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ON THE CALENDAR

Awards Ceremony May 2
 Great Room 6pm
Spring Final Exams May 5-8
PN Pinning Ceremony May 8
Graduation May 10
 MHS Auditorium 2pm
Open Registration Begins
 Summer I, II, & III and Fall May 12
Summer Hours Begin May 12
 M-TH 8am- 5pm
 F 8am-1pm
Memorial Day Holiday May 26
 (Campus Closed)
First Day of Summer I & II May 27
 Classes
Last Day to Adjust Schedules May 27
 by 6pm
Last Day to Withdraw June 17
 with a "W" Summer I
Summer I Final Exams June 26
Adult Education June 26
 Graduation
Independence Day July 4
 Holiday (Campus Closed)
Last Day to withdraw with July 8
 a "W" Summer II
Summer II Final Exams July 30-31

OTC Students Win Big at Recent Competitions

**OTC's College and High School SkillsUSA Teams
Bring Home the Gold.**

The SkillsUSA teams recently traveled to Hot Springs to compete in the Arkansas SkillsUSA State Competition.

Medical Office Administration Program:

Rebecca McCool - Gold - American Spirit

Sara Bailey - Gold - Medical Transcription

Jocelyn Cheek - Gold - Job Demonstration

Cheryl Williams - Silver - Medical Coding

Nancy Williams - Bronze - Medical Coding

Health Knowledge Bowl Team:
 Kristy Keen, Meschelle Boswell, Freda Cranford, Charity Sawyer - Silver

High School Career Center:

Heath Thomason - Silver - Small Engine Technology

Shawn Finley - Silver - Criminal



College SkillsUSA team with Advisor Sherree Hughes

Justice
 Crime Scene Investigation Team: Courtney Toland, Daniel Clift, Matt Goode - Bronze

Rebecca McCool, Medical Office Administration student and SkillsUSA State Gold Medal winner will represent Ouachita Technical College at the National SkillsUSA competition June 23-27 in Kansas City, Missouri.

McCool says, "It makes me proud to be a student at OTC

and to know our SkillsUSA team is involved in the community and in helping others and that we are being recognized for our efforts. Our SkillsUSA organization has taught us how to work together as a team which is important in the workplace. We have learned leadership skills that we will use in future employment. Being a member of the chapter has also fostered relationships within the student body, such as forming study groups to improve our studies. Being able to compete in the national competition is such an honor. The experience of networking with other student members and leaders in business and industry from across the country is beyond words." The SkillsUSA Championships is the showcase for the best career and technical students in the nation.

**OTC's Practical Nursing Program Performs Well at Spring
ALPNA Conference in Searcy**

Students in the Ouachita Technical College Practical Nursing Program recently attended the 12th Annual Arkansas Licensed Practical Nurses' Association (ALPNA) Spring Conference and Competition at Harding University in Searcy.

Amy Fite - First Place - Phar-

macology Test
 Melody Brinsfield - First Place - Skills Performance of Sterile Dressing Change

Becky Freeman - Third Place - Job Interview

Quiz Bowl Team: Rachel Fitz-

ugh, Lakesha Gentry, Jennifer Sanders, & Michele Werner - Second Place

Amy Fite also won a full paid trip to ALPNA National Convention May, 2009, in Virginia.

From the President's Desk...



It is hard to believe that the end of the spring semester and graduation is just a week away. Our students, faculty and staff have accomplished a great many thing this year. On Friday, May 2, 2008, we will have our annual Awards Ceremony in the OTC Great Room (Room A300) beginning at 6:00 p.m. During this ceremony we will present the Student Government Association outstanding faculty of the year and the SGA Scholarship recipient; our student honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, will induct their new members; the recipient for the Henderson State University Presidential Scholarship will be recognized; OTC's honor graduates will be recognized; Outstanding Student Awards will be given to the top nursing student, the top student in the Applied Science, the top student in the Arts, Science and Education Division and the top Business Technology student; and finally we will recognize the top overall OTC student and this year's top alumni.

GRADUATION

Everyone is invited to our graduation ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at the Malvern High School Auditorium. The Hot Springs Community Band will provide some great patriotic music, the National Anthem, and Pomp and Circumstance during the ceremony. The best news of all is that it is going to be OTC's largest graduation to date. We will

confer graduation credentials – certificates and associate degrees - to 245 students completing this spring and summer and 115 students who finished last fall, for a total of 360! This is fabulous! We have a great graduation speaker – Malvern Mayor Steve Northcutt who is always inspiring and motivational. And, we will invite everyone to the reception immediately following.

GRADUATION & TRANSFER RATES IMPROVED

For more than five years we have been working toward changing our overall emphasis from a "teaching" college to a "learning" college. We have been working hard to focus on improving student learning and success, student persistence and retention, and student graduation and transfer. We are making good progress thanks to our wonderful faculty and dedicated staff.

The federal and state governments require that we report graduation and transfer data using the Integrated Postsecondary Data System (IPEDS). For IPEDS, graduation and transfer rates are calculated using first-time, full-time, award-seeking students enrolled in a fall semester. A student is counted as a graduate or as a transfer who completes their award OR who transfers within 150 percent of the nominal time that it takes to complete a program. As an example, 150 percent of a two-year program would be three years (2 yrs. X 150% = 3 yrs.). Students are counted only once, as either a graduate or a transfer. Our goal is to help every student graduate or transfer.

Students that graduate or transfer are considered successes.

To comply with the Federal Student Right-To-Know Act, the college communicates the four-year average of these rates to students. The latest average reported to IPEDS (submitted in March 2008) reflects the 2001-2004 cohort groups. The 2004 cohort of students were generally here between the fall of 2004 through the summer of 2007 which is the 150 percent window. The 2001-2004 average Graduation Rate is 17 percent and the Transfer Rate is 16 percent. Rates for each of the four cohort years are:

2004 Cohort – 23 percent grad rate; 21 percent transfer rate = 44 percent total

2003 Cohort – 18 percent grad rate; 22 percent transfer rate = 40 percent total

2002 Cohort – 11 percent grad rate; 9 percent transfer rate = 20 percent total

2001 Cohort – 15 percent grad rate; 13 percent transfer rate = 28 percent total

These improvement gains are phenomenal. The OTC faculty and staff are to be congratulated for these great improvements. We expect more good news next year because the changes and improvements that we implemented in 2005 will not even show up in the data until next year. We made even more improvements in 2006 and 2007. The many improvements we have made will continue to bear good

fruit
for



Student Success...Alexandra Warner



“I realized you have to work for what you want in life and it is not easy, but it is worth it.”
-Alexandra Warner

ate of the RN program, Alexandra Warner credits OTC for her success. This mother of 5 says, “OTC provided me with the education and experience to be a great nurse and care for patients in a knowledgeable and caring way.”

Alexandra had a child when she was 15 years old; after having been a straight “A” student, she dropped out of high school and got her GED.

“I then realized you have to work for what you want in life and it is not easy, but it is

worth it!” Graduating from the LPN program gave Warner the knowledge of what more she could do. That knowledge, coupled with the desire to better herself and her family, inspired Warner to return to OTC and continue on to the RN program.

Warner is an RN at UAMS in the Preemie Nursery and is a member of the Hot Spring County Community Health Coalition. She is currently working towards her Bachelors Degree.

A 2003 graduate of Ouachita Technical College’s LPN program and a 2007 gradu-

Dr. B Goes to Jail ...for St. Jude Children’s Hospital Fundraiser



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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) **through September 30, 2008.**

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.

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Changing Lives...Building Futures!

Around Campus...



**Career/Job
Fair 2008**



**Dr. Fitz Hill, President
of Arkansas Baptist
College, speaks to vis-
iting HS Seniors.**



**Area High School
Seniors visit OTC
campus on Senior
Day 2008.**



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

KEE KRATZ

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR



Started at OTC in July 1999.

My job responsibilities include updating, troubleshooting, and maintaining the student information system along with the financial aid system and our bookkeeping system.

My family includes my wife, Amanda, and our two boys, Riley (3) and Tyler (1).

The last book I read was *Arkansas- a collection of Christian stories based in the Natural State*.

My favorite food is steak and potatoes.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I sing in a quartet and the choir at church. I also play guitar and have written and recorded several songs.

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

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is to go off-roading, either on the 4-wheeler or my motorcycle.

My first vehicle was a 1957 GMC pickup that my Dad and I restored.

With one hour of free time I would catch up on some needed rest.

My favorite season is fall - football season.

The furthest I have traveled is Las Vegas, Nevada.

My biggest pet peeve is people that can't follow directions.

My favorite thing about OTC is the fact it's like a great big family.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MELINDA BLACKLOCK

NURSING INSTRUCTOR



Started at OTC part time in 2006, full time in 2007.

My job responsibilities include lectures and clinicals.

My family includes my husband of 16 years, Curt, and three daughters.

The last book I read was *Isaac's Storm* for Dr. Schultz.

My dream vacation would be Alaska.

My favorite food is Mexican.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I love children, and would probably have half a dozen if my husband would let me.

As a child, I wanted to be a nurse and a mother when I grew up.

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

My first vehicle was a Datsun.

With one hour of free time I would shop!

My favorite season is Spring.

The furthest I have traveled is Mexico.

My biggest pet peeve is procrastinators.

My favorite thing about OTC are the people I work with and I love teaching!

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is shop or spend time with my children.