



The River's Edge

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Support Continues with Bosch Donation

Robert Bosch Tool Company has once again donated \$2,500 to the Black River Technical College Foundation for use as needed in support of the students.

Bosch representatives Steve Engelken, Operations Manager, and Nick Lee, Human Resources Manager were recently on campus to present the gift to President Richard Gaines. "We want to support BRTC," said Engelken. "You have a good reputation in the community and we want to continue to support the college and recognize the programs that you offer."

"We appreciate all they have done in the past years and continue to do for BRTC," said President Gaines. Last year's donation provided funds for furniture in the student commons area of the Administration Building.



Presenting the donation to Richard Gaines are Steve Engelken, Operations Manager (l) and Nick Lee, Human Resources Manager.

BRTC Alumna Addresses Graduates



Jennifer Kaczmariski,

Jennifer Kaczmariski, Director of Nursing at Randolph Home and an alumna of BRTC, addressed a large December graduating class last week as an overflowing crowd of family and friends looked on. BRTC President Richard Gaines conferred degrees on a total of 175 students who completed two-year degrees or certificates.

Kaczmariski urged graduates to go beyond what is required, saying "It's not enough to say 'I've done my job.'" She challenged graduates with an inspiring story and encouraged

them to keep their priorities in the right order.

Class spokesperson Susan Mason of Paragould noted the special challenges faced by non-traditional students such as she. Mason noted that sometimes "Hopes and dreams take a back seat," but she added that the completion of a degree, even though delayed, is well worth the effort.

In addition to the awarding of college degrees, 110 students were awarded the GED, or General Equivalency Diploma, during the graduation ceremony.

Outstanding Departmental Graduate awards were presented to the following by VP for Academic Jack McCord and Board of Trustees member Sue Gibson: Associate of Arts degree students, Brook dos

(Continued on page 2)



More than 170 graduates received their degrees and/or certificates during the BRTC December graduation held last week in the RCDC building.

Important Dates

December 23 - January 1

Offices Closed

January 26 & 27

PTK Blood Drive

Jan 28

BRTC Ozark Herb Symposium

Feb. 21

College Goal Sunday

March 9

BRTC Foundation Gala

March 16

BRTC Health Fair

United Way Scholarships Awarded



Vanessa Oliver

Meagan Anderson

Three BRTC students, Vanessa Oliver, Meagan Anderson and Tara Maupin (not pictured) were awarded the United Way/BRTC Success Scholarship for the Fall 2009 semester, according to Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Officer. Each student was awarded \$500.

Oliver is a graduate of Walnut Ridge High School and is currently taking basic education courses at BRTC. She is the daughter of Tammy and Dale Sorg of Walnut Ridge and Nathan and Mary Oliver of Bono. She is pursuing a Practical Nursing degree with hopes of some day becoming an RN.

Anderson, a graduate of Pocahontas High School, is the daughter of Edward French and Melissa French Navas.

Book Dedicated to Shirley Chester

A booklet published each year for Dr. Gary Buxton's Creative Writing class has been dedicated this year to Shirley Chester, a veteran student in the class. The dedication was announced by Buxton during the end-of-semester class potluck. "This is the first time the publication has been dedicated to anyone," explained Buxton, and the suggestion was made by fellow-student Jeanne Simpson.

"Ms. Shirley has made a significant contribution in education at BRTC," Buxton wrote in his letter of dedication. "She has been in several of my classes and has always been a great supporter in recruiting as well as being an active member of every



Dr. Gary Buxton (right) reads to Shirley Chester the dedication he had written for her for the Creative Writing book.

class."

Buxton also noted in his dedication that Chester led the WWII effort for freedom as one of the first women in the United States Navy. "She went beyond gender restrictions of that time realizing every citizen

had a responsibility in our great nation," said Buxton, and "we salute her." In closing, Buxton stated "I am thankful for Ms. Shirley, and we, the Creative Writing class, are honored to make this dedication."

Graduation

(Cont'd from page 1)

Santos, English; Tiffany Skaggs, Fine Arts Visual; Lindsey Kerley, Human Anatomy and Physiology.

Technical Education degree award winners awards are Brian Higginbotham, Aviation; Ed Anderson, Industrial Electricity/Electronics; Erick Shavalia, Industrial Maintenance; Susan Mason, Accounting; Janet

Turner, Administrative Services; Francesca Shearer, Business Administration; Brian Hatfield, Practical Nursing; Rhonda Difani, Registered Nursing.

Certificates and Certificate of Proficiency award winners are Kathryn Bowman, Medical Transcription; and Diane Gates, Phlebotomy.

Johnson Speaks to Guests at Country Feast

Lily Johnson was a recent guest speaker at the semi-annual country feast hosted by Dr. Sandy Davis -Baltz' Fall 2009 classes.

Johnson, a native from Peru, talked about her life in her native country and the differences she has noticed over the years living in the U.S.



Lily Johnson

"Young kids are able to get out of the house unsupervised. In Peru, you have to be 21 in order to do that," she said.

One thing that really surprised her when she arrived in the U.S. was the sport of hunting. "We raise animals to feed people, not for sport."

Johnson also commented on her family. "I miss my family the most and the get-togethers they have. I have four brothers and three sisters. Everyone has a big family there," she said.

She noted that dancing is a big part of her life especially

in Peru.

"We dance a lot. Every moment we get together and can dance, we do so."

She grew up in a small town about 45 minutes from Lima, in a farming community near the beach and the mountains where her father raised corn, potatoes, and strawberries.

Johnson has lived in the U.S. for 12 years. She is married to Dr. Roger Johnson, General Education Division Chair at BRTC. They have one daughter.

Online Tutoring Offered

With the assistance of a Carl Perkins grant and the help of the Office of Development, the Distance Education Department at BRTC is now managing an online tutoring service provided by Smarthinking.

Smarthinking enables students to receive one-on-one help in many of the subjects offered at BRTC including accounting, algebra, developmental courses, and writing. Smarthinking provides several levels of access: scheduled appointments, instant tutoring, single ques-

tion submission, and essay and writing critiques.

An informal training session for Smarthinking was held last month, and included both the Pocahontas and Paragould campuses. Attending in Paragould were Ashley Hall, Joan Linnstaedter, Angela Loveless, Pam Williams, and Sandra Williams. Attending in Pocahontas were Kim Adams, Debbye Jarrett, Darena Kersey, and Rhonda Stone. Regina Moore and Karen Liebhaber facilitated while IT Director Mike Greene coordinated the technology.

Nursing students create scenarios/utilize equipment



Brandi Burns and Julie Cook, nursing students, act out a clinical scenario as patient and nurse while utilizing new equipment.

The department of Nursing at BRTC recently received new equipment that will help enhance the learning process in the classroom, according to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing. Hill-Rom hospital beds and the MedDispense Medication Dispensing system were acquired with funds from the Carl Per-

kins Grant and the Economic Incentive Grant, respectively.

“The new equipment is similar to what the students encounter in the clinical setting,” said Housh. “Having this new equipment ensures a realistic experience in the lab.”

In a recent project utilizing the new equipment, the Practical Nursing III students developed clinical scenarios of common disease processes that would be seen in the hospital setting and presented the cases to the fellow nursing students. The new equipment was used in order to accurately simulate the hospital setting.

“The project as been a great success,” noted Housh. “Both classes have learned a lot by participating.”

REACH, Legacies and Lunch

BRTC’s Project REACH was the topic of a recent presentation at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies’ “Legacies and Lunch” series in Little Rock.. Representing REACH, a project of historic preservation of the Rice-Upshaw and Looney Tavern structures, were Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development at BRTC, and REACH Architect Tommy Jameson of Little Rock.



From left, Dr. Jan Ziegler, Tommy Jameson, Linda Bly and David Stricklin.

The Butler Center was created in 1997 as a department of the Central Arkansas Library System. The Center is dedicated to exploring, preserving, and interpreting the history of Arkansas. Introducing the REACH presentation was Pocahontas native Linda Bly, Deputy Director of the Central Arkansas Library System. Also present was David Stricklin, head of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

Auction Benefits MSSPS Fund

The annual employee Potluck/Fundraiser Auction for the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) program broke all records at BRTC last week, according to event coordinator and MSSPS Committee Chair Janna Guthrey. Money raised at the staff’s Christmas potluck totaled \$3,222. This amount, when matched by grants from the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Foundation at 160%, will result in a total funding amount of \$8,337.

Single Parent scholarships of up to \$500 each are awarded by the MSSPS to eligible Randolph County residents who are single parents with custody of their minor children and who are pursuing a degree in higher education at an accredited college or university. In the Fall 2009 semester, 18 students were recipients of the awards.

“We are extremely pleased with the success of this year’s event,” said Guthrey. Many people brought items for the auction, and many people bid generously and all in fun on those items. We appreciate the support and generosity of every individual who participated in such a worthy cause. This includes members of our own faculty and staff, retired employees, and members of our Board of Trustees and our BRTC Foundation Board.”

Following tradition, Jack McCord served as auctioneer and conducted his unique “you-breathe-you-bid” brand of salesmanship, with assistance from his two favorite “colonels,” English Instructor Dr. Gary Buxton and Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn.



Above: VP for Academics Jack McCord was the auctioneer for the Annual MSSPS Auction.



Left: Board of Trustees member John Jackson, Jr. looks at silent auction items.

River’s End Award ‘Upsized’

Five graduates whose names were drawn to be “finalists” for the River’s End Incentive Award found the odds of their winning a new car in May increased dramatically with a surprise announcement by the award’s founder, Steve Manley of Universal Asset Management, Inc., at the graduation ceremony .

Manley came to the stage following the announcement of the five finalists to say that this year, in recognition and celebration of the graduation Thursday night of his son, Logan Manley, he would award not one but two new cars in May. One car will go to one of the five December graduates whose names were drawn at random, and one car will go

to one of five additional finalists whose names will be drawn from eligible May graduates.

The five December graduates are Belinda Diane Moore of Marmaduke; Jessica M. Lane of Corning; James Clayton Harris of Pocahontas; Jessica Lynn Frost of Paragould; and Kimberly Jo Lamb of Pocahontas.

Manley established the River’s End Incentive Award in 2004 as a way to encourage students to complete their education. He is the CEO of UAM, an international corporation which refurbishes and redistributes aircraft components. UAM is based in Memphis, with businesses in Walnut Ridge and Pocahontas, as well as around the globe.

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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>

Campus Commentary



Angie Caldwell

Division Chair Technical Education

As the Division Chair for Technical Education, I often think of the value of education as being difficult to describe. Education becomes an integral part of a person's being. It is not just about getting an education; education "gets you." I try to remind students that an education is one of the very few things that cannot be taken from us. Once we have it, it is a part of us, changing us, challenging us to think and act differently.

I am passionate about the value of

a technical education because of the impact it has on individuals, families, and society as a whole. Technical education embodies doing. We learn, we practice and then we do.

At BRTC, the realm of technical education encompasses the following areas: auto collision repair, automotive service, aviation, business and computer technology, dietetics, electricity, fire science, machine shop, nursing, paramedics, phlebotomy, respiratory care and welding.

These programs may lead to a one semester certificate, one-year certificate, or a two-year degree.

The bottom line is that BRTC is responsible for training individuals to seek employment in each of these areas to provide services to the community.

Graduates from technical programs greatly increase their financial earning power, provide specific services to our community and truly make a difference each day that they

BRTC-Paragould/GCITC Appreciation Luncheon Held



More than 90 people attended the BRTC-Paragould Annual Business and Industry Appreciation Luncheon held December 4 in the new academic complex on the Paragould campus, according to Audra Howerton, Coordinator of Program Development.

The program included a recap of 2009 workforce training, recognition of community members for involvement in the courses and programs, and a message of hope from Senator Robert Thompson III. Attendees enjoyed food and games, along with several door prizes courtesy of Post Foods, Wal-Mart and the Greene County Industrial Training Center.

perform what that were trained to do. Many students often find that they love to learn and they continue their education simply because they are successful in their programs of

choice. Education, especially one that is technically based, is a major investment in oneself. We at BRTC believe that everyone can benefit from this educational venture.