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**ON THE CALENDAR**

OTC-Grant County Adult Education Center Open House	October 1 10:00am
Nursing (RN & PN) January Program Application Deadline	October 4
Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Bake Sale Administration Bldg	October 5
Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Bake Sale Arts & Sciences Center	October 6
Cosmetology Spring 2011 Application Deadline	November 19
Fall Festival Sponsored by SGA	October 22 5:00-8:00pm
Thanksgiving Holiday No Classes Campus Closed	November 23-26 November 24-26
Fall Semester Final Exams	December 6-9
Christmas Holiday Campus Closed	December 13-31 December 23-31

**OTC Recommended for Continued Accreditation**

After a September 20-22 evaluation visit, a team from The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools announced that it will recommend the reaffirmation of Ouachita Technical College's continued accreditation. This declaration resulted from the Team's validation of the College's own valuation as documented in the Institutional Self-Study Report; from discussions and interviews with community members, students, Board, faculty, staff, and administrators; and from research and review of College documents, policies, procedures, data, and student outcomes.



June Prince, VP of Planning and Assessment and Self-Study Coordinator

Evaluation Team Chair, Dr. James Baber who is the Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Eastern Gateway Community College in Steubenville, Ohio, made the announcement in an Exit Session that completed the team's visit. A written report that includes specific findings and advice is expected in approximately six weeks. The team's findings will be reviewed by a Readers' Panel prior to the Commission's final decision. The Higher Learning Commission is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. It accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the 19 states in the

North Central region. "The affirmation of the College's accreditation indicates that OTC is a quality institution that accomplishes its mission," states June Prince, VP of Planning and Assessment and Self-Study Coordinator



Session between students and HLC team

**Achieving the Dream is Helping to Close Gaps**

Achieving the Dream has helped to implement changes at Ouachita Technical College. In Student Affairs such modifications include: Mandatory Orientation, Student Opportunity Seminar interest groups, refined use of Academic Alert System, and curriculum changes in Principles or Collegiate Success. In Intermediate Algebra, adjustments that have been made include: students being given an option for choosing instructor delivered sections, alignment of Intermediate Algebra with both COMPASS test and College Algebra course skill sets, and hybrid of computer-delivered and faculty-delivered instruction.

Achieving the Dream has also been instrumental in the establishment of *Men on a Mission* social networking group for African-American males, as well as creating a transitional taskforce to study how best to help underprepared high school grads through Adult Education programs.

**Student Success Tracking Results**

Baseline Success Rate (Grades A-C) in Intermediate Algebra  
2004: 43.85%  
2010: 53.10%

Baseline Success Rate (Grades A-C) of African American students in Basic Composition  
2004: 53.66%  
2010: 66.37%

Gap in Success, Graduation, or Transfer Rates between African-American students and other classifications  
2004: 8.08%  
2010: 6.19%

Gap in Retention Rates between African-American students and other classifications  
2004: 6.72%  
2010: 4.74%



# 3rd-Annual Big Bingo Bash a Success

Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, marked Ouachita Technical College's Foundation's 3rd-Annual **Big Bingo Bash**. The event, held at the Malvern Community Center, was a wonderful success raising



over \$12,600 for the Scholarship Endowment fund! "We are thrilled with the success of the Big Bingo Bash. We'll be able to provide more scholarships to so many more OTC students." stated Director of Development and PR, Amber Childers.

The players marked the called numbers for 20 bingo games and the winners received prize packages valued from \$317 to \$840. Midway through

the evening, a raffle drawing was held for a 50" Sanyo Plasma Television won by an enthusiastic Winston Wainscott, who happens to be a current OTC student. The total value of the prizes given during the event was \$8,373.50. The prizes were generously donated

by individuals and businesses throughout the community and surrounding areas.



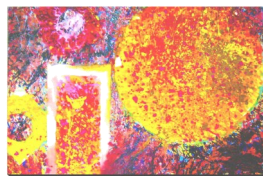
Thank you to the sponsors of the Bingo Bash. Coverall sponsors: KBOK, KLAZ and Malvern Daily Record. Four Corners Sponsors: Central Arkansas Petroleum, Crystal Groove Cleaning, Farmers Bank & Trust, Harris Architecture, MNB Bank, Floyd & Joyce Parker, Summit Bank, and Wal-Mart. The Fun Times Sponsors: Barry and Linda Ballard, Body Works Health and Recreation, CakeSations, Roger & Deborah Coomer, Edward Jones – Kinney Black, Gary Williams – Smith Barney, Grayer Electric, Kindy and Elliott, CPAs, Regency Funeral Home, Blake and Charlotte Robertson, Sears, US Bank, and Western Sizzlin.



## New Artwork on Campus

Ouachita Technical College has partnered with *The Arc Arkansas* to bring permanent exhibit artwork into the student lounge.

Coordinated by Joel Railsback, OTC Humanities: Art instructor and instructor at *The Arc*,



the works are done by people with special needs—adults who are striving for self-sufficiency in society through creation of and employment in the arts.

Mr. Railsback has orchestrated the placement of *The Arc* students' work for the last three years, as he arranges and exchanges pieces in the first floor hall of the Arts

and Sciences Center. Benefits are two-fold as *The Arc* students receive publicity, and OTC

students receive exposure to various mediums. The

works in the Arts and Sciences Center are also for sale, with the proceeds

going back to the artists. Mr. Railsback, too is an artist, and two of his pieces are on permanent exhibit upstairs in the Arts and Sciences Center.

The Arc of Arkansas, Inc. company mission statement:

The Arc of Arkansas, Inc. is a statewide membership organization providing supports,

advocacy, education, and leadership to people with developmental disabilities and their families. These personalized supports are outcome oriented, dependable, effective and flexible. The Arc assists and encourages individuals in acquiring skills and supports which allow them to make decisions regarding their own lives, helping them to achieve integration in the mainstream of community life.



# A Mission, a Mentor, and Memories: OTC Grad Serves in Haiti

It's not often that one gets to combine one's work with faith, family, and fun—and still have it be a philanthropic opportunity. But Cate Seals, a recent Ouachita Technical College graduate, just returned from a mission trip in Haiti where she got to do all of that, and more.

"My grand dad, John Growney, is a physician in Kansas, and I worked in his office over the summers during school breaks. We work well together, and he's the mentor who got me interested in the health services field. He wanted to volunteer to help the earthquake survivors in Haiti, and he asked me to go along." Seals credits her time spent as an LPN and her clinical rotations at Ouachita Technical College for helping her feel confident to undertake the medical mission.

"Being in Haiti was a good reminder of how blessed we are to live in America!" says Seals, who just returned from the island where she put her newly-minted Registered Nursing skills to work. "The countless hours I spent in clinicals with OTC both in the LPN and RN program gave me the skills I needed to make a difference." Seals, part of a group that included not only her grandfather but also some cousins, spent ten days at Crudem Foundation's Sacra Coeur Hospital in Milot, a mountain city in Haiti, where a

variety of Christian organizations are rendering services after a massive earthquake in January of this year. Members of the Order of Malta organized the event for Seals and her group.

"This is a place," says Seals, "where fifteen out of a hundred two-year-olds won't live to see their second birthdays. The average family there lives on less than \$400 a year." Although Seals normally works in dermatology (in Little Rock at the Dermatology Group of Arkansas), and Growney is a general practitioner with his own practice in Atchison, Kansas, they partnered in the pediatric clinic in Milot, seeing on average about 75 children a day in a clinic staffed with three volunteer doctors.

And, according to Seals, both the hospital and the kids really need the help. "The only supplies we could be assured of when we went into a clinic room were gloves. We kept prescribing meds, only to get notes back from the pharmacy that they didn't have them. We take that for granted in the U. S! We also saw lots of amputees, lots of water-born and



Dr. John Growney, Cate Seals, Jessica Growney, and Joe Mazur with young Haitian earthquake victims.

insect-born illnesses—things that are the aftermath of an earthquake that took out buildings, families, infrastructure for plumbing."

Other surprises that Seals noted were the privileges that nurses have there, and the lack of paperwork required for patient care. "Oh, and no privacy!" Seals said. "There aren't private rooms—only bays of beds with no partitions."

"When we got directions for packing for the trip, the hospital asked for, and we took, bandage scissors. But we were limited by weight, and we had to take things like water bottles and hand sanitizer. But really, they need everything. If I get to go back, I'll take pens and pencils and coloring books for the kids, and jump ropes and balls.

According to Seals, "Doing something like this feels like you've done something worthwhile. Most of the teams rotate in and out of Haiti more than once. I would love to go back. It was a touching and humbling experience."

## TRiO 2010 Health Fair



*Changing Lives...Building Futures!*

## New Board of Trustees Member



Ron Holt, retired Malvern School District Superintendent, was recently appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to serve on the Ouachita Technical College Board of Trustees. Hot Spring County Judge Bill Scrimshire officiated Mr. Holt's swearing-in.

## OTC Entrances Receive Updated Look

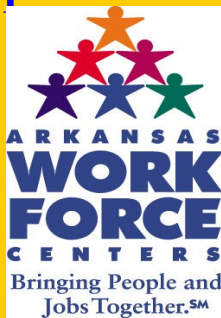


OTC front entrance signs

Administration building flower beds



## Open House at OTC-Grant County Adult Education Center



Ouachita Technical College-Grant County Adult Education Center now has a new home. With hard work by the Grant County Adult Education Staff members, OTC maintenance staff, Sheridan School District maintenance staff and the City of Sheridan Detention Center, the move is complete! The Center is located at 307 West Pine in Sheridan (one block off Hwy 270 down Hwy 46). An Open House is set for October 1, 2010, at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, please call Dr. Blake Robertson, VP of Adult and Workforce Education, at 501-332-0235.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### JOHNNIE MITCHELL

#### CAREER PATHWAYS COUNSELOR



Started at OTC in November 2005.

My job responsibilities include assisting students with support services, community projects, academic/career/social/personal needs, etc.

My family includes my husband, Henry; three children; and three grandchildren.

The last book I read was *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

My dream vacation would be two weeks in Italy.

My favorite food is a Ribeye Steak and potatoes.

One thing that people might not know about me is that I attended Airline School in Kansas City, MO.

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

My first vehicle was a very purple 1972 Plymouth Duster from Teeter's Motor (it was a High School graduation gift).

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is read and spend time with my 4-year old granddaughter, Nadia.

My favorite season is winter (I was born in Ohio).

The furthest I have traveled is to Jamaica or Seattle, WA (I think they are the same distance away).

My favorite thing about OTC is the great rapport with students and staff.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is sleep in and go to yard sales.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### LOIS WILLIAMS

#### COSMETOLOGY INSTRUCTOR



Started at OTC in 2006.

My job responsibilities include teaching, hands on instructing, counseling, motivating, and making sure the students have met all the state board requirements.

My family includes my 12-year old daughter, Alia. The last book I read was *Eat the Cookies and Buy the Shoes* by Joyce Meyer.

My dream vacation would be visiting my sorority sister in the Bahamas in December.

My favorite food is crab legs, fish, and shrimp. One thing that people might not know about me is that I lost my 23-year old daughter, Takia, March 12, 2010 due to bi-polar syndrome. She was a very sweet child who had just recently graduated from the University of Conway.

My favorite thing to do in my spare time is watch basketball, go bowling, and make people laugh.

With one hour of free time I would rest!

The furthest I have traveled is Mexico.

My biggest pet peeve is when people spell my name wrong. They write Louis.

My favorite thing about OTC is my wonderful co-worker, Wendy Sullivan.

My favorite thing to do on a Saturday is take mini vacations and go shopping!