

March 21, 2005

Volume 3, Issue 5



# The River's Edge

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## Record Number of Single Parent Scholarships Awarded

The Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship program has awarded a record number of scholarships for the current semester, according to Vickie French, Administrative Assistant at BRTC. Eleven awards of \$500 each were awarded, bringing to \$51,243 the total dollar amount awarded to single parents living in Randolph County since the local chapter was formed in 1992.

Recipients of the scholarship expressed their appreciation for the award in messages to the Single Parent Scholarship Committee. One recipient, for example, wrote "The scholarship fund has helped me financially be able to go to school

full time and focus on my education and little boy instead of worrying about my financial situation all the time."

Another wrote, "I have decided to use the award to purchase a home computer. You have given me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide this wonderful learning tool

for myself and my two children. Otherwise, I could never have af-

*(Continued on page 2)*

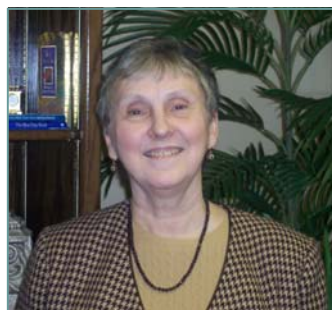


Seated, from left, Summer Ford, Lisa Hayes and Lee Ann Woods. Standing, from left, Andrea Difani, Judith Jenkins, Stacey Peoples, Julie Perkins, Kimberly Dean, Coralynne Kildow and Rhonda McKenzie.

**Important Dates**

- March 21
- Summer Registration
- March 21-25
- Spring Break
- April 8
- Law Enforcement Graduation
- April 21
- Scholarship Recipient-Donor Luncheon
- May 3
- Fun Before Finals
- May 11
- Nursing Banquet
- May 12
- BRTC Graduation

## Foundation Welcomes Newest Member



Dr. Shull

The BRTC Foundation welcomed its newest member, Dr. Marsha Shull of Jonesboro, at its March 11 meeting. Dr. Shull, formerly Chair of General Education and English instructor at BRTC, is a retired educator from the University

of Maryland, with extensive experience in international education.

Dr. Shull brings to fourteen the number of those serving on the Foundation. Others who have been added in the past year include Ralph "Pink" Baltz, Carol Belford-Lewallen and Milton Smith. Also serving on the Foundation are Scott Trammel, Chair, Mike Miller, Vice-Chair, Brenda Walls, Secretary, Jeriel Sumitt, Stephanie Sutton, Ruth Ann Ellis, Donna Meyer, Debbie Golden, John R. Jackson, Jr., and Dr. Rebecca Edwards. Board of Trustees President Mike Dunn serves in an ex-officio capacity.

The Foundation heard an update

on the college's building projects, including the new Business Technology Center scheduled for bid-opening by late spring. Other business included a review of scholarships awarded this semester. These included a number of Foundation-funded scholarships, as well as several privately funded scholarships. Also awarded were a record number of Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships, an effort that also receives Foundation financial support.

Although still months away, the fall BRTC Foundation-FCB Annual Golf Tournament plans were discussed. A tentative date for this major Foundation event is October 1.



Lee Ann Tharpe, Assistant Manager of Wal-Mart in Pocahontas, presents scholarships to BRTC students Damon Jones (left) and Robert Parker.

## Jones, Parker, Win Wal-Mart Scholarships

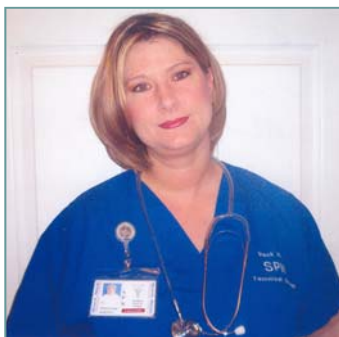
Damon Jones and Robert Parker have been tapped as recipients of Wal-Mart scholarships, according to the Office of Financial Aid at BRTC. Lee Ann Tharp of the Pocahontas Wal-Mart recently presented the award. The amount of each scholarship is \$500.

Jones is the son of Glenda Jones of Pocahontas. Currently working on his Associate of Arts degree at BRTC, he plans to major in the field of nursing. He attended Pocahontas

High School and received a GED in 2001. A charter member of the Kimbrough Choir, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

Robert Parker and his wife Molly have three children. He attended Oak Ridge Central and lives at Dalton. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Parker currently has a 4.0 GPA and plans to pursue a degree in Radiology. He would like to work in the field of Radiation Therapy.

## First Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship Awarded



Melissa Gugle

Melissa Gugle of Pocahontas is the first recipient of the Eddie Mae Herron Scholarship. The award of

\$250 is presented by the Eddie Mae Herron Museum, established at the site of the former African American School and AME Church on Archer Street in Pocahontas.

Gugle, whose parents are Aubrey and Bertha Mobley, is slated to graduate in December from the Practical Nursing Program at BRTC. She plans to seek admission to the Registered Nursing degree program at that time.

She and her spouse, Dave Gugle, have a son. She was named to the President's List for the Fall 2004 semester.

## Single Parent Continued from page 1

forded it."

The need for such funding is referenced in a message from those receiving the award for the first time, who wrote, "Many do not realize the out-of-pocket cost that college programs can sometimes incorporate. However, the out-of-pocket money isn't always there."

One of the recipients will graduate with a four-year degree in May. Several messages expressed a desire to "give back to the MSSPS" in the near future.

The single parent scholarship is open to residents of Randolph County who meet certain income guidelines, who have custody of minor children and are pursuing studies in higher education. The Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship chapter is a county affiliate of

the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship program. It is funded through donations from the community, from voluntary BRTC staff payroll deductions and BRTC Fundraisers, and by the BRTC Foundation. Locally raised funding is matched at 150% up to a certain level by the state organization.

Those receiving the scholarships this semester include repeat recipients Lisa Hayes, Julie Perkins, Judith Jenkins, Ginger Dildine, Stacey Peoples, and new recipients Summer Ford, Lee Ann Woods, Coralynne Kildow, Andrea Difani, Kimberly Ann Dean, and Rhonda McKenzie.

For more information, or to become a contributor to this program, contact Brandi Chester in the Office of Financial Aid or Vickie French in the Office of the President at BRTC.

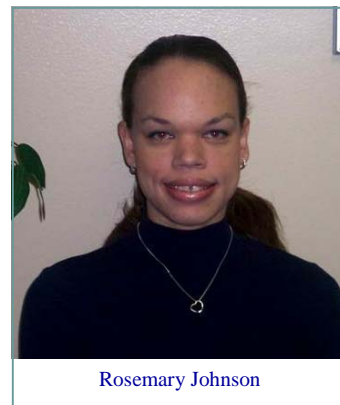
## Jo Larsen Scholarship Recipient Named

Rosemary Johnson has been named the first recipient of the Jo Larsen Memorial Scholarship. This award was established by Scentations in memory of one of the co-founders of the fragrance and home décor industry located in Pocahontas. The scholarship is for \$1,000.

Johnson, who has a four-year-old son, is working on her associate degree in Microcomputer Business Applications. Formerly a "dislocated worker," Johnson is currently working at St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro.

In acknowledging the announcement of Johnson's selection for the scholarship, BRTC Assistant to the Registrar Lise Cater said, "This

young woman, through her tenacity, is going to make it. I've watched her work to make a better life for her and her child. I'm just so proud of how far she's come."



Rosemary Johnson

**Summer Registration Begins  
March 21**

# Institutional Scholarships Announced

Three students have been awarded institutional tuition scholarships, two of them from the BRTC Foundation, and one of them a President's Scholarship for the Spring 2005 semester. Receiving Foundation Scholarships are Lisa Hacker of Boise, Idaho, and James O'Quinn of Pocahontas. A President's Scholarship has been awarded to Mark Baker of Jonesboro.

Hacker is the daughter of Doug and Lorelli

Hacker. A member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, she attended Maynard High School. Hacker is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree

and plans to major in veterinary medicine. She is presently employed at Westridge Animal Clinic.

The son of Peggy and David

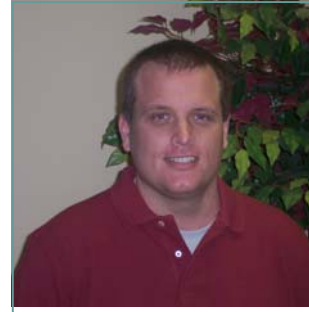
O'Quinn, James O'Quinn plans to become an electrical engineer. He formerly attended Sloan Hendrix High School. He is married to Elizabeth O'Quinn.



Lisa Hacker



James O'Quinn



Mark Baker

Baker is the son of Bob and Vickie Baker and attended Jonesboro High School. He and his wife, Havilyn Baker, have a son. He is studying courses leading toward a degree in the biosciences, and plans to pursue a career in a medical field.

# Military K-9 Team Demonstration



Sgt. James Alonzo with Dak

Dak, a four-year-old German shepherd, was the center of attention during a demonstration held for LETA students, faculty and staff, and other interested persons Thursday, March 10, at the Law Enforcement Training Academy on the campus of BRTC in Pocahontas. Dak is part of a military K9 team from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, which includes his trainer, Staff Sergeant Michael Derr, and his handler, Sergeant James Alonzo.

Dak specializes in explosives detection, but he is also trained in narcotics detection and general pro-

tect and attack procedures, and has even been involved with ensuring the safety of presidential candidates. During this past year, sweeps were made across the country in search of explosives in places where President George W. Bush and candidate John Kerry would be appearing.

Most of the K9 training, which takes approximately three months, is done at Lackland Air Force Base in Florida. Once trained, a dog such as Dak is worth approximately \$70,000 and continues to work as long as he is able to. When they reach the point of retirement, the dogs are first offered to their handler. If the handler does not wish to keep the dog, they become available for general adoption.

With the use of volunteers, Dak demonstrated his ability to take down individuals, including those who weigh in excess of 200 pounds. He was also able to detect the scent of smokeless gunpowder, which was wrapped in a package and placed approximately 40 yards away with a strong wind blowing.

Although the dog is highly trained, "it requires a lot of patience to work with a dog," Derr commented. "But the work is very re-

warding." Derr and Alonzo discussed the process of acquiring and training military and civilian canines and the different aspects of their duties. They then answered questions from the group before allowing Dak to demonstrate his abilities.

Sergeant First Class Christopher Dobbins, Station Commander, and Tyler Cooper, Recruiter, from the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Jonesboro sponsored the demonstration.

# Community Participates in Health Fair



Danny Langford, respiratory student, checks the oxygen level of Jack Snodgrass as his brother, Ray Snodgrass looks on.

along with BRTC students from the Dietetics, Nursing and Respiratory Care departments, provided free screenings and health care information to participants.

The event which was free to the public as a service to the community, offered height and weight measurement, calculation of body mass

index, body composition analysis, vision screenings, blood glucose and cholesterol level checks, blood pressure readings, and lung function measurement.

A Community Health Fair was held in the Randolph County Development Center on Tuesday, March 15. Area health care providers,

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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.*

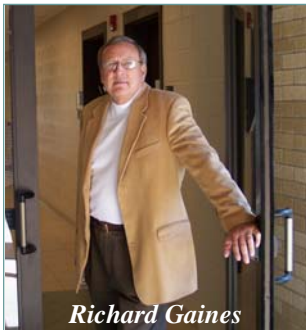
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<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>



## From the President's Desk



*Richard Gaines*

This week's issue contains news of several scholarships from a variety of sources. Some of these are privately funded while others are funded by this institution and the BRTC Foundation. I know without doubt that each and every student who is receiving a scholarship is very appreciative of the assistance. We all know that funding an education is a very good investment with potential for the highest of returns. But it is also true that funding an education can be quite a challenge.

Paying for tuition represents just

part of the commitment. Consider, for example, the estimates used in calculating financial aid eligibility. The 2004-05 estimate of annual costs for a Randolph County student living independently is calculated as follows: \$1320 for tuition, \$900 for books and supplies, \$4725 for room and board, \$800 for transportation, and \$1080 for personal and miscellaneous. That totals \$8825 for a year. For the same student living with parents, that total would be \$6190.

Fortunately, many of BRTC's students are eligible for and receive financial aid to help with these expenses. But the fact is that the importance of scholarships for students can not be overstated, and all those who are a part of providing scholarship monies deserve our commendation and our thanks. The final point which should be made is that higher education is vital and will remain so, meaning that scholarship assistance is becoming all the more crucial.



Mary Ferguson with the American Red Cross prepares to take blood from BRTC student, Jarrod Beary.

## PTK Blood Drive

The BRTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa held a blood drive March 16 in the Randolph County Development Center. The honor society set a quota of 30 pints of blood to be collected and that number was exceeded by nine pints.

Dr. Moss, PTK sponsor, would like to thank all students, staff, and community members who donated, and all volunteers who helped coordinate the event. Plans are already being made for additional blood drives to be held throughout the year.