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Nursing Classes Celebrate at Graduation

A large number of friends and family gathered to celebrate the combined nursing pinning, candle lighting, and graduation ceremony for 38 RNs and 18 PNs Tuesday evening in the Randolph County Development Center. BRTC Board of Trustees Vice Chair Sue Gibson conferred degrees and certificates on the graduates.



Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing, standing with graduate Jean Ann Dugger.

The ceremony also included an inspirational and entertaining presentation by former BRTC nursing student and eventual BRTC nursing instructor Sandra Green. She traced changes and developments in the field of nursing, but insisted, "What I hope never changes, is the passion nurses feel for their patients." Green, who currently is a nurse practitioner, spoke of memorable experiences, including a helicopter transport when the family asked that the patient, an elderly, man not be informed he was going to get into that helicopter due to his fear of flying,

and the creative solution she found to make it happen. "It's never been just a job for me. I love what I do. Treat your patients as you would want your family to be treated."

She spoke also of the opportunities students have received as a result of BRTC and the ARNEC consortium, through which Arkansas's two-year colleges offer RN degrees.

Nursing Director Ramonda Housh repeated her oft-stated philosophy: "Be professional." Among the student achievements Housh

acknowledged were the extensive hours in community service given by the students, with special recognition given to Stephanie Lundry and Samantha Brown.

Receiving Florence Nightingale awards were four RN students: Esther Shelly, Stephanie Converse, Brianna Denham, and Kelley Rogers. And three PN students: Elisabeth Woodard, Janaea

(Continued on pg. 3)

Important Dates

- December 12 & 13-**
Fencing Workshop at REACH Sites
- December 13-**
Graduation
- December 22– January 1**
Campus Closed
- January 2-**
Last Day to Register and Enroll in Classes
- January 9-**
Classes Begin
- January 21-**
Martin Luther King Day—No Classes; Admin. Offices Open

Respiratory Care Students Graduate

Dr. Wayne Hatcher conferred Associate of Science degrees in Respiratory Therapy and Certificates of Proficiency in Health Professions Monday night to seventeen students completing their program of studies. Assisting in the conferring of degrees were Kim Bigger, Registrar, and Angela Caldwell, VP for Technical Education. Respiratory Care instructors Suezette Hicks and Janet Murrel, along with Jessica Alphin, Clinical Specialist, pinned the graduates during their graduation ceremony.

Program Director Suezette Hicks praised the exceptionally high academic achievement of the graduates, stating this group was receiving the highest number of academic awards and honors of any class with whom she has ever worked.

Class President and Spokesman Jason Linam spoke to his fellow graduates and the large number of guests about the importance of "remembering the important things and letting the other things take care of themselves." He used the filling of the jar story to illustrate his point.

In his commencement address, Dr. Hatcher spoke of the importance of the profession and their role as mem-

bers of the health care team. He spoke also of the plentiful and lucrative job opportunities that await these graduates, including a projected 30% growth rate in job openings in the coming decade.



Suezette Hicks presents Jason Linam, Respiratory class president, with his pin.

Dr. Hatcher noted that 33% of the Respiratory Care workforce can expect to earn higher salaries than other graduates who have four-year degrees.

His concluding comments took note of the overwhelming passion of these graduates to choose this profession because of the opportunities it brings for them to help others in a meaningful way.

Learning Made Interesting for Machine Shop Students

Gary Meier, Machine Shop instructor at BRTC, had a very unique project for his students this semester. They were given the opportunity to help construct a Ferris wheel for a Christmas display. The display is located in Ravenden at the home of Butch Dail, Auto Collision Repair instructor, and is open for viewing by the public each year.

"I had a vision of a Ferris wheel for a Christmas yard ornament," Dail explained. "Children like moving things, so I thought the Ferris wheel would be great. I approached Gary (Meier) with the idea."

Dail furnished all of the supplies and built the seats. Each seat has a different character including Santa Claus, an elf, and reindeer. Clay County Electric donated the spool.

"Six students participated in the project, which was a great learning experience," said Meier. "It took one week for them to complete the project where they learned about many things including gear speeds, commutator functions, design, fabrication, and how to build without a print."

The students took the spool apart and cut it down to form the wheel. They also built the trailer that the Ferris wheel is mounted on. The most complex part of the project, according to Meier, was designing the commutator, an electrical switch, which is a common feature of rotating machines. "By reversing the current direction in the moving coil of a motor's armature," Meier explained, "a steady rotating force, or torque, is produced to turn the wheel. This keeps the strands of lights from getting entangled in the

wheel."

The completed structure stands 12 feet tall and has over 300 LED lights on it. "My family helps with the decorations," Dail explained. "This is something we started doing years ago and it just keeps growing. The Machine Shop students have helped in the past with building structures to add to the Christmas display."

"I want to commend the students for their work on this project and for their engineering skills," added Dail. "Through their learning process and experience in the program, they were able to create something that will be admired by a lot of people."

In addition to creating unique items through the Machine Shop program, students have also had the opportunity to tour companies that utilize the same types of machinery and manufacture the same types of components that they are using and learning about in class.

Meier took some of his students to Little Rock where they toured Haas, a

machinery company that builds the machinery used in Machine Shop at BRTC. They then traveled to Maumelle to tour Molex, a manufacturer of electrical connections. At both places, the students watched demonstrations, heard about real-world experiences and, their favorite part, according to Meier, heard how much money workers can make in the Machine Shop industry.

"The Machine Shop program provides students with unique opportunities and experiences that pertain to real-world applications," said Meiers. "I want the learning process to be fun and enjoyable, while also demonstrating the many different areas that their skills can be used in."



Machine shop students from left to right Josh Lovelady, Matt Townsley, and Markus Doughten helped with the Ferris wheel while instructor Gary Meier oversaw the project.

Pathways Gathers Coats for Donation to Salvation Army

BRTC's Career Pathways staff held a coat drive to collect donations for the Salvation Army. Some 90 coats, infant through adult sizes, were donated for the cause and delivered to the Salvation Army to be given away for free to those in need.

Beginning a few years ago, the Pathways staff decided to take on a community service project instead of buying and exchanging gifts with each other at Christmastime. This year, the need they identified was outfitting others with coats. They realized there was a need for warm coats and jackets in the area, so they began a coat drive to fill that need. "Discussions began in the office, and we all mutually agreed that a coat drive would be a very worthy community service project," explains Tom Baker, Director of Career Pathways at BRTC.

"We thought a coat drive would make an impact community-wide," added Helen Shipley, Administrative Assistant. "We knew this was something that all of the student groups could get involved with, in addition to faculty and staff, without anyone having to go out and buy anything."

The response was overwhelming. Students, staff and faculty were generous with their donations. "One student brought in a whole bag of coats," said Baker. "She certainly got in the spirit of things. So, she donated all of the coats that her kids have outgrown."

"It's wonderful to see the spirit of giving in situations such as this," Baker continued. "We all want to make a positive difference in the lives of others. At Christmas, the time of giving, it seems that we are motivated to do the right thing. In winter, it is keeping our friends and neighbors warm."

The Career Pathways department wishes to thank everyone who helped make this project a huge success with donations. Donations will still be accepted through December 14 and may be dropped off in the Career Pathways office in the administration building on the BRTC Poca-hontas campus.



Pathways staff preparing to deliver coats.

Buxton Presents at Annual Folklore Society Meeting

Dr. Gary Buxton, English instructor at BRTC, recently gave a presentation on "Bottle Trees and other Superstitions in the Ozarks" at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Missouri Folklore Society. The meeting was held at the Historic Daniel Boone Home in Defiance, Missouri, overlooking the Femme Osage Valley – a setting that represents life in the early 1800s.

In his presentation, Buxton explained how bottle trees served as a protection from evil spirits, or "haints," for many folks in the Delta and into the Ozarks. The bottle tree process consisted of cutting branches off smaller trees in the front yard and placing bottles over the cut branch. The most popular color was cobalt blue, a color favorable to evil spirits. It was believed that after being trapped in the bottle overnight, the daylight would destroy the spirits. Buxton had a bottle tree to show during the presentation, made with an artificial tree and empty cobalt blue beer bottles.

Another superstition explained by Buxton was placing a rattlesnake tail (rattle) inside a musical instrument such as a fiddle, mandolin, or guitar. "I demonstrated this by placing a rattlesnake tail in my older fiddle," said Buxton. "Everyone seemed to agree that the fiddle sounded better after I put the rattle inside," he jokingly added. Various ideas are connected to "rattles" in the instrument. One is that the fiddle was often thought of as a feminine instru-

ment and the rattlesnake tail would masculinize it. Another thought was that the rattlesnake tail "charmed" the instrument. A more scientific approach may be that the rattle would keep the inside of the instrument clean and, therefore, would create a better sound.

The Missouri Folklore Society was organized in 1906, according to the MFS website, "to encourage the collection, preservation and study of folklore in the widest sense, including customs, institutions, beliefs, signs, legends, language, literature, musical arts, and folk arts and crafts of all ethnic groups throughout the State of Missouri."

The conference included academic presentations on folklore and traditional life, as well as panel discussions, demonstrations of folk arts, tours, jam sessions for musicians, and an auction. Buxton's bottle tree was sold at the auction.



Shown here is a bottle tree similar to the one created by Dr. Gary Buxton that he used for his presentation.

Students Hold Toy Drive

Students in Medical Terminology and Math for Nurses classes on both Pocahontas and Paragould campuses collected 160 new items to be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, according to Nursing Instructor Kelsie Jones.

"I had been searching for a good charity or community service project for my students to get involved in," Jones explained. "The RN at Hytrol in Jonesboro, who is someone I went to RN school with, informed me that they were doing a toy drive and could use some help. This is how we got involved with this project."

The students collected toys, clothes, ear buds, iTunes gift cards, DVDs, Wal-Mart gift cards and other such items, all of which were brand new. "We are partnering with the APN and RN at Hytrol to make the donation," said Jones.



Some students who participated in the toy drive for St. Jude are pictured here with the donations: from left Britteny Melton, Iris Flannigan, Michelle Cross, Kyland Stewart, Crystal Land, Savannah Gibson, Amber Irvin, Katy Dilport and Amy Morgan.



The BRTC Kimbrough Choir and Kimbrough Singers held their Annual Christmas Concert in the Administration Building Student Center. Audiences enjoyed hot chocolate while listening to the festive singing.

Nursing (Cont'd from pg. 1)

Lyons, and Brandy Franke. These students were selected by the entire nursing faculty for these prestigious awards.

The faculty choice award for the most outstanding RN student was Stephanie Converse; and for PN the student was Tiffany Gugle.

Registered Nursing students receiving additional awards were: Michelle Mullen, Christina Camp, Shantel Archer, Shelly Webb, Caille Tribble, Sara Woodson, KateLynn Taber, Leigh Rose, Tonya Phillips, Ben Ulibarri, Brandi Burns, Holley Fowler, and Brianna Denham. Additional PN awards were given to the following students: Deana Smith, Alyssa Difani, Samantha Watson, Samantha Brown, Elisabeth Woodard, Brandy Franke, Janea Lyons and Aaron Franklin.

Samantha Brown, Samantha Watson, Christina Camp and Kandace Main gave student presentations.

The event also included remarks by Holley Fowler and Blair Howell, Class Representatives of the RN class, and Janea Lyons, President of the Fall 2012 PN class.

At the conclusion of the conferring of degrees, nursing faculty assisted in the pinning and candle-lighting portion of the ceremony, followed by the graduates' recitation of the "Nightingale Pledge." BRTC's Kimbrough Singers performed "A Candle's Light," and PN Graduate Jake Cooper presented a benediction.



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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

We think of colleges such as this one as the place students come for education and degrees and credentials, and that's as it should be. But I am reminded over and over again, especially at this time of the year, that colleges are also places where students learn about the benefits and the importance of giving. During their time at BRTC, they have many opportunities to use their skills and their connections gained through the college experience to help others--to give unselfishly of themselves. Just consider a few of the "gifts" BRTC's students have given to the community, with support and

participation by the faculty and staff. Think also about how these gifts often dovetail with what the students are learning in the classroom--a perfect example of real-life application of theory and skills:

* Design students of Dr. Sandy Baltz have been working to develop a logo for BRTC's new Student Government Association. Two designs have been selected by the SGA, and next spring's Design students will work to integrate elements of these two designs into a single logo for adoption by SGA.

* Machine Shop students of Gary Meier have constructed a Ferris wheel to be used in a Christmas display in the Ravenden community.

* Nursing students have assisted in the distribution of hundreds of car seats at an event that also included health screenings for the children.

* Nursing I students held a non-perishable food drive during November to support the BRAD Food Bank.

* The Pathways staff coat drive generated a donation of some 90 warm coats for the Salvation Army to offer for free to individuals in need.

* The Future Educators Association groups participated in Backpacks for Kids projects, collecting food and other necessities for area students.

* Medical Terminology and Math For Nurses Classes on both Pocahontas and Paragould campus held a Toy Drive for children at St. Jude's.

When our students and staff give, everyone benefits. This includes the recipient of the gift, of course, and it also includes the giver. In many cases, the giver, a student, is able to see how his or her studies extend out of the classroom and into the community. The positive feeling or intrinsic rewards of giving are of inestimable value. And the community is enriched in a literal and in a spiritual sense when people give. What a wonderful lesson about life we are giving our students when we teach them not only to write and compute and problem-solve, but also to give.



Donations from both campuses for St. Jude..