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The River's Edge

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Important Dates

May 31

- Summer Session I Begins

June 16

- ASSET Test

June 16 – 17

- U of A Public Information on HRD—Paragould

June 30

- ASSET Test

July 5

- Summer Session II Begins

July 7

- Board of Trustees Meeting
- ASSET Test

July 14

- Foundation Board Meeting

1st National Bank Contributes to Business Tech Center

On behalf of 1st National Bank, the institution's president, Milton Smith of Walnut Ridge, has announced a major contribution to Black River Technical College's capital campaign to support construction and equipping of a new Business Technology Center on the Pocahontas campus. The bank, whose main office is in Walnut Ridge, has made a \$100,000 commitment toward the project.

Branches of 1st National Bank are located in Hoxie and Pocahontas.

BRTC President Richard Gaines, in accepting the donation on behalf of the college, said he is extremely pleased with 1st National's support in this and in other ways.

"Increasingly, institutions of higher education must

turn to the local community if we are to stay vibrant and progressive," Gaines said. "As scarce state resources are pulled in so many other directions, we find it necessary to partner with those we serve, and it is certainly gratifying when the community steps up to help us in this way."

1st National Bank's donation entitles the financial institution to a naming opportunity in the new center. Major financial commitments have also been made by the City of Pocahontas and by Bank of Pocahontas.

The new Business Technology Center will feature a high-tech community conference center, a student center/internet café, large and small lecture halls, computer labs, classrooms and office space. Bids will be let later this summer.



Pictured from left: Milton Smith, Richard Gaines, and Chad Chester

Summer I Breaks Records

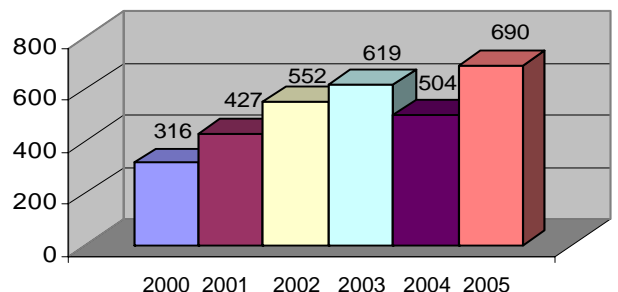
The unofficial enrollment figure for Summer I appears to break all previous records, according to Dr. Mike Sullens, Vice President for Student Services. The preliminary figure of 690 students enrolled in the combined intercession and Summer I semester represents an increase of about 37 percent over that of the previous year, and tops the previous record, 619 students in Summer I of 2003, by nearly 13 percent.

The "snapshot" or official enrollment count will be determined on the eleventh day of enrollment.

"In addition to a record in Summer I," said

Margaret Snapp, Registrar, "we are also elated about the direction of Summer II enrollment at this point. With a few weeks left to register for Summer II, we are already

(Continued on page 4)



Serendipity Club Recaps Year's Events

The Serendipity Club held a banquet May 26 at Walnut Ridge Country Club with a recap of its first year's activities and plans for continued activities in the next cycle.

Patti Blaxton, Director of Continuing Education and Business Outreach, showed slides and pictures of the past events, including visits to the Hemingway-Pfeifer House in Piggott, the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, and a gala Garden Show in Memphis. She also re-capped the classes including photography, landscape gardening, and luncheon sessions on African American writer Zora Neale Hurston, the Japanese American Relocation Centers in Arkansas, and on the Holocaust.



Serendipity members and their guests, who are prospective new members of the group, completed surveys indicating preferences for events and activities in the organization's second year, which is currently being planned.



BRTC Kimbrough Chorus soloist Shannon Jones of Hoxie provided a medley of Dean Martin songs as special entertainment. She was accompanied on the piano by chorus director,

Joniece Trammell.

The Serendipity Club, co-sponsored by Continuing Ed and the BRTC Foundation, is an organization to promote lifelong learning and is especially targeted to the "fifty and over" group, though membership is open to all ages, according to Dr. Jan Ziegler, Director of Institutional Advancement. "We want to encourage those who are interested in meeting new people, learning new things, and experiencing new things to join this group," Ziegler said. "We think it is important for people to be active and engaged, and this is one way of doing that. And besides, it's a lot of fun," she added.



Membership in the organization is \$30 for six months, or \$50 for one year, and entitles members to participation in any or all of the events. Serendipity members do not pay transportation costs. Trips are generally open to members (and a guest) only. Members receive priority enrollment in the classes, as well as other benefits. New members may join the group at any time, according to Blaxton.



For more information or to receive an application, phone the Office of Continuing Education and Business Outreach at 870-248-4180.

Kids' College Set at Pocahontas and Paragould

The annual "Kids' College" will be held June 13-16 on the campus of BRTC/Pocahontas, and June 20-24 on the BRTC campus at Paragould. On tap at both locations is a full slate of fun and educational activities and classes.

Children from Grades 1 through 6 will take part in varied events, including sessions on wildlife, ATV and Internet safety, arts and crafts, communications, the world of nature, creative cooking and others. Each student will attend four classes each day.

Patti Blaxton, Director of Continuing Education and Business Outreach at Pocahontas has announced the following Randolph County individuals and/or organizations will be presenting sessions: Todd Grooms, Pocahontas Police Department D.A.R.E Officer; Phyllis Davis, Children's Director of the Randolph County Library; Jeremy Wesson, Farm Bureau; Kids First; Gina Farrin; Cheryl Long, Game and Fish Commission; Ashlie Dodson, Old Davidsonville State Park; Dalton Sullivan, *Star*

Herald; Mike Andrews, Cooperative Extension Service; and Randy Carter, Animal Control Officer.

Kids' College at Pocahontas, will be held in the Law Enforcement Training facility, Randolph County Development Center, and the Continuing Education building. Groups are structured as follows: Students entering grades 1-3 will meet from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Students entering grades 4-6 will meet from 1p.m. to 5 p.m.

For an application or for more information, come by the office of Continuing Education or phone 870-248-4180. The enrollment fee is \$39 for one child, or \$70 for two children from the same family.

BRTC/Paragould will hold its "Kids' College" June 20-24 at the Greene County Industrial Training Center in Paragould. Hours of this event are daily from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for students entering grades 1- 6.

Theresa Jaques, who is coordinating the event,

has announced the following list of classes and activities for participants: "Dental Dynamics"; "It's a Wild Life"; "Insect Informants"; "Artsy-Crafty"; "Fitness Fanatics"; "Animal Antics"; "Experiment Extras"; and Joey Perry's Martial Arts.

Parents may phone the GCITC at 870-239-0969, EXT 112, or come by the center to pick up an application form. Cost of the program at Paragould is \$35 for one child, or \$30 per child if there is more than one attending from one family.



Shiela Jackson, Continuing Education Secretary

Scholarship Recipients Commit to BRTC



Magan Matthews



Steven Wheeler



Robert Sharp



William Sorg



Toshia McQuay



Jana Griffin



Hugo Geurro

BRTC's office of Financial Aid announces an additional seven students have accepted publicly and privately funded scholarships for the Fall 2005 semester, according to Brandi Chester. This brings to 27 the total number of scholarships awarded to date for fall.

President's Scholarships have been awarded to Magan Matthews and Steven Wheeler. Matthews, a Pocahontas High School graduate, is the daughter of David and Carla Matthews of Pocahontas. She plans to major in Nursing. A Hoxie High School graduate, Wheeler plans to major in Automotive Services. His parents are Steve and Loretta Wheeler of Walnut Ridge.

BRTC Foundation Scholarships have been accepted by Robert Sharp and William Sorg. Sharp attended Jackson County School District. He plans to major in Respiratory Care at BRTC. Sharp's parents are Tony and Sherry Jones of Tuckerman and Robert Sharp of Little Rock. The son of Bill and Sharon Sorg of Pocahontas, William Sorg lists Electricity/Electronics as his major at BRTC. He is a Pocahontas High School graduate.

The Jo Larsen Memorial Scholarship provided by Scantations of Pocahontas has been awarded to Toshia McQuay, a graduate of Pocahontas High School. She plans to pursue a degree as a Registered Nurse.

Accepting the Clarence and Nellie Clark Memorial Scholarship provided by Chastain Construction is Pocahontas High School graduate Jana Griffin. The daughter of DeWayne and Barbara Griffin, she plans to major in Early Childhood Education.

The Project H.O.P.E. (Hispanic Outreach Project for Education) scholarship has been awarded to Hugo Guerra, a native of Mexico who lives in Maynard. Guerra will enter his third semester this fall, working toward his Associate of Arts degree. He plans to transfer then to Arkansas State University and to major in Environmental Biology.

Kimbrough Chorus Performs with Gary Gazaway

Several members of the Kimbrough Chorus entertained alongside Gary Gazaway and his band at the Randolph County Music Theatre May 28. The event was billed as "The Jazz of Your Life." The show, which also featured retiring Pocahontas Junior High Band Director Howard Dunn on the clarinet, provided funding support for the college and the public school music programs.

Directed by Joniece Trammel of BRTC, the Kimbrough Chorus opened the show by performing pieces from its spring repertoire to the accompaniment of Gazaway on trumpet, and his band, the Buck Powell Trio, on keyboard, percussion, and bass. The show included also a number of audience-pleasing jazz pieces performed by soloist, Lisa Ahia.

Chorus member Alvin Johnson, BRTC student, said the opportunity to perform with a live band in a professional entertainment setting was "really fun. It was something!" he added.

Trammel and college officials acknowledged Gazaway's generosity and his support of the college and of music in Randolph County and beyond.

U of A to Offer Four-Year Degree at BRTC

An agreement between the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and BRTC will result in the university offering an accelerated bachelor's degree in Human Resource Development on the campuses of BRTC at Pocahontas and Paragould. The program is contingent upon approval by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

The degree features weekend and web-based classes by distance learning and allows working adults to earn credit for professional certification

and job knowledge. Up to 68 credit hours of General Education courses are transferable.

U of A representative Phil Gerke will hold a public information session at the BRTC/Paragould campus on Thursday, June 16 and 17, with segments of the session broadcast via remote to the Pocahontas campus.

To enroll in the HRD program, students must meet the following prerequisites: forty hours or more of transferable Gen Ed credit from an accredited

college; five or more years of full-time work experience; current full-time employment; and full admission to the U of A before the beginning of the fall semester.

Prospective students may download a request for approval at <http://www.uark.edu/hrd>, or email kdwilso@uark.edu for more information.

Students in the program will take one CIV (compressed interactive video) course and one web-based course each semester.

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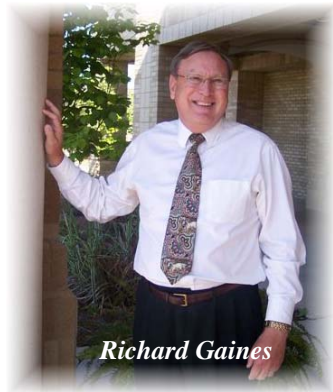
Mission Statement

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

Good things continue to happen at this college. The announcement of another major contribution by 1st National Bank to our capital campaign for construction and equipping of the new Business Technology Center gives continued evidence of the tremendous community support BRTC has long enjoyed. Two other entities, the City of Pocahontas and the Bank of Pocahontas, have previously announced their financial commitments to this project. This new center, for which bids are to be

let later this summer, will, in turn, enable the college to continue and expand its support of the community in an ever-growing cycle of progress.

We are pleased also with the involvement of community individuals like Pocahontas native Gary Gazaway who shares his own time and talent in ways that allow our students to have opportunity to showcase their own talents, and with Dexter Kimbrough, whose donation made possible the development of a music program here at BRTC. The recent donation by Steve Manley of Universal Asset Management of a new car as an incentive to encourage students to complete their degrees is further evidence of the support and good will we continue to experience.

Many other individuals and organizations have given of their time and money in ways that have long-lasting positive impact, perhaps most notably through much needed scholarship funding.

Nursing Instructor Hired

Leah Privett of Pocahontas has been hired as a nursing instructor at Black River Technical College. She has worked for the last five or more years as a labor and delivery nurse at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould. She also worked part-time as a clinical instructor at Arkansas State University.

Privett and her husband Jeremy have a two-year-old son. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from



Arkansas State University and is currently working on her Master of Science in Nursing, also from ASU.

Summer I Continued from Page 1

showing over 400 students on the books, compared to last year's Summer II official number of 362. So we

All these examples of giving are acts that live on, reaching beyond today and helping to make a better future for all of us.

may even have another all-time high in Summer II."

The official enrollment for inter-session and Summer I in the preceding five years: 2000 - 316 students; 2001 - 427 students; 2002 - 552 students; 2003 - 619 students; and 2004 - 504 students.

Summer II semester begins July 5. Registration for that session continues through July 6.