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ON THE CALENDAR

Open Registration for Summer classes May 16-25
OTC Graduation, Malvern High School Auditorium May 12 2:00 p.m.
Postage Increases to 41 cents May 14
Electrical Apprenticeship Banquet, A300 May 21
Memorial Day (Campus Closed) May 28
Summer I & II Classes Begin May 29
Adult Education Graduation June 28

OTC to present 276 Awards Saturday

Congressman Mike Ross will be the keynote speaker for the Ouachita Technical College Spring 2007 Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 12, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Malvern High School Auditorium. Congressman Ross, a fifth generation Arkansan from Prescott, was first elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District in 2000. Ross was re-elected to a fourth term with an unprecedented 75 percent of the vote. He serves on the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee and on the Science and Technology Committee.

Congressman Ross was elected by his colleagues as Co-Chair of the 44-member strong fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition. He also serves on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Parliamentary Assembly (NATO-PA), where he represents the United States at meetings of the 26 NATO-member countries.



Born in Texarkana, Arkansas, and currently living in Prescott, Ross and his family are active members of the First United Methodist Church of Prescott. He is the son of public school educators and is married to Holly Ross. They have two children, Sydney, age 18, and Alex, age 14. Mike and Holly own a family pharmacy and home medical equipment business in Prescott.

Before Ross was elected to represent the Fourth District in Washington, he served 10 years in the Arkansas State Senate. He is a graduate of Hope High School in

Hope, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Presenting the music for the ceremony, is the Hot Springs Community Band, under the direction of Ken Williams, and the Malvern High School Jr. ROTC will present the colors.

The following is a breakdown of the 276 awards for which students have applied.

Associate of Arts	41
Associate of Arts in Teaching	5
Associate of Applied Science	48
Technical Certificates	76
Certificate of General Studies	2
Certificate of Proficiency	104
Total	276

Forty-five individuals will walk as honor graduates during Saturday's ceremony. These graduates will earn a technical certificate or an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher.

A reception will follow in the MHS Cafeteria.

Cosmetology Program is cut above the rest



The OTC cosmetology program is a learning atmosphere specializing in haircutting, coloring, perming, relaxing, manicuring, pedicuring, and facials. Students acquire prac-

tice not only on mannequins and each other, but also by providing services to their clients, the public. The program offers prices that are affordable and many clients walk out thrilled with their service. A ten percent discount is offered to OTC students, faculty, and staff, senior citizens, and to those serving in the military.

As a State Board of Cosmetology certified program, the College meets all requirements and currently has a 100% passing rate. Summer classes will be starting

soon and services will be available to clients beginning May 30th. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcome. Instructor Wendy Sullivan, her staff and students appreciate all who support the program and hope to continue to serve the public in a positive manner. Anyone interested in attending the Cosmetology program at OTC should sign up early because the class size is limited. For more information, call 501-337-5000, ext. 1160 or 1159.

From the President's Desk



“We pause for a moment, an hour, even a day to say, ‘Good job, well done!’”

Congratulations to OTC's Graduates

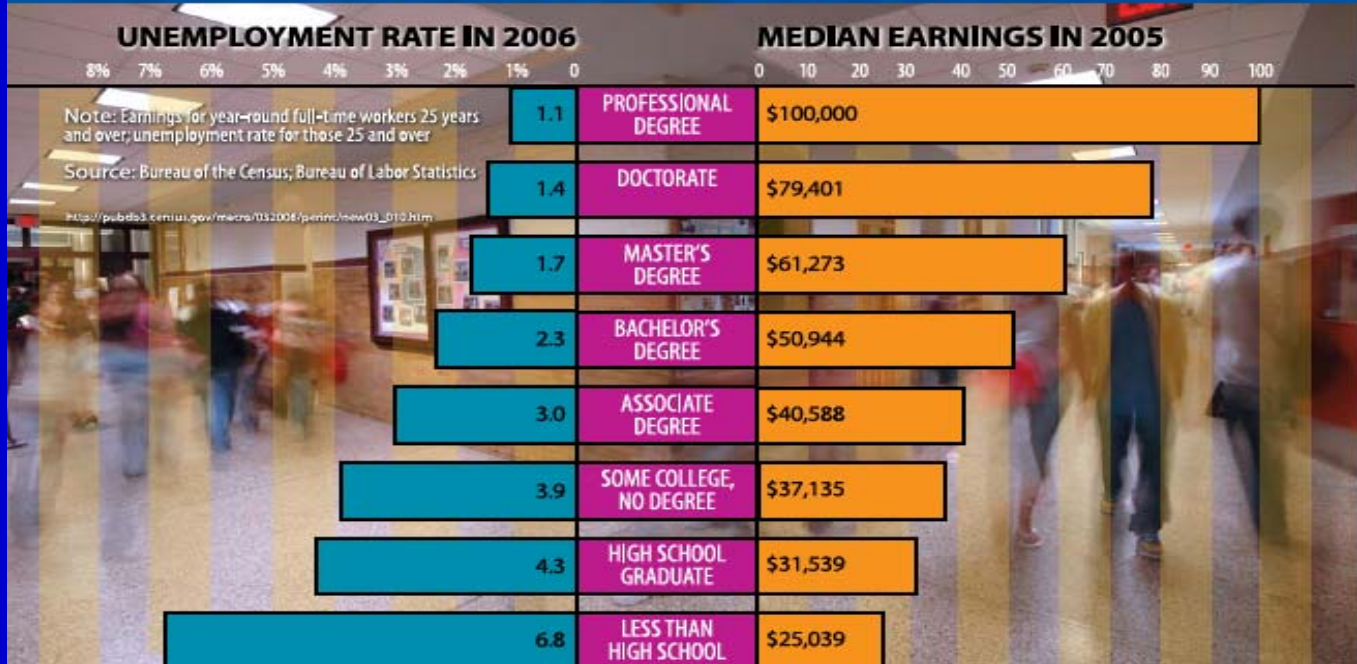
It is hard to believe that May 2007 has arrived. It seems that the start of school beginning last fall was just a few weeks ago. Now it is the end of school. And, though I still have many things on my “to do list” for this school year, it is now time to CELEBRATE our graduates. Saturday, May 12, 2007, at 2:00 P.M. we celebrate with our graduation exercises at the Malvern High School auditorium. A record number of college graduates, over 200 in number, with their families and friends will celebrate with us. Congressman Mike Ross, the OTC Board of Trustees, the faculty and staff, and others will join the celebration. We are expecting over 1,000 to be in attendance.

We celebrate for good cause. We recognize and honor collegiate achievement and the conferring of credentials which documents accomplishment, knowledge, and skill. We pause for a moment, an hour, even a day to say, “Good job, well done!” Graduating from college makes a big difference. It creates more opportunities for continuing education to obtain higher credentials at OTC or by transferring to a university for a bachelors or higher degree. It makes one more employable, increases earnings, increases job security, and increases opportunities for promotion.

A good example of the benefits of earning college credentials is shown on the chart below from the folks at Postsecondary Education Opportunity

(www.postsecondary.org). The chart shows that compared to working adults who did not graduate from high school, those who have some college (usually means the equivalent of one year of college but no degree, certificate or award) are 43 percent less likely to be unemployed and they have annual average earnings of 48 percent more. Those who have an associate degree are 56 percent less likely to be unemployed and they have annual average earnings of 62 percent more. Education is very valuable and provides a lifetime of advantages. These are things that we all can celebrate with our graduates.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PAY



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OTC Recognizes Outstanding Student and Alumnus



SHELLEY KORSMEIER
OUTSTANDING STUDENT

This month, Shelley graduates from both OTC with an AA and from Cossatot Community College-UA (in DeQueen) with an English Language Learner's (ELL) license.

Shelley is an active member of several student organizations: She is the Vice President for the SAEA, the secretary and treasurer of the SGA, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor's Society, where she was integral in preparing for the OTC Foundation's Masquerade Ball, and is a member of TRiO.

Shelley balances her full course load and extracurricular activities with a marriage and two teenagers, volunteer work in her church, and her part-time job. This next school year will find her at Henderson working on a major in education.

She is planning to attend Henderson State University in the fall.



DAVID SEE
OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

David is a graduate of Ouachita Technical College with a degree in Network Management. While a student at OTC he completed all of his courses of study with a 4.0 GPA. In

addition, he completed the Cisco Networking Academy and has also received a MIS Degree from Franklin University, also with honors.

David served our country for 22 years in the Army until retirement. Since he graduated from OTC he has opened his own business DSEE Consulting. Among his many achievements he holds certification in CCNA (Cisco Certified Networking Associate), Net + and A+ which are all in the top 10 list of most sought certifications in the industry. He also holds a Certificate of Homeland Security.

David is currently the Director of Computer Services for Ouachita Technical College.

**OUACHITA
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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SENIOR DAY



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7



Employee Recognition Luncheon held recently



Those receiving special recognition were the Outstanding Faculty and Staff of the Year recipients and employees with 5, and 10 years of service to the College.

English Instructor Lynn Epnett was selected as the OTC Outstanding Faculty of the Year. Administrative Assistant for Workforce Education Crystal Dunn was selected as the OTC Outstanding Staff of the Year.

Ouachita Technical College recognized and celebrated its employees recently on the OTC Campus. In addition to celebrating a successful year with a barbecue lunch, seven employees were honored.

Five year service pins and certificates were presented to Gary Bratton, Sarah Eppler, and Gerald Songer. Ten year service pins, certificates, and desk plaques were presented to Brandi Martin and Paul Steier. There were no employees cele-

brating fifteen and twenty years.

Brandi Martin was also recognized for receiving her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Franklin University.



Dr. Barry Ballard congratulates Brandi Martin



OTC Foundation receives Chamber Auction proceeds

Brenda Weldon (second from right) presents a check for \$6,351 to Ouachita Technical College President Dr. Barry Ballard while OTC Director of Development Amber Lindsey and Malvern/Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce Director Gary Burroughs look on. The money is 60 percent of the proceeds from the 2007 Chamber TV Auction and will be matched by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RONNIE THOMPSON

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR



Started at OTC in April 1990.

My job responsibilities include teaching and keeping Pat Simms out of trouble.

My family includes Mary, my wife; Kayla and Raley, my daughters; Shortcake, my watchdog; and Buttercup, the mouse hunter.

The last book I read was *The Painted House*.

One thing that people might not know about me is I really don't like my cat.

As a child, I wanted to be a professional baseball player when I grew up.

My favorite thing about OTC is getting to see new faces every semester.

My dream vacation would be (I'm too busy to even think about a vacation right now.)

My first vehicle was a 1977 Ford Pinto.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is wakeboarding, but sometimes it's fun to let Roger beat me at tennis.

My biggest pet peeve is having to think about a pet peeve.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is practice baseball with the kids.

With one hour of free time, I would be thinking about how I could make it two hours of free time.

The furthest I have traveled is Hilo Hawaii.

My favorite food is Chinese.

My favorite season is Spring.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SARAH EPPLER

EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY RECRUITER/CASE MANAGER



Started at OTC in August 2002.

My job responsibilities include interviewing all new families, getting all forms filled out completely, keeping the data for our grant, doing public relations and recruiting for Even Start, assisting Cathy and the teachers in the Child Development Center in any way I can, and working daily with our families and their children.

My family includes my husband, Jim, to whom I have been married 39 years, 2 sons – Clark (29), married and works for Lowe's, and Aaron (26) who is Asst. Athletic Trainer for Tyler Junior College, an OTC, UCA alumni, and who will receive his Masters degree in Health and Kinesiology from the University of Texas/Tyler on May 11.

The last book I read was (I read continually and enjoy books about the Civil War era, the Victorian period, the South, especially New Orleans, and spiritual books.)

One thing that people might not know about me is I helped with the instruction of a ballroom dance class while I was in college.

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

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is reading, walking, cooking for the holidays.

My first vehicle was a 1963 Dodge Polara and I named it "Sabotage".

With one hour of free time I would probably just relax with a book.

My biggest pet peeve is people who lie and cheat.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is go somewhere to avoid doing housework.