

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Santa Claus to Visit OTC Page 1
Achieving the Dream Page 1
From the President's Desk Page 2
New VP of Student Affairs Page 2
Donation to Foundation Page 3
Around Campus Page 4
In the Spotlight Faculty/Staff Page 4

ON THE CALENDAR

General Registration NOW-
January 9
Final Exam Week December
8-11
**Jingle with Kringle
(Santa on Campus)** December 11
3:00-7:00pm
PN Pinning Ceremony December 11
**Fall Cosmetology Class
ends** December 17
Christmas Holiday
For students Dec 15-Jan 9
Campus Closed Dec 23-Jan 2
Spring 09 Classes Begin January 12

Santa Claus to Visit OTC

Santa Claus will be making his annual appearance to the campus of Ouachita Technical College on **Thursday, December 11, 2008.** Santa and his elves will be arriving at 3:00 p.m. and will be available for photos and visiting until 7:00 p.m. when they must return to the



North Pole to continue preparing for Christmas Eve night! Each child that visits will receive a special gift from Santa and refreshments will be offered. There will also be a Christmas movie viewing room as well as a coloring table that can be enjoyed. Santa will be located in the

OTC Great Room (A-300) of the main building. Photos with Santa may be purchased for \$3.00 each. All proceeds will benefit the Ouachita Technical College Foundation.



OTC Joins the "Achieving the Dream" Initiative

Achieving the Dream is an initiative that aims to bring about change within community colleges and in state and federal policy. The initiative also seeks to augment knowledge about strategies that increase student success and to expand public support for raising postsecondary attainment levels. The awarding of this \$450,000 grant initiative will help Ouachita Technical College continue the important work of improving student success rates, transfer rates, and graduation rates. The College received a \$50,000 grant from Lumina Foundation for Education to plan and launch the initiative, and will receive an implementation grant of \$400,000 over the next four years from The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

At its core, the initiative seeks to help more students reach their individual goals, which may include earning a community college certificate or degree, attaining a bachelor's degree, and/or obtaining a better job. Achieving the Dream colleges will maintain a high degree

of access for historically underrepresented groups while working to increase the percentage of students who a) successfully complete the courses they take; b) advance from remedial to credit-bearing courses; c) enroll in and successfully complete gatekeeper courses; d) enroll from one semester to the next; and e) earn degrees and/or certificates.

After four to eight years, a substantially higher percentage of students at Achieving the Dream colleges—especially low-income students and students of color—will experience success, as measured by the accomplishments above, with no reduction in enrollment for these populations. Longer term, Achieving the Dream aims to influence national policy and practice in order to increase student success at those colleges that do not have the opportunity to participate directly in the initiative.

In support of its ultimate goal -- increased student success -- the initiative is working to achieve

certain outcomes in four areas: institutional change, policy change, public engagement, and knowledge development.

OTC's Basic Skills Division of the math and English departments were two areas that implemented changes in order to meet some of these goals. For example, last academic year in the math division, the Intermediate Algebra class could only be taken in the computer lab. Now, however, Intermediate Algebra is also taught in the classroom, as well as in the computer lab. In the English department, the Basic Composition class has been merged with the Basic Grammar class. As a result, students will only be asked to master the outcomes of one developmental writing course as opposed to two, moving them into gateway courses as they succeed.

When asked about these changes, Sheridan High School graduate Crystal Ozment, who is working towards becoming an elementary education teacher, said she likes

From the President's Desk...



It seems that the fall semester just started, but when I look at the college calendar I see that finals week is this week, nurse pinning ceremonies are this week, final grades are due on December 15, 2008, and students and faculty will be gone from the campus after next week for the rest of the semes... no, for the rest of the year! The holiday season is upon us.

We have had a great fall semester. Our Achieving the Dream initiative is really helping us

to better serve high risk students so they can succeed and stay in college until graduation. Our Career Pathways initiative is helping over 100 low income students go to college and be successful. We dedicated and opened our new Arts and Science center where almost half our students take classes and half of our faculty teach. Both the students and the faculty enjoy the benefits of this fine new building. Our Student Affairs staff are planning to implement a new "First Year Experience" for entering new students next fall. This plan, designed to improve student learning and success, will include a new student orientation, a new student success seminar course, and a new "principles of Collegiate Success" course. When new students start college they are

shocked about the amount of work and study that is required. They do not know how to "do" college. This new "First Year Experience" is an early set of short courses that are essential for student success in the new demanding world of higher education.

I wish there was room to mention other innovations and success stories. For now we have a record college enrollment, a record high school career center enrollment, and a record number of adult education students who are all on the road to changing their lives and building new exciting futures.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Welcome to OTC's new Vice President of Student Affairs

Dr. Cortez Henderson joined the OTC family as the Vice President of Student Affairs in August, 2008. Dr. Henderson has held a plethora of administrative and faculty positions during her twenty year tenure in higher education. Her passion and commitment for students began during her graduate education experience in Ames, Iowa, where she attended Iowa State University and obtained her Master's in Family and Consumer Sciences and her Ph.D. in Student Personnel Development. She has held a large number of student affairs-related jobs including a coordinator of student career planning and placement, director of minority student affairs, academic advisor, Upward Bound TRiO counselor, director of the Ronald McNair scholars program, director of counseling services, and has been a dean of student affairs at a

community college. Dr. Henderson is an avid grant writer and has acquired over \$6 million in higher education grants.

Dr. Barry Ballard, President of OTC, quoted, "While Dr. Henderson is competent and qualified for the position, her African American race makes it possible for us to have some other advantages as we endeavor to improve African American student enrollments, African American student retention and success, and attract more qualified African American applicants for the faculty, staff and administrative positions here at OTC".

Dr. Henderson is "student centered" and takes pride in being a positive role model for students and others. Dr. Henderson is a motivational speaker and has spoken across the country to

inspire, empower, and push students to be the very best they can. She represents the diversity that she adds to the OTC administrative staff to help us to better equip our students to be prepared educated citizens for an increasingly diversified global work world.



Dr. V. Cortez Henderson
chenderson@otcweb.edu

“Achieving the Dream” continued...

having a “live” math instructor but prefers the lab, and adds that having a choice is good. Crystal also says that working in the lab is suitable for some students but not all. “If you attend class regularly, and you do your homework, you will probably do well in a classroom setting.” Crystal continues, “However, in the lab, I can keep going over and over the subject until I understand, so as a slow-paced learner, I do better in the lab.”

Jasmine Traylor, a Malvern High School graduate pursuing a degree in nursing, is currently enrolled in the combined English class and notes that the advantage of moving through two writing classes in one semester is a great opportunity. She states, “This...has saved me money and time. Instead of paying for two basic skills classes that I don’t get credit for, I can spend my money and time on a class that counts towards my degree.”

Jasmine and Crystal are just two of the many students affected by the positive changes being made through the Achieving the Dream initiative. The College is continually striving to enhance its ability to improve student learning, success, retention, and graduation rates. Achieving the Dream is one initiative in this process. If you have any questions about courses at Ouachita Technical College, please feel free to call 501-337-5000, ext. 1180.

Summit Bank Donates to OTC Foundation



Don Tackett, President of Summit Bank, presents OTC President, Dr. Barry Ballard with a \$4,000.00 check towards Summit Bank’s pledge to the OTC Foundation. Thank you to Summit Bank for being a partner with OTC in *Changing Lives...Building Futures!*

**OUACHITA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

**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
 Mark Roberts
 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
 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

One College Circle

Malvern, AR 72104

Phone: 501-337-5000

Fax: 501-337-9382

E-mail: info@otcweb.edu



Changing Lives...Building Futures!

Around Campus...



OTC's Men On a Mission Group



Several community members visited OTC's campus recently for a meeting of the Industrial Training Advisory Council.



Mike Kolb, Director of Community and Business Education, and Blake Robertson, VP of Adult and Workforce Education, welcomed guests.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

KORI CLAYTON

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Started at OTC in June, 2006.

My job responsibilities include making sure all the invoices get paid, as well as, various reports and agency accounts, and maintaining purchasing card transactions and applications.

My family includes my husband of 15 years, Ryan; daughter, Kortney (15); son, Austin (12); Shih Tzu, Gabbie Joy; Golden Retriever, Gunner; and Cat, Pickles, who is famous!

The last book I read was *Left Behind* series.

My favorite food is steak and baked potato!

One thing that people might not know about me is ...I'm not sure, I'm pretty much an open book.

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

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is spend time with my family, scrapbook, create videos, or work in Photoshop creating neat things with pictures.

My biggest pet peeve is someone scraping their silverware on their plate!

My favorite thing about OTC is the great group of people I work with.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is to sleep in and then go shopping!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JANUARY SCHULTZ

SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR

Started at OTC in August, 2008.

My job responsibilities include instructing Introduction to Biology, Physical Science, Environmental Science, Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology I & II, and Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

My family includes my husband, Kyle (who just returned from his 2nd deployment to Iraq), and my son, Weston (who will be 2 in January).

The last book I read was Nelson DeMille's *Night Fall*.

My dream vacation would be to spend a year traveling the world with money as no object- Great Barrier Reef, Taj Mahal, Jerusalem, Aurora Borealis, you name it!!!

My favorite food is all seafood, steak, boiled crawfish, sushi, Italian or Mexican food.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I wasn't born in January-2 weeks shy actually. I was named after a character in Jacqueline Susann's novel *Once is Not Enough*.

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

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is to spend family time with Weston and Kyle.

The furthest I have traveled is Europe and Northern Africa.

My favorite thing about OTC is how supportive and nice everyone is, even to the new person on the block!