

May 10, 2005

Volume 3, Issue 9



The River's Edge

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Carol Killion Retires after 31 Years



Carol Killion

She was here before there was a single computer on the campus. In fact, she remembers a time when she was afraid to even touch the key of one of those new machines for fear she would erase everything. But Carol Killion, ever one to love learning new things, bought herself a cheap model at Wal-Mart and pretty much taught herself. She also remembers BRTC's first stab at a computer lab: "It was seven computers in a small closet-like

room. We called it the 'Simulation Room'," she says, laughing. That was in the late 70s. And the "we" would have been now - VP for Finance Loretta Williams and the late Warren Guntharp, the business teaching team Killion had joined a few years earlier at what was then - Black River Vo-Tech.

The business teacher would stay put for many years to come—31 years in all—but the place to which she had come would become a two-year college, changing and growing in ways unimaginable, exciting and, above all

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Bank of Pocahontas Makes Contribution

Bank of Pocahontas officials have announced a significant contribution to support construction and equipping costs of the new Business Technology Center to be built next year on the campus of Black River Technical College in Pocahontas. The contribution qualifies the bank for a naming opportunity in the facility's new Student Center/Internet Café.

The contribution was announced following last week's meeting of the bank's Board of Directors in Mountain Home.

"We are very pleased that Bank of Pocahontas has chosen to show this kind of commitment to our college

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BRTC President Richard Gaines (standing, from left), along with Michael Miller, Vice President of Bank of Pocahontas, Dr. Jan Ziegler, Director of Institutional Advancement at BRTC, Carol Belford-Lewallen, Business Development Officer for the bank, and Bank of Pocahontas President Terry Dickson (seated) look over a plan for the new Business Technology Center.



Important Dates

May 11

- Nursing Banquet
- Faculty/Staff Potluck

May 12

- BRTC Graduation

May 16

- Intersession Begins

May 31

- Summer Session I Begins

July 5

- Summer Session II Begins

Tim Daley Ends 37-Year Career



Tim Daley

When Tim Daley first reported for work on the campus of BRTC, there was no law enforcement staff, no equipment, not even a finished building in place. The Basic Law Enforcement curriculum did not exist, nor did the Criminal Justice program. That was just over six years ago. Now, some twelve classes of Basic Police Officer Training and over 600 students later,

Daley is preparing for another transition: this time he is "going home" where he will be "a full time husband" to his wife of 38 years, and spend his spare time volunteering in areas he believes exemplify importance.

"Home" is Little Rock, the city Daley left when he was tapped to develop and head up BRTC's new Law Enforcement Training Academy and Criminal Justice program. His career in law enforcement was already stellar: more than 30 years of experience ranging from teaching in

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Carol Killion

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“very rewarding.” The opportunity to teach students with individualized instruction, held over from the early days of her work at BRTC, and to help them reach their goals are the basis of those rewards she considers so valuable as she moves into her retirement.

“I want people to know I have learned to love this place,” she says. “Not just my department, but the whole college. We all work together. And [BRTC President] Mr. [Richard] Gaines has been wonderful,” she adds. “I like reaching for the stars—that’s what I have always told my students—‘Reach for the stars’—and Mr. Gaines has that kind of optimism and it rubs off.”

Killion’s positive nature has not gone unnoticed by her peers, particularly the faculty in her department whom she refers to as her “buddies.” Her supervisor, Debbie Prichard, notes the veteran teacher is very caring and has always been so supportive and willing to go the extra mile for students. “We will certainly miss her,” Prichard says. “She’s

a wonderful co-worker and team player besides being a good teacher.”

Also a major contribution Killion has made to the college is her leadership in online instruction. It was she who, a few years ago, developed and taught BRTC’s first online class, Introduction to Computer Information Systems. Of this feat, Killion simply says, “I’m a lifelong learner, like my dad (the late Millard Bailey).”

In addition to simply figuring out things for herself, as was the case with much of her computer expertise, Killion also has learned a great deal from her students. “I’ve watched students do without just so they can come to college. I’ve watched them work all night and go to class all day, and do without for themselves so they could provide for their kids. That can teach you lots,” she explains. “And I’ve learned not to make snap judgments. There was this one student, sort of a smart-alecky type in the back of the class, and I thought, uh-oh, I’d better do something here. But I was able to make friends with her,

and found she was just concerned about the class—insecure—and now we are lifelong friends.”

Killion plans to stay connected with her BRTC friends in retirement, hoping to have lunch occasionally with them. She admits that although she is looking forward to spending more time with her family, she has mixed feelings about leaving, and dreads packing up her office. But in a sense, Killion is not totally leaving her post. She will continue teaching online courses as an adjunct instructor, allowing a limited measure of continued connection with both her peers and with students. In fact, she is already making plans to “re-do” one of her online courses this summer. “Doesn’t sound like I’m retiring, does it?” she says with a chuckle.

Technological advances and college growth notwithstanding, some things don’t change much. Would Carol Killion, looking back over those years, do things differently if she could start all over again?

“Probably not,” she says, and then more emphatically as she smiles, “No, I don’t think I would.”

Fun Before Finals Draws Huge Crowd

The second annual “Fun Before Finals” has once again proven a success, with a large crowd of BRTC students gathering on the lawn to “chill out” before the beginning of Final Exams last week.

Event Chair Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair for Gen Ed, expressed his appreciation to the committee who planned and organized the day’s activities, including music and games. Committee members are Angie Caldwell, Janna Guthrey, Carl Hawkins, David Bowlin, Ann DeClerk, Jason French, Joniece Trammel, Julie Hendrix, Kim White, Kim Bigger, Regina Moore, Sharon Watson, Tina Harris, Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz and Julie Radcliff.

He also acknowledged Bank of Pocahontas for once again providing and serving food, and First Community Bank for providing soft drinks. Other local businesses provided prizes for the drawings held throughout the day. These include Riverside Express, T. Ricks, Wendy’s, Pizza Hut, Bonanza, El Acapulco, Wal-Mart, Watco Services, SunTanz, Waterloo Industries, Personalities Plus, Subway, Tool Central, US Bank, First National Bank, American State Bank, Scentations, County Line Café, Imperial Dinner Theatre, Little Debbie Snacks, and Black River Technical College Bookstore.



Bank

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and our community,” said BRTC President Richard Gaines. “Without this type of support, and that shown by the City of Pocahontas with their recent major contribution to the project, we would simply not be able to build a facility of the caliber that all of us feel we need and want.”

The new Business Technology Center will be linked to Randolph County Development Center, and will complete the college’s master facilities plan developed several years ago. In addition to the Stu-

dent Center/Internet café, the facility will house a high-tech Community Conference Center with funding support and naming option for the City of Pocahontas.

“The Bank of Pocahontas understands the importance of the college to this region, and we are proud to be able to play a major part in BRTC’s continued growth and development, and in its ability to serve the people we serve,” said Bank of Pocahontas President Terry Dickson.

Student Art Showcase Highlights Talent

The first annual BRTC Student Art Showcase held May 1 was a “huge success,” announced its organizers. Featuring students from the Music, Fine Arts, Business, and Dietetics programs, the event was a blend of entertainment and bargain shopping, and brought in hundreds of dollars in proceeds for the respective departments and their students.

Art instructor Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, who originated the concept, said her students, present and former, contributed 150 original works of art created in their classes. Of those, more than one-third, or 53 pieces, were bought by the public. “That is an incredible amount of art to sell at this sort of ‘Starving Artist’ sale,” Baltz said. The money generated was shared by the students, who received the larger part, and the college art program, which will be enhanced by the proceeds from the sale with the purchase of additional supplies. She also indicated that of those students who contributed art for the sale, approximately 60 percent of them actually “made a sale.”

Similarly, response was very enthusiastic also for the many baked goods prepared by the Dietetics students, and for the personalized business cards and gift card enclosures prepared by the Business students. Both departments plan to use the proceeds from their sales for field trips for their students.

Also a popular part of the afternoon was the 2 p.m. performance of the Kimbrough Chorus under the direction of Joniece Trammel. The concert was highlighted with guest performances by Gary Gazaway, internationally known trumpetist, and Lisa Ahia, soloist who accompanied herself on the ukulele. Also accompanying the chorus was percussionist Michael Guthrey.

The concert included a wide range of music, ranging from classical to spiritual to modern and international pieces. The chorus is accompanied by Glenda Blasini.

Chorus members are Lynn Ables, Laura Anderson, Joey Ball, Mary Blankenship, Kim Chastain, Maggie Doles, Joseph Hardin, Alisha Jones, Shannon Jones, Dexter Kimbrough, Alvin Lewis, Adam Miles, Donna Neeley, Renee Rainwater, Bri Baker, Andrea Slavens, David Wessell and Summer Young.

The Kimbrough Chorus was established less than one year ago following a major contribution by retired Pocahontas businessman Dexter Kimbrough. Guests contributed to the group’s “travel fund” following the performance.



**BRTC Graduation will be held
Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m., RCDC**

Tim Daley

U of A’s Criminal Justice Institute to serving in leadership roles in various police departments, including in Conway, where he was Chief of Police, and Little Rock, where he was Captain. The widely recognized and honored law official already had extensive experience also in teaching. But he would find that starting the BRTC program from the ground up would afford him rare flexibility and opportunity to go beyond the normally rigid minimal standards and to craft a responsive and effective program for training police officers from all over the state. That opportunity and flexibility found at BRTC, Daley explains, has been a real high for him in his 37 years in the field.

“Coming here was professional opportunity I could not pass up,” he says, and then adds, “This is

my last major contribution to Law Enforcement.”

The experience has also contributed something of significance to Daley. “I’ve seen the role community colleges play in the lives of students—giving them options that might not otherwise be available, giving them confidence to go on to the next step. And I have this sense of accomplishment from being a coach, mentor, hopefully a source of encouragement,” he continues. “That feedback you get from graduates—it’s priceless. You can’t put a dollar figure on it.”

In addition to being able to spend more time with his wife, Bettye, who is also retired, after 31 years with the U. S. Marine Corps, and his daughter and grandchildren in the Memphis area, Daley has plans

to do some volunteer work. The likely beneficiaries of his volunteerism—BRTC’s Law Enforcement program and St. Vincent’s Infirmary in Little Rock, where his wife is already a volunteer.

“The way I look at it,” Daley says, “I have a vested interest in BRTC. It’s been such an enlightening experience, not just the Law Enforcement department, but all programs for all the students.”

As for St. Vincent’s, where he may help people find where they need to go, or just be a friendly, smiling face at a difficult time, he continues, “It’s a little different from Law Enforcement, but it feels like you are still contributing to the well-being of others. I feel like that’s the purpose of life.”

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Black River Technical College

P.O. Box 468
1410 Hwy 304 East
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Phone: 870-248-4000
Fax: 870-248-4100

Website: www.blackrivertech.org

P.O. Box 1565
2402 North 12th Avenue
Paragould, AR 72450

Phone: 870-239-0969
Fax: 870-239-2050

The River's Edge is produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement.

janz@blackrivertech.org
annd@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org



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

Institutions of higher learning are comprised of many different people and many different departments, each of them important and each of them contributing significantly to the operation of the institution overall. But we must never lose sight of the fact that it is the students who are the reason for the existence of any college, including BRTC.

Just as students are at the center

of everything we do, so, too, are our faculty at the heart of this institution. They are the ones who serve most directly and centrally our students, and serve as the primary link of delivering the learning, the knowledge, the degrees and credit hours our students seek.

For this reason, we take special note on occasions such as this when, as announced in this issue of *The River's Edge*, two of our instructors announce their retirement. This is particularly true when they are people who, like Carol Killion, have given so many years of her life to this institution, or who, like Tim Daley, have been instrumental in starting up what has in a relatively short period of time become a major program that is recognized throughout the region for its excellence.

We, and our students, are all better off for their having been a part of this college.

Art Instructor Completes Ph.D., Receives Honor

Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz was awarded the Ph.D. in Heritage Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in commencement exercises held Friday, May 6, at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro. She is instructor of Fine Arts at BRTC.

In addition, Dr. Davis-Baltz was honored by the department at the ASU Honors Day Banquet on April 12. She was awarded a plaque honoring her "Outstanding Achievement" for completion of her dissertation.

Dr. Davis-Baltz teaches painting, drawing and design classes, along with Fine Arts Visual, and will begin teaching World Civilization this fall at BRTC.



Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz

McCollum Joins BRTC

Dorothy McCollum of Columbia, Missouri, has joined the staff of Black River Technical College as Secretary I in Student Services. She brings with her 25 years of experience as a graphic designer as well as experience working for Wal-Mart. A graduate of Bucklin High School in Missouri, McCollum will be making her home in Pocahontas. She has two children and three grandchildren.



Dorothy McCollum