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## “Journeys” Theme for Serendipity Introduced

The theme of readings, viewings, and discussions for this year's Serendipity events is “Journeys,” featuring an assortment of classics and new pieces of literature, announced Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development. Serendipity is a program to promote lifelong learning opportunities and to cultivate friendships for the college. The organization is sponsored by BRTC's Office of Corporate and Community Education and the Office of Development. Serendipity is now in its eighth year, with Patti Blaxton, Dr. Jan Ziegler, and Jessica McFadden coordinating the monthly events.



*Margret Baltz, Sharon White, Faye Baltz and Betty Baltz look over the books for this year's Serendipity.*

ber 14, with approximately thirty members and guests attending. “It was great to see many returning folks, as well as a few new faces,” Blaxton said.

Books to be featured include such classics as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain; *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner; and *Go Tell It On the Mountain* by James Baldwin. Among the new titles, which also have “the journey” as a theme, are *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce; *The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje; and *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok. Additional books to be highlighted

include *The Rabbit Proof Fence* by Lois Pilkington and Madeleine Albright's *(Continued on pg. 2)*

The kick-off meeting of Serendipity was held Septem-

### Important Dates

- September 22**  
*REACH Sites Open*
- October 5**  
*IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament*
- October 18**  
*PTK Induction*
- October 20**  
*REACH Sites Open*
- October 23-24**  
*Holocaust Survivor Series*
- November 7-8**  
*PTK Blood Drive*

## Workshop Series to Teach “Green” Construction with Traditional Tools

The Office of Corporate and Community Education and the Office of Development at BRTC announce a series of three grant-funded workshops to teach “green” construction practices using traditional hand tools. The hands-on workshops will be held on site at historic structures owned by the college, and will be offered at no charge to participants who have interest or who work in the field of woodworking, construction, traditional building trades, fence construction, log constructions, or historic restoration and preservation.

The workshop topics and dates are:

Chinking and Daubing/Battens/Flooring—October 17-19; Constructing Shaving Horse/Workbench/Primitive Furniture—Oct 31-Nov 2; Fencing from Renewable Resources—November 14-16

“What makes these workshops unique,” according to Jessica McFadden of BRTC's Office of Development, “is

the fact that the participants will actually get hands-on experience in putting their new skills into practice by working on authentic historic structures.” In this case, the sites and structures are the Rice-Upshaw House (ca. 1828) and outbuildings, and the William



*Eric Sammons using traditional tools.*

Looney Tavern (ca. 1833) in northwestern Randolph County. The structures are the *(Continued on pg. 2)*

## Speaker Blends Fun, Organization Skills to Audiences

Dave Rudolph, motivational speaker and award winning performer from Park Forest, Illinois, entertained and instructed several audiences on the campus of BRTC last week. The focus of his workshops was organizational development, and was aimed at student audiences in concert with BRTC's emphasis on student involvement and engagement as a part of the college experience. Dave Rudolf is a Gold Record, Grammy nominated, 14-time National Association of Campus Activities Entertainer of the Year award nominee, 2-time Parent Choice winner Musician and comedian.

Through music and various activities, Rudolph presented a wide range of helpful information designed to enhance student skills in effective organizational practices and in building up partici-



*Congo line at the evening Beach Party*

pation. From logo development to promotion of events to fundraising ideas, he challenged his audiences to plan carefully and to think creatively. The workshops also were designed to stimulate faculty involvement in student organizations.

The opportunity for students to take part in campus-based clubs and organizations has been identi-

fied as an important element in students' persistence and connection to college, and is thus considered to be a factor in college retention and completion. Two-year colleges, which are typically not residential institutions, face special challenges in making such opportunities available. According to BRTC President Dr. Wayne Hatcher, BRTC is committed to creating and supporting student organizations and activities. "These workshops," said Dr.

Hatcher, "are one of the ways we are demonstrating that support and working to enhance the skills of students and student organization advisors."

Rudolph presented two workshops as well as an evening "Beach Party," and also presented a session to local musicians on promoting musical talent through the office of Corporate and Community Education during his visit to BRTC.

## Workshop Series

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

centerpieces of BRTC's Project REACH, Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage.

Participants will learn to use such traditional tools as a draw knife, an adze, a froe, a broad axe, and other tools through the capable instruction of Eric Sammons of Barren Creek Timberworks of Mountain Home. Sammons, who specializes in historic timber work, restorations, replications, and reconstruction, is the log specialist contracted for restoration of both structures.

Sammons and his crew will train participants in the use of renewable resources in the tradition of "folk architecture." Participants will learn such skills as riving wood, and then produce a hand-split paling fence at the Rice-Upshaw site. They will also learn to produce and build a post-and-rail fence at the William Looney Tavern, McFadden explained.

On the first day of each workshop, an evening session at the Rice-Upshaw site will include discussions by architects, craftsmen, and historians focusing on historic log building traditions in early Arkansas. A box supper will be provided.

The workshop series is funded through a grant from Arkansas Energy Sector Partnership, a training program of ARRA Green Jobs Training.

For more information, contact Patti Blaxton at BRTC (870-248-4180 or [pattib@blackrivertech.org](mailto:pattib@blackrivertech.org)) or visit BRTC's website at [www.blackrivertech.edu/community/cce](http://www.blackrivertech.edu/community/cce) and click on Pocahontas campus.

19th Annual  
IBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation  
Golf Tournament  
Friday, October 5, 2012  
Rolling Hills Country Club

For more information call 870-248-4000  
ext. 4187.

## Serendipity (Cont'd from pg. 1)

historical memoir, *Prague Winter*.

Serendipity is open for interested individuals of all ages. Monthly meetings are typically held Fridays at 11:30, with special events scheduled as available. The October Serendipity meeting will consist of a dinner meeting with a Holocaust survivor on October 23. The November Serendipity meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 16, and will focus on the book, *Girl in Translation*, a national bestseller dealing with a fictional coming-of-age story of a young girl and her mother who immigrate from Hong Kong to New York with hopes of building a better life, but who face incredibly difficult hardships in order merely to survive.

For more information on joining Serendipity, contact Blaxton at 870-248-4000, ext. 4181.

## Sociology Class hosts James Seawel as Guest Speaker

On August 29th, students from Mrs. Koons' Principles of Sociology class, several BRTC staff and faculty members, and a few members of the community were educated on the topic of stereotypical behavior. The presentation entitled "Stereotypes: A Discussion of 'Us vs. Them,'" was given by James J. Seawel, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and former resident of Randolph County. Seawel explained the concept of stereotypes and what drives individuals to practice this behavior. When asked, "Why do people stereotype?" Seawel answered, "...because of ignorance, hatred, culture, a simplistic mindset of wanting things to make sense, a need to feel superior, and because, psychologically, our minds like to categorize and organize."

Seawel also showed several videos that exemplified such concepts as racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia. He explained that these particular things are what are believed to be the repercussions of stereotyping. For example, a person's class status, according to Seawel, might be referred to as

"the rich vs. the poor" or "the haves vs. the have-nots." He went on to describe other stereotypes as "men vs. women," "gay vs. straight," "white vs. black, etc.," and "liberal vs. conservative." After explaining these to the audience, Seawel encouraged everyone to ask themselves, "Through what lens (or lenses) do you see the world"?

Seawel's final remarks included, "Everyone stereotypes whether they know or admit it or not... I'm not asking you to stop, I'm asking you to be aware so that your stereotype doesn't become discriminatory..."

"This presentation was an 'eye-opener' for all those in attendance," said Rachel Koons Sociology Instructor. Seawel focused heavily on examining our own behaviors and determining if we might possibly be stereotyping and don't realize it. "The students and everyone else who attended were positively impacted by Seawel's presentation and the light it shed on how severe the ramifications of stereotyping can be," she said

Seawel graduated from Harding University with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree and obtained a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville with an emphasis on mental health.

He is currently working towards a Doctorate of Ministry in Formational Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary. He has worked and interned widely in counseling. Presently, he is contracted with the U.S. Military to provide short-term, solution-focused counseling to servicemen and women and their families. He is the son of former AR State Representative Harmon Seawel and Susan Seawel of Maynard.



*James Seawel*

## MSSPS Awarded to Eight for the Fall 2012 Semester

The Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship (MSSPS) has been awarded to eight students for the Fall 2012 semester. They are Stephanie Brech (not pictured), Bridget Stacey, Dallas Carlile, Angela Emmet, Stephanie Searcy, Crystal Due (not pictured) and Jane Smith of Pocahontas; Bernice Shelly of Imboden; and Michele Miller of Ravenden.

Brech, Searcy, Shelly and Smith have each been designated among the recipients as a United Way of Northeast Arkansas Scholar through a donation from the United Way to the MSSPS Fund in the amount of \$1,800.

Brech graduated from Maynard High School in 1997. She is working to complete her LPN license. Stacey graduated from Pocahontas High School in 2003 and is pursuing an AA in Gen Ed degree. Carlile graduated from Oak Ridge Central in 1999. She plans to graduate Spring 2013 with an AAS in Criminal Justice. Emmett received her GED from Ogechee Technical College in Georgia and is working on her AA from BRTC. She plans to become a social worker.

Searcy received her GED in 2001 and is working towards becoming an RN. Due is a 2001 graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School and received her AA from BRTC. She is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education from Williams Baptist College. Smith graduated from Pocahontas High School and is pursuing an AS in business from BRTC. Shelly graduated from Mountain Pointe High School in Arizona in 1998, graduated December 2011 from BRTC's Practical Nursing program, and plans to complete the RN program at BRTC in December 2012. Miller graduated from Sloan-Hendrix High School and earned her AA in Gen Ed from BRTC in 1998. She plans to graduate in December of 2013 from BRTC's Respiratory Care Program.



*Dallas Carlile*



*Jane Smith*



*Bernice Shelly*



*Angela Emmet*



*Stephanie Searcy*



*Michele Miller*

The \$4,300 awarded this semester brings to date the total of \$148,148 awarded through MSSPS since its inception in 1992.

To qualify for the single parent scholarship, according to Financial Aid Officer Natasha Rush, 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. Scholarships are given each term in varying amounts depending on enrollment status. For more information, contact Natasha Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.



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## ***BRTC Mission Statement***

*Blending tradition, technology and innovation  
to educate today's diverse students  
for tomorrow's changing world.*

## **From the President's Desk...**



*Dr. Wayne Hatcher*

These are indeed exciting times at BRTC! In today's fast-moving and tumultuous sea of change, a majority of institutions of higher education are struggling to stay up with the increasing demands being placed upon us. BRTC is an exception in many ways. Faculty are actively implementing accelerated learning courses that allow students to complete courses faster, without suffering loss of academic quality. Similarly, other faculty members are involved in modular learning, which allows the instructors to evaluate various skill levels of students, skipping areas they already know or have achieved the required skill set. To better accommo-

date student scheduling demands, more hybrid, evening and weekend courses are being offered.

Student support services are also being enhanced with online tutoring as well as individual and small group tutoring. More student support services will soon be forthcoming and will help students to be academically successful—IF they seek assistance, and seek it early.

BRTC faculty and staff are able to stay abreast of these ongoing changes in higher education because they care about the students and their success. We are committed to making a difference. To assist them in continuing to make an even bigger difference, the college leadership purposely concentrates on seeing that they receive quality professional development. This involves a combination of bringing in experts to share their knowledge in their specific area as well as sending some of our faculty and staff to professional conferences to learn "best practices" about changes in education that affect our students and ideas on how to better present that knowledge to our students.

This is a very, very challenging time for higher education in Arkansas as resources to educate

students continue to shrink. It is getting increasingly difficult to make education accessible to enough citizens to give them the new skills they need for the higher level jobs that exist, and BRTC is feeling the pressure. But, as you can see by the efforts being put forth by our faculty, BRTC's commitment to our mission is unfailing...or as Helen Keller once said, "The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome." Know that our faculty are dedicated and committed to academic quality, academic rigor and academic success.



*Dr. Charlotte Power reading Preamble to the  
Constitution in observance of Constitution Day.*