

November 15, 2004

Volume 2, Issue 19



The River's Edge

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BRTC in Partnership with Guard To Provide Education Benefits



Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Hicks, MSG Robert Norman, and J. Michael Dunn, look on as Major General Don C. Morrow and Richard Gaines sign a tuition waiver agreement.

tuition waiver provided by the college. On hand for the MOU signing was Major General Don C. Morrow, Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard.

Others present at the tuition assistance signing ceremony were Mike Dunn, Chair of the BRTC Board of Trustees; Vickie French, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn

Gen. Morrow explained that as of October 1, the Army Guard has been providing 100 percent tuition waiver to its eligible soldiers; however, in the event this level of support is not sustained, the BRTC discount of 25 percent would then take effect. He also noted that presently, the Air Guard does not provide its soldiers any tuition assistance, meaning that the new agreement will be an immediate benefit for these eligible soldiers.

The partnership also calls for the Army and Air Force National Guard units to assist in publicizing and promoting educational programs offered by BRTC, including the printing of literature to promote BRTC as a partner school offering the special discounts to Guardsmen. Gen. Morrow praised BRTC's leadership and willingness to participate in this program.

As the result of agreements signed last week by BRTC President Richard Gaines and a representative of the U. S. military, those serving with the Arkansas Army and Air Force National Guard units will receive tuition waivers to attend BRTC. The Memoranda of Understanding means that eligible National Guardsmen will receive a 25 percent

Collins, Director of Financial Aid; Ann DeClerk, Director of Marketing and Public Relations; Dr. Roger Johnson, Gen Ed Division Chair; and Vu Pham, Law Enforcement Training Academy student and recipient of the tuition assistance. Several officers from the National Guard were also present, as were local media representatives.

Important Dates

November 15

- Open Registration

November 19

- LETA Graduation 11:00 a.m. RCDC

November 23

- ASSET Test 8:00 a.m. Continuing Ed. Bldg.

November 24 - 26

- Thanksgiving Holidays

December 8 - 14

- Final Exams

December 16

- Graduation 7:00 p.m. RCDC

Faculty Member in Iraq

David Grant, Law Enforcement Instructor at BRTC, was called to active military duty over a year ago, and is currently serving in Iraq. Grant was hired by BRTC in August 2002 to teach Criminal Justice classes and the Basic Police Course at the Law Enforcement Training Academy on the Pocahontas campus. He was called to active duty in August 2003, according to LETA secretary Judy Ballard, who added, "He is

sorely missed." He is a Captain with the 39th Infantry Brigade currently stationed at Camp Cooke in Iraq and hopes to return to the United States and be back working at BRTC in Spring 2005. "We send him packages with current Law Enforcement magazines and lesson plans so he will be up to date on training issues when he returns," Ballard added.

A graduate of University of Arkansas in Little Rock with a BA in



David Grant in Blackhawk helicopter.

Criminal Justice, Grant worked with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office prior to joining the BRTC staff. He and his wife, Micah, have two young sons.

First Performance for Kimbrough Chorus

The newly formed Kimbrough Chorus held its first live performance Thursday, November 4, in front of a large and appreciative crowd of BRTC students and staff gathered in the student lounge area of the administration building.

"The brief presentation by the choir allowed students to get a taste of performing in front of a live audience," said Director Joniece Trammel. The group sang a few selections, which will be included along with other pieces in their upcoming concert debut.

The music program is in its first year at BRTC. A donation from retired Pocahontas businessman Dexter Kimbrough enabled the college to develop the choral music

program. President Richard Gaines expressed his appreciation to Kimbrough and to Mrs. Trammel for their efforts in this endeavor.

Mrs. Trammel urges members of the community who enjoy singing to enroll in Concert Choir in the spring semester. The class, which will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-10:45, can be taken as a credit or an audit (no credit) class.

The Kimbrough Chorus is scheduled to perform in concert Sunday, December 12, at 2:00 p.m., in the Randolph County Development Center. The concert is open to the public and there will be no charge for admission. For more information, contact Trammel at 870-248-4000 ext. 4157.



Pictured, front row from left, Dexter Kimbrough, Damon Jones, James Patterson, Joey Ball, David Wessell. Second row from left, Bri Russell, Andrea Slavens, Vadra Haynes, Jennifer Hall, Lynae Russell, Donna Neeley. Third row from left, Renee Rainwater, Alisha Jones, Sommer Young, Shannon Jones, and Teresa Shephard.



Tim Williams Auto Body student masking design on vehicle.

Something New in Auto Body

Auto Body students enjoyed experimenting with a new design technique never used before in the class. The technique of applying "ghost flames" to a freshly painted automobile

was the suggestion of Auto Body student Eddie Montgomery. Mr. Dail agreed to the idea once another student, Michael Perry, volunteered to provide his truck as well as furnish all extra materials that would be needed for this unique process.

Students began by applying three coats of base paint to Perry's truck and allowed to dry for 30 minutes.

They then masked off the flames and applied a coat of white pearl paint. Two coats of clear paint were then added on top of the pearl.

Once complete, the "ghost flames" are only visible in sunlight and cannot be seen in darkness or shade.

LETA Graduation Planned

Forty-four officers have successfully completed Basic Police Training Course 2004-B at the Black River Technical College Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pocahontas, Arkansas.

The thirteen-week, 582-hour course, which began August 23, 2004, included instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal, educational, technical skills, and practical exercises. In each course, emphasis is placed upon the officers achieving excellence in both aca-

demie subjects and firearms training. An officer must maintain an academic score of at least 70% on each examination, and consistently fire at least 80% during firearms training exercises to successfully complete all phases of the course.

The public is invited to graduation ceremonies Friday, November 19, at 11:00 a.m. in Randolph County Development Center on the campus of BRTC. Dustin McDaniel of Jonesboro will be the guest speaker.



LETA CLASS 2004 - B

Ambassadors Honored at Luncheon

BRTC's Ambassadors were introduced and honored at a luncheon with President Richard Gaines and the President's Cabinet on November 1. Three of the five have served in the position for a year, and two new members were named. Returning as Ambassadors are Tim Blalock, Sommer Young and Jasa Haney-Hollis. Newly appointed to the elite group are Alvin Lewis and Debra Halford.

The Ambassadors, under the coordination of Kim Bigger of the Office of Student Services, represent the college at various institutional and community events, and assist in various college offices. They receive a tuition waiver for their service to BRTC, and are eligible to serve until

completion of their programs of study. The students are selected through a process of nomination and interview. The program was established in Fall semester of 2003.

Blalock lives in Jonesboro and is working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Networking. Young, who lives in Smithville,

is completing her Associate of Arts degree and plans to work toward a baccalaureate degree in Radio-Broadcasting. Lewis is a resident of Smithville, and he pastors a small church at O'Kean. He plans to pursue a baccalaureate teaching degree in mathematics. Halford, a Corning resident, is work-

ing toward an AA degree, with plans to transfer out of state and major in Middle School Education. Haney-Hollis of Rector is working on an AAS degree in Networking, and then plans to transfer to Williams Baptist College and continue her studies in computer science.

In addition to President Gaines, others at the luncheon also expressing their appreciation to the student Ambassadors were VP for Academics Jack McCord, VP for Finance Loretta Williams, VP for Student Services Michael Sullens, Administrative Assistant Vickie French and Institutional Advancement Director Dr. Jan Ziegler.



BRTC Ambassadors are seated, from left, Debra Halford and Alvin Lewis. Standing, from left, Sommer Young, Tim Blalock and Jasa Haney-Hollis.

Honor Society Holds Induction Ceremony

Beta Delta Phi, BRTC's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of Two-Year Colleges, inducted a record fifty-five pledges during a ceremony held Tuesday, November 9 in the Randolph County Development Center. Requirements for selection include maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or above while enrolled in at least 12 college credit hours per semester.

Beta Delta Phi officers for the 2004-2005 school year are Dawn Horton-Chitty, President; Suzette Persful, Vice-President; Rita Cullum, Secretary; Debra Halford, Treasurer; and Kathleen Whitlock, Public Rela-

tions. These officers would like to thank Vice-President of Academics Jack McCord, Division Chair of General Education Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair of Technical Education Angie Caldwell, and Registrar Margaret Snapp for welcoming the new inductees into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Appreciation is extended to Tina Harris and the Dietetics students for preparing the delicious refreshments and to Sharon Watson and Judy Ballard for serving as hostess and for decorating for the reception using a beautiful fall theme. The officers would like to offer a very special thank you to their advisors – Gary

Buxton, Dr. Linda Moss, Phillip Dixon, and Ruth Schaa – who they say have sacrificed their time and energy to organize meetings and special events for the group. They

also add a thank you to family and friends of the inductees who were present at the ceremony to applaud their high achievement.



PTK Officers, seated, from left, Rita Cullum, Suzette Persful, Dawn Horton-Chitty, Debra Halford, Kathleen Whitlock.

Weir Receives State Award

Peggy Weir, Director of BRTC's Adult Education program, was honored for her work in the field of educating adults. She received the Luther H. Black Outstanding Adult Education Administrator award for the state of Arkansas.

Weir received the prestigious honor at the October 28 Arkansas Adult and Continuing Education Conference held at Hot Springs. The award came following a competitive nomination process in which Weir was selected based on the local pro-

gram and on her contributions to adult and continuing education programs across Arkansas. She joined the staff of BRTC in August of 1991. BRTC's Adult Education programs serve individuals living in Clay, Randolph, and Lawrence Counties.



Peggy Weir

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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.

The River's Edge is produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement.

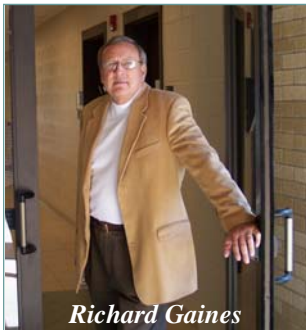
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From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

The signing of an agreement last week with the National Guard is a very positive step for this institution and for the Army and Air Guardsmen. It is altogether fitting that we provide this support—a 25% tuition waiver—for those serving our country in this capacity. We had in fact, already agreed to this partnership when the Army National Guard began providing full tuition assistance. This means that for however long this segment of the military is able to do this, our waiver will not be necessary. However, in the event

their ability to fully fund Army Guardsmen changes, then our 25 percent waiver goes into play. In the case of the Air Guard, however, our 25 percent waiver will be a totally new benefit to them, and one that is certainly appropriate.

Here at BRTC, we, too, are affected by the current military situation. We are aware of at least two BRTC employees who have been called to active duty. One of them, David Grant, is featured in this week's issue of *The River's Edge*. Also on active duty and away from his position at BRTC is Steve Williams of Computer Services. We wish them both well, and look forward to their return to our campus.

Several of our students and/or former students and their families are also affected by military call-ups of guardsmen. Our thoughts and hopes for safe returns are with them as well.

Jackson Joins Staff of Continuing Education

Sheila Jackson of Pocahontas is the new secretary for the Department of Continuing Education and Business Outreach. A graduate of Maynard High School, Jackson worked as a bookkeeper for Pocahontas Posey Patch prior to joining the BRTC staff. She and her husband Sammy have two children. Daughter Samantha will graduate from ASU in December with a Master's in Speech Pathology and son Skylar is a junior at Pocahontas High School.

Jackson, who enjoys reading and spending time with her family and on

her "small farm of animals," said she is looking forward to working at BRTC. She said, "Everyone has been so helpful and made me feel so welcome."



Sheila Jackson

Guard

cont'd on page 4

Pres. Gaines expressed his pleasure with the agreement, and pledged to work to maintain a long partner-

Continued from page 1

ship with the Guard.

Gen. Morrow said that about 40 percent of the Arkansas National Guard is currently on active duty status. Many of that number are