

The River's Edge

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Important Dates

March 22-26

Spring Break

March 31-April 1

Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive

April 2

Closed for Good Friday

April 8

Scholarship Luncheon

April 12

PN Meet and Greet

Gala Nets \$11,400 for Scholarships

The BRTC Gala held March 9 brought more than \$11,400 in net proceeds for BRTC Foundation activities, primarily scholarships, according to Administrative Assistant Vickie French. The Gala is an annual event sponsored by the Foundation, and includes dinner and a silent and live auction in an elegant setting.

Gala event organizers met last week to review the event and begin plans for next year's Gala, scheduled for March 15.

During this year's event, BRTC President Richard Gaines announced a special tribute to event Chair Brenda Walls and her husband Danny, awarding them a scholarship naming opportunity in memory of their son, Matt Walls.

Organizers expressed special thanks to several key individuals, including Pianist/Vocalist Travis

Rainbolt, a member of the BRTC Kimbrough Choir and Kimbrough Singers; "Colonel" Jack McCord, auctioneer; Tina Harris and the Dietetics students; Larry Dail and Travis DeClerk and students of the Auto Body and Auto Tech programs; Dr. Linda Moss and Phi Theta Kappa; and Sharon Watson.

Also, BRTC Ambassadors Alex Avery, Zack Avery, Shasta Flanigan, Sarah Jones, Kaylon Kimble, Holly Reed and Derek Waddell; Posey Patch Florist; Pocahontas Stars and Dalton Sullivan; and the BRTC Maintenance Department.

Gala Committee members were Brenda Walls, Ruth Ann Ellis, Mike Dunn, Kevin Rose, Stephanie Sutton,



Event Chair Brenda Walls and her husband Danny

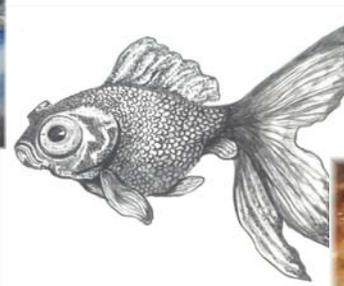
Vickie French, Ann Savage, and Dr. Jan Ziegler.

Special acknowledgement was given also to the many individuals who donated items for the auction, and those who bid on and purchased the items.

Students Exhibit Art Work at Local Banks



Left: "The Storm" by Holly Matthews, student in the Painting class.



Above: "The Fish" by Linda Cox from the Drawing II class.

Right: "Gone With the Wind" book jacket by Nikki DeLoach.

capabilities, and provides a service for the community," Art Instructor Dr. Sandy Baltz said.

Art classes can be taken as electives for general education majors or for those who have an interest in drawing, design and painting.



Hill Named Lab Coordinator



Lisa Hill

Photo courtesy of Peterson Photography

Nursing Instructor Lisa Hill has been named the Clinical Lab Coordinator for the Health Department at BRTC.

This Carl Perkins-funded position will allow Hill to schedule lab

times and provide technology support when needed. She will also be working with students in the lab, running and creating scenarios utilizing the SimMan simulators.

"This lab is for students to get hands-on experience with real nursing situations," Technical Chair Angie Caldwell said.

"The scenarios will give the students a full gamut of patient care from start to finish," she added.

Hill's work as the Clinical Lab Coordinator will also entail some nursing instruction. She has an Associate of Applied Science-Registered Nursing degree from ASU-Jonesboro and served as an ICU nurse at NEA Baptist before joining BRTC in Fall 2009.

NASA Awards Scholarships to Two BRTC Students

NASA has awarded scholarships to two Aviation Maintenance Technology students at Black River Technical College.

Reid Lucy, a Piggott High School graduate, is in his second year at BRTC. He will graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology.



Reid Lucy

Brian Higginbotham (photo not available) was also a recipient of the NASA scholarship.

The scholarship, in the amount of \$2,000, was awarded for the Spring semester.

"BRTC is a member of the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium," Aviation Maintenance Technology Instructor Scott Casady said.

Because of this membership,

BRTC students were eligible to receive funds and applied in the Fall semester. In 2009, NASA recognized the value of the aviation maintenance technician, and began the Community College Aviation Maintenance Technician Scholarship Program, according to an Arkansas Democrat-Gazette article.

Casady said that more scholarship funds will be available for eligible BRTC students.

Phi Theta Kappa Inducts 48 New Members

The Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony for new members was held March 18, with a total of 48 new students added to the roll of this two-year college honor society. Dr. Linda Moss and Dr. Gary Buxton, Chapter Advisors, presided over the ceremony attended by a large number of inductees and family members.

Regional Vice President for the Eastern District and BRTC student Sarah Yates reminded the group of the honor of belonging to the elite organization. She also outlined upcoming opportunities for the students, including a national study topic and focus of Phi Theta Kappa on "the democratization of technology" and all this signifies for today's society.

Chapter officers partici-

pated in the induction ceremony. Officers are John Rainwater, President; Sarah Yates, Vice President; Karen Dodd, VP of Leadership; Victoria Morgan, VP of Scholarship; Brenda Johnson, VP of Service; Laurie Corbin, VP of Newsletter; Todd Collins, Treasurer; Sarah Taylor, Secretary; Holly Johnson, Historian; and Harley Vermilyea, Web Page Designer.

Also assisting in the ceremony were BRTC Registrar Kim Bigger and VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler.



Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and BRTC Instructor Dr. Linda Moss (right) begins the candle lighting induction at the Spring 2010 Phi Theta Kappa Inductee ceremony.

BRTC Health Fair Held



Top: Patsy Johnson took the pulmonary function test.

Far right: Howard Sharp gets his eyes examined.

Above: Derek Waddell is checked for his blood sugar level.

Spring Semester Single Parent Scholarships Awarded



Abbi Edington



Seth Hardage



Dallas Carlisle



Amanda Green



Amanda Brevard



Tanya Wheeler



Ashley Ortgiesen



April Sheffield



Lindsey Dahm



Kandace Main



Penny Burris



Lawana Watson

A total of \$5,925 in scholarships has been awarded to students at BRTC through the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) fund for the Spring 2010 Semester.

Amanda Brevard, Dallas Carlisle, Lindsey Dahm, Abbi Edington, Seth Hardage, Kandace Main, Ashley Ortgiesen, April Sheffield, Lawana Watson and Tanya Wheeler all of Pocahontas, along with Amanda Green of Ravenden, each received \$500, while Penny Burris of Pocahontas received \$425.

The scholarships are awarded each semester in

varying amounts depending on whether the student is attending classes full-time or part-time, according to Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush.

Brevard, Burris, and Main are all working to complete prerequisites at BRTC with plans to earn Nursing degrees. Ortgiesen completed the LPN program at BRTC and is currently enrolled in the RN program at Ozarka College. Carlisle, a graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School is working towards a degree in Criminal Justice.

Dahm is a graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School

and is working to complete her Associate of Arts degree with plans of later becoming an MLA. A graduate of Biggers-Reyno High School, Edington plans to enter the Respiratory Care program.

Another Sloan-Hendrix High School graduate, Green is currently working on her basic courses with future plans of earning a degree in psychology and then a master's in counseling.

Hardage is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and is currently a student in the Aviation Maintenance program. Sheffield, a graduate of Van Buren High School, and Watson, a graduate of Pocahontas High School, both earned their Associate of Arts degrees at BRTC and are now attending Williams Baptist College in pursuit of Middle-Level Education degrees.

Wheeler is working on her

Business Administration certificate at BRTC. She is also a graduate of Biggers-Reyno High School.

To qualify for MSSPS, individuals must be single parents with custody of minor children, be enrolled in a program of higher education, meet certain income guidelines, and be residents of Randolph County. For more information, contact Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.

BAT Mobile Complete with Additions



Work was recently completed on the Blood Alcohol Testing Mobile (referred to as the "BAT Mobile") with the addition of graphics around the outside of the vehicle,

according to BRTC's Chris Hankins, BAT Instructor.

Mark Albright of HD Wraps in Little Rock applied the decal wrapping around the vehicle which includes different logos of area law enforcement organizations and slogans from the Anti-DWI Campaign of the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). "The graphics serve to raise public awareness as to the mission of the vehicle and to also serve as a visual warning to drivers about the checkpoint," Hankins said.

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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://www.blackrivertech.org/rivers_edge/

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Campus Commentary



Karen Liebhaber

When I tell people in the community that I am the Distance Education Coordinator at BRTC, I'm usually greeted with a blank stare or asked a variation of the question "What is distance education?"

Distance education (DE) exists to help students access education. Our goal in DE is to make as many BRTC classes available to as many students as possible regardless of students' availability or work and

family schedules.

Many parents only have time for class after the kids are in bed, but there are not many traditional courses held at 11 p.m. Other potential students only have a few free moments scattered sporadically throughout the weekend. Still others have plenty of free time, but because they have such a busy schedule, they never know when their free time will be.

That's where DE comes in. We've helped scores of students access class despite working full-time and having to schedule around their kids' school and extracurricular activities. Students have accessed BRTC classes from as far away as Fayetteville, Lake Village, and Little Rock. We've had students in the military complete classes from Saudi Arabia, Korea, China, Iraq, and Germany.

We've even had an instructor teaching while on vacation in Mex-

ico, and we've worked with students who were on cruises or were dealing with family disasters.

As the demand for education continues to increase, BRTC's DE program continues to grow. In Fall 2003, BRTC filled 411 seats (that's not individual students, mind you) in 16 DE courses. Just this past fall we filled 1,458 seats in 83 sections—that's more than a third of the BRTC student population.

DE sections have increased by 519% in 6 years. The DE department has also doubled; last March Regina Moore joined me to help with training, course administration, and student management.

Distance education at BRTC continues to grow, and as long as students clamor for online classes and other forms of distance delivery, BRTC's DE program will strive to make quality education as accessible to students as possible.

BAT Mobile

Cont'd from Page 3

"The different logos represent Law Enforcement Organizations that have contributed to the BAT project and are in unity in the fight against impaired driving," noted Hankins. The organizations are: Black River Technical College, Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Sheriffs' Association, Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Arkansas Highway Police, and Arkansas Highway Safety Office.

Also included are slogans used by NHTSA in their Anti-DWI Campaign - "Anywhere. Anytime." and "Drunk Driving - Over the Limit. Under Arrest."

"The BAT Mobile will be used for field sobriety checkpoints and law enforcement training throughout the state, but primarily in Northeast Arkansas," explained Hankins. "The project was funded through NHTSA and we want to stay true to their message."