

ATU-OZARK TECH TALK!

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



SPRING SEMESTER NEARING END

It's official: the spring 2022 semester is almost in the books! While final examinations do not begin until April 27th, preparing now to wrap up your courses will help streamline the process for both you and your students. Below are some strategies you can employ to "rock the finish line" and end the semester strong.

- **Clearly communicate expectations and policies**
 - Be sure program chairs and adjunct instructors are giving students consistent information.
 - Explain to students in advance what they should do if they encounter technical problems or if they have personal issues arise.
- **Make yourself available**
 - Hold consistent hours of availability and routinely communicate these hours and preferred methods of communication to students.
 - Quickly and prominently publish any changes to these communication hours and methods if they change for any reason.
 - For in-person classes, consider reserving time at the start or end of each class for students to ask questions so that common concerns can be covered all at once.
 - For online courses, consider assigning a place on Blackboard for students to ask common questions- instructors can routinely check the assigned area and post answers and/or suggestions for students.

NEW FACES

Joining the Academic Affairs department in the position of Administrative Assistant for the Health Sciences and Wellness (HSW) building is Mrs. Devan York. She is taking the place of Sharyl Moffit, who retired this past December. Devan will be serving as the main point of contact for all Allied Health program chairs and instructors. She is a 2021 Associate of Business Technology graduate from the ATU-Ozark campus. Before accepting this position within Academic Affairs, Devan was employed as extra labor in the Student Services office.

Welcome to the team, Devan!

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NEW SIM EQUIPMENT FOR NURSING

The nursing department has recently been awarded a \$68,549 grant for simulation equipment through the Blue and You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas. The funds have gone towards providing enhanced simulation equipment, including technology that will help students practice multiple levels of infant and pediatric care in a safe way that closely parallels what would be seen in a clinical setting. The major purchases supplied by this grant are a SimBaby, radiant warmer bed, and a pediatric crash cart.

A SimBaby is a simulator that simulates an infant and can help students learn to assess and respond to ill infants, which do not present in the same way as ill adults. The SimBaby will allow students to practice utilizing skills independently in a realistic but safe environment. It can also be used to train for pediatric CPR and advanced life support. The radiant warmer bed will allow students to practice neonatal skills involving severe heat loss in infants, and the pediatric crash cart will enable them to practice emergency scenarios and advanced life support skills for this specific age group. Additionally, the nursing department will receive two Apple iPads and Apple Pencils in order for students to practice charting at bedside while using online drug guides, as they will be required to do in actual clinic and hospital settings.

This equipment upgrade not only enhances ATU-Ozark's efforts in the realm of continuous improvement, but also in providing the most up-to-date industry-standard experiences possible for students!



ABOVE: DEVAN YORK IS THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE HEALTH SCIENCES AND WELLNESS BUILDING



ABOVE: NEW RADIANT WARMER BED AND SIMBABY

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

This quarter the program spotlight is on the Computer Information Technology program. Computer Information Technology occupations are currently at the forefront of industry in this digital age. Nearly every industry now uses technology to conduct business, which means these educated professionals are in high demand. Program chair Kale Rudolph is passionate about his students and the quality of education they receive here at ATU-Ozark as part of his program. Mr. Rudolph knows how important these skills are to the current and future workforce, and is dedicated to keeping up with the ever-changing progression of computer technology. The Computer Information Technology program was recently awarded with a grant of over \$40,000 that allowed the program to purchase the equipment necessary to provide students with hands-on training in programming and maintaining Cisco routers and switches. This equipment and training is especially important as Cisco and Cybersecurity are emerging trends within industry standards. ATU-Ozark is proud of the Computer Information Technology program and the skills with which it prepares students that so greatly contribute to our workforce.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This quarter the student spotlight is on Franklin Montoya of the Computer Information Technology program. Currently, Franklin juggles working 48 hours a week at ABB while also being a full-time student here at ATU-Ozark. He is a first-generation student, is part of the Chancellor's Leadership Cabinet, and maintains a 3.2 GPA. Franklin is an excellent student as well as a leader and role model for his class. He recently completed his certificate in Cisco CCNAv7: Introduction to Networks, and is now working on his certificate in CyberOps Associate. After graduating from ATU-Ozark, Franklin plans to continue his education by attaining a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Technology. His goal for the future is to pursue a career in computer programming.



ABOVE:

**COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
STUDENTS DRESSED FOR SUCCESS DURING
THEIR GOODWILL \$15 OR LESS
PROFESSIONAL DRESS EVENT**



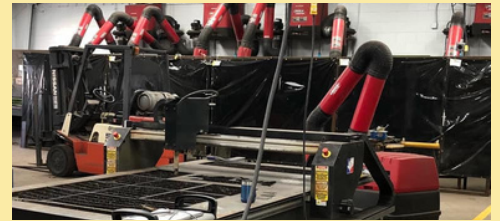
**LEFT: COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INSTRUCTOR KALE RUDOLPH
RIGHT: COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
STUDENT FRANKLIN MONTOYA**

SHOP RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

Last fall the ATU-Ozark campus requested consideration for funds to be utilized towards the updating and modernization of the shop areas for Automotive Service Technology, Collision Repair Technology, and Welding Technology. A budget of \$300,000 from the ATU Fund Balance (savings) was approved, and renovations began during the holiday break. Among the requested updates, major work completed in each area includes all new lighting, paint, glass windows, electrical systems, and insulation, along with improved ventilation in all three areas and the expansion of the Welding space. This modernization is not only greatly deserved by the hardworking faculty of these programs, but it is also important for the ATU-Ozark students in these trades to have the safest and most up-to-date spaces in which to complete their education. The results of these renovations are spectacular, and we are so proud of how amazing everything looks. If you have not been through the shop area since the updates were made, go check it out!

AST REACCREDITATION

On March 10th, ATU-Ozark's Automotive Technology program had their re-accreditation site visit for the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Education Foundation. This re-accreditation process occurs every five years and ensures that ATU's lead instructors are professionals and can provide advanced level instruction that prepares students to take ASE Certification tests. Our program is assessed on eleven ASE Program Standards, which includes items such as learning resources, advisory committee, instruction, equipment, and work-based learning. Students who graduate from ATU-Ozark with an Associate of Applied Science or Technical Certificate in Automotive Technology will have completed one of the two years required of on-the-job experience to be eligible to take the ASE certification tests. Graduates from programs where instructors are ASE certified ensure they possess entry level skills for the automotive industry, which give employers confidence in their employees and satisfy consumers' needs. We should receive our reaccreditation results soon and will keep you posted. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to make the site visit a success!



**TOP TO BOTTOM:
UPDATED AUTOMOTIVE, COLLISION
REPAIR, AND WELDING SHOP AREAS**



**LEFT TO RIGHT: REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS
DEAN QUERRY, KEVIN MCCOY,
AND JERRY SCHOE; AST INSTRUCTOR
GARY DONBERGER AND AST PROGRAM
CHAIR BOBBY SEWELL**

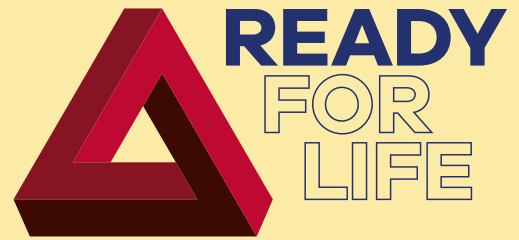
ATCC VISIT

On April 1st, Dr. Jacobs and several faculty members made a trip to the ATCC campus to promote ATU-Ozark programs. Along with our recruiter, Taylor Risinger, those that attended were CJ Danekas from Welding, Ron Hutain and Jody Chrisman from Automation, Chris Rambo from Law Enforcement, Kenny Beeler from Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Bobby Sewell and Gary Donberger from Automotive Service, Kenny Floyd from Collision Repair, Melinda Rhynes from Medical Assisting, and Wendi Pool and Deidre Huey from Occupational Therapy. Each program chair and instructor took this opportunity to visit with all ATCC classes that correspond to their individual programs. They spoke with students about opportunities that await them should they choose to continue their education at the ATU-Ozark campus, as well as specific information relating to each program and the possible careers within that program field. Additionally, students were given information on financial aid resources with specific emphasis on the Arkansas Future Grant. Both ATU-Ozark and ATCC support this ongoing collaboration. Any faculty that is interested in setting up a visit to the ATCC campus is encouraged to contact Academic Affairs and we will be glad to arrange a date and time.

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READY FOR LIFE

Ready For Life is an interactive, comprehensive digital learning management system designed to educate, upskill, inspire, and connect individuals to careers. Registering on the site is free and offers a myriad of high quality resources, including job postings, career profiles and videos, and a Smart Resume builder. Ready for Life is Governor Hutchinson's initiative to connect job-seekers, educators, and employers at a one-stop employment website that includes job openings as well as opportunities for continuing education and training. There are currently over 700 learning courses in process and over 13,000 jobs listed, with more being added daily. Additionally, Ready for Life is a repository for resumes and individual profiles for job-seekers, making it easier for employees and employers to find each other. The site also provides educators, students, and business/industry leaders a quick snapshot of skills, talent, and education needed for the overall job market. Arkansas Tech University was chosen by Governor Asa Hutchinson to partner with Ready For Life to strengthen workforce education and training in the Arkansas River Valley. To show your support for this initiative and be given access to these valuable educational and career resources, please go to the link provided and register. Registration takes less than a minute. Academic Affairs will be happy to answer questions you might have about Ready for life.



CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO GET STARTED!

[HTTPS://WWW.READYFORLIFE.COM/](https://www.readyforlife.com/)

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Face-to-Face, Mixed Technology (M01, M02, AM1, AM2, etc.), and Video Conference/Virtual (VC1, VC2, AV1, AV2) Courses		
Final Exam Date	Class Meeting Time	Final Exam Time
Wednesday, April 27	All Wednesday late classes (3:00pm – 9:00pm)	Scheduled start time with 2-hour block
Thursday, April 28	TR classes that start on half hour (i.e. 9:30, 12:30, etc.)	Scheduled start time with 2-hour block
	All Thursday late classes (3:00pm – 9:00pm)	
Friday, April 29	All Friday Classes	Scheduled start time with 2-hour block
Monday, May 2	All MW day classes	Scheduled start time with 2-hour block
	All Monday late classes (3:00pm – 9:00pm)	
Tuesday, May 3	TR classes that start on the hour (8:00, 10:00, etc.)	Scheduled start time with 2-hour block
	All Tuesday late classes (3:00pm – 9:00pm)	
Online (TC1, TC2, AT1, etc.) Courses*		
All online final exams submitted by 9:00pm, Monday, May 2 nd		
* Faculty may have more flexible, liberal timeframes to make an exam available for online course exams provided the exam is not due earlier than the designated exam day. Faculty are encouraged to design an exam that would not easily lend itself easily to academic dishonesty (i.e., essay questions, portfolios, case analysis).		

REMINDERS

- The **Student Satisfaction Survey** is currently open for students to take. The survey is only available every two years and the information received from it helps the university to prioritize improvements and recognize gaps in student learning. Please encourage your students to take this survey before April 18th. To do so, they will access the unique code that was sent to their ATU emails from Elizabeth Sinor.
- Also, there will be a **Strategic Planning Open Forum** on Thursday, April 21 from 2-3:30pm in the Student Services Conference Center room 117B. Facilitators will be Dr. Jason Warnick, Shirley Bonner, and Katy Dodd. Attendance is not required, but if you are able to attend the forum, your input would be greatly appreciated.

IMPORTANT!

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendars for these important dates!

- April 3: Deadline for students to apply for graduation and order regalia
- April 15: Last day to drop with a "W" or change to audit
- April 18-22: TEAS Test acceptance, alternate, & no letters go out
- April 25-May 3: Barnes & Noble Book Buy Back
- April 27-May 3: Finals
- May 3: Spring term ends
- May 4: Final grades due by 12:00pm (noon)
- May 4: LPN Pinning Ceremony at 6:00pm
- May 5: Graduation at 7pm at Tucker Coliseum
- May 31: Summer I classes begin
- June 1: Last day to register, change sections, or drop with 100% refund
- June 6: Last day to drop with 80% refund
- June 9: Faculty attendance accounting due by 11:59pm
- June 24: Last day to drop with a "W" or change to audit
- June 30: Summer I classes end
- July 5: Final grades due by 12:00pm (noon)



UPCOMING STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER EVENTS

A New Kind of Career Fair on April 20th, 10am-12pm

A Reverse Career Fair is a career fair that flips the table!

- Job seekers create displays and presentations that showcase their talents
- Employers then have the opportunity to circulate among the booths and introduce themselves to the job seekers whose skills and abilities meet their needs

The Reverse Career Fair:

- Helps job candidates highlight and showcase their skills and abilities in a comfortable environment
- Helps businesses to recognize the talents of the job candidates by watching them demonstrate examples of their work/abilities

Registration is Required!

Please forward this link or the QR code on the right to students interested in participating in the Reverse Career Fair:

<https://forms.gle/CUxVw9QAufqjgqo18>



UNTIL NEXT TIME!