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Important Dates

March 8

- **Advisory Dinner**

March 11

- **BRTC Foundation Board Meeting**

March 15

- **BRTC Health Fair**

March 16

- **PTK Blood Drive**
- **ECHO**

March 21-25

- **Spring Break**

April 12

- **Scholarship Recipient-Donor Luncheon**

Spring Enrollment Increases

The number of students enrolled at BRTC for the Spring 2005 semester is at an all-time high for the college's spring headcount, according to the eleventh-day "snapshot" report submitted to Arkansas Department of Higher Education. But the numbers contain a mixed message.

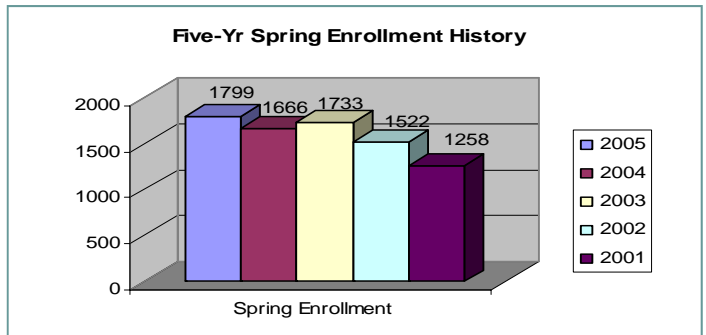
Vice President for Student Services Dr. Michael Sullens released figures this week showing that 1799 students were enrolled at all sites as of January 24, representing an increase of approximately 7% over the Spring 2004 headcount, and a similar increase over the previous semester, Fall 2004, when 1674 students were enrolled.

However, although the headcount, or actual student count is up, the FTE (Full-Time Equivalency) enrollment declined from Fall 2004 to Spring 2005 by approximately 10 FTEs. This number indicates that although more individual students are taking classes than in the fall, students on average may be enrolled in fewer credit hours.

State funding of colleges and

universities is more closely tied to FTE levels than to overall student headcount. BRTC President Richard Gaines noted that while the Arkansas Department of Higher Education has not in the past strictly funded colleges based on FTEs, the department has moved noticeably in this direction with its funding recommendation this session. "Those institutions that are gaining in FTEs may receive greater increases this time around at the expense of those with declining

that the headcount is up. This probably indicates more students are taking advantage of flexible options in pursuing their degrees, combining work and other commitments with their studies, and this reflects nationwide trends for college to serve larger numbers of part-time students. I believe we are following in that trend. And there is always the added potential for these students to remain with us for several semesters to come." A five-year spring enroll-



FTEs." And the possibility exists that the legislature may fully implement a funding formula this session based on FTEs, Gaines added.

Still, Gaines said, "I am pleased

ment chart shows the number of individual students enrolling is generally on the upswing.

(Continued on page 2)



Photography Class Features "Hands-On" Training

Now at its mid-point, the basic photography class offered by the Department of Continuing Education has sent students out on assignment. Taught by James Throgmorton of Camera Corner, the non-credit class is designed to cover photography basics, leading to improved picture-taking skills and enhanced personal enjoyment for the approximately twenty students enrolled. Pictured here are James Throgmorton and Rebecca Brown. The final two class meetings will be devoted to more opportunity for the students to "practice" what they have learned and to refine photographic skill and technique.

Spring Enrollment

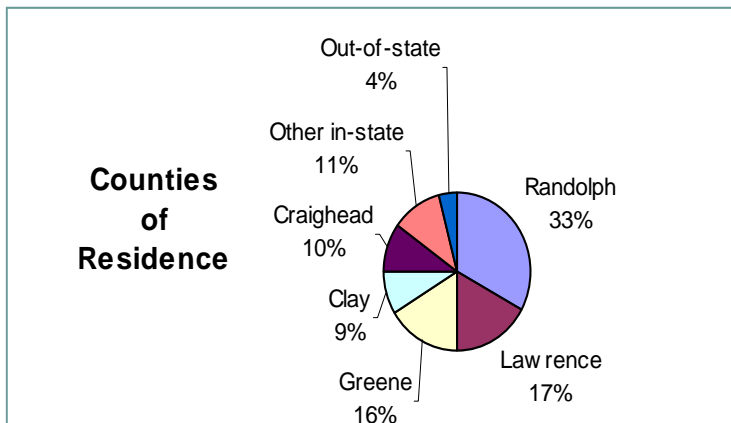
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The number of students taking classes at the BRTC-Paragould campus remained virtually unchanged, at 325 students.

Counties of residence of BRTC students remained relatively constant with last spring's levels. Randolph County accounts for about one-third of all those enrolled, with Lawrence County as home to approximately seventeen percent, compared to Greene County's sixteen percent.

Another nine percent of BRTC's students live in Clay County, which rounds out BRTC's service area, and ten percent live in Craighead County. Other in-state counties account for eleven percent, while approximately four percent live out of state.

More than half, about 57 percent, of the students are female, and approximately 54 percent are full-time students.



BRTC Partners with Eddie Mae Herron Center in Observance of Black History Month



Pat Johnson and Gary Buxton

In partnership with the Eddie Mae Herron Center of Pochontas,

community, but now serves as a museum and community center helping to

BRTC is once again assisting in the month-long series of educational activities marking February as "Black History Month." The EMH Center, located on Archer Street, is a restored one-room school house and church which once served the African American commu-

preserve the area's Black history and heritage.

The activities are supported in part by an education mini-grant awarded BRTC from the Arkansas Humanities Council and Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, announced Gary Buxton, instructor of English at the college and candidate for a Ph.D. in Heritage Studies from Arkansas State University.

Activities, planned by EMH Board members and BRTC Humanities faculty, will include demonstrations of food and clothing making,

quilting and the story of the Underground Railway, culminating with an old-fashioned "hog-butcher" on Saturday, February 19, and a community potluck with a panel discussion of the Hoxie School Integration on Friday, February 25, at 6:30 p.m.

All events are open to the public. Those interested in scheduling group visits should contact Pat Johnson at 892-4661, or Helen McCarroll at 892-4234, or phone the EMH Center at 892-4433.



Financing College is Topic of Meetings

More than one hundred high school students and their parents have taken advantage of College Financial Aid Nights presented so far this year by BRTC's Financial Aid staff, Carolyn Collins, Mary Anderson and Brandi Chester. The sessions, held at area high schools, are designed to provide basic information students and parents need to know when applying for financial aid. Since the first of the year, BRTC has held or participated in such sessions at Pochontas, Hoxie,

Walnut Ridge and Black Rock.

Those attending learn how to apply for financial aid, who is eligible to receive aid, how aid eligibility is calculated, and who qualifies for grants, scholarships and loans. For more information or for assistance with the FAFSA, parents and students may access the FAFSA application online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-4-FEDAID. They may also contact the BRTC Financial Aid Department in the Office of Student Services at 870-248-4000.



Carolyn Collins, Director of Financial Aid and Brandi Chester share slide show presentation with parents at Walnut Ridge.

Coach Among Growing Number Who Consider BRTC “Blessing”

Pocahontas High School Girls Basketball Coach Marty Moore is one of a growing number of area teachers who completed all or part of their education at Black River Technical College. A “non-traditional” student when he began taking classes at BRTC in 1991, Moore readily admits, “Without BRTC, I don’t know if I would have ever completed my education.”

A 1980 graduate of Maynard High School, Moore began his studies part-time at BRTC while working as a supervisor at Brown Shoe Company, typically juggling three night classes with his daytime job. “BRTC was a blessing for me,” Moore says, “because I was able to keep working while going to classes; it was convenient.” In the final year of his work toward the Associate of Arts degree, Moore flipped the schedule, attending day classes while working nights at Brown Shoe. He achieved his first goal in 1995 with the completion of his AA, followed two years later by graduation from Arkansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree.

Moore explained that BRTC is “good for non-traditional students

who have to keep working while attending school. It [the college environment] is very relaxed—everyone is nervous when going back to school, but it is very relaxed at BRTC and you immediately feel comfortable.”

He is a successful coach whose senior girls have already won their division in the Northeast Arkansas Tournament, Kell Classic Tournament

and placed second in a tournament at Newport, and have achieved an enviable record in his first year at Pocahontas. Moore’s first teaching position was at Maynard, where he was named “Coach of the Year in the 2AA North conference in 1999. He remained there seven years, coaching at several levels and serving as Gifted/Talented /Coordinator. In addition to coaching girls’ basketball teams at Pocahontas, Moore also is

assistant coach for volleyball and teaches World History.

Among the many other public school teachers who have recently begun their teaching careers in the

northeast Arkansas area, several, like Moore, opted to enroll for at least part of their degree work at BRTC. Among these are Angela Gilbreath, sixth grade teacher at Sloan-Hendrix; Rita



PHS Girls Basketball Coach Marty Moore

Jones, Middle Level Tutorial at Oak Ridge Central; Leslie Bradley, kindergarten at Williford; Tracy (Hallman) George, K-12 special education at Biggers; Amanda Herring, high school science at Hoxie; Jason Ward, physical education and coaching at Walnut Ridge; Cheryl (Freeman) Hufstедler, third grade at Sloan Hendrix; Elizabeth Ann Sparks, first grade at Alma Spikes Elementary (Pocahontas); Jillian

(Baltz) Hogan, kindergarten at Greene County Tech; Garrett Counts, junior high coaching and elementary physical education at Corning; Kristi (Bass) Luter, senior high English at Biggers; and Philip Collins, physical education at Williford.

The trend by recent high school graduates in particular to choose BRTC as the starting point for what will eventually become a baccalaureate degree has continued to climb since the institution became an independent college in 1993, according to Vice President for Academics Jack McCord. “I remember when we first started offering college transfer courses, we attracted much smaller numbers of students who were just getting out of high school,” he said. “The trend then was for those going on to college to go straight to a university, but that has changed drastically as BRTC has grown and developed a good track record. I think we see that dramatically by looking, for example, at the large number of people who attended college here, and are now beginning their careers in education. We are very proud of them, and proud to have played a part in helping them to reach their goals.”

Tina Harris Awarded Scholarship



Tina Harris

BRTC Dietetics instructor/Cafeteria Manager Tina Harris has been awarded a \$2,000 scholar-

ship from the National Restaurant Association. In making the announcement of Harris’ selection, Emilee Rogan, Director of Scholarships and Mentoring for the Foundation, wrote to Harris, “Your academic background, work experience, career goals, and commitment to the industry were very impressive.” Harris’ supervisor at BRTC, Angie Caldwell, Division Chair for Technical Education and a Registered Dietician, also expressed her congratulations in acknowledging the prestige

associated with this national recognition.

Harris is working on her Bachelor’s degree in Dietetics via distance education through the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Health Related Professions. She began working at BRTC in the fall of 2000, having completed an Associate of Arts degree at BRTC several years earlier.

She plans to complete the four-year degree in May of 2006. Her last semester will consist of one course

and three internships to be completed at area health care facilities. Typically, she has completed twelve credit hours per semester.

Upon completion of the degree, Harris will sit for the registry exam, qualifying her to be a Registered Dietician. She will also take an Arkansas licensure exam. At that point, Harris said, she hopes to continue her work at BRTC and to add on part-time and summer employment as a Registered Dietician.

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Mission Statement

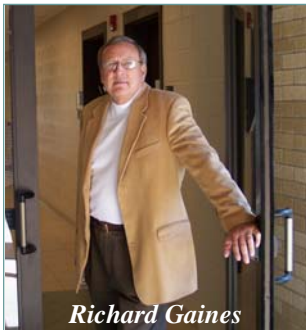
Black River Technical College is an institution of higher learning committed to a partnership with the individual and the global community to provide lifelong learning experiences, seeking always to empower those it serves to achieve their academic, vocational, and personal development goals.

On-line Application address:

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>



From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

We often mention the importance of two-year colleges in educationally preparing health care professionals, particular nurses, to meet society's need for these highly skilled individuals. With the legislature currently in session and with the focus once again on education, it is appropriate that we take note of the role of two-year colleges such as ours in preparing people for the teaching profession. It is truly amazing to consider to what degree public school teachers at all levels actually began their studies in the two-year

college setting.

An informal and by no means comprehensive survey we have done shows that for many of the recently hired teachers in our service area, BRTC provided the full freshman and sophomore years of study. Still others earned only a part of their college basics before moving on to the university setting.

We have filled an important function in this regard not only for those, like PHS Coach Marty Moore, who came here as "non-traditional" students, defined by the state as students over age 25, but also for those younger students choosing college immediately upon graduating from high school.

Would these individuals, who are now fulfilling a crucial need, have earned their teaching degrees without the two-year college? Doubtless some, maybe even most of them might have. But certainly there are

Caldwell Attends Leadership Institute

Angie Caldwell, Division Chair for Technical Education at Black River Technical College, was among the national leaders of the American Dietetic Association who were selected to attend ADA's second Leadership Institute, held January 13-16 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Caldwell is a registered and licensed dietician. In addition to her administrative duties, she teaches courses in dietetics at BRTC.

She is also President-elect for the Northeast Arkansas Dietetic Association and current Secretary/Treasurer

for the Arkansas Dietetic Association.

"This was by far the best conference I have ever attended," Caldwell stated. "There was almost no 'downtime.' They referred to it as 'Leadership Boot Camp.' I believe I grew from this experience both personally and professionally."

Participation in the institute was limited to fewer than 300 of ADA's nearly 70,000 members throughout the country. Caldwell's expenses were covered by the ADA.

those who also might not have seen their way through to the end of a four-year degree. That is just one of the many reasons we are here.

**February
Black History Month
at the
Eddie Mae Herron Center
in Pocahontas**