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The River's Edge

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Important Dates

August 16—20

- Faculty Staff In-Service

August 20

- Nursing Students Return

August 23

- Fall Classes Begin

August 25

- Employee Health Screening 1:30 - 4:30

August 27

- Last Day to Register for Fall Classes

September 6

- Labor Day

Record Number of Scholarships



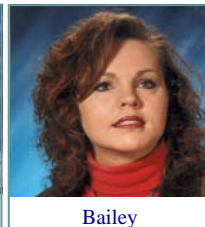
Steimel



Alexander



Jackson



Bailey



Sorrels

A record number of students have been awarded scholarships to attend BRTC for the fall semester, according to Financial Aid Advisor Brandi Chester. Chester announced the awarding of an additional eleven scholarships this week, bringing to 24 the total number of scholarships awarded to date for the Fall 2004 semester.

The increase reflects a growth in revenues from the annual golf tournament, co-sponsored for the first time last year by First Community Bank and the BRTC Foundation. First Community Bank has committed to sponsorship of the event again this year, and is donating

\$10,000 once again, said BRTC Foundation Chair Scott Trammel. The BRTC Foundation has signaled its plan to continue to increase the number of scholarships as funding permits.

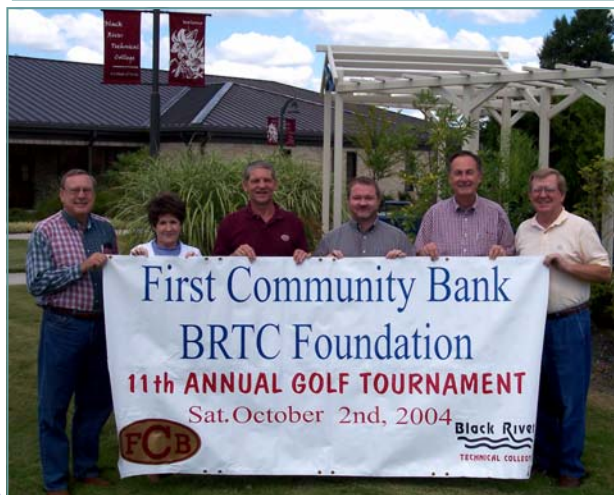
Also contributing to the increase of scholarships is the creation of new privately funded scholarships, including two by the Jerry Chastain family.

In addition to previously announced scholarship recipients, Chester released the following awards: BRTC Foundation Scholarships have been awarded to David Steimel, Philip Alexander, Jarrah Jackson, Timothy Russell, Sherry

Bailey, Manuel Mooney and Stephen Sorrels. The Clarence and Nellie Clark Memorial Scholarship funded by the Chastain family has been awarded to Cecilia Watson-Henson. President's Scholarships have been awarded to Coralynne Kildow and Miranda Hand. An Academic Distinction Scholarship has been awarded to Emily Richmond.

Steimel, son of Hugh and Theresa Steimel of Pocahontas, plans to study accounting and become a Certified Public Accountant or auditor. He graduated from Pocahontas High School.

Alexander is an honorably discharged veteran of the U. S. Army



FCB to Partner with Foundation in Golf Event

First Community Bank will once again partner with the BRTC Foundation to present the 11th Annual Golf Tournament, and is providing \$10,000 in sponsorship of the event. FCB's Executive Vice President Robert Sorg was on hand last week for a photo with the tournament banner. He is pictured here (third from left) with, from left, BRTC President Richard Gaines, Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Jan Ziegler, Foundation Chair Scott Trammel, Foundation member Ralph "Pink" Baltz and Tournament Coordinator /Academic Advisor Jim Ulmer.

“HAVE A BALL” Initiative Planned

Employees at BRTC will begin the Fall semester with a fun and healthy new initiative in place. The new program, headed by Technical Division Chair Angie Caldwell, has been named “HAVE A BALL,” which is an acronym for “Help All Valued Employees Adopt Balanced Activities for Longer Lives.”

Caldwell, also a Registered Dietician and instructor in BRTC’s Dietary Manager’s program, said the new program is “not about weight loss,” but rather focuses on “being healthy while having fun.”

She indicated the wellness initiative is tentatively designed to accomplish three primary goals: to promote a healthy campus environment, to increase to 66 percent the percentage of employees who participate in physical activity, and to provide employees monthly opportunities to learn about healthy living options.

Activities Caldwell proposes in support of the goals include a series of “Lunch and Learn” sessions for employees. Topics may include informative presentations on such subjects as Managing Stress,

Healthy Heart, Men’s Health Issues, Women’s Health Issues, Healthy Holidays, Summer Safety and other topics of interest.

The “HAVE A BALL” initiative will likely include, additionally, an in-depth Health Screening by Randolph County Medical Center staff, a “Stamp Out Smoking” effort, and various physical activities, including an “After-work Walking Club” and a work-out program in the P.E. complex.

The specific components will be determined with staff partici-



Paula Lewis, Angie Caldwell (front from left), Dana Clay and Ramonda Housh make plans for walking routes.

ipation, Caldwell added. The only sure elements, she emphasized, are that this effort will make a difference for the better in the lives of the



Bosch contributes to Foundation

Robert Bosch Tool Corporation Plant Manager Tim Waggoner (left) and Human Resources Manager Nick Lee (right) present a check for \$5,000 to the BRTC Foundation, with BRTC President Richard Gaines accepting the donation. This non-restricted contribution is in keeping with a longstanding practice of the Walnut Ridge-based manufacturer of power tools to support the college and its programs and students. Although Bosch is currently “downsizing” its operation, Waggoner indicated there will continue to be a presence of the company at Walnut Ridge for some time to come.



FNB makes contribution

Chad Chester of First National Bank presents a check for \$2,000 to BRTC President Richard Gaines and Foundation Board Chairman Scott Trammel during a Foundation Board workshop held Friday, July 30. The donation represents the second anniversary of the opening of First National Bank’s Pocahontas branch and will support the BRTC Foundation’s efforts to provide scholarships and other services to the college. President Gaines and Trammel expressed their appreciation to First National Bank for its support of BRTC.

Course Completion Rates High at BRTC

When BRTC VP for Academics Jack McCord began checking to see at what rate BRTC students successfully complete classes, he was particularly interested in the successful completion rates for online classes. What he found was pleasantly surprising not only for the online, but for traditional classes as well.

According to figures provided by the Office of Student

Services, McCord reported students successfully completed their online courses in the Spring 2004 semester at a rate of approximately 73 percent, while the successful completion rate for traditional classes was approximately 82 percent.

“I was very pleased with those figures,” he said, “but the rates are even higher for Intersession and Summer I”: a successful completion rate of about 93 percent for online

classes, and approximately 98 percent for traditional classes during that time period.

McCord said the fact that summer classes tend to attract primarily students who are highly motivated and goal oriented may account for the extremely high successful completion rate of the summer classes. He also attributed the higher rating to the fact that over a condensed time frame (five weeks for

summer classes), there is less opportunity for major problems or obstacles to intervene in a student’s life.

The rates were based by comparing the number of students enrolled in a class on the eleventh day (or fifth day of summer classes), which is the “snapshot” day when enrollment reports are generated, and the number receiving a passing grade at the end of the semester.

Scholarships Cont'd from page 1



Mooney



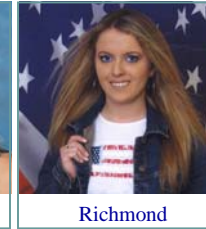
Watson-Henson



Kildow



Hand



Richmond

and U. S. Coast Guard, and will

cont'd on page 3 pursue an Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology at BRTC. He currently lives in Pocahontas.

Formerly Student Council President at Piggott High School, Jackson plans to major in History, with a minor in Physical Education, and to become a teacher in those areas. She

is the daughter of Robert and Della Jackson.

A graduate of Westside High School, Russell (not pictured) plans to become a paramedic. He and his wife Shala have two children. Russell is a resident of Jonesboro

Bailey will pursue the Associate of Arts degree at BRTC, and then complete her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education K-4. She and her husband Randy live in Walnut Ridge and they have two

children.

A graduate of Mayflower High School, Sorrels plans to major in Electricity / Electronics. His parents are Linda and Emmett Jones. He currently resides in Corning.

BRTC's 2003 Academic All-Star, Mooney plans to complete his Associate of Arts degree. He and his wife Lana have two children. They live in Walnut Ridge.

Watson-Henson of Poca-

hontas is the daughter of Birdie Watson and the late Cecil Watson. She and her husband Frank have two children. A 1981 Pocahontas High School graduate, she plans to complete a degree in Practical Nursing at BRTC.

A full-time employee at Kids First, Hand plans to complete college basics and then pursue a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. The daughter of Johnny and Wendy Ward of Imboden, she and husband Eugene have a son.

Kildow (not pictured), a native of Maynard, plans to complete the Associate of Arts degree, and then transfer to a four-year institution where she will seek a bachelor's degree in education to teach Earth Sciences. She is the daughter of Ren and Sharon Stranger, and has



Disaster Drill

BRTC faculty and students participated in a four-county Disaster Drill held August 6 at Jones and Vining plant in Walnut Ridge. The drill provided training in bio-terrorism emergency preparedness. BRTC Fire Science instructor Steve Jones and EMT/Paramedics instructor Joe Chappel participated, as did Nursing and Paramedics students from the college. Jones also heads the Lawrence County Department of Emergency Management.

**Enroll Now--
Fall Classes begin
August 23**

**Last day to enroll:
Friday, August 27**

Serendipity Club Now Accepting Memberships

A new organization at Black River Technical College promises lots of opportunities for its members to have fun, meet new people, travel a bit, and even learn in the process. Membership in the Serendipity Club is now open, announced BRTC's Director of Continuing Education, Patti Blaxton.

The Serendipity Club is a project co-sponsored by BRTC's Department of Continuing Education and the BRTC Foundation. While its activities are aimed at those 55 and over, membership is open to people of any age.

The club will feature a

year-long series of alternating mini-classes and short trips. Class topics and trips have been selected following surveys of large numbers of community residents and rankings by members of the Serendipity Task Force, community members helping to plan the new organization, Blaxton said.

By popular demand, the Serendipity program of events will include the following classes: Landscape Gardening, "Walk Your Way to Health"; Computer Smarts; Book Club; Essential Spanish; and Photography. Each class will meet for approximately eight hours total,

spread out over one month, with classes scheduled around mid-day.

The trip destinations selected by the Task Force are to Little Rock (overnight) to visit the Museum of Discovery and Clinton Presidential Library; St. Louis, Missouri (overnight) to a Cardinals ball game; Piggott to visit the Pfeiffer-Hemingway House/Museum; War Eagle (overnight) craft fair; Crater of Diamonds State Park (overnight); and Memphis to visit The Pyramid.

Membership in the Serendipity Club provides priority enrollment in the classes and trips and brings a 50% discount on the

price of the classes. The discount does not apply to the trips. In addition, Serendipity members will receive special ID cards entitling them to enjoy library, computer lab, and gym privileges at BRTC on a space available basis. Serendipity members will also be exclusive guests at monthly Brown Bag "In-the-Know" Lunches.

To enroll, interested persons should come by the Office of Continuing Education at BRTC, or phone the department at 870-248-4180 for more information. Annual membership is \$50 per person, or \$30 for one-half year. Members will

Black River Technical College

P.O. Box 468

P.O. Box 1565

1410 Hwy 304 East

Phone: 870-248-4000

Phone: 870-239-0969

Fax: 870-248-4100

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

janz@blackrivertech.org
annd@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org



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

The start of another academic year rolls around with amazing speed, but every single year brings with it a sense of excitement and optimism. This year is no different. Announcement of a record number of scholarships this year makes us especially proud to be a part of Black River Technical College and of the communities we serve. Support from individuals, from organizations, and from businesses and industries makes this possible, and we greatly appreciate

the level of commitment this college has historically enjoyed. These scholarships are possible, also, because of the work of so many of our staff at BRTC, and their efforts are also acknowledged and appreciated.

We understand that tomorrow's workforce is increasingly one where education is never complete. No matter what field of work or what level within that chosen profession, workers will need to continue to learn in various ways. Continued educational opportunity is especially crucial for those whose current jobs are outsourced or re-structured. Finding educational funding for the re-training of workers in transition will be a priority for us as we work to develop even more scholarships in the coming semesters.

The River's Edge
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www.blackrivertech.edu

The RIVER'S EDGE Online

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New Staff Announced

Nancy Allen of Flippin joins the BRTC staff as instructor in Respiratory Care. A Registered Respiratory Therapist, Flippin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy at Northeastern Oklahoma State University.

She has twenty years of respiratory experience in all levels of cardiopulmonary care. Allen is currently on staff at Baptist Health of Little Rock as staff therapist. She previously worked as Education Coordinator at North Arkansas Regional Medical Center in Harrison, and as staff therapist at Baxter Regional Medical Center in Mountain Home.



Allen

In addition, Sandra Williams of Corning has been hired as an adjunct instructor in several areas. She will work as a professional tutor in the college's new Learning Center. A native of Wynne, Williams will also teach as an adjunct instructor in the Developmental Education program.

She taught at Western Iowa Technical Community College at Denison, Iowa before moving to



Williams