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# The River's Edge

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**Important Dates**

- November 16**
- Flu Shots
  - Lila Robinson Book Signing
- November 17**
- ASSET Test 8:00 a.m.
- November 18**
- Law Enforcement Graduation
- November 23—25**
- Thanksgiving Holidays  
No Classes - Offices Closed
- November 30**
- ASSET Test 8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
- December 7 –13**
- Final Exams
- December 9**
- Serendipity Meeting
- December 15**
- BRTC Graduation

## Scholarships to be Funded Through FCB Gaines Gift



Richard & Patti Gaines

A total of ten \$1,000 scholarships to BRTC for the Spring 2006 semester and another ten for the Fall 2006 semester will be awarded through the Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship program established earlier this year by First Community Bank. Applications for the first round of awards are currently open.

An initial gift from FCB of \$25,000 established the scholarship program, administered through the BRTC Foundation, in order to honor long-time BRTC President Richard Gaines and his wife, Patti Gaines, for their years of hard work and commitment to the college. The couple has expressed their deep appreciation to FCB for this unique honor.

Financial Aid Director Carolyn Collins said the college is “very pleased and excited to be able to help this number of students in such a major way.” She

indicated that according to the program guidelines, the scholarships are open to currently enrolled and prospective new full-time students.

There are no restrictions regarding place of residence or degree being sought. The actual selection of recipients will be made by a committee and will be based on several factors.

Applications are available in all twenty-one locations of First Community Bank, as well as in the Office of Financial Aid. They are also on the BRTC website at [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org), or can be requested by phoning 870-248-4000. Applications for Spring 2006 are due in the Office of Financial Aid by December 1. Awards will be announced by the end of the current semester.

## “Adopt-a-Family” to Aid Hurricane Victims

Faculty and staff at BRTC are doing their part in the “Adopt-a-Family” project of the Arkansas Two-Year College Association designed to link up Arkansas colleges with sister colleges in Mississippi whose employees sustained great loss in the flooding of Hurricane Katrina. The college is conducting a fundraising campaign.

Since the project began two weeks ago, more than 50% of the college staff has given to the effort, and the fund now exceeds \$1,000. The fund also represents contributions by members of the BRTC Board of Trustees, the BRTC Foundation, and the Serendipity Club.

The family “adopted” by BRTC includes a mother, “Sandra,” and her two daughters, whose own home flooded with six feet of water, resulting in the loss of all their household belongings and rendering the house uninhabitable. They did not have flood insurance. Sandra is the bookstore manager at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jackson campus. They are currently living in a FEMA trailer with her mother, who also lost her home to the flooding, and are waitlisted for a

FEMA trailer of their own.

The BRTC committee spearheading this project has spoken with Sandra and with her co-workers at MGCCC, and plans to use the money to purchase gift cards for Wal-Mart, Home Depot, and other home supply stores, to send to the family in early December.

The following is an excerpt from a recent e-mail response from Sandra:

*“Gift cards would be great and the places you mentioned would be wonderful. We have to replace all of the appliances. Your generosity provides more than words can say. I have felt so helpless and to know that people who don’t even know us are willing to help us is like being wrapped in a warm blanket when you are out in the cold. Please let me know if there is ever anything I can do to help you.”*

For more information or to make a monetary contribution to this effort, phone Dina Hufstedler (248-4000 EXT 4187) or Vickie French (248-4070), or bring your gift by their offices in the Administration Building.

# Students Choosing Distance Ed Options



*Dr. Linda Moss, Dr. Larry Hilburn, and Karen Liebhaber develop online science components.*

Jack McCord said he is pleased with the way the college has stepped forward to meet the student desire for the convenience and economic benefits online study offers.

Students chose in the Fall 2005 semester from 22 different classes offered online, up two from the number of classes offered last fall.

Online classes are defined as classes in which all course materials are online and students do not meet as a class, with few or no trips to campus required. All course work is done on the student's own timeframe, online from home or another location with internet connection. Testing may be done online or, in some instances, students are required to test at a

specified testing location.

In addition to online classes, other DE options for BRTC students include "hybrid" classes, defined as classes in which approximately 50 percent of the material and time are online, with the other half being presented and taught in the "traditional" classroom setting. A total of ten current classes are being offered in a hybrid format, Liebhaber said.

A third DE option is the CVN, or compressed video classes. Students in CVN classes meet at a specified time and place, but may receive instruction from someone who is located elsewhere. Image and sound are transmitted in "real" time via video camera. Currently, four sections of classes are in session using CVN.

Most faculty members use some type of technology-assisted instruc-

tion already, and with continued training, Liebhaber believes additional online classes can be added.

Goals of the Distance Education program include the offering of science classes through DE options. In fact, two new DE science courses will be offered in the Spring 2006 semester. Liebhaber said she hopes BRTC will soon offer the Associate of Arts degree through a blend of online and hybrid classes, and eventually offer the AA degree completely online.

Another goal is to locate and/or train additional instructors, full-time or part-time, to teach online classes. "We are currently maximizing our available online offerings and would like to offer more to meet the growing student demand," Liebhaber said. Currently, a total of 17 full-time and seven adjunct instructors use one or more of the three DE delivery methods: online, hybrid, and CVN.

BRTC's students are turning to options in Distance Education in increasing numbers, according to DE Coordinator Karen Liebhaber. The college is, in fact, second among the state's 22 two-year colleges in the increased percentages of online FTEs, or full-time equivalencies, over a five year period.

Vice President for Academics

## Local Banks to Exhibit Work of BRTC Art Students

Art class students at Black River Technical College will be displaying their work at area banks November 14-21. Every semester for the past six years, BRTC art students have placed exhibits in each of the area

banks including First Community Bank (both locations), Bank of Pocahontas (both locations), American State Bank, and First National Bank.

Next week's exhibits will feature the work of students from both the Design I and Graphic Design classes. "I feel it gives confidence to the students to see their work displayed," said Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, BRTC art instructor. And the banks have repeatedly requested the exhibits because they have such a positive response from the community."



Davis-Baltz also noted that the exhibits are a good way of creating awareness for the college and all it has to offer because "there are still those in the community who do not realize we offer much more than just the technical programs."

## LPN Students Give Flu Shots



Lisa Lawrence, a student in the Practical Nursing program at Black River Technical College administered the flu vaccine shot to Ron Kellett of Pocahontas, November, 9 in the Randolph County Development Center. With the assistance of BRTC's Practical Nursing students, the Randolph County Health Department was on campus to offer flu vaccine shots to the community for \$15. The shots will again be offered in the Development Center on Wednesday, November 16, from 8:30-4:00.

## PTK Inducts 54 New Members

The BRTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society, welcomed 54 new members during its Fall induction ceremony held November 8 in the Randolph County Development Center on the BRTC campus. Requirements for selection include maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or higher while enrolled in at least 12 college credit hours per semester.

Current PTK officers are Jimmy Downs, President; Tisha Henderson, Vice President of Scholarship; Elizabeth Snow, Vice President of Leadership; Trella Moore, Vice President of Service; Laura Alderson, Secretary of Public Relations – Pocahontas campus; Jeana Howard, Secretary of Public Relations – Paragould campus; and Karen White, Treasurer.

Chapter advisors of PTK include Dr. Linda Moss, Gary Buxton, Phillip Dickson, Ruth Schaa, and Joan Linnstaedter. Dawn Chitty is currently serving as Regional Vice President of the Eastern division of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region.



Moss said she congratulates the new inductees and praises them for their hard work. “They are all deserving of this prestigious honor and I look forward to working with them.”

## “The Revolt of ‘Mother’” Discussed at Serendipity



From left, Mildred Duncan, Sarah Crabtree, Sharon Pitts, Sharleen Creech and Jacquelyn Weick.

The story of a 19<sup>th</sup> century New England housewife in rebellion served as a springboard for the November Serendipity luncheon meeting topic, “To

Be a Man, To Be a Woman.” Approximately twenty members participated in the discussion led by Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for Development.

The group also explored the issue of women in Afghanistan, based in part on selections from *The Book-seller of Kabul*, and on a visual presentation of Afghanistan.

The meeting included a performance by an octet of the Kimbrough Chorus performing three selections. The chorus is directed by Joniece Trammel.

Serendipity members will meet again on Friday,

December 9, when the topic will be based on readings by James Thurber and Amy Tan on the search for identity.

The organization, co-sponsored by the Department of Continuing Ed/Business Outreach and the BRTC Foundation, is focused this year on the theme, “Dreams and Themes: Stories from a Small World.” Serendipity is a project of the college designed to provide lifelong learning opportunities. Membership is open to people of any age, though the activity aims particularly toward serving those of or nearing retirement age. Its goal is to help keep individuals in the community connected socially and intellectually with new people, new ideas, and fun activities.

## BRTC to Offer Elementary Spanish

BRTC students interested in taking Spanish will now have the opportunity beginning with the Spring 2006 semester. Robbie Marshall, foreign language instructor at Pocahontas High School, will be teaching Elementary Spanish I on the Pocahontas campus each Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-5:45, according to Roger Johnson, division chair of general education.

Marshall is certified in Spanish, German, speech and drama, and she earned her Master’s degree from East Texas State University in Texarkana. She previously taught concurrent classes through Southern Arkansas University in Camden.

“We had been searching for a while for someone to teach Spanish part-time at the college,” said Johnson, “because of the number of students and faculty who have indicated an interest.”



Members of the Kimbrough Chorus Octet performing last week at the Serendipity Luncheon are, front row, from left, David Wessell, Sommer Young, Michael Guthrey and Jana Guthrey. Back row, from left, Laura Alderson, Joe Hardin, Debbye Jarrett and Carrington Gray. Glenda Blasini served as accompanist and Joniece Trammel directed the singers.

# Black River Technical College

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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



You will have an opportunity on December 13 to make an important difference to higher education for our state and for our college. Voters statewide will be voting on a proposed college savings bond program that would result in more than \$2 million for critical facility and technology needs for BRTC. The College Savings Bond program, if approved, will authorize the state

Higher Education Coordinating Board to sell up to \$250 million in bonds. Of that amount, \$100 million will restructure existing bonds and \$150 million will be for funding new technology and capital projects. This is, as our governor points out, a way for improving higher education institutions without raising taxes.

BRTC plans to use its share of the bond sale to fund a needed expansion of our science labs on the home campus and for additional classroom needs at our Paragould location, and other needs as they emerge. I urge you to support the College Savings Bond program for all of higher education, and ultimately, for educational improvements for the entire state.

## Wal-Mart Scholarships Awarded

According to the office of Financial Aid, four students have been awarded Wal-Mart Scholarships for the Fall 2005 semester at BRTC. Pamela Arndt, Rosemary Johnson, Coralynne Kildow, and Kathleen Whitlock will each be awarded \$500.



Pictured, from left, Pamela Arndt, Rosemary Johnson, and Financial Aid Officer Brandi Chester. Recipients not pictured, Pamela Arndt and Coralynne Kildow.

Arndt, a resident of Bay, is working on an Associate of Applied Science in Dietetics degree and has completed 25 hours at BRTC. Johnson, who resides in Walnut Ridge, has completed 48 hours toward an AAS degree at BRTC.

Seeking an AAS in Respiratory

Care, Kildow of Maynard has completed 32 hours at BRTC. And Whitlock, a resident of Pocahontas, received her Practical Nursing certificate from BRTC in December, 2004 and is currently working toward an RN degree.

### Campus Connect for Returning Students:

Website: <http://connect.blackrivertech.org>  
November 14, 2005 - January 12, 2006

### Open Registration for First-time Entering & Transfer Students:

Nov. 28, 2005 - Dec. 9, 2005 & Jan. 3, 2006 - Jan. 12, 2006