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## Annual Gala Event Raises Record Amount

Big changes with the 7th Annual BRTC Foundation Gala resulted in huge profits. A record amount was raised at the event held Saturday, March 9, at the Rolling Hills Country Club, according to Ann Savage, Gala Chair. The event netted \$15,923 – a 65% increase from last year and a 24% increase from the next highest record set in 2011. The Gala is one of the major fundraising events of the BRTC Foundation with proceeds providing much needed dollars for scholarships and other college activities.



Stephanie Sutton (from left), Mary Helen Jackson and Keith Sutton selling raffle ticket at the Gala.

ent and chose to hold the Gala at the Rolling Hills Country Club on a Saturday night. The 140 something in attendance seemed very receptive to the change.”

“As chair for this year’s Gala, I extremely appreciate all the hard work and support from all individuals who helped organize and prepare for the event,” said Savage. “The success of this year’s event lies in the hands of those individuals, as well

as those who contributed items for the auction and those who generously bid on each item.”

Tickets sales brought in \$9,062 while live and silent auction items garnered over \$8,000. Also new to this year’s event was a raffle where individuals purchased any number of tickets they wanted and placed them in jars of

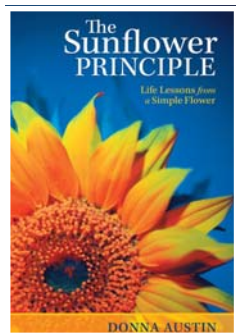
*(Continued on pg. 3)*

### Important Dates

- March 18-22  
Spring Break
- March 26-27  
PTK Blood Drive
- March 27  
Book Signing in Library
- April 2  
Health Fair
- April 7  
Art Showcase
- April 12  
LETA Graduation
- April 13  
REACH Sites Open
- April 16  
Scholarship Luncheon
- April 23  
Student Awards Ceremony

## Book Signing Planned for Former Student

A book signing event featuring former BRTC student Donna Austin of Jonesboro is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the BRTC library in Pocahontas, according to Anne Simpson, librarian. She will be presenting her recently published book, *The Sunflower Principle: Life Lessons from a Simple Flower*.



Donna Austin, author of “The Sunflower Principle.”

The book chronicles one woman’s recovery from divorce while learning lessons from a simple flower about



giving back and making a difference in the lives of others. Austin describes her book as “a celebration of friendships and a call for unity between all races and religions in our troubled world.” She said her book was inspired by sunflowers and encourages peace, compassion, love and understanding.

“*The Sunflower Principle* is a little book with a big mission,” Austin explained. “We each have a sphere of influence capable of creating positive change regardless of our age, financial status, health, or social status. We are either promoting love or hate by the words we use, the actions we take, or often by what we allow to happen without speaking up or taking action. Doing nothing only allows hate crimes and violence to become the accepted norm. We can all be a sunflower in the lives of others or we can be a weed chocking out the life of those around us.”

Austin is a native of Jonesboro and a graduate of Black Rock High School. She lived in Dallas, Texas for many

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

# MSSPS Awarded to Nine for Spring Semester

Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each have been awarded to these nine students: Dallas Carlile, Melissa Ann Dominguez, Angela Emmett, Mary Richardson, Stephanie Searcy, Jane Smith, and Bridget Stacey, all of Pocahontas, Valorie Anderson of Imboden, and Keelie Wuelling of Delaplaine. The spring awards of the single parent scholarships make a total of 361 scholarships and \$152,648 awarded through MSSPS since its inception in 1992.

Carlile is completing an AAS in Criminal Justice degree at BRTC with plans to attend BRTC's LETA program in the fall and then pursue a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She is a 1999 graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School and works at the Randolph County Sheriff's Department. Dominguez graduated from Sloan-Hendrix High School in 2003 and is currently attending Arkansas State University in Jonesboro where she is pursuing a degree in Social Work while working at the Salvation Army. She previously attended ASU Technical Center in Jonesboro, then earned an AA degree from BRTC in 2010.

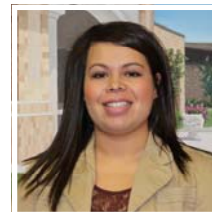
Emmett earned her GED from Ogachee Tech in Statesboro, GA, and is currently working on her AA degree at BRTC. She would like to work in Social Work with plans to pursue a Master's degree in the future. Richardson graduated from Couch High School in 2012 and is attending BRTC. She plans to complete her AA degree then transfer to the University of Central Arkansas and work on a pre-med degree. She would eventually like to work in Obstetrics. Searcy is attending BRTC with future plans of earning a bachelor's degree in nursing.

She earned a GED in 2001 and has worked as a CNA at Americare and Randolph Home.

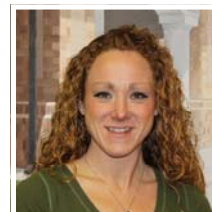
Smith is a 1977 graduate of St. Paul High School and is currently working on an AA in Business degree at BRTC. She is employed by Pizza Hut. Stacey, a 2003 graduate of Pocahontas High School, plans to graduate from BRTC in the fall with an AA degree then pursue a Criminal Justice degree at ASU. She is a student worker at BRTC and also works at BRAD Headstart. She would like to be a juvenile probation officer. Anderson is currently attending both BRTC and ASU-Newport in pursuit of an RN degree. She is a graduate of Oak Ridge Central High School and works at Sonic. Wuelling earned a GED in 2008 and is currently working on certification in Phlebotomy at BRTC.

Dominguez and Andreson have been designated as Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) scholarship recipients, and Carlile, Emmett, Richardson and Wuelling have been designated as United Way scholarship recipients. Both ADHE and United Way are contributors to MSSPS.

According to Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Officer, to qualify for the 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. The amount of each scholarship is dependent upon the student attending full or part time. For more information, contact Rush at 870-248-4000, ext. 4019.



*Melissa Dominguez*



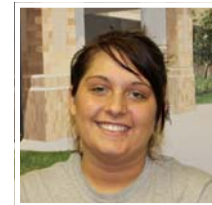
*Angela Emmett*



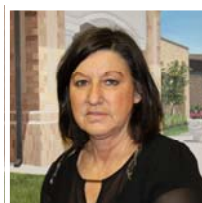
*Stephanie Searcy*



*Dallas Carlile*



*Mary Richardson*



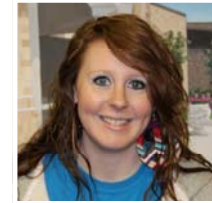
*Jane Smith*



*Valorie Anderson*



*Bridget Stacey*



*Keelie Wuelling*

## Book Signing Cont'd. from Pg. 1

years where she retired from the phone company before returning to the area. She is the mother of two children, both living in California, and grandmother of four. She attended Williams Baptist College, Arkansas State University, and most recently was a student in Dr. Gary Buxton's Creative Writing class.

This book is published by Inspiring Voices in partnership with Guidepost. Austin has been published by Argus Communications in Allen, Texas, and featured in Guidepost magazine. Her poetry has been published in "Amidst the Splendor - The National Library of Poetry." She is founder and director of a creative writing group in Jonesboro called "Writers' Ink," and she is a member of the National League of American Pen Women.

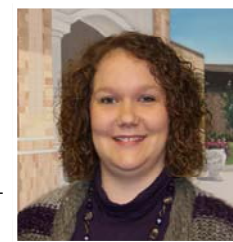
"The public is cordially invited and encouraged to stop by the library to visit with Austin," said Simpson. For more information, Simpson can be contacted at 870-248-4000, ext. 4061.

## New BRTC Staff Positions

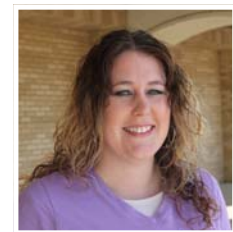
Two positions have just been filled at Black River Technical according to Brenda Gillogly, Vice President of Administration.

Amber Green of Pocahontas has been hired to fill the new position of Human Resources Assistant. She is a graduate of Lynn High School and has worked for the past four years in Human Resources and Payroll at Pocahontas Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. Prior to that she was store manager at Russell Cingular for four years.

Shana Akers of Annieville, formerly Academic Advisor in the Department of Students Services, is the new Information Systems Analyst in the Department of Computer Services. She joined the BRTC staff in 2003 as Secretary in the Department of Student Services then became Registrar Assistant in 2007 and moved to her most recent position in 2010. She has an AA degree and AAS in Business degree, both from BRTC, and a BA in Liberal Arts degree from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.



*Amber Green*



*Shana Akers*

# PLC Members Selected for Spring 2013 Semester

Members of BRTC's President's Leadership Council (PLC) for the 2013 Spring Semester are Brandi Beckman of Maynard, Jeff Martin of Paragould, Debbie Haferkamp, Trent Morledge, Jordan O'Donnell and Lee Smith of Pocahontas, and Danielle Martin of Walnut Ridge. PLC Advisors are Mylea White, Resource Assistant for Program Completion, Natasha Rush, Financial Aid Specialist, and Sissy Gray, Social Science instructor.

Beckman graduated from Maynard High School in 2012 and plans to graduate from BRTC in December with an AA degree. "After earning my AA degree, I plan to transfer to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro to work toward a Master's degree in psychology," Beckman noted. She is also certified as a personal care aid.

Jeff Martin is a 1991 graduate of Paragould (Ridgecrest) High School and has been attending BRTC for one year working on an AS in Business degree. "After graduation," Martin said, "I plan to transfer to ASU and pursue a BS in Business Management degree then work in the field of Human Resources."

Haferkamp is originally from St. Louis, MO. She received a GED from BRTC in 2011 and plans to graduate Fall 2013 with an AA degree. She then plans to transfer to ASU to earn a degree in Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technology. "I feel like BRTC has given me a new chance to succeed in

life," said Haferkamp. "This experience has been one of the most rewarding that I have ever had. I may attend ASU but BRTC will always be in my heart."

Morledge was born in Forest City and graduated from Pocahontas High School in 2011. "This is my fourth and last semester at BRTC," stated Morledge. "I plan to graduate in May with an AA degree then transfer to pursue a Pharmacy degree."

O'Donnell is a 2010 Pocahontas High School graduate of PHS and is working towards a Bachelor's degree. She earned 30 hours of concurrent credit through BRTC while still in high school. She has also attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, each for one year. "My goal is to get accepted into a dental hygiene program - hopefully SIU in Carbondale, IL - and earn Bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene," said O'Donnell. "I would love to move to Northwest Arkansas and start a career as a clinical dental hygienist."

Smith graduated from Pocahontas High School in 1997 and earned a Machine Shop certificate from BRTC in 1998. He is currently in his second semester at BRTC taking basic education courses working towards a degree as Occupational Therapy Assistant. He plans to apply to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff, MO. "If I am accepted into the

program I will graduate in December 2014," Smith said. "Then I hope to work in a nursing facility or school system helping to improve people's lives."

Martin is a graduate of Black Rock High School. She plans to graduate from BRTC in December with a degree in Criminal Justice. "After I graduate from Black River," noted Martin, "I plan to transfer to a four year college and earn a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. I want to become a felony probation officer."

The PLC was established to award deserving students with a tuition waiver scholarship and leadership training while working a specified number of hours to help promote the college and enhance the overall BRTC experience. They work closely with Dr. Wayne Hatcher, BRTC President, as well as administration, faculty and staff while learning, developing and practicing leadership skills.

To qualify as a member of PLC, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours with at least a 3.0 GPA, have at least two semesters remaining to complete their degree plan, and be pursuing a degree program that will allow them to work the required hours. Students must be nominated by BRTC faculty and possess such qualities as honesty, integrity, positive attitude, perseverance and a desire to make a difference.

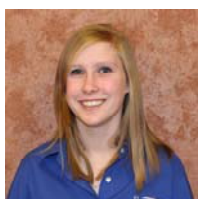
For more information about the PLC program, contact Rush, White or Grey at 870-248-4000.



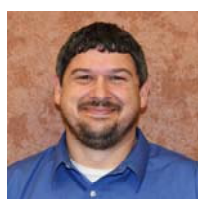
Debbie Haferkamp



William (Lee) Smith



Brandi Beckman



Jeff Martin



Danielle Martin



Jordan O'Donnell



Trent Morledge

## Gala

## Cont'd. from Pg. 1

their choice set in front of a large array of items for a chance to win that item. "This portion of the fundraiser was a huge success," Savage noted, "because there was something for everyone, and everyone had an opportunity to win an item without cost being a factor." The raffle raised \$2,610.

Jim Early of Pocahontas entertained the guests while serving as auctioneer. He was assisted by his wife, Teresa. Ruth Ann Ellis, Chair of the BRTC Foundation, announced that Chad Chester of Pocahontas was awarded a naming opportunity for one of next year's Foundation scholarships. His name was drawn among all who purchased tickets prior to March 2. The Gala also included a brief video message from past scholarship recipients, and concluded with a surprise fireworks display.

"We are humbled by the community's continued response to the needs of our students," said BRTC President, Dr. Wayne Hatcher. "The Gala Committee set some high goals and achieved every one."

Gala photos can be viewed on the BRTC website by going to the Foundation link under the Office of Development page.



Clockwise from top left are Hal & Bootsie Barre; Jeremy Baltz; Dean & Brenda Gillogly; and David & Dr. Karla Baltz.





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## **BRTC Mission Statement**

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

## Campus Commentary...



*Dr. Jan Ziegler*

Sometimes there are simple actions we can take to address vexing problems. This, I believe, is the case with Project SOAR (Sail Over Academic Remediation), a partnership project involving the college, Pocahontas High School, and Corning Savings and Loan.

The vexing problem: many students come to college without the necessary skills in certain subject areas, as reflected by ACT scores. When this happens, they must successfully complete non-credit courses to make up any deficits in, say, math, English, or reading, so that they have the foundation considered necessary for success in college level credit bearing course. Those are referred to various-

ly as remedial courses or developmental courses. These courses can be a double-edged sword. They are, on the one hand, considered necessary to develop skills students will need to be able to pass the next level of courses. But these non-credit courses also extend the time it will take a student to complete his or her degree. Therein lies the rub.

Many studies have proven that time is the enemy when it comes to college completion. The longer it takes before a student begins to accumulate credits, the more time before a student can move into an academic major, the less likelihood that this student will graduate. And that's not good for anyone: not for the student, not for the school, not for the college, not for the community, not for the state. It goes without saying that extending the time to graduation means greater outlay of money by the student and/or parents. Extending the time to graduation also means a delay in the student being able to enter the workforce with a good-paying job in her major.

With all this in mind, BRTC and Pocahontas High School administrators began a dialogue about how to address this problem. The decision: implement a program to provide in-school tutoring in targeted subject areas to students we believe likely to benefit immediately prior to their approaching

ACT test date. We were pretty sure doing this would result in ACT score improvements, and it appears we were right.

We have just completed the third pilot effort of Project Soar; the first two were funded by BRTC and by PHS. The latest session was funded by Corning Savings and Loan as a community partner. The results of all three SOAR sessions completed in 2012 are pretty amazing:

- SOAR students tested out of a total of 76 developmental courses
- The breakdown of those courses these students now do NOT have to take: 31 Developmental Math classes; 27 Developmental Reading classes; and 18 Developmental English classes
- Tuition for those courses would have totaled about \$26,600 at BRTC (or \$66,500 at ASU)
- Actual cost of the three combined SOAR sessions was about \$7,500
- A total of 28 SOAR students increased ACT scores to Ark. Challenge Scholarship level
- Challenge Scholarship value for one student over four years—\$13,000
- Challenge Scholarship value for 28 students over four years—\$364,000

We are convinced that SOAR and similar efforts can and do make a huge difference for the good: for the good of students, for the good of all of us. We, along with PHS, hope to be a part of more such community partnerships such as that with Corning Savings and Loan going forward.