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Volume 2, Issue 10



# The River's Edge

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**Important Dates**

**June 7-11**

- Fall Registration online/current students

**June 10**

- BRTC Foundation Board Meeting

**June 14**

- Fall Registration Open Registration

**June 14-17**

- Kids College Pocahontas

**June 21-25**

- Kids College Paragould

**July 6**

- Summer II Classes Begin

## Scholarship Opportunities Announced

Several scholarship opportunities are still available to students who plan to attend BRTC in the fall, announced the Office of Financial Aid. A total of eight merit-based scholarships will be funded for the 2004-05 academic year from proceeds of last year's First Community Bank/ BRTC Foundation's annual golf tournament. One of those scholarships has already been awarded, and seven remain open.

Each scholarship will fund one year's tuition (up to 15 credit hours per semester). The scholarships are open to all students, whether first-time entering students with some prior college experience, or currently

enrolled students.



**Brandi Chester, Mary Anderson, and Carolyn Collins, Financial Aid Officers**

"We are extremely pleased to be able to offer this valuable funding assistance," said Financial Aid Di-

rector Carolyn Collins. "The support of First Community Bank and the work of the Foundation, as well as the many people in the community and on our staff here at BRTC make it possible, and we can't say enough about how we and our students appreciate their efforts."

Of the seven remaining tuition scholarships, one will be designated for a GED recipient, and the others will go to Technical and General Education (college transfer) students. The potential full value of each scholarship awarded to an in-district (Randolph County) resident is \$1,560 for the fall and spring

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## Chastains Establish Scholarships

Jerry and Janice Chastain of Chastain and Sons Construction, a Pocahontas company, have established two scholarships at BRTC. The couple has pledged \$500 annually to assist students seeking to prepare themselves for a better future.

The Chastain Scholarship will be awarded to a student seeking an Associate of Applied Science degree in dietetics, while the Clarence and Nellie Clark Memorial Scholarship,

in honor of Janice Chastain's parents, is an open scholarship, available to a student in any degree program. Each needs-based award is \$250 annually.

"We just want to help in some way," Janice Chastain said. "We know how important it is for people to get a college education, and this is just our way of providing a little assistance and encouragement."

Janice Chastain completed a Die-

tary Manager Certificate in 1997, and an AAS degree in Dietetics at BRTC in 1998.

Dr. Jan Ziegler, Director of Institutional Advancement, accepted the donation on behalf of the BRTC Foundation. She praised the Chastains for their philanthropy and their commitment to education. "We know that our students have significant financial need. Our data

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### Fund Drive Begins for FCB/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament

Dr. Rebecca Edwards of Walnut Ridge kicked off the official fundraising for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament by making the first donation - \$500 - to BRTC Foundation Chair Scott Trammel. The tournament, which helps to fund student scholarships, will be held October 2 at Rolling Hills Country Club. Both Edwards and Trammel are members of the BRTC Board of Trustees, as well as members of the BRTC Foundation.

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 online  
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 website  
 www.blackrivertech.edu

# Chastains

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suggests that more than half our students have an annual income of less than \$15,000. Even with financial aid, money pressures can be tremendous. So gifts such as this one can provide much needed help, and affirm to the students that there are people out there who want to see them succeed."



## GCITC Scholarships

**Announced** Vickie Kuykendall, left, is pictured with Mrs. R. L. Wells, at the BRTC/Paragould campus during the recent Industrial Appreciation Luncheon. Kuykendall announced that the Greene County Industrial Training Center is giving two annual scholarships (\$250 each) for students at Paragould. These scholarships are in honor of the late R. L. Wells, one of the founders of the Greene County Industrial Training Council. He, along with the Council, is credited as a major player in the development of the Greene County Industrial Training Center and the BRTC/Paragould campus. One scholarship will be awarded to an adult in the Greene County workforce, and one will go to a graduating senior from a Greene County high school.

# Graduate Awarded Clay Co. Co-Op Scholarship

David Markum, a May BRTC graduate with an Electricity/Electronics certificate, has been awarded a \$3,000 scholarship from Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation. The one-year scholarship will provide tuition for Markum to attend ASU-Newport and earn a High Voltage Lineman certificate.

All seventeen electrical cooperatives in Arkansas developed a scholarship program beginning this year to provide training to individuals interested in pursuing a career in the electrical field.

"After seeing a need to bring in better-qualified linemen, the co-ops worked with the state to develop a

plan to provide education and training for interested individuals," explained Doug Layne, Manager of Construction and Operations with Clay County Electric.

Each co-op has committed to sponsoring one student per year for the next five years with a \$3,000 tuition scholarship. The scholarship will be used towards receiving certification as a high-voltage lineman.

The co-ops began recruiting applicants by visiting with area high school seniors as well as students attending local technical colleges. Criteria used in selecting the scholarship winners included grade point average, personality and motivation displayed during interview, with a background in electricity being a plus.

"It was a very tough decision in selecting the scholarship recipient," noted Layne. "David was chosen

based on his level of maturity and experience in the electrical field." He also graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

A Paragould native, Markum worked for Dana Corporation for 16 years until its closing in 1992 after passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The government provides training to workers such as Markum who have been forced out of a job because of provisions of NAFTA.

"I have always been interested in a lineman position," said Markum, "and that is why I chose to pursue an education in electricity and electronics. I am excited about the opportunities this scholarship will bring."



David Markum

# Additional Scholarship Recipients Announced

Four students have been named scholarship recipients at BRTC, according to Brandi Chester of the Office of Financial Aid. They are Felicia Pickett of Williford, Kocaina Lyles of Rector, and Jason McClellan and Drew Rainwater, both of Delaplaine.

Pickett, the daughter of Michael and Karen Pickett of Ravenden, will work toward LPN certification when she enters BRTC this fall. Lyles plans to major in accounting. She is the daughter of Carol Calhoun of Rector.

Both Pickett and Lyles have been awarded an Academic Distinction Scholarship based on academic per-

formance. This renewable scholarship award is for full tuition for four semesters at BRTC.

McClellan has been named the winner of the Lee and Samantha Rice Scholarship, which provides full tuition for one year. He is the son of Marty and Leta Taylor and Greg Motsinger of TN, and he will enter BRTC's Automotive Service

Technology program. Winner of the First Community Bank Scholarship providing \$250 per semester for the first year of college, Rainwater plans to work toward a bachelor's degree in English and Literature. He is the son of Allen and Paulette Walley of Peach Orchard and Randy and Connie Rainwater of Walnut Ridge.

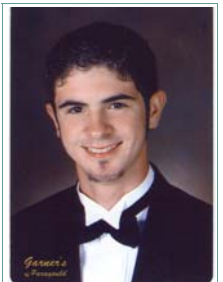
These scholarship recipients are in addition to nine students announced in a previous issue of *The River's Edge*. Additional scholarships are open for qualified students. (See related article on front page.)



Kocaina Lyles



Felicia Pickett



Jason McClellan



Drew Rainwater

# Auto Collision Students Tour Manufacturing Plants

Approximately 20 Auto Collision Repair students, along with instructor Butch Dail and three chaperones, toured the Saturn and Corvette plants April 27-29.

The group headed for Nashville, Tennessee on Wednesday, April 27. On Thursday they traveled to Springhill, Tennessee, south of Nashville, for an in-depth tour of the Saturn Manufacturing Plant – the only one in the world.

Members of the Saturn Corporation led the group on a tram ride through the facility which is approximately two miles long and one mile wide on the inside. “Students were overwhelmed with the Saturn plant,” according to Dail. “It was definitely more than they could have ever imagined.” While there, they witnessed everything from building engines to building the body

and painting.

The next day, the group toured the only Corvette plant in the world

approximately 100 cars per day.

There is a certain point along the assembly line where each car is

was allowed to start one of the cars and was presented a certificate for doing so.



Front row from left: Jason Shipley, Josh Harris, Troy Davis, John Roper, Jacob Ward, Eric Davis, Joel Wadkins, Chris Dobbins; Second row from left: Travis Foster, Rodney Wall, Kevin Widick, Brandon Reid, Ralph Lewis, Allen Perkins, Butch Dail, Jeromie Glidewell; Standing from left: Felipe Baiza, Gary Allen, Josh Birmingham. Not pictured: Jeremy Turner, Michael Sikes, Ryan Kornegay, and chaperones J.R. Hankins, Phillip Roark, and Anthony Dail.

located in Boling Green, Kentucky. There, students took a detailed, walk-thru tour of the facility that produces

started for the very first time. When the group from BRTC reached this point in the tour, student Josh Harris

“The students were overly excited with the Corvette plant because guys just like Corvettes,” remarked Dail. They visited the Corvette Museum after touring the manufacturing plant. The museum houses one Corvette for each model year produced since its beginning in 1953.

According to Dail, “this annual tour is a big motivator for students all year long. Money for the trip is funded by donations from individuals through various projects and fundraisers.”

This is the department’s 14<sup>th</sup> annual trip to the Corvette plant and their 10<sup>th</sup> annual trip to the Saturn plant. “The trip never gets old,” states Dail. “I continue to look forward to it each year.”



Dale ties up his blackberry vines, while his muscadine vines flourish behind him.

Raising fruit and traveling are the plans of Dale Cullison who retired from Black River Technical College at the end of the spring semester after seventeen years with the college. “I enjoy working in the garden in my backyard, which my father-in-law had begun years before we bought it,” says Cullison. “I mainly enjoy growing fruit,” he adds. Some of the items Cullison takes pride in are

## Cullison Retires After 17 Years at BRTC

muscadines, blackberries, blueberries, figs, plums, and grapes, along with pear, pecan, apple, and peach trees.

For the past six years, Cullison has served in the capacity of Coordinator and Instructor of Developmental Education, as well as overseeing the PLATO computer lab on the Pocahontas campus. He began working at BRTC part-time as a GED instructor in February of 1987 and a few months later became a full-time GED Coordinator as well as beginning work in his most recent position in developmental education.

Born and raised in Indiana, Cullison came to Arkansas in 1961 to work on the pipeline to earn enough money to finish college. After being in Arkansas a couple of years, he married Mary Lou Waymon, now his wife of 41 years.

Cullison had enrolled in 1966 at Southern Baptist College (now Wil-

liams Baptist College) in Walnut Ridge, but the very next day after enrolling, he was drafted by the Army and sent to serve in the Vietnam War. After serving his country

for two years, Cullison returned and enrolled at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro where he completed his degree in education. “I worked  
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## Blaxton Earns Master’s Degree

Patti Blaxton, Coordinator of Continuing Education and Business Outreach at BRTC, received a Master of Science in Vocational Technical Administration degree May 7 from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

The Department of Continuing Education and Business Outreach provides opportunities for individuals in the community to grow personally and professionally through a variety of classes, many of which award professional CEUs and col-



Patti Blaxton

lege credit. Customized training is also available for employees of area businesses and industries. Blaxton has been coordinator of this department on the Pocahontas campus for the past five years.

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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



**Richard Gaines**

This is the time of the year when prospective students continue to make decisions about their educational future, with an eye on fall enrollment. It is appropriate that here at BRTC, we still have scholarships that remain open. We know that residents we serve have financial need. This fact was verified for us recently with the report of a survey of our current students indicating that more than half of those responding have annual incomes of less than \$15,000. Even though tuition at BRTC is much lower than that at

four-year universities—generally less than half—paying tuition and fees and buying books and supplies can still be a real burden. Then with the added living expenses and increasing fuel costs, financing college study requires careful planning and budgeting.

Thanks to the First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament, and to the generosity of individuals and businesses who have established scholarships, we have been able to increase the number of available scholarships. We encourage those who are considering their options for the fall to check out open scholarships and other funding assistance programs in our Office of Financial Aid. We like to think of scholarships as an investment in your future, and in the future of the communities we serve.

**Summer II Classes  
Begin July 6**

## Scholarships

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semesters, based on enrollment in fifteen hours, or \$1,980 for scholarships awarded to those living outside Randolph County. Scholarship recipients must maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA in order to retain the scholarship in the Spring 2005 semester, according to Collins.

The scholarships will be awarded based on the following three criteria: a personal essay; transcript of all prior educational achievement, whether high school or prior college

work; and ACT or ASSET test scores.

To obtain an application, phone the Office of Financial Aid at BRTC, 870-248-4000, or come by the college Mondays-Thursdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Deadline to apply for one of these scholarships is June 30. Only those applicants who have submitted complete applications (essay, transcript, test scores, and completed application form) will be considered.

## Cullison Retires

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nights at Cinch Manufacturing in Pocahontas while attending classes during the days, until graduating from ASU in 1972," Cullison said.

"My first teaching job was sixth grade at Alma Spikes in 1972," recalls Cullison. "When they opened the M.D. Williams Middle School in 1982, I taught fifth through eighth

grade math and science until 1985, at which time I left the education field altogether to work in industry before returning at BRTC in 1987."

In addition to raising fruit and taking care of his garden, Cullison plans to do as much traveling as he can with Mary Lou.