino
- Tom Poston
- Diana Reggans
- Mark Roberts
- Fred Smith
- 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
- Building and Equipment
- Scholarship Endowment

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

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*Changing Lives...Building Futures!*

## OTC Launches Facebook Site

Ouachita Technical College recently launched a page on Facebook, a social networking site for students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Much of the information found on the OTC Facebook page is carried over from the official Ouachita Technical College website; however, the Facebook page has a few "fun" things added. The site features information about OTC events, programs, and a variety of photos.

Anyone who has a Facebook profile page can become a fan of the Ouachita Technical College Facebook page by visiting the site and becoming a 'friend'. Find us at [www.facebook.com/pages/Malvern-AR/Ouachita-Technical-College/71871678915](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Malvern-AR/Ouachita-Technical-College/71871678915). Be watching for special activities and surprises.



Amber Childers, Director of Public Relations and Development, displays the OTC Facebook page

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### CHRISTINA BRATTON

RECRUITMENT & CAREER COUNSELOR/  
ACADEMIC ADVISOR



Started at OTC in August, 2006.

My job responsibilities include advising, programming (Career Fair & Alcohol/Drug Awareness), first year experience orientation and instructing.

My family includes my husband, Marcus; our two Dachshunds, Minnie and Dixie; and our Hermit Crab, Finnigan.

My favorite food is a grilled cheese and tomato soup.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I am banned from a video store in Athens, Ohio, for forgetting to return a movie.

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

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is go hiking at a state or national park.

My first vehicle was a 1989 White Cavalier.

With one hour of free time I would go out for a walk or hike.

My biggest pet peeve is people that don't clean up after themselves, whether at home, work, or in public. That bugs the crap out of me, especially in parks!

My favorite thing about OTC is all the food! Mmmm....food!

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is to go hiking or picnicking with my husband and dogs.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### LISA MARIE BURGERON WOOD

INSTRUCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY



Started at OTC full-time in 1994.

My job responsibilities include preparing for classes, teaching, grading, and working on committees.

My family includes my husband, Mike; our thirteen year-old cat; my parents; in-laws; and all of the brothers and sisters of my extended family at OTC.

The last book I read was *New Moon*, for the second time this year!

My dream vacation would be a whole week in Destin, FL.

My favorite food is chicken and dumplings.

One thing that people might not know about me is, well if I told, you'd know it then, right??

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

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is beading.

My first vehicle was a two-door aqua blue Chevrolet Monza.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is to sleep late and then go to an afternoon matinee.

The furthest I have traveled is Canada.

My biggest pet peeve is people who leave their shopping carts in parking spaces instead of putting them into the shopping cart return corral!

My favorite thing about OTC is my students!