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**ON THE CALENDAR**

Cosmetology Spring Mid Term Application Deadline February 1  
 Cosmetology Mid Term Class Orientation February 12  
 August Nursing Program Application Deadline (PN only) March 1  
 Mid Semester March 5  
 Cosmetology Mid Term Class Begins March 8  
 Spring Break No Classes Campus Closed March 22-26 March 25-26  
 Last Day to Withdraw with a "W" April 2  
 Summer I Cosmetology Application Deadline April 12  
 Cosmetology Summer 2010 New Student Orientation April 23  
 Priority Registration Current Students Only April 12-May 7  
 Awards Ceremony April 30  
 Final Exams May 3-6  
 PN Pinning Ceremony May 6  
 Graduation May 8  
 Registration Summer I and II May 12-27  
 Registration Summer III May 12-July 1  
 Registration Fall Currently Enrolled Students May 12-August 13  
 Spring Cosmetology Class Ends May 13

**Educator Awarded Prestigious Scholarship**

By: S.G. Seals

"Working with students who need remediation is my passion," says Donna Hill, English Instructor at Ouachita Technical College. And it's a good thing she is passionate about it; she found out this week



she has been awarded a National Association of Developmental Educators scholarship to attend the month-long prestigious Kellogg Institute at Appalachia State University in July of this year.

The Kellogg Institute is an intensive training institute in developmental education—on how students learn, and how educators can do more to help students learn. During the Institute, Hill will learn best practices—practices proven successful—in developmental education.

Then, she will bring that expertise back to the state and the College. She'll be a Certified Developmental Education Specialist, and she'll have a year-long supervised practicum on the campus of Ouachita Technical College. That suits her just fine, because for the last two years she has been working on the

College's Achieving the Dream initiative, helping students who face barriers of income, race, or educational background succeed in college.

Hill points out, "I was originally hired at OTC to teach Basic Grammar and Basic Composition and to reorganize those classes under our Achieving the Dream grant. Achieving the Dream has provided the funds and support we've needed to revamp our basic skills courses to provide the best possible classes for our students."

What she discovered in the revamping was common throughout the nation. "So many students simply don't learn best by traditional teaching methods and didn't acquire the knowledge and skills they needed in high school. Yet, I know that a college education is the key for many of our students to break out of a cycle of poverty. Knowing the difference a college degree can make in their lives motivates me to ensure my students have every opportunity to succeed," says Hill. Like her students, Hill is seeking further education as a conduit to both

professional and personal growth. "I applied for the Kellogg Institute in September because I knew that in attending the Institute, I would learn the most up-to-date principles and practices for developmental student success. I figured that everyone who goes to the institute would apply for the NADE scholarship (I mean, why wouldn't you?), so I doubted I had a chance to win it. Now that I have, however, I'm more determined than ever to put that money to good use and come back with new ideas to help our developmental students achieve their potential."

Hill's philosophy of reinvesting her learning in the community is, coincidentally, one of the great payoffs of developmental education. Community monies spent on developmental education are quickly recouped as those developmental skills students go on to earn degrees, as they return to the community as productive citizens, as they earn higher salaries than their uneducated peers, and as they create not only a better skilled workforce but a larger tax base. For Hill, for the College, and for her students, it's a pay-it-forward, win/win situation.

**OTC is a Good Investment**

Dr. Roger Coomer, Vice President of Finance and Administration, recently spoke to the Malvern Rotary club on the many benefits of Ouachita Technical College to the community and state. According to Dr. Coomer, OTC adds more money to the state treasury than it takes out. Not only does the college pull its own weight, but it also effectively subsidizes other sectors funded by the

taxpayers. Absent OTC, taxes would actually have to be raised in order to maintain services in all other sectors at their current levels. In the broad perspective we add up all benefits regardless of recipient and compare the total to the investment made in a benefit/cost ratio. Applying this perspective to OTC, the benefits accrue to different publics. The students accrue the higher earnings as long as

they are in the workforce, whereas the public at large accrue the external social



benefits (i.e. reduced crime, welfare and unemployment, improved health, and less absenteeism from

# From the President's Desk...



Here we are starting a new year and a new semester. This is often a time when we look back to reflect on the past and look forward to wonder about the possibilities the new brings.

My personality causes me to spend much more time thinking about the future than on the past. After having met many of our new students and visited with many of our returning students, I feel very blessed to have such great students who are excited about the world and a better future for themselves, their families and their community. Then, I consider how fortunate they are to have the encouragement and support of

such a talented and dedicated faculty and staff.

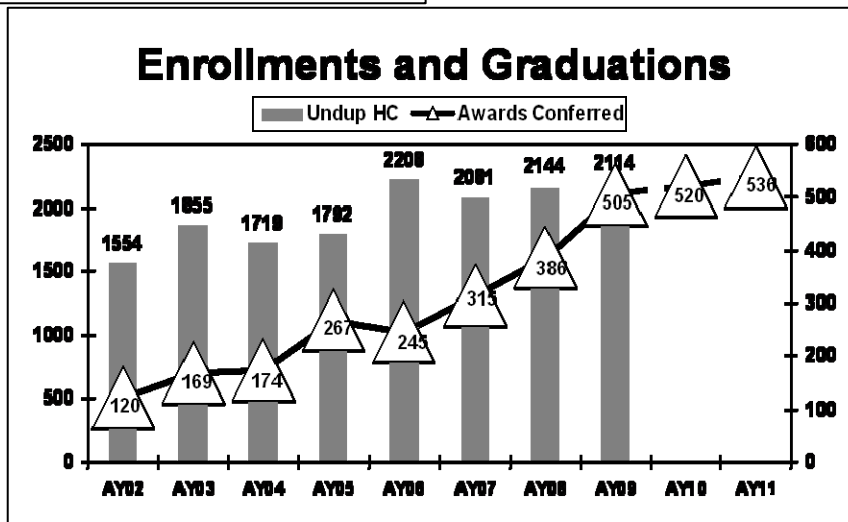
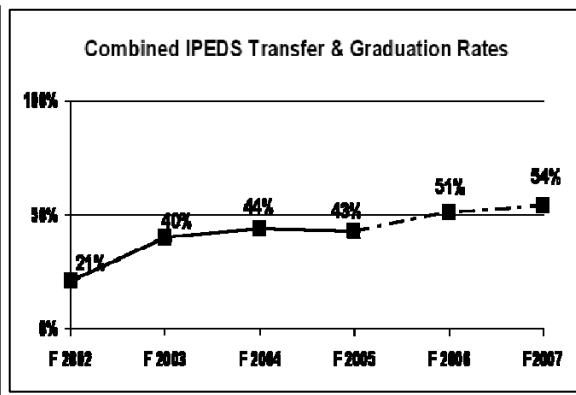
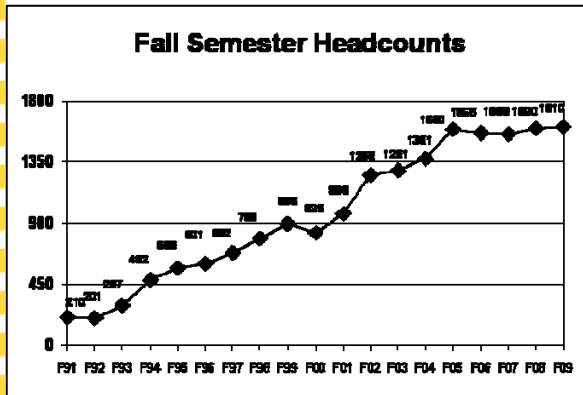
The college continues to grow. The FTE student enrollment growth last semester was about 5%. The numbers for the spring semester look good, too. We are proud of the growth, but we are more proud of the growth we are experiencing in the number of students who are graduating. Even though two-thirds of our students are part time, we felt that more than about one in ten should graduate or transfer to a university. Since we started focusing on improving graduation and transfer rates seven years ago, our success rates have grown much faster than the enrollment growth.

These charts show our enrollment (top left), our improving 3-year transfer and graduation rates (top

right), and annual graduation numbers increasing faster than enrollment. The dashed lines are goals and projections. One of the things that is exciting to us is the fact that we made improvements last year and the year before that are not yet showing up in our 3-year IPEDS graduation rates. These numbers/rates will continue to improve.

In closing, I want to say that I also feel very blessed to be working with the very talented and dedicated faculty and staff at Ouachita Technical College. While these professionals feel pretty good about their past successes, they are quick to say that they think that we can do a little better in the future.

*John Ballard*



# From High School Career Center Student to Career

The Ouachita Area High School Career Center's Criminal Justice Program has partnered with the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC) in an effort to gain more quality employees as Correctional Officers in the state's prison systems. Most of the program's high school students have a desire to become police officers. A problem the students faced was the State of Arkansas requires that a police officer be 21 years of age in order to carry a weapon as a sworn officer. With the help of Dr. Blake Robertson and the Arkansas Department of Career Education, Ouachita Technical College was chosen as a pilot program which would allow the students to work straight out of high school applying the criminal justice experience learned in the classroom.

With this program, a student who completes the high school criminal

justice program takes precedence over other applicants who are applying for Correctional Officer positions with the ADC. These students will still have to attend the Correctional Officer Training Academy in Pine Bluff, but ideally, should graduate higher in their program than a person who walks in off the street since they have been taught using part of ADC's curriculum. The students qualify for a higher starting salary after graduation and have a greater opportunity for advancement within the prison system.

At 18 years of age, a student who has completed OTC's program can make



John Carter and Nikki Haynes are two OTC students to take advantage of this new program.

approximately \$30,000 a year with full health benefits. Their uniforms are furnished and they are fed two meals a day, during their shift at the prison, for free. They work 12 hour shifts with a 14 day work option – working only half a month. They can also start their retirement as early as 18 and be able to retire at the age of 46.

Several students have already been hired through this program. ADC and ACE have now expanded the program state wide to fill positions at all prison units.

## Student Success: Shelia Tucker

A Malvern native, Shelia Tucker credits her success in both of her careers to the support of her family and to the faculty of OTC. As a 2009 Criminal Justice graduate, Shelia was able to gain insight into "why people sometimes act the way they do and what to look for from a security standpoint". She now has what she describes as a dream job; Shelia is a Surveillance Manager at Oaklawn Jockey Club in Hot Springs. Her favorite part of her experience at



Ouachita Technical College was the support she received from her instructors. She praises Mr. Ronnie Thompson for giving her the encouragement to pursue her dream of writing. As a Criminal Justice student, Shelia was always fascinated in the CSI side of the justice system. She began writing "The River Bank" in 2007. In the book, Shelia tried to capture the impact a crime has, not only on the victim's family, but on the community as a whole. After writing and

revising the book she began sending letters to agents and publishers. Having a drawer full of rejection letters, a friend suggested self publishing. "I cannot describe the feeling you get when you hold a book in your hand and realize it has your name on the cover and your words between the pages", she beamed. She is currently working on her second novel, titled "Death Envisioned", which will continue the story of one of the main characters from the first novel. "The River Bank" is available in the OTC library.

### ...OTC is a Good Investment, continued from Page 1

work). All of these are tallied up and compared to the investments made by state government, or the taxpayers. OTC activities encourage new business, assist existing business, and create long-term economic growth. The college enhances worker skills and provides

customized training to local businesses and industry. It is estimated that the present-day OTC service area workforce currently embodies around 379,437 credit and non-credit hours of past and present OTC training. Altogether, the OTC service area economy owes

roughly \$41.7 million of its labor and non-labor income to the past and present efforts of OTC. Clearly, it is accurate to describe OTC as an engine of economic growth.

# OTC Counselor Walks for Cause

"Can I walk 26.2 miles in two days?" That was the question Paulette Overton, OTC Counselor, asked herself this past summer when she and her sister had signed up to do the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, after talking about it for the past two years. On October 10<sup>th</sup> and

11<sup>th</sup>, they were just two of the 5,000 participants walking in New York City. Each person was charged with a goal of raising \$1,800 for breast cancer research. Proudly, Paulette was able to raise \$2,200. What does Paulette have to say about the event? "What started as an

adventure with my sister, ended up being a very humbling experience. I was overjoyed that I actually could walk the whole 26.2 miles. I did end up with a blister and also heat rash on my feet!"



## "Socks for Seniors"



Students, Nikki Mitchell and Odessia Bedford, are pictured visiting Malvern Nursing Home and Long Meadow Nursing Home.



The OTC Career Pathways Program selects a community project each semester. The Fall 2009 project was "Socks for Seniors". The students purchase new packages of white socks for local nursing home residents. "We believe that service is an important part of education and strive to implement some type of community project each semester. Our students have embraced this vision and look forward to future projects", shared Johnnie Mitchell, Career Pathways Counselor. Some past projects have included sending care packages to military personnel through "Adopt a Soldier" Foundation, as well as, care packages for an OTC staff member who was hospitalized. Students delivered socks and Christmas cards to two local nursing homes before Christmas break. The students all agreed, "The smiles on the faces of the residents really made our day!"

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**LINDA CUNNINGHAM**

**LIBRARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT**



Started at OTC in December, 1999.

My job responsibilities include everything in the library: helping students with computers & research; training & supervising staff; keeping the library web page up to date; and anything else that needs to be done to help students and Mary Ann.

My family includes my husband, Rick; my daughter and son-in-law, Angie and Larry Taylor; and my granddaughter, Maddie Taylor.

My dream vacation would be a month long driving tour of the New England states in the fall.

One thing that people might not know about me is that in high school, I was very shy and quiet.

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

My first vehicle was a brand new, 1971, red Camaro with white leather interior. This brought me out of my quiet, shy stage!

My favorite season is Spring, when the flowers start blooming.

With one hour of free time I would read, of course!

The furthest I have traveled is Las Vegas, Nevada.

My biggest pet peeve is getting behind someone driving real slow.

My favorite thing about OTC is, of course, the library!

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is to go to flea markets and antique shops.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**LISA K. IRWIN**

**SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR**



Started at OTC in the fall of 2007.

My job responsibilities include teaching A&P, Microbiology & Environmental Sciences, PTK co-advisor, & other duties as assigned.

My family includes my husband, Kelly, and myself.

The last book I read was *In Defense of Food*, by Michael Pollan.

My dream vacation would be a sea kayaking tour of the Everglades.

My favorite food is Carrot Cake.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I was raised in Central America, where my parents worked as Baptist Missionaries.

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

My first vehicle was a 1971 Subaru DL (in a hideous yellow color, I couldn't forget it if I tried!)

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is play with fire (lampworking, making glass beads, etc.)

My favorite season is Fall.

With one hour of free time I would exercise.

My biggest pet peeve is laziness.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is go fossil hunting with Kelly, if the weather is nice; if it's not, stay home and cook.

The furthest I have traveled is to the Amazon Rainforest (Peru).

My favorite thing about OTC is the people!!