

January 19, 2004

Volume 2, Issue 1



# The River's Edge

**Inside this issue:**

*Child Development Center* 2  
*Single Parent cont'd* 2  
*Instructor Earns Doctorate* 3  
*Mooney Represents Grads* 3  
*New Employees* 3  
*From the President's Desk* 4  
*Nursing Cont'd* 4

**Important Dates**

**January 19**

- Blood Drive

**February 7**

- ACT Test

**February 13**

- Foundation Board Meeting

**March 8**

- Advisory Dinner

**March 10**

- ECHO—RCDC

**April 13, 14, 15**

- Rising Junior Exams

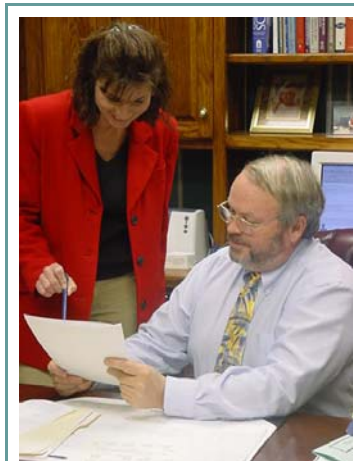
**April 15**

- Success 2004

**April 22 - 23**

- Higher Ed Board Meeting at BRTC

## Board Gives Nod for New Program to Train Registered Nurses



Paula Lewis, Director of Nursing Programs, and Jack McCord, Vice President for Academic Affairs, review proposal for new nursing degree.

The BRTC Board of Trustees authorized the college to seek approval for offering an associate's degree in nursing (A.D.N.). The new degree would come provide an additional full year of study and training to practical nurses, who would then become Registered Nurses upon successful completion of the state board exam.

Vice President for Academics Jack McCord explained the new program aimed at helping to ease the state's RN shortage at the quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 8. The process involves BRTC's participation in a five-college consortium, with teaching of classes shared by instructors at the various campuses using distance education classes, primarily compressed video. The next step is to submit the proposed new

program to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and then to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. If approved, the program would begin accepting students as early as Fall 2004 for the completion of pre-requisites. The actual program would begin in January 2005.

McCord explained that initially enrollment would be limited to ten students from each of the members of the consortium, for a total of 50 new RN students statewide. In order to be able to implement this new program without additional state funding, he added, BRTC will restructure its existing nursing program. McCord said if the new program is approved by the state, the

*cont'd page 4*

## Single Parent Scholarship Fundraisers

A silent auction was held December 19 in conjunction with the staff and faculty potluck to raise money for the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Twenty-one items were auctioned off, including Bath Time Baskets, a Tool Central tool chest, an Office Supply Basket, and, the most popular item, a candlelight dinner at the home of Jack and Kay McCord. The auction raised \$400, which will be matched 150% by the

Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Springdale, Arkansas. The Randolph County affiliate, established in 1992, is named after Mary Sallee as a tribute to her lifelong educational contributions in the Pocahontas Public Schools.

"The scholarship committee is always looking for ideas to raise funds for the cause," says Vickie French, Secretary to the President. Currently

*cont'd page 2*



Cindy Throgmorton of Camera Corner and Vickie French of BRTC look over scholarship applications.

## *New Child Development Center brings "win-win" opportunities*

The newly opened Black River Head Start/Early Head Start Child Development Center located on the campus of BRTC was a long time in the making, but was certainly worth the wait, agree officials from Head Start and BRTC. Representatives of the college toured the center recently and met with Head Start staff to develop plans for cooperative participation between the two institutions. The modern, functional new center, located on land donated by the college, truly creates a "win-win" situation, explained Head Start Director Barbara Sisco. The "winners" here, she pointed out, are the children and staff of Head Start, the students and staff of BRTC, and the entire community.

A total of 120 children ages 3-5, as well as 16 infants and toddlers, can be served in the well-designed 12,000 sq. ft. facility, located on Patrick Drive on the northwest perimeter of the campus. Five of the pre-school classrooms are for Head Start clients, while one classroom is designated as "private pay," with the children of BRTC students receiving priority admission, followed by the children or grandchildren of BRTC faculty/staff and members of the general public on a space available basis. BRTC students may be eligible to apply for a voucher which, depending on income, could cover the cost of the pre-school program.

"The college recognized the need our students have for quality child care services, said BRTC President

Richard Gaines. "When the opportunity presented itself, we decided to provide the land, as well as \$50,000 in cash toward making this center a reality." He praised the efforts of Sisco in working diligently to bring the project to completion.

In addition, students in several programs of study at BRTC, particularly Dietetics, Nursing, and Early

BRTC students. In several instances, the BRTC students will not only receive educational training, but will provide services to the state-accredited Head Start/Early Head Start program.

For example, Caldwell explained, Dietetics students will spend four-six days each semester rotating through the center to observe and gain hands-

windows outside each classroom will allow also for students in Early Childhood Education classes such as Introduction to Teaching to complete their required observations, noted Jarrett. In addition, they will be able to observe governance in practice at child development centers by attending Parent Policy Council meetings.

Other ways in which BRTC will serve as a resource to the center are through students in BRTC's Developmental Reading program, who will continue their participation by serving as special readers for the children. Also, visits from the college's Law Enforcement and Fire Science students will provide not only educational benefits as the children learn safety from these individuals, but also will, in many instances, provide for the children much-needed male role models. Sisco said she would also like to see opportunity for exposure of the children to art and music through the college, and representatives agreed to work to make this happen.

The building represents a total expenditure of \$766,285 and included six different funding sources: the City of Pocahontas, Head Start, Arkansas Department of Economic Development, BRTC, the BRAD agency, and a loan from USDA Rural Development.

"All of us are so excited and so pleased with the outcome," said Sisco. "We plan to have an open house in the spring."



Debbye Jarrett, Angie Caldwell, Rhonda Ahrent, Barbara Sisco, and Judy Swann

Childhood Education, will utilize the new Head Start/Early Head Start center as a lab or clinical setting. These plans were the topic of discussion at a January 9 meeting attended by Dr. Jan Ziegler, Director of Institutional Advancement, along with Division Chair for Technical Education Angie Caldwell and Early Childhood Education Coordinator Debbye Jarrett. They met with Head Start's Sisco, Human Resources Manager Rhonda Ahrent, and Center Director Judy Swann to plan for the observations and clinical participation of

on training in meal preparation. These students will actually meet some of their classes in the lecture room at the new facility. They will also provide nutrition education to the staff and will assist in checking heights/weights of the children. Nursing students will also rotate through the center where they will observe well-child development and provide screening assistance on such tasks as checking blood pressures and provide lessons on, for example, proper hand-washing, wellness, and safety. The design of the center with observation

## *Cont'd from pg 1 Single Parent*

there are ten BRTC employees who contribute through payroll deduction in varying amounts. "We encourage others to do the same," French added, and "donations are always appreciated." Each year the BRTC Foundation is asked to make a contribution in order to assure that the Randolph County affiliate will re-

ceive the full match of all local support up to \$4,000. The \$4,000 raised locally is matched 150% by the state foundation, giving the MSSPS program \$10,000 annually.

Beginning January 28 through February 11, tickets to win a seafood buffet or steak dinner for two

at the Walnut Ridge Country Club can be purchased for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The dinner is compliments of Kay Ellis, MSSPS Chair, and will be served on Valentine's Day. Tickets may be purchased from Ellis or French.

During 2003 a total of \$9150 was awarded to 26 BRTC students. The scholarship committee would like to encourage everyone's participation in the fundraisers to help ensure

continued success of the Mary Sallee Scholarship Fund. Applications for the scholarship are available in the finance office of BRTC and at Camera Corner Studio.

Eligibility requirements include being a resident of Randolph County (other counties have their own programs), having custody of minor children, being enrolled in a program of study in higher education and meeting certain financial guidelines.

## Instructor Earns Doctorate



Dr. Jason Morrison

Jason Morrison, Social Science Instructor at Black River Technical College, recently earned his Doctorate in Education from Arkansas State University.

Dr. Morrison graduated from Henderson State University in 1996 with

a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He then earned a Master's in Political Science from A.S.U. in 1997 and a Specialist degree in Community College Teaching in 1999.

"Factors that Influence Arkansas High School Counselors in Advising Students to the Community College," was the topic Dr. Morrison chose for his dissertation.

Morrison first began teaching at B.R.T.C. in August 2000 as an adjunct instructor. He had previously taught at Mid-South Community College in West Memphis and at A.S.U.

## Child Care Orientation Training

Child Care Orientation Training classes are now open for registration through the Department of Continuing Education. Classes will be held January 22 and 29, February 3, 12 and 17, from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Most participants who complete this class and who are employed at a childcare facility will qualify for a CDA Scholarship.

Deadline for registration is Tuesday, January 20. Classes will be limited to the first 20 people to register.

To register call 870-248-4180.



## CPR Training

Dillie Lee practices CPR on mannequin during recent CPR/First Aid Training at MacLean ESNA. Training was provided by the BRTC Continuing Education and Business Outreach Department.

## Mooney Represents Students at Graduation

"While tonight's graduating class represents many differences, there is a common bond that we all share," began Manuel Mooney as he closed his speech during graduation ceremonies held December 18. "That bond is the debt we owe to the people who have helped us to obtain the goal that we are celebrating this evening - the board of trustees, the ad-

ministration, the staff, the instructors, the parents, the spouses, the children, and God," Mooney concluded.

Chosen as graduate candidate spokesperson, Mooney represented the Fall Class of 2003 at B.R.T.C., which consisted of 135 graduates. Phil Ford of West Memphis, Chair of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, was keynote

speaker at the ceremony held in the Randolph County Development Center.

42 students completed their Associate of Arts (college transfer) degrees, while 47 students received AAS degrees, and 53 students received certificates and certificates of proficiency in technical programs.



Manuel Mooney, BRTC Class Spokesperson

## New Employees



Janette Crawford

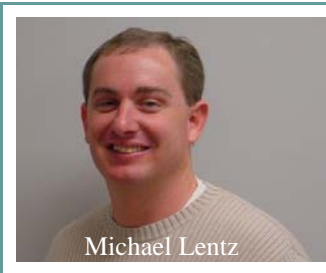
Janette Crawford is the new administrative secretary for Jack McCord, Vice-President for Academics.

Crawford is a Pocahontas native. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from ASU in 1984. In 1985 she taught Oral Communica-

tions and English at BRTC. "It was a wonderful experience," she notes. "Only a handful of the staff are still here, and I jokingly tell them I'm twice the woman I used to be! I am amazed at the growth of BRTC during the last twenty years," she adds.

Since beginning her teaching career at BRTC, Crawford has gone on to teach at M.D. Williams in Pochontas and in Carthage, Tennessee.

"I'm delighted to be a part of BRTC again and thank everyone for a warm, friendly welcome," Crawford said.



Michael Lentz

Michael Lentz, a native of Marmaduke, is a new computer information /operations coordinator for BRTC in Paragould. Lentz holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from A.S.U. and is currently working toward his MBA.

Lentz has extensive experience in the areas of Industry, Manufactur-

ing, and Financials. In his recent experience with L.A Darling Company in Paragould, he was a major contributor to his company as a computer programmer in the financial area of concentration. "Michael's past involvement and knowledge of a manufacturing company will be an asset for Black River Technical College and the Greene County Industrial Training Center," said Vickie Kuykendall, Director of the GCITC.

Lentz is very active in his community. He is an active member of Marmaduke's newly chartered Civitan Club. In addition, he is a member of the Union Central Church of Christ and a booster for the Marmaduke Athletic Department.

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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.*

### On-line Application address:

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>

## From the President's Desk



When our Board of Trustees voted approval of our quest to bring an RN program to our students, this college took a major step forward in addressing a critical shortage of Registered Nurses throughout northeast Arkansas and the entire state, and I highly commend them for their vision. Their approval was the first step; other action is required. Ultimate approval rests with two other boards: the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. I am hopeful these groups

will realize the importance of this new program and give their approval also.

If this happens, we will actually begin the program a year from now, in January of 2005. Initially, we would serve ten students here at BRTC. Our program will be in partnership with four other two-year colleges from around the state, and each of them would also serve ten students. Thus this new program would result in an additional 50 new RNs each year initially. We would hope that eventually the limits could be expanded to allow for even more RNs to meet the need for more trained nursing professionals.

In addition to meeting a proven need, this proposed new program is significant for another reason. It represents a sharing of the resources of five institutions of higher education to achieve a common goal. This wise use of resources will allow all

five participating colleges—BRTC, ASU/Newport, Cossatot Community College of DeQueen, UA Community College at Morrilton, and SouthArk Community College at El Dorado—to train RNs by sharing teaching responsibilities and providing classes via Distance Education. The partnership this consortium represents is typical of the cooperation that will become increasingly necessary as our state struggles to meet educational needs.

## Cont'd from pg 1 Nursing

college will accept only one P.N. class per year and may limit the number of students in the C.N.A. program in order to staff the new associate degree program.

“We are hopeful that by seeking

approval through a consortium rather than as a free-standing program initially, we will receive approval at the next two levels,” McCord said. “We know the state is very concerned about maintaining quality in the RN pool, and they will be more likely to be comfortable with what we are trying to do by holding the line to only ten students from each institution from the beginning.” Other participating members of the consortium are ASU-Newport, South Arkansas Community College at El Dorado, Cossatot Community College at DeQueen, and U of A Community College at Morrilton.

BRTC's Director of Nursing Paula Lewis was also on hand at the Board meeting to explain the proposed new program. She said that the classes will be offered primarily weekends and evenings, so that the program will appeal to students not able to take advantage of traditional time frames.