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## ON THE CALENDAR

*BCM Lunch Room I-109	Every Wednesday
Malvern Chamber of Commerce's Monthly Breakfast COTO Great Room	October 20 8:00a
MBSF Lunch - Eagle's Nest	October 24 10:30-12:30
Last Day to Drop Classes with a "W"	November 4
MBSF Lunch - Eagle's Nest	November 7 10:30-12:30
Cosmetology Open House/Ribbon Cutting	November 7 2:00
TRiO Workshop Reading - Room A-303	November 10 2:30p
Cosmetology Spring 2012 Application	November 11
Priority Registration Begins	November 14
SGA Lunch - Eagle's Nest	November 15
SGA Lunch - Eagle's	November 16
Thanksgiving Holiday No Classes Campus Closed	November 21-25 November 23-25
MBSF Lunch -Eagle's Nest	November 28
ARC Blood Drive	November 28
TRiO Workshop Relaxation Techniques A303	December 8 2:30
FINALS	December 12-15
Christmas Break No Classes	Dec 19-Jan 2

## THREE PRESIDENTIAL FINALISTS NAMED

By: A Childers

College of the Ouachitas is one step closer to finding a person to replace Dr. Barry Ballard as the College's president.

Ballard announced earlier this year that he would retire effective December 31, 2011, after 10 years as president of the College.

The College announced this week that it has selected three candidates for the president's position after the Board of Trustees met in special session on Monday. The candidates will each be invited to Malvern and the COTO campus next month for tours of both the campus and the community, a public reception, a formal presentation by the candidate and a formal interview with the Board of Trustees.

According to Mr. Kenye Price, President of Career Search Associates, the Board of Trustees' search consultant, over 40 applications were received and all of them were rated using a rubric form that was based on the presidential profile adopted by the Board.

The three finalists are:

**Dr. Michael DeLong**, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Ozarka College, Melbourne, Arkansas

**Dr. Steve Rook**, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Rich Mountain Community College, Mena, Arkansas

**Dr. Stephen Schoonmaker**, Vice President of Instruction, Clatsop Community College, Astoria, Oregon

The Board of Trustees hopes to finalize the appointment of a new COTO President before the end of October, 2011, so as to give the new person and family adequate time to transition to the College and the Malvern community early in the new year.

During their individual visits to Malvern scheduled on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>, the candidates will be very busy. They will each tour the campus visiting all major divisions and departments, attend an informal lunch with the Board of Trustees, and enjoy a driving tour of the community hosted by members of the Board.

In the afternoon, they will visit with the COTO Faculty Council, and beginning at 3:30 p.m., the general public, faculty and staff of the College are invited to a reception in the COTO Great Room. At 4:00 p.m., each candidate will make a 20 minute formal presentation to those assembled during the reception followed by an open question and answer session. The topic of the presentation is: **VISION: The importance of visionary leadership and the role of the College President in providing it.**

Following an eventful day, the candidate will meet with the Board of Trustees in Executive Session in the COTO Board Room.

The Board of Trustees invites all faculty and staff and the general public to meet these candidates during the tours and/or during the reception, hear their formal presentations, and ask questions of

them during a Q & A session after their respective presentations.

The Board feels that all three of these candidates are qualified, have the right credentials, have had successful experiences in significant two-year college administrative posts and have great potential to provide executive leadership for the continued growth and development of the College. The Board also recognizes that there is a certain culture in the five-county service area, in the Malvern community and in the College itself. The Board wants to select the person who is the perfect fit for this particular situation and job to maximize the potential for success.

The new president will begin January, 2012.



# From the President's Desk...

## MANY IMPROVEMENTS



The faculty and staff of the College of the Ouachitas have much to be proud of. This past year much has been accomplished. The institution celebrated its 40th year of service to the community and the five-county service area. The College researched and secured a new name to better

communicate the broad mission of service to its constituents and adopted a new logo and seal to mark this new era and to usher in a new commitment of service to the community. The College achieved renewed accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, NCA, without any conditions or reporting. The next scheduled HLC, NCA team visit is in the fall of 2021. The College's Career Pathways Initiative was a top performer in the state and earned thousands of dollars in incentive funds that were poured right back into the program that is designed to help low income

of one of the "Ten Best" in the nation, designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services for innovative programs funded with Federal TANF support services funds. And, for almost five years now, we have had a very successful Achieving the Dream grant project that helped us improve student success and learn how to use data to make good decisions on course revisions and budgeting.

## THE BEST IMPROVEMENT OF ALL - STUDENT SUCCESS

One of the best indicators of the success of a two-year College, however, is the success of its students measured by the percent of students who graduate, transfer to a university, or continue in college (persistence). Here is where the rubber meets the road. Here is the proof of the pudding. Here is where we measure product not just process. Here is where the efforts of the COTO faculty and staff have resulted in rates of improvements that no other college in Arkansas can beat.

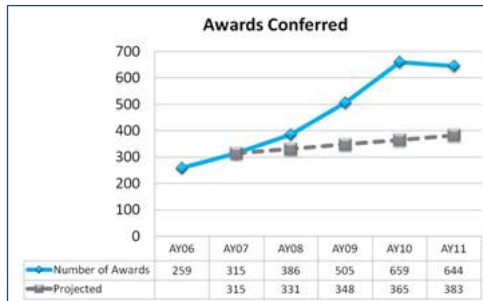
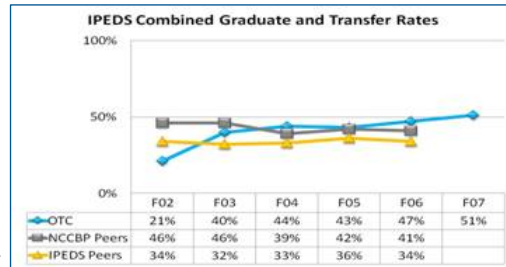
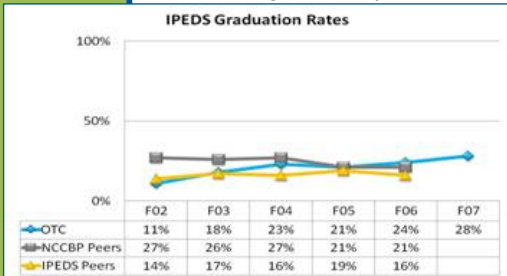
We started our effort to improve graduation and transfer rates after the 2002 school year when our graduation rate was 11% and our transfer rate was 9%, or a total combined rate of about 21%. When we studied our two-year college peers in two national groups in U.S. Department of

Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and second the National Community College Benchmarking Project [NCCBP] institutions) we could tell that we were underperforming but we were committed to improving. Five years later after changing literally

hundreds of policies, procedures, methods, services, courses and strategies, our faculty and staff have made tremendous improvements that resulted in tremendous gains in graduation and transfer rates. The combined rate is now 51%. We now have graduation and transfer rates that are significantly better than both our IPEDS and NCCBP peer institutions. The rate of improvement by the COTO faculty and staff is greater than any other institution of higher education in the state.

In Academic Year 2011, 537 students graduated with 644 awards: 342 Certificates of Proficiency (173 were earned by Career Center students), 194 Technical Certificates, 108 Associate degrees. The COTO faculty and staff are the best and these performance measures will continue to improve because many improvements have been made in the last two years that have further improved student success and these improvements do not yet show in these charts and numbers. Successful students do a successful college make.

students with minor children stay in school and succeed to graduation. This success of COTO's Career Pathway Initiative along with similar programs at the other Arkansas colleges help Arkansas earn the title



*Stacy Bellard*

# Signs of Change

The first official *College of the Ouachitas* sign was unveiled on campus on July 1, 2011. An informal celebration was held that morning for college employees, board members, and special guests Senator Mike Fletcher and Representative Loy Mauch. Senator Mike Fletcher and Representative Loy Mauch, sponsored a name change bill and ushered it through the committees and both chambers getting it passed without a dissenting vote.



Board of Trustees members, Ron Holt, Jean Harper, Dee Edie, and Bill Stillwell, revealed the new sign on campus as Dr. Barry Ballard addressed the attendees.



## College Celebration and Ribbon Cutting

Games, music, food, and a ribbon cutting! College of the Ouachitas held an official ribbon cutting and celebration of the name change on September 1, 2011. Attendees were treated to music, activities, door prizes, giveaways, hot dogs, drinks, cake and punch. Dr. Barry Ballard, President, and Dr. Martin Eggensperger, Vice-President of Instruction, each spoke prior to the ribbon cutting. They shared with those in attendance details about the new logo and crest and a background on why each was chosen.



*A higher degree of you.*

# Big Bingo Bash Raises Over \$15,800 for Scholarships

The Malvern Community Center played host on August 19, 2011, to the Fourth Annual College of the Ouachitas Foundations Big Bingo Bash. This years event raised \$15,875.33 for the Scholarship Endowment Fund and will help students attend college that might not be able to without financial assistance.

Twenty Bingo games were played by 360 guests for prize packages valued from \$335 to \$876. In addition to the games, raffle drawings were held for the chance to win an Apple iPad or a 47" Sanyo LCD TV.

Over the past three years, the College has awarded \$32,000 in scholarships; funds raised from the BIG BINGO BASH.

Sponsors of this years event included the following: KBOK & KLAZ, Malvern Daily Record, Central Arkansas Petroleum, Farmer's Bank and Trust, Floyd & Joyce Parker, Harris Architecture, MNB Bank, Summit Bank, Sykes, Young's Health Mart, 21 Ponds, Barry & Linda Ballard, Blake & Charlotte Robertson, Body Works, Dawson Heat and Air, Dr. Stephen Efir, Edward Jones- Kinney Black, Fred Penny, Hot Springs Golf & Country Club, Lisenby Jewelry, Malvern Flakeboard, Malvern-HSC Library, Regency Funeral Home, Roger & Deborah Coomer, Sabra Technology, Southern Bancorp, Total Document Solutions, US Bank, Wal-Mart, Western Sizzlin, and Williams Family Dentistry,



## New Board Member Appointed

Mark Roberts, MNB Vice President, was recently appointed to the College of the Ouachitas Board of Trustees by Governor Mike Beebe. Mr. Roberts, pictured with Dr. Ballard and HSC Judge, Chris Williams, has been a member of the College of the Ouachitas Foundation Board since 2008.



# Cosmetology Center Growing

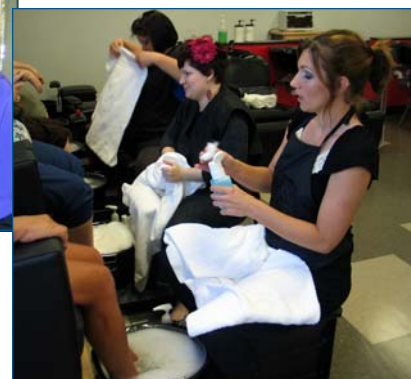
College of the Ouachitas Cosmetology Program has had an exciting Fall semester! Over the Summer, the Cosmetology Center was remolded and expanded. An additional 2000 square feet were added. This new space allows for a larger waiting area, the addition of a private facial aesthetics room, a larger classroom, instructors offices, as well as additional hair, manicure and pedicure stations.

The Cosmetology Department has also partnered with the CHI corporation. The school is now considered to be a CHI Enviro Partner School. Cosmetology Instructor, Wendy Sullivan, said, "This is very exciting because we

are now able to use the CHI products here at the college." According to Sullivan, the CHI products are environmentally friendly and very healthy for the hair, client and stylist.

"Our new facility is very spa like; spacious and comfortable to both students and clients." added Sullivan.

An Open House/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held at the Cosmetology Center on November 7th, at 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate and tour the new facilities.



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# New Faces on Campus...

## English Instructor, Kati Crump

Within four months she had received her master's degree, became a newlywed, moved to a different state and began a new job. Kati Crump is one of College of the Ouachitas' two new English Instructors; teaching Composition I and II and World Literature I and II.

Crump began her college career at Florida College where she received her Bachelor's of Art in Liberal Studies; this past May she received her Master's from Texas A&M.

As an instructor, Crump says, "My goal is just to try to inspire students to become passionate about reading and writing by discovering their own talents and abilities, just like I had so many teachers inspire me in College. If I



hadn't had the English teachers I did, I wouldn't have discovered my own passion for literature and learned how fun writing could actually be. Helping students reach that point is the best way I can think of to repay all the teachers who gave me so much." In her spare time, she enjoys reading and watching movies with her husband, Jeremy.

## English Instructor, Brad Pierce



He plays guitar, keyboards, and sings in a band. He has worked as a freelance

script supervisor/writer for various local film outlets and local publications. He's involved in his Church's youth/college ministry program. And now he is one of College of the Ouachitas newest English Instructors.

Brad Pierce formerly taught in an adjunct faculty capacity at two other colleges before finding his home at College of the Ouachitas. Pierce says "I've always wanted to teach full-time and since I graduated with my Masters in writing 2 years ago, I had

been looking for a place with strong values, genuine care for the student, and a close family-like relationship amongst the faculty members. I knew the moment I walked into the interview for the Instructor's position here that this was the right place for me." Brad Pierce is teaching Basic Writing and Composition I classes.

When Pierce is not teaching or playing and singing with his band, he enjoys watching classic movies and listening to music.



# A Whole Lot of Shaking Going On

By: S G Seals and T Colananni

When Jerry Lee Lewis quipped in his song lyrics, “We ain’t faking it—there’s a whole lot of shaking going on,” he could have been talking about the changes that are afoot at College of the Ouachitas (formerly Ouachita Technical College.) Thanks to the lead set by an Achieving the Dream grant from the Lumina Foundation four years ago, a complex dance of new initiatives, new social networking groups, and new curriculum changes are underway.

Four years ago, the College began a close scrutiny of its basic skills classes—those classes students take to prepare them for college-level work—and of the success and retention of students who take those classes. Based on a year of data analysis, the College identified three areas for focused improvement: First-year Experience (including new student orientation with a special focus on the success and retention of African American males), Intermediate Algebra, and Basic Writing. Failure in these classes—called “gateway” courses—prevents some students from going on to get a college degree.

After the identification of the three areas for improvement, and thanks to grant monies, the College researched best practices in the areas and orchestrated some innovative changes in all three areas.

In the area of orientation for new students, the College overhauled the process a student goes through upon entry and made orientation mandatory instead of optional for students. They also added some components such as testing on keyboarding skills and counseling on financial aid to make sure students were knowledgeably prepared for their college experience. According to Kathy Lazenby, Student Success Coordinator at the College, “With 98% of our students going through orientation, we are better preparing them for their first semester. Students are receiving knowledge of the

importance of a syllabus, attendance, and degree plans.”

Another step in improving student success was the creation of a social networking group—called Men on a Mission, or MoM, aimed specifically at guiding African American males in the learning habits and behaviors of successful college students. The group, mentored by Billy Francis, meets regularly to discuss such topics as class attendance, study skills techniques, and dressing for success. They also have as part of their mission service to the community. The students of MoM are getting involved in local schools as mentors, in hosting a benefit basketball tournament, and in staffing the College’s Fall Festival.

Another step toward change has occurred in Intermediate Algebra—a course in which many students lose their footing. According to COTO math instructor Terri Colananni, “Intermediate Algebra is particularly hard for students because it requires them to assimilate a lot of information that they have learned from several courses in the past. We’re trying to help them recapture that information by using techniques that appeal to more students’ learning styles.” So the math faculty has been learning some new moves to enhance student success. They’ve piloted sections of Intermediate Algebra where class time is expanded; they’ve piloted sections where the instruction is delivered in a variety of ways, such as partly by instructor and partly paired with computer lessons. Now, the faculty are re-examining the entire Intermediate Algebra curriculum, taking tests that the students take in Intermediate Algebra to ensure students are learning the building blocks they need for success in College Algebra—the gateway math course that is required for a college degree.

The third step in the initiative has been in Basic Writing, where African

American males lag behind Caucasian students in their success rates in that class. The college partnered with Malvern High School and conducted a focus group with African American males and listed closely as the young men discussed their writing habits, their reading preferences, their perceptions of college in general and of COTO in particular. New moves in Basic Composition have been guided by their input, says Donna Hill, the English initiative leader. “Since that focus group, we’ve chosen a new textbook that includes up-to-date readings on topics like Facebook and the Internet as well as come of the more traditional essays. We’ve also added an online program the students use that helps them strengthen their writing skills. The technology them, and since so many students nowadays are more comfortable on a computer than they are with pen and paper, it’s working well.”

These three primary initiatives—combined with other closely orchestrated moves, have made many positive changes on campus the last three years. There is indeed a whole lot of authentic shaking going on at College of the Ouachitas!

**We’re improving the rates!**

- Success rates in Intermediate Algebra  
2004: 44%    2011: 56%
- Success rates in Basic Writing  
2004: 54%    2011: 72%

**We’re narrowing the gap!**

- Retention rates between African Americans & others  
2004: 7%    2011: 4%
- Success rates between African Americans & others  
2004: 8%    2011: 7%

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# New Faces on Campus, Continued...

## Nursing Instructor, Brenda Scott

Brenda Scott became the newest member of the Nursing faculty at College of the Ouachitas this past August. Scott is the Co-Division Chair for Allied Health Sciences, the RN Dept Chair, and the RN Clinical Coordinator. Scott strives to be a lifelong learner herself as

she is currently pursuing her MSN from Northeastern State University. She received her AS in Nursing and



Associate of Allied Health Science from Carl Albert State College, and her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Northeastern State University.

“With the help of highly motivated and qualified faculty, one of my goals is to lead the RN program at College of the

Ouachitas to achieve National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) Accreditation. And my goal for my students is to see them become the most caring, competent nurses possible,” said Scott.

When she is not teaching or studying herself, Scott and her husband, Jason, enjoys fishing or going to the drag races. Scott says most people don't know, but she's a huge fan of NHRA and NASCAR.

## Science Instructor, James Young



Another new face on campus this semester is Dr. James Young. He is the new Chemistry/Physics Instructor for the Arts and Sciences division.

Dr. Young received an AAS from Pearl River Community College, a BSE from the University of Southern Mississippi, an MSE from Southern Arkansas Baptist, and a Ph.D. from

Louisiana Baptist University. He has also spent time studying archaeology in Beer Sheva, Israel.

Before coming to work at College of the Ouachitas, Dr. Young was with Charter Schools in Arkansas. His hobbies, when he has time, include hunting and fishing, especially when he gets to take his grandchildren.

