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The River's Edge

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Fire Science Instructor Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Steve Jones, BRTC's Fire Science Instructor/Coordinator, was recently inducted into the Arkansas Firefighters Hall of Fame. The announcement of the induction was made at the annual Arkansas Firefighter's Convention held June 25 at the Wyndam Hotel in North Little Rock. His nomination was made by Walnut Ridge Fire Chief and former student Roger Duckworth. "I felt that he deserved to be recognized for his many accomplishments and years of dedicated service," said Duckworth, regarding Jones. "He has made a tremendous impact on the community and the lives of those in the area who work in fire service."

Jones began his career in fire service in 1973 as a firefighter for the Imboden Volunteer Fire Department, where he has served as assistant chief since 1987. He taught at the Arkansas Fire Academy in Camden for two years before he began working for BRTC in 1989. He was hired by the college to serve as an instructor and coordinator at its newly developed Fire Training Center

located in Walnut Ridge, and he is beginning his 17th year in that same position.

While working to ensure success of the Fire Training Center, Jones helped to coordinate and implement both the Fire Science Certificate program in 1992 and the Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science degree program in 1993. Having served as an emergency medical technician for 25 years, Jones was also very influential in the development of an EMT/Paramedic program at the college which began in 1997.

Responsibilities for Jones at the Fire Training Center include the coordination of fire training for

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Steve Jones

Important Dates

August 22

- Fall Classes Begin

August 26

- Foundation Board Meeting

September 5

- College Closed - Labor Day

September 14

- Agri Instructors Campus Visit

September 25

- Serendipity Trip - Nature Center

October 1

- First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation 12th Annual Golf Tournament

October 6

- Board of Trustees Meeting

BRTC-Paragould Is Host Site for Four-Year HR Degree Through U of A

BRTC-Paragould will be a host site for a four-year degree in Human Resource Development offered by the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. The program consists of a two-year rotation through which students may complete their junior and senior years of the bachelor's degree.

BRTC's agreement with Fayetteville to serve as a host site means this accelerated degree program for working adults is now available at seven two-year colleges around the state.

Program Coordinator Phil Gerke of Fayetteville announced that the number of students who are completing the enrollment process make this one of the largest of the seven sites in number of students enrolled.

HRD students may transfer up to 68 credits into the

program; typically they have completed or are nearing completion of an Associate's degree. During their first semester, they will attend an interactive distance education class at the Green County Industrial Training Center (BRTC-Paragould) on Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for eight weeks. The class will culminate with one weekend conference/class in Fayetteville. In addition, students will be enrolled in one semester-long web-based course. The second semester, the schedule will be almost identical, except that the interactive distance class at Paragould will be held for eight Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

During the second year of the rotation, the schedule will be repeated.

Students may be granted credit for some coursework

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Former Student Featured in Calendar

Laveida Jones, former Fire Science student at BRTC, was recently selected as a model for the 2006 America's Female Firefighter (AFF) calendar. After submitting an application earlier this year to be a model, Jones, along with 11 other female firefighters from across the country, was chosen to be featured in the calendar. Each model was flown to Miami, Florida, for a photo shoot by professional photographers.

The same group was then treated to an all-expense paid trip to Baltimore, Maryland, to attend the annual Fire House Expo where the calendars were unveiled. "We did not know which picture

would be in the calendar until we saw it at the unveiling," said Jones. "I was very surprised when they notified me about being selected."

AFF is a non-profit organization that developed the calendars as a way of raising money for organizations that aid and assist burn victims. At the expo alone, \$10,000 was raised from the sale of the calendars. In addition to being featured in the calendar, models have an opportunity to volunteer at burn centers of their choice throughout the year with all expenses being covered by AFF. Jones traveled to Strafford, Connecticut August 20-21 to volunteer at the Connecticut Burn Care Foundation

Children's Burn Camp.

Jones has worked with the Pocahontas Fire Department full-time for the past six years and is the department's only female firefighter. The mother of two said she felt quite honored to have been chosen as a model for the AFF calendar.



Laveida Jones

Single Parent Scholarships Still Available



Ronald Holt



Kristen Littly

residents of Randolph County. The scholarships are awarded each semester in an amount up to \$500 each.

Three students were recently awarded scholarships through the MSSPS program for the 2005

summer term. Ronald Holt and Kristen Littly will be attending classes full-time at BRTC, while the third recipient will be a full-time student at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

Holt, of Pocahontas, is a Respiratory Care student and plans to complete the program next summer. He

is a Walnut Ridge High School graduate and the father of two children.

A graduate of Biggers-Reyno High School and mother of one, Litty will be pursuing a nursing degree at BRTC with plans of graduating in 2007.

MSSPS funding is administered through the BRTC Foundation and is made possible through donations and fundraising efforts. Local donations up to \$5,000 are matched 150% by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Foundation. Donations may be made by contacting Vickie French at 870-248-4000, ext. 4070.

For more information on the

MSSPS or to pick up an application for the Fall 2005 semester, contact Brandi Chester in the office of Financial Aid at 248-4000, ext. 4021.



Janna Guthrey and Brandi Chester are reviewing guidelines for the Fall semester MSSPS applications.



Staff Prepares for Fall 2005 Semester

Employees of BRTC gathered in the Randolph County Development Center on Monday, August 15 to begin a week of in-service meetings in preparation for the Fall 2005 semester.

Carol Mills, Director of Technology Services at Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville, was on the Pocahontas campus Tuesday to provide training for faculty.

"Games People Play - An Innovative Approach to the Traditional Lecture" was the topic of Mills' presentation to all faculty members during the morning session. In the afternoon, Distance Education instructors received hands-on training in the computer lab with activities led by Mills.



Business Instructors Earn Master's Degrees



Bert Clevenger



Phillip Dixon

Bert Clevenger and Phillip Dixon, business instructors at the Pocahontas campus of Black River Technical College, completed their Master's Degrees from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro this summer.

Clevenger received a Master of Science degree in Vocational Education Administration. He has been teaching Networking, PC Repair and Computer Information System courses at BRTC on a full-time basis for the past five years. He began as an Industry Training Coordinator in 1992 and held that position for seven years.

Dickson received a Master of Science in Information Systems and E-Commerce. He became a business instructor at BRTC four years ago and has been teaching business technology and networking classes, including Windows 2000 Networking, PC

Repair and Troubleshooting, and Introduction to Computer Concepts.

"I am very proud that Mr. Clevenger and Mr. Dickson have completed their respective degrees," stated Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Business and Technical Programs. "Their commitment to BRTC and our students enhances our business department as well as our college. Their experience of returning to the classroom as a student also helps them to appreciate how many of our students must work full-time while pursuing a degree."

Mason Joins Respiratory Care Staff

Janet Mason of Rector has been hired as an instructor of Respiratory Care at BRTC. She earned Associate of Applied Science degrees in both Microcomputer Business Applications and Respiratory Care from BRTC. She then earned an Advanced Respiratory Care Technical Certificate in Paducah, Kentucky, before receiving her Registered Respiratory Therapy (RRT) certification.

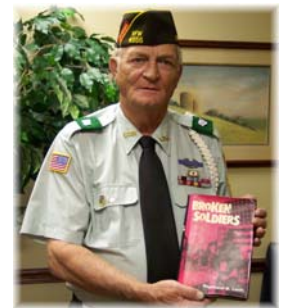
Prior to joining the BRTC staff, Mason worked at the Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center and Pemiscot Memorial Health Systems in Haiti, Missouri. She has three sons, ages 19, 23, and 25.



Janet Mason

Korean Veteran Donates Book

Bill Allison of the Hamil Community in Randolph County has donated a book with special significance to the BRTC Library. The book, *Broken Soldiers*, by Raymond B. Lech, deals with the Korean War and the fate of those taken captive during that war. Allison is a former POW, held by the North Koreans from February 12, 1951, to August 15, 1953. He hopes those reading this book will gain new insight on this relatively unknown chapter of American military history. Allison, who is active with other local veterans, is currently working to develop a Veteran's Memorial Monument to be placed in Black River Overlook Park.



Bill Allison

Hunter Becomes Full-Time English Instructor

After serving in the capacity of adjunct English instructor for the past two years, Laddie Hunter will begin full-time duties this fall teaching English classes at BRTC. He will be teaching Writing Fundamentals as well as English Composition I and II.

In addition to the adjunct classes at BRTC, Hunter taught the past four years at the University of Arkansas Community College (UACCB) in Batesville.

A native of Cave City, Hunter earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Lyon College in Batesville and a Master's degree in English from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He and his wife, Dr. Carrie Hunter, and their two-year old daughter, Katherine, currently reside in Jonesboro.



Laddie Hunter

Hall of Fame Continued from Page 1

approximately 90 area fire departments. He also serves in many capacities outside of his duties at the college, including adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, Coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management in Lawrence County, and currently serves as president of the Three-Rivers Firefighters Association.

At the convention, Jones was presented with a nice plaque recognizing his induction. His name will also be engraved on a large pedestal-based plaque that includes the names of all previous inductees and will be on display in various locations around the state before its stop at next year's convention.

"It was truly an honor to have been selected for the induction," Jones stated appreciatively. "I am thankful for the support of my family, my fire department, Black River Technical College, and the firefighters of Arkansas for making this honor possible."

Numbers Tell The Story	<i>Number of Buildings</i>	<u>1973</u> 2	<u>2005</u> 21
	<i>Number of Programs of Study</i>	6	17
	<i>Number of Full-Time Faculty & Staff</i>	17	116
	<i>Number of Students</i>	38	1600 +

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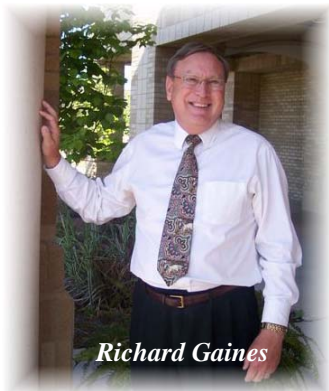
Mission Statement

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

At the start of a new academic year, we often tend to think back and to attempt some means of measuring where we are now by considering how far we have come. I've been thinking lately of the tremendous growth this institution has experienced since our beginning as a Vo-tech school in 1973. At that time we began with two buildings and six programs of study. In the January semester our student enrollment was about 38, we employed 18 faculty

and staff members, and the total value of our physical facility was approximately \$549,000.

Today, more than 33 years later, our capital assets total more than \$27 million and growing. Our 116 full-time faculty and staff along with close to 50 part-time employees serve a credit student enrollment of 1600+ students each semester, in addition to hundreds of others through our Business and Continuing Education and Adult Education programs.

We became a two-year college in 1991, broadening our education emphasis to include college basics. This change came in response to an understanding that the state of Arkansas must raise its education attainment. We are beginning to see results with more and more people of all ages choosing to earn their freshman and sophomore credits here at BRTC and then transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

HR Degree

based on experiential learning and testing. This program is open to working adults, and requires full admission to UA-Fayetteville.

Gerke said he anticipates that most if not all the students enrolled this fall should be able to complete the baccalaureate degree within a two-year period.

"We are pleased to be able to offer our campus as a site for a four-

But, we never lost sight of our mandate to provide high quality technical education and training. Today we are proud to still be providing both Gen Ed and technical education options, helping people move forward on whatever their chosen path. We are proud, but only to a point. We know there is still much work to be done.

Arkansas still ranks well below the national rate of those with baccalaureate degrees, and all four coun-

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year degree," said BRTC President Richard Gaines. "This fulfills part of our mission, which is to provide lifelong learning opportunities.

While we are a two-year college and can not offer courses on a junior and senior level, we have long wanted to serve as a site for four-year degrees. Our institution is pleased to work with UA and with other universities to make education more accessible to the people we serve."

ties in our service area rank well below Arkansas' rate. We are still working to provide employment opportunities, but our area still lags behind.

So although we have made great strides forward in the past three decades, we still have a long way to go. We both need and appreciate the support of the communities we serve in this and future new academic years.