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The River's Edge

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Important Dates

August 5 -6

- AHECB Meeting in Springdale

August 13

- Foundation Board Meeting

August 16—20

- Faculty Staff In-Service

August 20

- Nursing Students Return

August 23

- Fall Classes Begin

August 27

- Last Day to Register for Fall Classes

Spring Break Trip to Spain, Italy and France Planned

The tenth BRTC International Tour destination for 2005 will be Spain, Italy and France, and sign-up for the trip is now in progress. The trip is open to any BRTC student and to members of the community, said group leader Dr. Jan Ziegler.

This year marks ten years of international travel organized by BRTC. The trip is in concert with the college's mission to provide a wide array of educational experiences to the community. Students who travel may opt to enroll in the spring semester in a three-credit independent Humanities study, and, by completing certain assignments, receive transfer credit for their participation.

"I'm very excited about this trip," said Dr. Ziegler. "It is really packed with many incredible sights and

wonderful opportunities to experience first-hand the places we have all studied for all our lives. We will be in places that are home to the likes of Michelangelo, the de Medicis, St. Francis of Assisi, and Galileo. I'm not an artist nor a historian, but I know this will be a thrilling part of our planet to visit."

Among the places this year's travelers will visit are Madrid and the

Prado, where they will see art treasures by Velazquez, Goya and others. They will then travel in their touring bus to Zaragoza and on to Barcelona, cont'd page 3



Caption: Carolyn Collins, Director of Financial Aid (left), and Ruth Schaa, Business Instructor, look over the brochure for the Spring Break trip with Dr. Jan Ziegler. The two are among those planning to join the tour. Each of them has traveled on a previous international trip with BRTC.

New Staff Join BRTC

Among those convening on the campus of BRTC this fall are four new employees. Joining the staff are instructors Kimberly Adams, Josh Kissee and Ramonda Housh, and computer technician Mac McCaa.

Adams will assume duties as Development Education Coordinator. A native of Paragould and a graduate of Oak Grove High School, Adams earned her BSE degree in 1991 and her MSE degree in 1993, both from

Arkansas State University. For the past twelve years, Adams has been employed as fifth grade teacher at Oak Grove Middle School.

Kissee is the new Computer cont'd on page 3



BRTC Honors 120 G.E.D. Graduates



Students receive G.E.D. diplomas

BRTC's 2004 G.E.D. graduation ceremony was held July 15 in

Randolph County Development Center. Tava Harris, a 2003 GED graduate and now a college student at BRTC, was the speaker for the event.

A total of 120 students from Clay, Lawrence and Randolph Counties received their G.E.D. diplomas this year through the BRTC Adult Education Program, according to Adult Ed Director

Peggy Weir. Since 1994, she added, more than 1400 area residents have graduated from the GED program at

Black River Technical College.

To enroll in the Adult Education program, individuals typically must be eighteen years of age or older, or, if sixteen or seventeen years of age, they must have public school permission, Weir explained. They must be a resident of Arkansas, she added

"Arkansas is currently one of the few states to give the G.E.D. exam free of charge," Weir said. "I think that is a plus, because surrounding states charge as much as \$65 or more."

Students attend the Adult Educa-

tion program tuition-free, with the possible exception of book fees in some cases.

Staff for BRTC's Adult Education Program, in addition to Weir, include Tammie Lemmons, GED examiner; instructors Cindy Robinett, Judy Bridges and Jean Wilson on the Pocahontas campus; Sue Bentley, Walnut Ridge; Carolyn Jones and Karon Skaggs, Corning; and Linda Wyss, Piggott. Gail Dodd serves as program secretary and alternate GED examiner.

Board Member Reappointed

Frank Bigger, Black River Technical College Trustee, was recently reappointed by Governor Mike Huckabee to a third term on the BRTC Board. His new term will expire in 2011. Bigger, a Pocahontas native, was first appointed to the college's initial Board in 1991 by then-President-elect Bill Clinton.

BRTC President Richard Gaines, in making the announcement at the

July 1 meeting of the Board of Trustees, expressed his pleasure at the reappointment. "Frank has always been a real asset to the Board, and we are very glad he will be around for another seven years," President Gaines said.

Bigger noted the tremendous growth the institution has seen since its inception in 1991, when BRTC, along with other vo-tech schools in

Arkansas, became a two-year college. "The college makes all the difference in this area—it has become like a major industry," Bigger said. "It's not just the jobs it provides, but the many job-training opportunities it brings to our people." He said he looks forward to the coming years and to continued progress at BRTC.

Bigger is a member of the Arkan-



Frank Bigger

sas Cattlemen's Association and is a retired cattleman.

Serendipity Club Organizing

The new organization designed to appeal to broad community interests, the Serendipity Club, is moving close to implementation, according to Patti Blaxton, Director of Continuing Education and Business Outreach on the Pocahontas campus. Serendipity, a joint activity of Continuing Ed and the BRTC Foundation, will offer a series of twelve one-month classes or activities or trips on topics as diverse as landscape gardening to trips to a Cardinals ballgame, or interior decorating and quilting to a visit to the Pfeifer-Hemingway House and War Eagle Craft Fair.

An enthusiastic group of individuals who are involved in the plan-

ning of the new organization met July 22 to review survey results, and to give their rankings of the possible activities for the new organization.

Membership in Serendipity will entitle participants to priority enrollment and a 50% discount in Serendipity activities and classes, as well as other benefits on the BRTC cam-



Serendipity Planners meet with Blaxton

pus. In addition to the monthly classes, Serendipity members will be invited to monthly "Brown Bag Luncheons" on varied topics of current and popular interest.

"We will begin publicizing and hold an open membership drive during the month of August," Blax-

ton said. Also planned are a kick-off luncheon for Serendipity members in September, with the first class or activity scheduled for October. "We have had tremendous interest and input from the community so far, and I know this is going to be a fun and enriching experience for all involved."

New Learning Center Opens in Fall

Helping students succeed—that is the purpose of the new BRTC Learning Center to be implemented at the beginning of the Fall 2004 semester, according to Program Coordinator Joniece Trammel. This new service is being funded in part through a Carl Perkins Grant, with matching institutional support. Trammel will oversee the program as a part of her responsibilities as Carl Perkins Recruiter.

Together with Trammel, Division

Chairs Dr. Roger Johnson (General Education) and Angie Caldwell (Technical Education) have organized a tutoring program to be housed in AD 151, BRTC's new Learning Center. The program features extensive tutoring for BRTC students in core subject areas, including Mathematics, Science and English.

A unique aspect of the new service is the fact that it combines professional tutors with peer (student) tutors, Trammel explained.

"We are hopeful the Learning Center can make a difference for some students," Trammel said. "We want to do everything we can so that our students successfully complete their courses and finish their programs of study and either graduate or transfer to a four-year setting, depending on their individual situations," she concluded.

Trammel said the Learning Center



Angie Caldwell (standing left)
Joniece Trammel and Dr. Roger Johnson

will provide a total of 42 hours of tutoring each week, with the tutoring schedule to be announced at the beginning of the fall semester.

Spring Break Trip

Continued from page 1

a city whose beauty and spirit inspired artists Miro, Picasso and Dali, all of whom lived or studied there.

Upon leaving Spain, the tour proceeds to the French Riviera, with visits to Avignon and the Provence region, associated with Cezanne, Picasso, Cocteau, and Van Gogh. Next the group will travel to Pisa, home of the "Leaning Tower," and then bus on to Florence and to Rome, where extensive sightseeing will include the many works of classical art, sculpture and architecture.

Travelers may either end their tour in Rome, returning home at this point, or continue on for an additional two days with trips to Pompeii and a cruise to the Isle of Capri.

Travel such as this, pointed out Dr. Ziegler, give people the opportu-

nity not only to learn about other cultures, but to better understand their own. "I believe one of the most important benefits of international travel," she said, "is the insight we gain about ourselves personally, our society, and our small piece of the world. We better see the whole picture, and get some glimmer of understanding as to just how we fit in. And when we can begin to see ourselves as others see us, this can be a very valuable lesson."

Those interested in the trip scheduled for March 17-28 should contact Dr. Ziegler at 870-248-4000, EXT 4185, or e-mail her at janz@blackrivertech.org, or come by the Administration Building, AD 112, on the Pocahontas campus.

**Enroll Now --
Fall classes
begin August 23.**

Space still available in :

[Gen Ed - College Transfer](#)

[Technical Programs](#)

- Business Technology
- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Education
- EMT/Paramedic
- Electricity/Electronics
- Fire Science
- General Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Technology
- Machine Shop
- Welding

**Returning Students -
Campus Connect at
www.blackrivertech.edu**

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

New Staff

Continued from page 1

Information Systems Operations Coordinator and computer instructor at BRTC/Paragould. A 1999 graduate of Paragould High School, Kisse recently received a BS degree in Management Information Services from ASU. He has worked in quality control and computer-aided drafting for the past three years at Wellsco Communications in Paragould.

A native of Pocahontas and a 1988 PHS graduate, Housh will serve as the new nursing program Director at BRTC. Housh earned her BSN degree from ASU in 1993 and her MNSC in 2003 from UAMS. From 1993-1995 she worked in Berryville at the Carroll County, Arkansas, Department of Health. From 1995 to 2003 she worked in

Conway as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at a children's clinic. She is currently employed at The Children's Clinic in Jonesboro.

Housh is a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (CPNP) and an APN, and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and a Fellow of the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board.

McCaa joins the Computer Services staff at BRTC. He is a 1997 graduate of Newark High School and will graduate in December from ASU with a BS degree in Management Information Services. The new Computer Support Specialist has spent the last four years serving in the U.S. Navy working in aviation ordnance while stationed in Sasebo, Japan.

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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

Because we are a college, one area of the population we serve may sometimes go unnoticed. I'm speaking of our Adult Education program, where those people who do not have a high school diploma may prepare themselves to complete the G.E.D. exam. The General Education Development certification is an alternative to a high school diploma. We recently held our annual G.E.D. graduation ceremony and recognized 120 adults of all ages who had received the G.E.D. Even more amaz-

ing, this brings to more than 1400 the total number of individuals who have completed their G.E.D.s since the program's beginning in 1994.

It was my honor to be able to be present at this ceremony and to see many of those people who, thanks to this program, can now continue with their lives and have greater opportunities ahead of them. Many G.E.D. graduates have already used this as a beginning step for further study and have gone on to complete certificates, associate degrees, and even four-year degrees. I am hopeful this year's graduates will consider this option also.

One of the hallmarks of the two-year college is the fact that we make higher education accessible to all people, serving as a "gateway" for passage into more advanced levels of study. We know that for varied reasons, not everyone past or present completes a conventional high school diploma. Certainly we en-

courage today's high school students to go the traditional route, staying enrolled and completing that diploma. This is by far the best advice. But for the many in our service area

who for whatever reason do not have that important piece of paper, we stand ready to help them succeed through another route.



Anderson recipient of \$1000 Scholarship

Mary Anderson, Financial Aid Officer at BRTC, is the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award from Modern Woodmen of America. Anderson is one of ten award winners in the nontraditional category. She completed the Associate of Arts degree at BRTC and is now working toward a bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Arkansas State University. She is pictured here with Bill Callahan, District Representative of Modern Woodman from Pocahontas.