



The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

<i>International Tour Set for Australia</i>	2
<i>BRTC Hosts Counselors'</i>	2
<i>Fall Enrollment (Cont'd from page 1)</i>	2
<i>Center Taking Shape (Cont'd from Page 1)</i>	2
<i>Fall Scholarships Remain Available</i>	3
<i>Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarships Awarded</i>	3
<i>From the President's Desk</i>	4
<i>Foundation to Fund Special Events</i>	4

Important Dates

August 14 - 18

BRTC In-Service

August 15

ASSET Test

August 21

Classes Begin

August 25

Last Day to Register

November 16

PN Meet and Greet



Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship (see page 3)

New BRTC Business Technology Center Is Taking Shape

Steel girders give shape to the new Business Technology Center under construction on the BRTC Pocahontas campus. The 26,000-sq. ft. facility will house a high-tech Community Conference Center, a new Student Center and Internet Café, as well as classrooms, labs, and lecture halls and offices to serve the college's business technology program. Projected completion of the facility is April, 2007.

This facility has received major funding support from several entities, including the City of Pocahontas, Bank of Pocahontas, First

National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Hoxie, and Pocahontas, and Universal Asset Management. All these



organizations have received naming opportunities for the respective areas in the facility which their contribu-

tions and pledges are helping to fund.

Thus, this building will include the City of Pocahontas Community Conference Center; the Bank of Pocahontas Student Center/Internet Café; the First National Bank Lecture Hall; and the UAM/CVN (Compressed Video) Classroom.

The building, connected to the existing Randolph County Development Center, is at the heart of the campus.

It reflects, according to BRTC President Richard Gaines, the

(Continued on page 3)

Fall Enrollment "Looking Good"



Miranda Fisher, left, of Pocahontas, is assisted with registration by Rita Evans, of Student Services.

Based on current numbers, the fall enrollment picture is "Looking good," according to BRTC Vice President for Student Services Dr. Mike Sullens. "I'm very opti-

mistic at this point," he said, "based on the fact that we currently have enrolled just over 100 more students than at this same point last year."

Fall classes begin August 21 at the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses. Registration continues through the end of the first week of classes, until August 21.

"We encourage students not to wait until classes begin to register, of course," Sullens said. "To get the class selection they want, they should come on in immediately. Already many class sections are closed. The sooner students come on in, the better the chance we can add sections if needed and if instructors are available."

Several of the college's technical programs of study are already filled to capacity, according to data from the Regis-

(Continued on page 2)

International Tour Set for Australia



Learn the customs and traditions of the local Aborigines on your travels through Australia.

The next annual BRTC international tour for students and community members is an 18-day trip to Australia. The trip, the twelfth international trip for the college, is scheduled to depart June 6, 2007, accord-

ing to Dr. Jan Ziegler, group leader.

Participants will begin their journey in Sydney, and then travel up the Australian coast to Cairns, the last major settlement in Far North Queensland.

Among the highlights of the tour are boat cruises, catamaran travel, a scenic train ride up to a tropical rainforest and a Skyrail trip back down. Also included are an optional four-wheel-drive excursion and horseback ride through the countryside and optional excursion to the Great Barrier Reef for swimming, snorkeling or semi-submersible boat ride.

"This trip is truly packed with exciting places and experiences," Dr.

Ziegler said. "It is a bit longer than our other trips have been, but then the travel time, as well as the area to cover, are also greater. We believe making opportunities such as this available to the community and to our students is an important piece of our overall mission as a college," she added. "Experiencing other cultures is a life-altering event for most of us."

Other points of interest include an optional excursion to the Blue Mountains, a visit to Australia's legendary "Gold Coast," with optional visit to Surfers Paradise Rain Forest, a visit to an outback farm, a crocodile farm and sugarcane fields, and an optional Whitsunday Island cruise.

Fall Enrollment

Continued from Page 1

trar's Office: Aviation, Automotive Technology, Electricity/Electronics, Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing. But slots remain in many fields of study, including Welding, Machine Shop, Fire Science, EMT/Paramedic, Dietetics, Respiratory Care, Phlebotomy, Early Childhood Education, Industrial Maintenance, Criminal Justice and several Business Technology options. In addition, students can still enroll in college basics, or General Education courses for college transfer.

The next scheduled ASSET exam will be given at 8 a.m. on August 15, but students may contact Jim Ulmer or Kim Bigger in the Office of Student Services to schedule an ASSET test. The test is required of all students taking courses leading toward a degree or certificate, unless the student has an ACT test score.

Students may still apply for financial aid assistance, according to Financial Aid Director Carolyn Collins. However, they should realize that the time required to process their applications means that any actual funding assistance for which they qualify would not be available at the time tuition and fees must be paid. "We do have in place a fee payment system, FACTS, that allows students to pay 30 percent at the time of registration, and then to pay the balance in installments over the next two months, by which time their financial aid, if they are eligible, should come through," Collins explained.

To do this, they must apply through FACTS no later than August 22.

BRTC Hosts Counselors' Day



Kim Bigger addresses counselors from area high schools.

Area high school counselors gathered in the Continuing Education building on the campus of BRTC August 2 to attend "Counselors' Day," an event organized by BRTC Recruiter Joniece Trammel.

This is the thirteenth year for holding Counselors' Day, according to Trammel. "The purpose is to

educate the counselors on the programs we offer and to inform them about the various departments on campus and present them with general information about the college," she said. "It's also a way for us to show appreciation to them for sending us students."

Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for Development, welcomed the group and presented a "virtual tour" of the campus. Other sessions held were "BRTC and YOU" and "Counselor Burnout," both presented by Priscilla Stillwell, Concurrent Classes Coordinator; "Finding the Finances" by Brandi Chester, Financial Aid Officer; "Why BRTC?" by Kim Bigger, Placement and Retention Counselor; and a student testimony given by Rachel Koons, BRTC

graduate.

Attending were Kathleen Holder, Williford; Rita Prestidge, Black Rock; Lynn Murray, Delaplaine; Phyllis Morgan, Piggott; Breta Dean, Marmaduke; Phillip Swindle, Green County Tech; Gary Ring and Donna Pinkston, Hoxie; Linda Cooksey, Jonesboro Area Technical Center; Don Rosier, Cave City; Taftnee Cox, Hillcrest; Debbie Findley, Nettleton; and Karen Cagle, Rector.

The counselors earned six hours of in-service credit for attending the event, which included entertainment by members of the Kimbrough Choir, Shannon Jones and Laura Alderson, who sang "I Hope You Dance."

Sesquicentennial Lecture Series

Directed by Gary Buxton

Friday, August 18

RCDC - 7:00 p.m.

Local Historians

Cindy Robinett

Harmon Seawel

Kirby Riffel

Center Taking Shape

Continued from Page 1

spirit of community that is a hallmark of the relationship the college has always enjoyed with the people of this region.

“Right now,” he said, “we have secured funding pledges to cover approximately fifteen percent of the total cost of the building and furnishings. Our campaign for additional funding support with additional naming opportunities continues.”

Additional naming opportunities include various spaces in the center, according to Dr. Jan Ziegler. Among these are an additional lecture hall, computer labs, classrooms, faculty offices, and a messaging center.

“We would love also to be able to incorporate an exterior water feature,” she added.

“We want to encourage people to think about this as an opportunity to provide vital educational support, to enhance our community’s economic development goals, and also as an opportunity to recognize, honor, or make a lasting memorial to a loved family member,” said Ziegler.

For more information, contact Ziegler at the Office of Development, 870-248-4000, Ext. 4185, or through e-mail at janz@blackrivertech.org.

Some Scholarships Remain Available

A few scholarship opportunities remain open, according to Financial Aid Officer Brandi Chester. Students who scored 24 or higher on the ACT, or who placed in the top ten percent of their graduating class, may still apply for an Academic Distinction Scholarship. The deadline is August 15.

In addition, the Mary Sallee

Single Parent Scholarship program is accepting applications through September 5. This award is available to qualifying single parents who live in Randolph County.

For more information, contact Chester at 870-248-4000, Ext. 4021, or access the application online at www.blackrivertech.org.

Pocahontas Sesquicentennial Celebration

September 21 - September 24	1856 - 1906
September 28 - October 1	1906 - 1956
September 6 - October 8	1956 - 2006

Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarships Awarded



Patti and Richard Gaines

Eight students have been awarded Gaines Scholarships for the 2006 Fall semester, according to BRTC Financial Aid Officer Brandi Chester. The Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarships are funded through a gift to the college by First Community Bank in honor of BRTC President Richard Gaines and his wife, Patti.

The scholarships provide \$1,000 for one semester. A total of 18 Gaines scholarships have been awarded since the bank’s establishment of the award program last year.

Fall recipients include Stacey Brown of Paragould; Hope Cox of Jonesboro; Kathy Murdock and Kath-



Stacey Brown



Hope Cox



Arlene Hays



Kathy Murdock



Crystal Reed



April Yandell



Kathleen Whitlock



Kayleigh Wilson

leen Whitlock of Pocahontas; and Arlene Hays, April Yandell, Crystal Reed and Kayleigh Wilson of Corning.

Brown, a 1983 graduate of Oak Grove High School, plans to major in dietetics.

A Westside High School graduate, Cox plans to major in Respiratory Therapy. She is the daughter of Tommy and Jackie Cox of Jonesboro.

Murdock will seek an Associate of Applied Science degree in Diet-

etics. She is a 1991 Pocahontas High School graduate, and is a daughter of the late Jackie and Dorothy Liebhaber.

A 1990 Pocahontas graduate, Whitlock is seeking her RN degree. She and her husband David Whitlock have three children.

A daughter of B.W. and Jewel Bennett of Pocahontas, Hays is working on a degree in Practical Nursing.

Yandell, a Corning High School graduate, plans to major in math

education. She is the daughter of William Yandell and Brenda Yandell.

A Corning High School graduate, Reed plans to complete college basics at BRTC and then transfer to a four-year college where she will work toward a degree to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Wilson, a daughter of Jerry and Ursula Wilson, plans to complete college basics, transferring to a four-year college where she will major in Orthodontic Hygienics. She is a Corning High School graduate.

President Gaines expressed his appreciation to FCB on behalf of the students and in acknowledgement of the honor to his tenure and to his family. He assumed the top leadership role of BRTC in 1978.

Black River Technical College

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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.

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On-line Application address:

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

From the President's Desk



All of us are affected deeply by the news that Waterloo Industries will be closing its Pocahontas plant over the next several months. We have been through such difficult times in the past, but that does not make this time any easier, especially for the hundreds of families who are directly impacted.

BRTC understands that at such times, it is the responsibility of this institution to step forward and to assist in any way possible. We anticipate this will include offering re-training and other educational oppor-

tunities to those whose livelihood will soon disappear. It is hard at such times for individuals to see opportunity in what feels like devastation, but that is what we all must try to do.

As a community, we also must look for the opportunity in this event. We must work together and plan for a future that, hopefully, includes the kind of work opportunities that will endure in the future. We have to work to bring to our community employment options that are diverse and service-oriented, because experts tell us that this area of employment will be more stable and sustainable. Naturally, we as a community will welcome any prospective employer who is a good "fit." But we must aggressively seek out employers and encourage current employers to create jobs in the more enduring and future-oriented service industries. Here at BRTC, we are ready to help in every way possible.

Foundation to Fund Events with 'SEAS'

The BRTC Foundation voted formal support of a new initiative, SEAS, or Special Event and Activity Support, at its July meeting, according to Mike Miller, Foundation Board President. The program's establishment is meant to encourage faculty and staff to pursue events and activities that enhance the college and its programs, but fall beyond the scope of normal departmental or institutional operating funds.

Any BRTC faculty or staff member, full-time as well as part-time, may seek funding support through SEAS. The Foundation Board designated a total of \$2,500 for the first year of the program. "We hope that this amount can be used to support several requests this first year, and that as the Foundation's resources grow and demand for the funding support grows, the Foundation can

increase that amount in future years."

Fundable events or activities include special projects, programs, and travel opportunities (restricted to assistance to help defray travel and lodging costs).

For further information on application procedures, contact Vickie French. Normally, the deadline is June 15 for events or activities occurring between July 1-December 31, and the deadline is December 15 for events or activities occurring between January 1-June 30. This year, the June 15 deadline is extended to September 15.

BRTC to Celebrate Sesquicentennial

With Open House

Thursday, September 28,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.