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ON THE CALENDAR

Last day to withdraw with a "W" - Summer II (10wk)	July 10
Last day to withdraw with a "W" - Summer III (5wk)	July 24
Final Exams - Summer II (10wk)	August 1-2
Final Exams—Summer III (5wk)	August 2
Book Buy Back in OTC Bookstore	August 2
Grades due —Summer II & III	August 5 by 11:59PM
Summer II Cosmetology Class ends	August 10
Faculty Return to Campus	August 13
Campus Closed for In-Service	August 13 8A—1P
Campus Connection Reception	August 16 5:00 PM
Fall Classes Begin	August 20
Labor Day Holiday	Sept. 3

OTC BREAKS GROUND FOR INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Ouachita Technical College held Ground Breaking Ceremonies for a new Instructional Technology Center Building on Tuesday, June 19, 2007. Remarks were provided by State Representative Mike Burris, Malvern Mayor Steve Northcutt, OTC Board of Trustees Chairman Pete Paladino, and OTC Foundation Board Chairman Floyd Parker. Each spoke about the progressiveness, persistence, and quality leadership that was integral in the planning process of the \$2.48 million building.

The 17,800 square foot, two-story complex will

house the Arts, Science, and Education division, primarily servicing the Associate of Arts and Associate of Arts in Teaching students. However, all programs on campus require general education and therefore every student will benefit from the new building. Included in the structure will be seven "smart classrooms", all equipped with computers, LCD projectors, wired and wireless telecommunications, presentation equipment, and various other technology; three labs, including math, reading/writing, and computer; a stu-

dent study room; one conference room; one faculty/staff break room; and twelve offices.

"The construction of the new Instructional Technology Center shows the dedication of our administration, faculty, and staff to continue to provide the highest quality education that appeals to students with diverse learning styles," said Pat Simms, Division Chair for Arts, Science, and Education.



Dr. Ballard speaks while Pete Paladino, Representative Mike Burris, Mayor Steve Northcutt, and Floyd Parker watch



Contractor Irwin Seales and Architect Rico Harris discuss building plans



OTC Board of Trustees



OTC Foundation Board



Dr. Ballard and Dr. Linda Beene visit with Ed French of Senator Blanche Lincoln's office, and Floyd Parker



ASE Faculty members

From the President's Desk



“Our students will be the big winners in this initiative.”

I am very happy to report that Ouachita Technical College has been selected to join Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national initiative to help more community college students succeed. The college joins as part of the national initiative's latest expansion, which has added 24 colleges in eight states, bringing the total number of participating institutions to 82 colleges in 15 states. This marks the initiative's first expansion into Arkansas. As a participating college OTC will be expected to implement strategies designed to help more students - particularly students of color and low-income students - earn degrees, complete certificates or transfer to other institutions to continue their studies. Achieving the Dream emphasizes building a culture of evidence, in which colleges use data to identify effective

practices, improve student success rates and close achievement gaps.

Our Board of Trustees, faculty and staff are very excited to have been chosen to participate in this national initiative. Twenty colleges in Arkansas were invited to submit proposals and we are one of four colleges that were judged good enough to be selected for this national initiative. The thing that we are most excited about, though, is that through our participation in this initiative we will drastically enhance our institution's ability to improve student learning, success, retention, and graduation rates - especially for those students who are most at risk of failing. This will transform our institution because we, including the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, have committed to the improvement of student learning and success for high risk students as JOB ONE.

Ouachita Technical College will receive a \$50,000 grant from Lumina Foundation for Education to plan and launch the initiative this year, and will receive an implementation grant of \$400,000 over four years from The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

We are grateful to the Lumina Foundation, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and the other fine partner organizations, including the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, for making our participation possible. Our students will be the big winners in this initiative. More about Achieving the Dream, including a full list of participants, can be found online at www.achievingthedream.org.

Roark named Acting Vice-President for Student Affairs



OTC President, Dr. Barry Ballard announced last week that Will Roark has been named as Acting Vice President for Student Affairs effective July 1, 2007. Linda Johnson resigned from the position to become full-time Registrar.

Ballard says “Will Roark has done a very good job of managing our Title III project. We will be entering our fifth and last year of that project in October and we are on track to achieve all of our Activity One goals and objectives and many of our Activity Two goals and objectives. We will actually exceed our original Activity One goals and objectives.” He added “Will is also on track to finish the course work next year for a Doctorate of Education Degree with a major in Higher Education Leadership at the University of Memphis and to finish the required dissertation after that.”

Roark's previous experience, his keen interest in student services, his heart for helping individual students succeed in college, and his management skills were Dr.

Ballard's reasons for selecting him for the position. In addition to managing the student services operation, Roark plans to stay involved in the Title III project as the Program Coordinator till the grant ends in October 2008.

“I am deeply committed to the mission at OTC and look forward to this opportunity in helping our students establish and achieve their goals,” says Roark.

Dean's and President's Lists announced for Spring '07

Ouachita Technical College recently announced the President's and Dean's List for the Spring 2007 semester. Students on the President's List have earned 12 or more credit hours in college level courses and achieved a 4.0 grade point average for the semester. Those named to the President's List include Hot Spring County residents: **Melissa Barnes, Samantha Burrow, Stephanie Byrd, Michael Cantrell, Hope Clift, Amber Farmer, Jennifer Fendley, Jennifer Giannosa, Jodi Kizziar, Shelley Korsmeier, Andrew Raspberry, Shawnaci Shannon, and Barbara Thomason**; Saline County residents: **Teela Barnes, Samuel Brown, JoEllen Coats, Katie Cooper, Monica Kendrick, Hannah Rhodes, Brandi Stringfellow, Tanya Watson, and Nancy Williams**; Grant County residents: **Jessica Clark, Tammy**

McKeehan, and Lacey Nobles; Clark County residents: **Jennifer Harrington, and Alye King**; and Dallas County resident: **Shawn Randall**.

Students named to the Dean's List have earned 12 or more credit hours in college level courses and achieved a 3.50 grade point average for the semester. Those named to the Dean's List include Hot Spring County residents: **Gwen Ables, John Bailey, Meschelle Boswell, Katisha Crain, Kelly Efurd, Dollie Floyd, Rebecca Hattabaugh, Orville Hern, Melinda Holter, Todd Hoyt, Claudine James, Blake Lambert, Tyanda Penman, Rebecca Reeder, Andrew Sealy, Cristi Toiland, Michelle Werner, and Richard Witham**; Saline County residents: **Glenda Doddridge, Jacquelyn Du-**

brava, Brandy Garner, Natalie Gaunt, Amanda Griffin, Chealsea Leaver, Tammy Long, Lesha Marshall, Amber Marts, Charity Sawyer, Rhonda Venis, Cara Warford, and Cheryl Williams; Grant County residents: **Tonia Burnett, Jeffrey Cerino, Kimberly Garrison, Ashley Hollis, Brent Reichenbach, Chana Shocklee, Kimberly Verucchi, Cecilia Wallace, and Jessica Watkins**; Garland County residents: **Jennifer Buck, Pamela Cotroneo, and Sara Geurin**; Pulaski County residents: **Jessica Everhart and Karen Lutrick**; Clark County residents: **Terral Harper, Angela Holysz, and Heather Nolan**, and Dallas County resident: **Donna Jackson**.

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CONGRATULATIONS!

BRICKFEST WATERMELON EATING CONTEST WINNERS WERE:

AGE 7 & UNDER — ZACK BROWN

AGE 8—14 — MIRANDA JOHNSON

AGE 15 & UP — CHARLIE BROWN, II



OTC GRAND PRIZE GIVE-AWAY WINNER:

THERESA GRAVES OF BENTON

(SHE RECEIVED A 3-HOUR CLASS PLUS AN OTC COOLER WITH GOODIES)



60 GRADUATES RECEIVE CERTIFICATES

The Ouachita Area Adult Education Center celebrated its annual GED Graduation Ceremony Thursday, June 28, 2007, at the Malvern Community Center. Dr. Blake Robertson, Vice President for Adult and Workforce Education, reported that the Center had 60 graduates this year and the faculty and staff are already gearing up for next year – hoping to graduate 100 students. Robertson states, “I would like to thank the OTC staff, faculty and administration who supported, work at, participated in, and/or attended the event. It is wonderful to have the unlimited support of our College.” Robertson also added, “A special thanks goes to the community for lending its support to these graduates by providing opportunities in education as well as workforce.”



With the Non-Traditional scholarship, students achieving a 600 or better on the GED test can receive full tuition for the duration of four consecutive semesters or the completion of an Associate degree. Several of this year’s graduates reached that milestone.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GERALD F. SONGER

PRACTICALNURSING INSTRUCTOR



Started at OTC in January 2002.

My job responsibilities include making sure our students don't hurt or kill anyone .

My family includes my oldest daughter, who is 24, married with 2 daughters of her own and resides in NC. Another daughter who is 10 and my son who is 7, both of them living in Donaldson.

The last book I read was *Red Rabbit* by Tom Clancy.

One thing that people might not know about me is I was a high school drop out.

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

My favorite thing about OTC is my co-workers, and of course all the other people in ancillary departments (wink wink).

My dream vacation would be anywhere there is clear blue water, ice cold beer and warm weather.

My first vehicle was a 1969 Mustang.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is go riding on my motorcycle.

My biggest pet peeve is (in no particular order) bad drivers, people who cuss around kids, people who smoke around kids, people who start rumors, when in conversation people who repeat themselves over and over again, rude people, stupidity, and I can't leave out the DQ's (Drama Queens). I have more but I better stop.

The farthest I have traveled is Honduras.

My favorite food is Mexican.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

VICKIE WALKER

HELPDESK COORDINATOR



Started at OTC in January 2000.

My job responsibilities include helping students with Blackboard & IQWeb, inventory, helping out in the lab when needed, and assisting with various other duties.

My family includes my husband Jason, daughters Tiffany and Kassidi and our 2 year old Yorkie, Scout .

The last book I read was *Blackbird House*.

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

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is spend time with my family, read, play video games with Kassidi or just watch TV.

My first vehicle was a 1986 Pontiac Grand Am.

With one hour of free time I would take a nap.

My biggest pet peeve is people that don't pay attention when they drive.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is go to Razorback games or cheerleading competitions with Tiffany and Kassidi.

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

My favorite food is my Mom's beans, potatoes, and cornbread.

My dream vacation would be Tahiti.

My favorite season is Spring.

The farthest I have traveled is Europe.