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**ON THE CALENDAR**

Last day to apply for graduation	March 14
Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week	March 17-21
Various Activities Daily	
Spring Break (no classes)	March 24-28
Campus Closed	March 27-28
Priority Registration	April 14 -
Summer I, II, & III and Fall (current students only)	May 9
Deadline for Summer 08 Cosmetology Applications	April 11
Senior Day — "U" Day	April 11
3 on 3 Volleyball Tournament and Concert	April 11
Open Registration	Begins
Summer I, II, & III and Fall	May 12

**WANTED: More African American Men in College**

A college education has never been more important—and college enrollment reflects this growing need. Enrollment rose 39 percent between 1984 and 2004, including a dramatic 146 percent increase among African-American students. Two-year college enrollment grew 44 percent during this 20-year period. The enrollment at Ouachita Technical College doubled in the last ten years.

These are positive changes. Yet while overall enrollment has continued to rise, the percentages of men who enroll in college and earn college credentials has steadily decreased. These data are true for all ethnic groups, but the numbers are particularly troubling for African-American men.

In 1976, 52 percent of undergraduate students were male. By 2004, that number fell to 43 percent. At two-year colleges men constituted just 41 percent of students enrolled in fall 2005. In the 2003-2004 academic year, African-American men earned fewer than half as many associate degrees as African-American women. Hispanic men also significantly trailed Hispanic women in attainment of associate degrees. The numbers follow the same pattern for all degrees earned. Here at Ouachita Technical College, African-American students constitute 13 percent of the total enrollment; of which, African-American male student enrollments amount to 4 percent. Minority population in OTC's five-county service area is 11 percent. The minority population of Hot Spring County is 10.3 percent and for the Malvern School District it is right at 33 percent. But, in examining graduation data in a recent year we see that African-American women constituted 8.3 percent of the total graduates and African-American male students graduating amount to 2.3 percent of the total.

We want these results to improve. Our nation's changing demographics, not to mention our value of equal opportunity, demand that we take action to ensure everyone is prepared to be an active, productive member of our community. We must find ways to cultivate aca-

democratic success for more men, particularly African-American men. And, OTC is committed to doing so. OTC is one of more than 80 institutions in 15 states participating in Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count, a national initiative to help more community college students succeed. Through this initiative, we are taking a hard look at our student success data and then taking steps to improve student achievement, particularly among those students who face the greatest barriers to success. Our institutional research is leading us to focus efforts on African-American men and other categories of students who are at high risk of not succeeding.

It is time to take action. We urge citizens, leaders, churches, and other community organizations to join us in our efforts to support these students, starting well before they reach college age. First, we need to foster a college-bound culture for all students to ensure they are ready and able to go to college. For young African-American men, this is particularly important. Nationally, statistics show that African-American male students' high school graduation rates lag behind those of their white peers by 25 percent. In Arkansas, 62 percent of African-American male students graduate from high school whereas white male students graduate at a 74 percent rate – almost 20 percent higher.

We must work together to encourage the young men in our public schools to strive for college and arm them with the knowledge they need to achieve that goal. Steps we can take include creating mentoring opportunities and educating young men about career options and college preparedness.

Second, we need to do more to support men once they get to college. It is important to provide an environment where men are encouraged to achieve academically and there is a support system to help them succeed and to help them feel connected to the college community.

At OTC, we are trying two different

things. First, we try to get high risk students to participate in First Year Interest Groups (FYIGs) where we try to build relationships with them, help them get integrated into college life, and create opportunities for communication with faculty and staff so we can intervene when they need tutoring assistance or help solving personal problems. We are also trying to organize a student social group for African-American male students with faculty and staff leaders who are successful African-American men who can mentor and create opportunities for leadership development and community service.

The faculty and staff at OTC can not turn this around by themselves. They need help. Mentors from the community are needed to have contact with the students and do something as simple as taking one of them to lunch or having them as a guest to a Rotary Club, Lions Club, or Chamber meeting. There is a need for persons who can make on-campus presentations to small groups to encourage them and talk about the value of education and credentials and what it takes to be successful as an employee or business owner. There is a need for opportunities for students to participate in internships or service learning projects.

If we are to be a vibrant, engaged and productive community, we must educate people of both genders and all backgrounds. A realistic look at data, nationally and locally, tells us that we must reach out to men, especially African-American men, to engage them in their education, encourage them to plan for their future and invest in their success. The future of our community and our economy depends on it.

Barry Ballard

Dr. Ballard is the President of Ouachita Technical College, and he can be reached at [ballard@otcweb.edu](mailto:ballard@otcweb.edu)



# Bits & Bytes News from the Information Technology Department

Always in demand, the Information Technology Department here at Ouachita Technical College, is in constant quest to make sure OTC is as up to date as possible in the ever changing world of technology.

Some of the recent activities the IT Department has been busy with involve the purchase and installation of new computers around campus. Areas benefiting from this include the



Business Technology and Allied Health Departments, along with the Career Center. New computers were installed in business classrooms as well as the Allied Health Computer Lab, allowing the replaced computers to be reloaded and moved to other areas. They are now being put to good use by the Automotive Center, Criminal Justice, and Allied Health.

Another location of recent updating is the newly renovated Student Lounge. Along with the new carpeting and furniture, four computer kiosks have been added. These computers are intended for the students' and visitors' personal use without the need for a network account. Another addition to the Student Lounge is the Information Screen. Here students can find such things as announcements, upcoming scheduled events or changes, and other important student-related information.

## Fun-Ed Classes Still Have Openings

OTC offers a variety of Fun-Ed classes, and many still have openings for the Spring Semester. These classes do not earn college credit but are for fun and/or self-improvement. Classes are held at night and generally run for eight weeks. For more information or to register, contact Crystal Dunn at (501)332-0236.

**Upcoming classes include:**

- Intermediate Drawing - March 17 - \$65
- Microsoft Excel - March 17 -\$40
- Internet Basics - April 14 - \$70
- Conversational Spanish II-April 15 - \$80
- Hypnotherapy - open - \$60
- Ballroom Dancing - TBA - \$60 individual/\$100 couple
- eBay: Basics - TBA - \$99
- eBay: Beyond Basics - TBA -\$99
- eBay: Fundraising - TBA - \$99

## Local Banks Contribute to OTC Foundation



Elk Horn Bank and Trust Branch Manager, Von Michael, recently presented Ouachita Technical College's President, Dr. Barry Ballard, with a check for the OTC Foundation. Thank you, Elk Horn, for partnering with OTC in *Changing Lives and Building Futures*.

Ouachita Technical College's President, Dr. Barry Ballard, recently accepted a check to the OTC Foundation from Malvern National Bank's President/CEO, Claude Davis. Thank you to MNB for helping Ouachita Technical College continue *Changing Lives and Building Futures* in our community.



# President's and Dean's Lists for 2007



Ouachita Technical College recently announced the President's and Dean's List for the Fall 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: **Sara Bailey, Hollie Beals, Sarah Blair, Stephanie Byrd, Michael Cantrell, Sydney Coston, Amber Farmer, Jennifer Fendley, Hayley Hilborn, Todd Hoyt, Jodi Kizziar, Jessica Reeves, Kandy Spurlin, Barbara**

**Thomason, Cristi Toland, Shelia Tucker, Danita Wallace, Michelle Werner, Brittany Whorton;** Saline County residents: **Monica Kendrick, Hannah Rhodes;** Grant County resident: **Trecie Ellison;** and Garland County resident: **Amanda Garibay.**

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: **Shaunna Anderson, Meschelle Boswell, Jennifer Burks, Carrie Cincis, Whitney Farber, Pamela Felty, Jennifer Giannosa, Sadie Hardin, Mary Henderson, Matthew Herring, Franaka Hill, Jae In, Blake Lambert, Desiree Lunsford, Mi-**

**chael Melton, Ebony Morgan, Brittany Nall, Tyanda Penman, Cayla Reeves, Lezlee Rice, Jennifer Sanders, Yolonda Smith, Melody Thomas;** Saline County residents: **Michelle Ford, Brandy Garner, Amanda Griffin, Blakelee Hall, Steven Kendall, Angela Loveless;** Grant County residents: **Amy Fite, Jessica Watkins;** Garland County residents: **Heather Cook, Pamela Cotroneo, Sara Geurin, Steven Kendall, Angela Loveless;** Pulaski County residents: **Dawn Brown, Donna Jackson. Karen Lutrick;** Clark County residents: **Shelaine Gillenwater, Jennifer Harrington, Elisha Henry, Linda Lopez;** Pike County resident: **Amber Hatton;** and Jefferson County resident: **Joey Hobson.**

## OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Don Tackett..... Chair  
 Ray Ollar.....Vice-Chair  
 Bill Stilwell .....Secretary  
 John Cole  
 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
- 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.*

# OUACHITA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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*Changing Lives...Building Futures!*

## Around Campus...

Students take advantage of Gary's Snack Shack and the newly renovated student lounge on campus.



### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**BILLY FRANCIS, SR**  
**CAREER PATHWAYS DIRECTOR**



Started at OTC in August 2005.

My job responsibilities include overseeing the budget and recruitment for the Career Pathways Program.

My family includes my wife, Martina, my sons, BJ and Tyler, MaKenna, my angel, and my sister, Mariah.

The last book I read was *A Brilliant Mind* by Frank Minirith.

My favorite food is any type of seafood.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I played basketball with Pistol Pete's son and that I like LSU.

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

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is play with my children.

My first vehicle was a 1979 Ford pickup.

With one hour of free time I would sleep.

My favorite season is winter.

The furthest I have traveled is Denver, Colorado.

My biggest pet peeve is lying.

My favorite thing about OTC is all the loving Arkansas Razorback fans.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is spend time with my wife and watch LSU.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**CARLA CRUTCHFIELD**  
**BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY FACULTY**



Started at OTC in the fall of 1995.

My job responsibilities include lead faculty for Accounting and Management degrees and academic advisor.

My family includes my daughters, Annie, a freshman at U of A, and Emily, a junior at Magnet Cove.

The last book I read (good grief, I barely remember) was *P.S. I love you* by Cecelia Ahern.

My dream vacation would be some place warm and sunny, maybe the Bahamas.

My favorite food is chicken and mashed potatoes with gravy and iced tea.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I love amusement parks, especially roller coasters!

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is read or do yard work.

My first vehicle was a 1972 Chevy Vega.

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

My biggest pet peeve is bad manners!

My favorite thing about OTC that we are a family! I have absolutely the best division chair to work for and helping my students learn skills to get the jobs they want is extremely rewarding.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is not be on a schedule, and go shopping with my mother and my girls.