

# THE RIVER'S EDGE



Black River Technical College

Pocahontas · Paragould

## BRTC Announces the 12th Annual Holocaust Survivor Series

For the 13th year, Black River Technical College, in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will host Holocaust survivor Lousie Lawrence-Israels for 3 presentations November 1-2. Israels will be speaking at 9:30 a.m. both Thursday and Friday mornings, and 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening. All presentations will be held in the Randolph County Development Center auditorium on the BRTC Pocahontas campus.

According to the USHMM website, Louise Lawrence-Israels was born in Haarlem, the Netherlands, in 1942, the year the Nazis began deporting Netherland Jews to extermination camps. Louise and her family were ordered to move to Amsterdam, and quickly went into hiding. Louise spent 3 years in hiding and when, in May 1945 Canadian forces liberated Amsterdam, Louise struggled to adjust to a world without walls.

The presentations are free and open to the public. Sponsors of the event include SEAS Project of the BRTC Foundation; Mike and Barbara Dunn; First National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Hoxie, Pocahontas, and Bono; Brett and Karen Liebhaber; and Integrity First Bank. For more information or to schedule a group contact Holly Looney at (870) 248-4189. We hope you will attend this important event!



Lousie Lawrence-Israels

## Thank you, American Veterans Post 62, for Your Support!

BRTC is thankful to American Veterans Post 62, represented by William Lee Hand, for their \$3,100 to Black River Technical College's Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA) Memorial Garden. "This is the largest donation to date for the project," said Steve Shults, LETA Director, "and it is greatly appreciated."

The purpose of the proposed Memorial Garden is to remember the three LETA officers who lost their lives in the line of duty: George Griffin, White County Sheriff's Office; Jonathan Schmidt, Trumann Police Department; and Jake Harrell, North Little Rock Police Department. "We must never forget the sacrifice officers make serving their communities," Shults said.



Director Shults; Class 2018B Class Leader Levi Chism, Jonesboro PD; William Lee Hand

The Memorial Garden will be a lasting memorial and serve as a reminder to LETA students of why they must "adequately prepare themselves for a career filled with uncertainties," said Shults.

To give, contact Institutional Advancement at (870) 248-4026 or Director Shults at (870) 248-4190.

### JOIN IT DOWN

November 1  
Board of Trustees Meet

November 1-2  
Holocaust Survivor

November 16  
LETA Graduation

November 22-23  
Campus Closed



## BRTC Celebrates Constitution Day

BRTC Library Director Pat Cagle gave a Constitution Day presentation on Monday, September 17. She provided the U.S. Constitution and educational information about the Constitution.

## BRTC Students Attend Nursing Hearings

BRTC practical nursing students attended hearings led by BRTC's Ramonda Housh, ASBN president, at the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) in Little Rock on September 12. Attending were Allie Phillips, Amy Crow, Ashley Martin, Barbara Winters, Chad Goodman, Courtney Keck, Elizabeth Smith, Elizabeth Anger, Faith Lynch, Jordan Whitney, Kasey Freeman, Kaylee Campbell, Kobi Rosten, Krista Troutman, Kristen Perez, Meagan Upchurch, Nova Bianca Paige, Ragan Rapert, Rodney Green, and Taylor Fox. Instructors were Jennifer Hibbard, Amanda Junkersfeld, and Tonya Hankins.



## Respiratory Students Win Costume Award

BRTC Respiratory students and instructors attended the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care state meeting in Hot Springs. BRTC Respiratory Director Jason Linam and instructor Jessica Alphin served as moderators for sessions. Alphin also chaired the 5th annual Cystic Fibrosis Walk and the State Sputum Bowl Competition. Over 100 individuals participated in the Cystic Fibrosis Walk, raising over \$600 for its Foundation. BRTC's team dressed up like trolls and won the costume contest's Biggest Team Participation award.



## Important Dates!

- 10/23 Health Fair at Pocahontas
- 10/26 Serendipity
- 10/30 Paragould Preview Day
- 11/5 Spring Registration begins
- 11/14 Pocahontas Preview Day
- 11/16 Last day to drop a fall class
- 11/19-23 No classes – Thanksgiving
- 11/21-23 Campus closed
- 11/30 Serendipity



## Dietary Students Attend Meeting

Certified dietary management students attended the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals' state meeting in Hot Springs. Students learned about regulations and food safety. They also attended a session presented by BRTC Dietetics instructor Kathy Murdock.

Pictured from top down: Chelsea Evens, Instructor Kathy Murdock, Instructor Christina Derbes, Christina Rice, Mindy Ferguson, and Sydney Ellis.

# THEIR MARK Student Story: Joe Videgain

MAKING

Receiving an email from a past student is always a delight to an instructor and like any instructor, Jack DeLoach, BRTC Industrial Electricity/Electronics instructor, was excited to hear from prior student Joe Videgain:

Hello, Mr. DeLoach!

I just wanted to let you know that I no longer work at Walmart and currently work with my uncle at Kelley Electric in the Process Automation department. We develop control panels and other programs that control various machines in cotton gins. I'm currently developing a program for the RFID reader so that each cotton bale is scanned in and tells the PLC the orientation of the bale.

It's such a wonderful learning environment. I'm learning new things every day! Your classes really helped me out a lot! Especially the PLC class.

Mr. DeLoach remembers Joe as a quiet and intelligent student who did well in both lab and lecture classes. "He was an attentive, excellent student," DeLoach said, "and I really enjoyed having him."

BRTC's Industrial Electricity/Electronics program trains students to work in advanced manufacturing which utilizes computer-controlled equipment in the design, manufacture, and handling of products and is an important industry globally.

"DeLoach's class was very fun and laid back," Joe said, "so it made me feel like there were no stupid questions or answers. The overall environment was similar to a workplace, which was perfect for learning the material."

Skills students learn in BRTC's electronics program prepare them for jobs in industrial maintenance, industrial electricity, and in the design of electrical circuiting and programmable controls, skills like Joe needed to create an RFID reader.

"While at BRTC," Joe said, "I really enjoyed working with the 'roll-around trainers' where we could wire different components to a motor like e-stops and lights." Skills like Joe's are why BRTC students frequently accept jobs with contractors who work with industries to design automation programs.

"PLCs are programmable logic controllers," DeLoach said, "and these skills are what Joe is using at Kelley Electric."

Joe and his wife are both BRTC alumni: "My wife, Aarin, attended BRTC and completed her prerequisites for LPN school prior to having our son, Thomas," Joe said. "She now stays home with him fulltime. She felt motherhood was her calling for the time being, and without the career my electrical certificate earned me, I couldn't have made that possible for her. It's truly been a blessing to my family."

To learn more about BRTC's Industrial Electricity/Electronics program, contact instructor Jack DeLoach at (870) 248-4141 or visit BRTC's website at [www.blackrivertech.edu](http://www.blackrivertech.edu).

Anyway, I just wanted to give you an update on where I am in life, and to thank you for the knowledge you've given me!



Baby Thomas, Aarin, and Joe Videgain

Sincerely,

Joe Videgain

# YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your donations to the BRTC Foundation provide scholarship opportunities to worthy students. These students must meet GPA, academic, and in some cases programmatic standards to be eligible for scholarships. Without your support and commitment, the following scholarships would not be possible!

## Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship

**Recipient:** Jordan Agee  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Marmaduke  
**Major:** Respiratory Care



The Sylvia Cagle Single Parent Scholarship is provided by Darrell Cagle in honor of his mother, Sylvia, who raised him while a single mother.

Pictured with Agee is BRTC's Mike Smith.

## Distance Education Scholarship

**Recipient:** Lindsey Mans  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**High School:** Pocahontas High School  
**Spouse:** Dustin Mans  
**Major:** Accounting



## Nightingale Scholarship

Sponsored by the BRTC nursing faculty and staff, the Nightingale Scholarship is awarded to practical nursing students in their second semester who exemplify the caring spirit embodied by Florence Nightingale.



Alexandria Davis & Jordan Westbrook

## Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship

Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship is named after longtime Pocahontas school teacher Mary Sallee. Recipients 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 Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship is part of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund.

**Thank you, donors, for making this scholarship possible!**



Mary Beth Lowtharp



Rachel Gardner



Stephanie Hicks



Amy Thielemier



Chortney Durga



Cynthia Nishimura



Hannah Townsend



Hannah Carter

## Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship for Machine Tool Training

The Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship supports students currently enrolled in machine-based training. Scholarships range from \$500-\$1500 per semester and are renewable for a second semester as long as the student is enrolled as a full-time student and maintains a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Also a recipient but not pictured is Andrew Price of Cave City.



**Recipient:** Jonathan Wilson  
**Hometown:** Newport  
**Spouse:** Madelaine Wilson  
**Major:** Machine Tool Technology

**Recipient:** Timothy Quarterman  
**Hometown:** Fort Worth, TX  
**Major:** Machine Tool Technology



# Legacy Scholarship

BRTC's May 2015 Practical Nursing class knew many PN students in their last semester struggled to pay for licensure and test fees. They created this scholarship to help their peers. Each class has continued to keep the legacy alive.

Twenty-one \$200 scholarships have been awarded to December 2018 class members: Kristin Perez, Kobi Rosten, Faith Lynch, Meagan Upchurch, Barbara Winters, Jordan Whitney, Krista Troutman, Elizabeth Smith, Elizabeth Anger, Ragan Rapert, Taylor Fox, Bianca Paige, Dallas Marshall, Ashley Martin, Amy Crow, Courtney Keck, Kasey Freeman, Kaylee Campbell, Chad Goodman, and Rodney Green.



## New Employees Here for You!



Shaylee  
Junkersfeld

**Position:** Accountant I  
**Hometown:** Walnut Ridge  
**Location:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Arkansas State University, BS



Rebecca  
Simpson

**Position:** Practical Nursing Instructor  
**Hometown:** Maynard  
**Location:** Pocahontas  
**Education:** Black River Technical College;  
Three Rivers Community College, AAS



Theresa  
Amos

**Position:** Food Preparation Specialist  
**Hometown:** Pocahontas  
**Location:** Pocahontas



Tamela  
Thurman

**Position:** SNAP E&T Coordinator  
**Hometown:** Jonesboro  
**Location:** Paragould  
**Education:** Union University, BME;  
Southwest Baptist University, ME

## BRTC Outstanding Alumni

Jeff Gatewood was chosen by BRTC faculty and staff to be named the 2018 BRTC Outstanding Alumni. Jeff graduated from BRTC 3 times, in 1997 with a Technical Certificate in Industrial Electricity/Electronics, in 2015 with Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing, and again in 2016 with his Associate of Applied Science in Registered Nursing in 2016. He was also a Phi Theta Kappa member.



Today Jeff is a registered nurse in Cardiac Holding PACU at St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro. His faculty all considered him an "outstanding guy," "excellent student," "ethical," and is one of the founding members of the PN class which created the Legacy Scholarship to support 3rd semester PN students. He is also the founder of the blog Seven Loaves, about debt reduction counseling and guidance, an active Christian and a family man.

# SNAPSHOTS You Made the Golf Tournament a Success!

**FOUNDATION** Thanks to YOUR tremendous support, the 25th Annual iBERIABANK/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament raised almost \$40,000 in scholarship money! This fund will assist students in the 2019-2020 academic year, paying almost all of their tuition and fees!

Thank you to the volunteers who made this event possible: BRTC Foundation Board members, staff and board members of the Rolling Hills Country Club, BRTC faculty and staff volunteers, and employees of iBERIABANK, Baltz Chevy-Olds, and Integrity 1st Bank!

More than 120 individuals and organizations gave money, goods, and services and some have been sponsors for over 20 years! Our headline sponsor, iBERIABANK, has supported the tournament since 2003! Without these sponsors, including Harps Foods who sponsored the Harps Food Tent, the event would not have been possible!



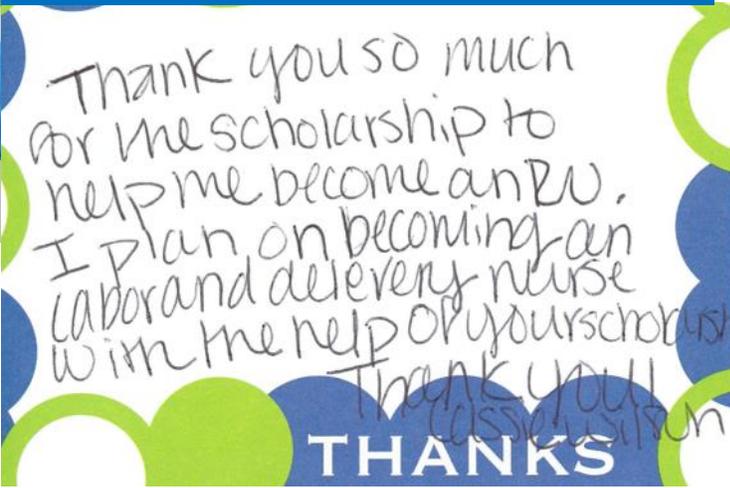
These are some of the students you have helped by supporting the golf tournament!



Holly Looney and a.m. winners N. Ray Campbell & Jeff O'Donnell

Holly Looney & p.m. winner Dr. Joe Jones

Most importantly, many students will benefit from scholarships essential to completing their education at BRTC. We also had 15 4-star sponsors who provide a \$2,000 named scholarship to students which will be awarded next Fall 2019: AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, Archer Realty, BRTC SGA, Cavanaugh Auto Group, Clay County Electric, Custom-Pak, Don's Steakhouse, Dr. Karla Baltz DDS, Nielson Bainbridge/Pinnacle Frames and Accent, Overman Buildings, PECO, Pocahontas Aluminum, Sandhill Dentistry, Tenneco, VALIC via Marc Phillips.



## Outstanding Faculty and Staff

BRTC faculty and staff honored two of their own. Christina Derbes, BRTC Instructor of Dietetics, is named the 2018 Outstanding Faculty member. Eric Sullinger, BRTC Network and Support Administrator, was named the BRTC Outstanding Staff member. Derbes was honored at the Arkansas Community Colleges conference in Little Rock.



Dr. Steve Cole, ACC executive board chair and chancellor of UACC Cossatot, and Christina Derbes



Eric Sullinger, BRTC Outstanding Staff member

# spotlight

## BRTC Academic All-Star Student Maria Flores

The Arkansas Community Colleges Academic All-Star Student award recognizes the scholarly and service achievements of Arkansas' two-year college students. BRTC Academic All-Star Students receive a \$500 Scholarship for their final semester and free tuition at any Arkansas public university.

Maria began her college career as a high school junior in TOPPS. By the time she graduated high school, she had completed 51 college credit hours at BRTC, completed her certification as a CNA and phlebotomist, and maintained a 3.35 GPA. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She volunteers for the Special Olympics. After her cousin was born 2 years ago and spent 2 months in the NICU at UAMS, she made the decision to pursue a career as a nurse. She currently helps care for her 2-year-old cousin.

After completing her associates at BRTC she plans to transfer to Arkansas State University.



## Jessica Alphin Receives Educator of the Year

At their state meeting, members of the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care named BRTC Respiratory Care instructor Jessica Alphin the Respiratory Care Educator of the Year 2018. This award is nominated by and selected from the pool of Respiratory Care Educators across Arkansas.

"This was a great honor to me!" said Alphin. "I am passionate about teaching

students how to become excellent therapists because I know what a difference they make in the lives of others. It is an honor to me to be nominated out of such an amazing group of educators!" The award was presented at the Arkansas Society for Respiratory Care annual state meeting in Hot Springs in September.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### BRTC Food Pantry or Clothes Closet

Many students struggle to buy food and clothes, but your gift can change lives!

- ◆ Non-perishable food
- ◆ New clothing
- ◆ Gently worn clothes
- ◆ Monetary gifts

Contact Neal at (870) 248-4000.

**Your gift will change lives!**

## Staff Promotions

BRTC is excited to announce the following staff promotions.



**Shana Akers**  
Director of Student Information Systems and Research



**Sissy Gray**  
Dean of Assessment and Accountability



**Eric Sullinger**  
Network and Support Administrator



**Priscilla Stillwell**  
Paragould Site Director

# BRTC MISSION STATEMENT

Black River Technical College transforms lives through quality academic and career education to enhance the community we serve.

## INSIGHT With Interim President Dr. Jan Ziegler

BLACK RIVER TECH

Our community will soon once again have an opportunity to hear a presentation from a person whose life story lies at the heart of a time in history that is painful to discuss, but one we dare not neglect. Louise Lawrence-Israels was not yet born when Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands. She was an infant when the round-up and deportations of European Jews kicked into full gear and her family went into hiding in order to survive.

I can't wait to hear her incredible story, pieces of her own memories and descriptions of the experiences of her parents and a special friend, Selma. I know we will marvel at stories of her parents' attempts to give their children a "normal" life in hiding in that Amsterdam apartment even as all around them people they knew were being deported to the extermination camps at Auschwitz and Sobibor. I have

no doubt we will struggle to comprehend what it must have been like when air raid alarms sounded and the family had to take refuge on the steep staircase, the strongest and safest part of an Amsterdam row house. I think we will be astounded to listen to her memories of what it felt

*"The opportunity to meet and hear the first person account of a Holocaust survivor is truly special, and it is increasingly rare"*

The opportunity to meet and hear the first person account of a Holocaust survivor is truly special, and it is increasingly rare as fewer actual survivors remain more than 70 years after the war's end. Our community has been fortunate in its connection to these amazing and courageous individuals. The visit of Louise Lawrence-Israels is made possible by BRTC and a group of generous sponsors who are hosting this event for the 12th year.

It was especially gratifying when I was attending a meeting of other college leaders in Little Rock earlier this month, and a vice president from UA Community College at Morrilton told me, "You know, we are getting ready to host another Holocaust survivor." When I looked at her with a question, she said, "We picked up on what you all were doing. We read about it in your newsletter, and so we started doing the same thing, hosting a survivor every year." Now both our college communities have this unique opportunity to listen and to learn from a Holocaust survivor.

At least for a while longer.



like in 1945, when, clutching her mother's hand, she and her brother descended four steep flights of stairs for the first time ever, arriving outside at a park which had always been there, just across the street, but worlds away from her hiding place. I know we will struggle to understand the full import of how it must have felt for her parents to say, "Play, children, and breathe in the fresh air."

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