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# The River's Edge

**Inside this issue:**

*Group Returns from Tour of Germany* 2

*BRTC Law Enforcement Graduation Held April 7* 2

*Networking Students Certified* 2

*Holocaust Survivor (Cont'd from Page 1)* 3

*Aviation Students Attend Helicopter Expo* 3

*DuPont Reps Visit Auto Body* 3

*New Safety Officer* 3

*From the President's Desk* 4

*Board Re-Structures Tuition* 4

**Important Dates**

- April 12 - 13**  
*PTK Yard and Bake Sale*
- April 19**  
*Last Day to Drop Classes*  
*Intent to Graduate Forms Due*
- April 20**  
*Scholarship Donor Luncheon*
- April 30**  
*Student Art Showcase*
- May 2**  
*Fun Before Finals*
- May 5**  
*Foundation Board Meeting*
- May 11**  
*Graduation*

## Six Accept Academic Scholarships



*Lincoln Carlton*



*Christie Richey*



*Kristen Harper*



*Shala Melton*



*Justin Jones*



*Crystal Reed*

Six graduating students from area high schools have accepted Academic Distinction scholarships to attend BRTC this fall, according to Financial Aid officer Brandi Chester. The awards are based on students' ACT scores or rank in class.

These scholarships cover the full cost of tuition and are renewable at BRTC provided the students meet certain GPA criteria. The students may be eligible for a transfer scholarship at a four-year college once they leave BRTC, pending the approval of the university to which students transfer.

Accepting the awards are Lincoln Carlton, who attends Biggers-Reyno; Christie Richey, Black Rock High School; Kristen Harper, Hoxie High School; and Shala Melton, Justin Jones and Crystal Reed, all of Corning High School.

Carlton, son of Mark and Angelia Carlton, plans to major in creative writing and pursue a career as a journalist. Richey's planned major is psychology. She is the daughter of Nita Richey. The daughter of David and Sandi Harper, Kristen Harper plans to major in pre-med, and pursue a career in Radiological Science. Melton's parents are Larry and Phyllis Melton. She will major in Business Administration at BRTC, and then work in the business field. Jones, son of Charles and Karen Jones, will study electrical engineering. Reed's career goal is to become a nurse practitioner. She is the daughter of William and Jane Reed.

All of them plan to complete college basics at BRTC, transferring then to a four-year university to continue their studies.

## Holocaust Survivor Honored



*Mayor Gary Crocker presents a key to the city of Pocahontas to Holocaust Survivor Charlene Schiff as Ellen Blaylock looks on.*

Charlene Schiff of Alexandria, Virginia, spent two days in Pocahontas and on the BRTC campus last week telling audiences of students and others of her unique and harrowing experiences as a teenager, alone, in hiding during the Holocaust. The event was sponsored by the BRTC Foundation and was co-funded by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D. C.

Schiff and her family lived in Horochow, Poland, when their small town was overrun first by the Soviet Union and then by Nazi Germany. Her father disappeared in a "round-up" soon after the Nazi invasion. She and her mother and older sister were forced, along with others in the Jewish community, into a cramped ghetto, where they would eventually be cut off from

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Group Returns From Tour of Germany



*Pictured, front row from left, Patsy Baltz, Samantha Dunn, Joanna Dunn, Nathan Dunn, Dr. Jan Ziegler and Georgia Berry. Back row, from left, Ken Ziegler, Tommy O'Donnell, Lloyd Kimbrough, Sue DeClerk, Rainer Declerk, Laura Ford, Mike Dunn, Jacquelyn Weick and Sister Romana.*

A group of 15 travelers from the BRTC community has just returned from a ten-day international tour of Germany. This trip, held during BRTC's spring break, is the 11<sup>th</sup> such trip sponsored by the college.

The tour began in Berlin, then proceeded to Dresden, Nürnberg, Munich, Rothenburg, Heidelberg, and Cologne. Highlights included visits to the Brandenburg Gate and site of the former Berlin Wall in Germany's capital city, as well as the Zwinger Palace in Dresden. Additionally the group traveled to Bavaria and Oberammergau and visited the famous Schloss Neuschwanstein. Before leaving Munich, the tour included a stop at the former Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. The trip ended with a Rhine River Cruise and visit to the famed Köln Cathedral.

Those attending included four students in the German I class, as well as BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn. The tour was organized by Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development.

Next year's international tour will be to Australia, according to Ziegler. The travel departure is scheduled for June 6. The tour begins in Sydney and includes the coastal area northward to Cairns.

This trip features a harbor cruise, an excursion to the Blue Mountains, a visit in a resort town on Australia's Gold Coast, a catamaran ride to Fraser Island where visitors can opt for a four-wheel drive excursion, a visit to an outback farm with optional horseback riding or hiking, a visit to a crocodile farm, and an overnight in Rockhampton in the Tropic of Capricorn. In addition, participants will visit sugarcane fields and the Whitsunday Archipelago and optional excursion to the Great Barrier Reef and a train ride to a tropical rain forest.

For more information, contact Ziegler at 870-248-4000, EXT 4185.

## BRTC Law Enforcement Graduation Held April 7



*Class spokesperson Kimberly Bettis*

Colonel Steve Dozier, Director of the Arkansas State Police, addressed fifty students who successfully completed the Basic Police Training Course at Black River Technical College Law Enforcement Training Academy during a graduation ceremony held April 7 in the Randolph County Development Center.

Law enforcement officers from across the state began the thirteen week, 587-hour course January 9. They received instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, and practical exercises along with legal, educational, and technical skills.

In each course, emphasis is placed upon the officers achieving excellence in both academic subjects and firearms training. An officer must maintain an academic

score of at least 70% on each examination and consistently fire at least 80% during firearms training exercises to successfully complete all phases of the course.

Class spokesperson representing the graduating class was Kimberly Bettis of the Cleburne County Sheriff's Office. Students receiving awards during the ceremony were Dustin L. Barentine of the Fort Smith Police Department, Top Academic Award; Michael McCanless of the Jonesboro Police Department, Top Firearms Award; and Matthew Smith of the North Little Rock Police Department, Top Physical Fitness Award.

Smith also received Overall Top Student Award, which is earned by having the highest overall average in the areas of academics, firearms, and physical fitness.

## Networking Students Certified

The Business Department has announced that Rick Barker and Frank Cummins, students in the Networking degree program at BRTC, recently achieved professional certification in Novell networking. "Passing this rigorous exam grants Certified Novell Administrator (CNA) standing, a re-

spected certification in the field of networking," said Bert Clevenger, Networking Instructor. "As first-year students, these gentlemen show great promise of becoming capable network professionals. The Business Department is proud to offer them our congratulations."



*Networking students Rick Barker and Frank Cummins*

# Holocaust Survivor

Continued from Page 1



Charlene Schiff speaks with Holocaust students (from left) Jonathan Cobian, Dustin Alphin, and Rebecca Collins. More than 300 students from area schools attended along with other BRTC students and members of the community. Her visit was funded by BRTC Foundation and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

the outside world. Her mother and sister were forced to work as slave laborers for meager food portions, while Charlene and other young children tried to fend for themselves by stealing food outside the ghetto. Disease and brutality took its toll, and the surviving Jews were moved into a second ghetto, this one bordering a river.

Spurred by rumors of impending "liquidation" of the ghetto, the three attempted to escape. Only Charlene survived, and that after hiding and staying on the run in the forests of Poland for the next two and one-half years.

"I don't know why I survived, but I did," she said. "And now I must bear witness for the many Jewish and other victims who did not live to tell their story." She noted that an estimated six million Jews died, along with an additional five mil-

lion victims targeted by the Nazis for persecution and annihilation.

She exhorted her audience to realize the Holocaust happened in part because of what she termed "the four evil 'I's: Ignorance, Injustice, Indifference and Intolerance."

Schiff met with members of BRTC's Serendipity Club informally at a reception on Monday evening, April 3. The following day, she spoke in a formal presentation at Randolph County Development Center to students and others at 12:30, and then again in the evening at 7:00. Student groups in attendance included BRTC's Nursing, Economics, German, and Holocaust classes, along with students from Rector, Piggott, Biggers-Reyno, Valley View, Walnut Ridge and Pocahontas.

# Aviation Students Attend Helicopter Expo

Aviation Instructor Ken Doles along with ten aviation students from BRTC recently attended the Helicopter Association International (HAI) Expo and Convention in Dallas, Texas. The HAI Expo is the largest in the world and is held annually in different cities throughout the United States. According to Doles, there were 521 exhibiting companies and forty-eight helicopters sprawled over 221,000 feet of floor space at the Dallas Convention Center.

The students attended a Maintenance Technician Mentoring Program, where top aviation industry professionals shared their expertise and experiences. They also attended the Manufacturers Technical Program, which covered training for Pratt and Whitney PT6 engines, Lycoming en-

gines, and training on various Bell and Sikorsky Helicopters. A job fair was also held to provide an arena for recruiters and job-seekers to explore industry needs and skills required. Students were able to submit resumes to forty international companies on hand.

"Students enjoyed viewing the various helicopters on display," said Doles, "which included the largest helicopter manufactured in the United States." They also witnessed the Bell 419 and 429 Helicopters being unveiled for the first time, and were given an opportunity to fly a multi-million dollar flight simulator.

"The trip was an experience enjoyed by all and one that will be remembered for years to come," Dole added.



Aviation students Adam Bobbitt and Bryan Meeks sit in one of the helicopters on display at the HAI Expo.

# DuPont Reps Visit Auto Body



Auto Body Students View Dupont Products

Representatives of DuPont were on the BRTC campus recently to present students and interested persons with information

regarding the newest products and procedures available in the automotive refinishing industry, according to Auto Collision and Repair Instructor Butch Dail.

DuPont employees Jim Butler, Jackson, Tennessee, area representative; Dale Fox, Customizing Specialist from Nashville; and Bryan Smith, Memphis area representative, presented a three-hour session Monday evening, February 27, for employees of area auto-body shops, and visited with BRTC Collision students from 8:00-12:00 on Tuesday, February 28.

# New Safety Officer

Scott Bland of Pocahontas has been hired as the new Public Safety Officer at Black River Technical College. He has worked for the past five years with the Pocahontas Police Department.

Bland is a graduate of Biggers-Reyno High School and Black River Technical College's Law Enforcement Training Academy. He and



Scott Bland

his wife, Sherry, have two children.

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## Mission Statement

*Black River Technical College is an institution of higher learning committed to a partnership with the individual and the global community to provide lifelong learning experiences, seeking always to empower those it serves to achieve their academic, vocational, and personal development goals.*

### On-line Application address:

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>

## From the President's Desk



The BRTC Board of Trustees' recent decision to re-structure tuition for in-district students was a difficult one, but one which was necessary. This college is sensitive to the hardships our students face, and in fact, we have not enacted an increase in the tuition rate since the 2003-04 academic year. Operation costs have, of course increased, but state funding increases have not kept pace with our costs. This situation requires that additional revenue be generated for the continued offering of quality programs and services.

Currently we have in place a two-

tiered structure of in-state tuition: those who live in Randolph County are considered "in-district" and pay a lower rate per credit hour than those who live outside of Randolph County and pay "out-of-district" rates. This was appropriate at one time, because the citizens of Pocahontas were providing a one-half cent sales tax to help fund construction here on campus. That tax, however, expired in 1997, and since that time, BRTC has received no local direct tax or millage support. We maintained the separate tuition levels, though this structure was not recommended by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. In fact, the state does not even recognize this "in-district" designation since we do not have local tax support. BRTC is, incidentally, one of only seven of the state's 22 two-year colleges without local tax support.

Even with the Board's action, which eliminates the "in-district" tuition designation, thus leveling

## Board Re-Structures Tuition

The BRTC Board of Trustees eliminated the "in-district" tuition classification, bringing the level of tuition for all in-state students to \$66 per credit hour, during its April Board meeting. This move represents an increase for Randolph County residents, but no increase to students from outside the county. The move was prompted by increasing operation costs and a projected decline in BRTC's share of state revenues in the next biennium.

Because BRTC does not receive local tax support, the Department of Higher Education does not recognize a two-tiered tuition rate for Arkansas students. Board president Mike Dunn observed that this was a

change the college had seen coming, but had held off on implementing as long as possible. He also noted BRTC is still very affordable, and observed that its tuition and fees are less than half those at ASU-Jonesboro.

In other business, the Board approved the employment of all classified and non-classified faculty and staff. The Board also heard reports from President Richard Gaines concerning ongoing building projects. Vice-presidents updated the board concerning a recently approved audit report, the college's financial aid and cohort default rate, and a high passage rate for the first class of Registered Nurses.

tuition for all "in-state" students to \$66 per credit hour, BRTC's tuition and fees remain less than half that of ASU. Education at BRTC continues to be a bargain.

If the community has a desire in

the future for funding support that would allow us to re-structure tuition once again to an "in-district" and "out-of-district" classification, we will certainly be willing to consider this.