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## Joe Wessell Receives Honor

BRTC Board of Trustees member Joe Wessell of Paragould has been named Economic Education Advocate of the Year by the Arkansas Council on Economic Education (ACEE). He was honored at an awards luncheon December 2 in Little Rock.

Wessell was nominated for the honor by Sara Dickey, librarian and media specialist at Paragould High School. She also serves as a Master Economics Teacher Consultant for

the ACEE.

In her nomination, Dickey acknowledged Wessell's commitment to economic education, and cited his work as chair of the "Economics Trivia Challenge" for the past three years at Paragould. The event raised money to help fund teacher economics workshops in the region and around the state. Wessell also has worked in an Economics Work Fair where, he explained, "students learn about real economics and how it



*Joe Wessell  
 BRTC Trustee*

works in the real world."

Wessell is Community Bank President BancorpSouth in Paragould.

## UAM to Repeat "River's End" Incentive

Steve Manley, CEO of Universal Asset Management, has announced his firm will once again present a new automobile to a graduate of BRTC during May commencement ceremonies. The award is designed as an incentive to encourage students to complete their degrees.

Eligible students graduating in either the December 2005 or May 2006 cycle will have opportunity for the gift from the Walnut Ridge firm. UAM disassembles airliners and sells the components to airlines and repair facilities. In addition to the Walnut Ridge plant, UAM has a warehouse facility at Pocahontas and offices at other locations. Most of the company's Walnut Ridge employees are graduates of the Aviation Maintenance program at BRTC.

Last year's winner of a 2005 Pontiac Vibe was Cynthia Blair Carroll of Corning. Manley plans to award a 2006 Chevy Cobalt at the

May 2006 graduation.

Eligibility guidelines established by Manley include the following: the student must meet certain financial qualifications; must be graduating with a one-year certificate or two-year degree; must be completing his or her first degree; and must complete at least 75% of the credit hours at BRTC. The recipient must be present for the drawing at the May graduation.

To ensure equal chance for all eligible graduates, the names of five December graduates will be drawn at the December graduation, and these names will be announced at that time. An additional five names will be drawn from eligible students during the May commencement, to be added to the December names. One winner from the ten candidates will then be selected in a final drawing at the May event.

### Important Dates

**December 7 -13**

- Final Exams

**December 9**

- Serendipity Meeting

**December 11**

- RN Pinning Ceremony

**December 13**

- Special Election
- Book Buy-Back

**December 14**

- PN Pinning Ceremony

**December 15**

- BRTC Graduation

**December 21—January 1**

- Offices Closed

**January 9**

- Classes Begin

### Special Election Tuesday, December 13

### Arkansas Higher Education Technology Facility Improvement Act 2005

(See President's Message, Page 4)

## Pathways Grant Brings New Staff Members

Four individuals have joined the Black River Technical College staff to fill positions created with the implementation of the Arkansas Career Pathways Program. Those recently hired are Tom Baker, Cathy Crawford, Helen Shipley, and Kristy Whitmire.

Baker, a Pocahontas resident, has been named as the Director of Career Pathways and oversee the day-to-day operation of the program. A graduate of Clover Bend High School, he earned both a B.S.A. and M.S. E. from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Along with his 20 years of service as State Representative in the Arkansas Legislature, Baker worked as a farmer for 31 years and taught vocational agriculture for eight years.

Serving as Recruiter and Retention Coordinator, Crawford, a Delaplaine native, has lived in Walnut Ridge for the past three years. She is a graduate of Piggott High School and received a

B.A. in Criminology from A.S.U. where she is currently working on a graduate degree in Sociology. Crawford's work experiences include four years of case management work in areas of community service.

The new secretary for the Pathways Program is Helen Shipley of Pocahontas. A graduate of Pocahontas High School, Shipley worked at Brown Shoe Company for nineteen years until its closing. She then earned an Associate of Arts degree from BRTC.

Whitmire, who resides in Smithville, is the Pathways Medical Instructor. A 1989 graduate of Black Rock High School, Whitmire earned a B.S. degree in Nursing from A.S.U. and has since worked as a Registered Nurse at Methodist Hospital in Jonesboro and Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Walnut Ridge.



Tom Baker



Cathy Crawford



Helen Shipley



Kristy Whitmire

## Students, Staff, Hear Talk on Alzheimer's Dementia



Dr. Jan Ziegler

Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for Development, recently spoke to students in Priscilla Stillwell's Human Growth and Development class to share the experiences she has faced in being a caregiver to parents with Alzheimer's. "I asked her (Dr. Ziegler) if she would be interested in speaking with my students to share the human side of issues related to having a family member with Alzheimer's," Stillwell said. "My class, consisting primarily of future nursing students, had completed a chapter on Alzheimer's, and I wanted them to hear about the disease from a caregiver's perspective."

Ziegler shared her personal experiences with Alzheimer's Dementia in dealing with first her dad, now

deceased, and then her mother, who currently resides in a nursing home. Her stories depicted a wide range of emotions associated with having loved ones affected by the disease. "There were very few dry eyes in the house," Stillwell said of the audience. "It was as if they were holding on to every word, and this only happens when the subject matter is affecting the class deeply."

Also attending the presentation were students in Dr. Morrison's Sociology class, nursing students and staff, and other interested persons. "My students called her (Dr. Ziegler) brave," Stillwell added. "Many stayed around after the presentation to ask questions and to discuss the struggles she has experienced."

## Dr. Moss Presents in General Session At PTK Honors Conference

Dr. Linda Moss, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and Science Instructor at BRTC, gave a presentation on "Science and Popular Culture" in general session at the PTK Honors Conference held October 28-29 in Hot Springs.

PTK members and advisors from the two-state region of Arkansas and Oklahoma attended this year's annual conference on "Popular Culture: Shaping and Reflecting Who We Are."

Other BRTC associates attending the conference were Joan Linnstaedter, PTK Advisor from BRTC's Paragould campus; Dawn Chitty, PTK Regional Officer; and Laura Alderson, Karen White, and Alvin Lewis, Jr., PTK members.



Dr. Linda Moss



Dr. Lila Wistrand Robinson signs a copy of her recently published book, *Eight Years in the Amazon Headwaters: My Life in Three Peruvian Tribes*, for Elsie Lewis, BRTC employee. Robinson, former adjunct instructor at BRTC, held a book-signing November 16 in the student lounge of the administration building.

# Event Promotes Cultural Awareness

World Civilization students, with the assistance of both Dietetic and Design classes, recently held a "Cultural Awareness Breakfast" in the Randolph County Development Center. "I thought it would be interesting to have something other than just a lecture for class," said Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, "Word Civilization instructor.

Tina Harris, Dietetics instructor, agreed to participate by having her students prepare dishes from the different countries being studied by the World Civilization students. She also made copies of each of the recipes to

share with those interested. Design students created posters of each country and displayed on these tables alongside their corresponding dish. All of the students gathered in the Development Center to sample the wide variety of food, and they listened as World Civilization students took turns speaking to the audience about the country they were assigned to research.

"The students really enjoyed the event and the food," Davis-Baltz said, "and they learned about other countries. I hope we can make it a regular event for each World Civilization class."



*Andrew Ballard, World Civ student, spoke about Israel during the Cultural Awareness Breakfast.*

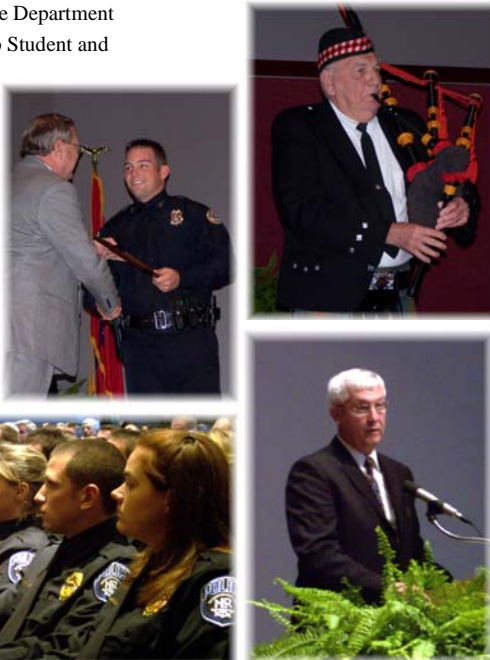
# LETA Ceremony Held

Graduation ceremonies were held November 18 in the Randolph County Development Center for 42 officers who successfully completed the police basic training course at BRTC's Law Enforcement Training Academy. The 13-week, 587-hour course includes instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal, educational and technical skills, and practical exercises.

Patrolman Nicholas Castle of the North Little Rock Police Department was named Overall Top Student and also received the Top Physical Training Award. The award for Overall Top Student is based on an average score of academics, firearms, and physical training.

Captain Jason Massey of the Saline County Sheriff's Office received the Top Academic Award, and

Patrolman Nicholas "Trey" Dupuy of the Jonesboro Police Department received the Top Firearms Award. Retired LETA Director Tim Daley served as guest speaker, and Captain Jason Massey of the Saline County Sheriff's Office was the class spokesman. John Vorhees of the Green County Sheriff's Office played the bagpipes during the processional and recessional.



# Accounting Students Attend CPA Event

Students from BRTC's accounting degree program recently attended the Northeast Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants' "Student Night" at the Holiday Inn in Jonesboro. "This is the first time

students to be introduced and to submit résumés upon request to CPAs from area businesses," said Pace regarding the meeting. "They were also able to meet fellow students in person."

Chris Puryear of First Community Bank in Jonesboro was one of the society members present at the meeting that requested résumés. "I gave him (Puryear) a copy of my resume," McCarson said, "and he forwarded it to 25 or so CPAs in the area. I have already had one interview with First Community Bank as a result."

After working for many years in a factory, McCarson, who resides in Bay, decided to take advantage of continuing her education through the



*Karen McCarson*

BRTC has been represented since this is the first time the program has had degreed students," said Joe E. Pace, accounting instructor and local CPA.

Pace joined students Johnice Brown and Sarena Williams of the Paragould campus, and Karen McCarson of the Pochontas campus at the event. The students are expected to graduate this month as the first recipients of the Associate of Applied Science in Accounting degree now offered at BRTC through the CVN (Compressed Video Network) classroom, under the direction of Pace



*Sarena Williams, Johnice Brown, and Instructor Joe E. Pace*

dislocated workers' program. She checked into the accounting program at another college, but chose BRTC because she "heard it was a student-friendly school."

"This was an opportunity for

**Book Buy-Back**  
 Tuesday, December 13  
 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**Black River Technical College Bookstore**

# 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



A special election has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 13. You will have opportunity at that time to vote on the Arkansas Higher Education Technology and Facility Improvement Act of 2005. This issue is very important to the future of this institution, and to all colleges and universities throughout the state.

It is important to understand that this act, if approved by voters, will not require a tax increase. It is simply a continuation of the College Savings Bond program of the early 1990s. This original program al-

lowed us to fund construction of the Library/Academic Complex and it funded partial construction of the Health Ed Building and helped fund equipment and library needs.

Approval of this act on December 13 would mean direct financial benefit for BRTC: This college would receive \$2.2 million. These funds, if the issue passes, are earmarked for expansion of the science labs and for needed expansion at the Paragould campus.

Other colleges and universities have critical facility needs as well, and this act also provides funding to help universities link to an "e-corridor" high-speed fiber-optic network to facilitate research. Certainly this technological advancement will benefit the entire state.

If you decide to vote for this act on December 13, your vote will mean that BRTC can meet future facility needs with less reliance on

## Forty Attend Meeting For Prospective Nurses

Approximately forty potential BRTC nursing students, along with family and friends, gathered for an informational meeting November 29 in the Randolph County Development Center where they had an opportunity to meet with faculty and staff, current students and graduates, and learn more about the practical nursing program.

On hand to talk with students and answer questions were: Ramonda Housh, director; Angie Caldwell, division chair; Dana Clay, secretary; Verna Smith, Tara Miller, Judy Forrester, and Leah Privett, nursing instructors; and Sandra Sparks, WIA representa-

tive. Housh gave a brief speech about what the students and their support group could expect if they were accepted into the program. Two Nursing III students talked with the group and offered suggestions and helpful hints.

Applications and fees were also accepted and appointments scheduled for the Nursing Entrance Test given the following Friday. "We like to ask them to attend the informational meeting so they can get a head start on the paperwork for the program," Clay said, "and since we have a very small window of time between Fall and Spring this helps out everyone."

the financial resources of our students and their families, and can do

so with no increases in your taxes.