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The River's Edge

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Important Dates

- September 8**
- ASSET Test 8:00 a.m.
- September 14**
- Agri Instructors In-Service
- September 22**
- ASSET Test 8:00 a.m.
- October 1**
- First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation 12th Annual Golf Tournament
- October 6**
- Board of Trustees Meeting
 - ASSET Test 8:00 a.m.
- October 10 - 15**
- Mid-Term Exams
- October 16 - 18**
- AATYC Conference

Pass Rate is 100% for LPN Graduates

BRTC nursing faculty are extremely pleased with the news that all 17 students who completed BRTC's practical nursing program in May successfully passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) within three months of graduation. The students are now licensed to practice nursing in the state of Arkansas, according to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC.

Although nursing classes in the past few years did well overall, four years have passed since the entire class posted a 100% pass rate. "I would like to say thank you to all the faculty and staff of the nursing department for

their hard work and dedication to this program, as well as the administration for all their support," said Housh. "It is definitely a group effort, and everyone should take part in this success."

Housh's supervisors, Angie Caldwell, Division Chair for Technical Education, and Vice President for

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BRTC RESPONDS TO KATRINA
SEE PAGES 2 & 3

First Community/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament is October 1

The 12th Annual First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, at Rolling Hills Country Club. Tournament Coordinator Jim Ulmer said he anticipates this year's event will once again be filled, and he urged those interested in taking part in the two-person scramble benefit tournament to register as soon as possible.

The event is supported with a \$10,000 donation by First Community Bank. This fund, along with other funds raised in conjunction with the tournament, is a major funding source for the BRTC Foundation. Monies from this event are primarily used to help fund scholarships.

"We feel so fortunate that First Community Bank has

chosen to provide this annual support to our college," said BRTC President Richard Gaines. "Their generosity

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Pictured with the banner announcing the 12th Annual First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament are, from left, Robert Sorg, Executive Vice President of FCB; BRTC President Richard Gaines; Warren Williams, Vice President and Loan Officer at FCB; Betty Taylor, Vice President and Loan Officer at FCB; Jim Ulmer, BRTC Counselor and Tournament Coordinator; and Mike Miller, Chair of the BRTC Foundation Board.

Instructor Finds Life Different, But Still Good in Arkansas

Don't be fooled by the chalk dust and grade book. This English instructor knows gerund phrases and vocabulary words foreign to most people in these parts: things like "pushing fish" and "pitching crab" and words like "deck pup" and "deck boss." Tim Coone of Jonesboro has experienced all these and more, including the icy waters and frigid blasts off the coast of Alaska, sometimes from the hold of the vessel where he was doing "terrible work" vacuuming cod and salmon, sometimes from the vantage point of a crane operator on a seafood processing vessel. Whichever his position, he was certainly worlds away from his current post in the classroom at BRTC, where he adjuncts, teaching Freshman English I part-time to students on the Pocahontas campus.

As different as the locales are, Coone finds each has its own rewards.

Mississippi-born, Coone lived almost all his life in the Blue Mountain area of Baker, Oregon, but he always knew he would someday like to check out life in the south. Before that would happen, however, Coone would spend over six years of his life on the sea, working briefly as "processor" on the *Coastal Star* or *Discovery Star* or *Northern Alaska*, and then as a deck hand and eventually a deck boss, doing jobs he describes as both "exhilarating and dangerous." And when the cold fronts would move in...

"Let's just say it was cold enough to turn sea water into ice," Coone says.

The *Discovery Star*, the vessel on which Coone served for six years as a deck boss, would typically leave Seattle at the end of March, headed toward San Juan Island and British Columbia, he explains. This would be herring season, and the vessel would go as far north as Norton Sound, just east of Nome. Traveling through ice, the *Discovery Star* sometimes had to rely on a spotter plane to locate paths. In June, he adds, the Yukon River would just be breaking up and the ice flowing to the sea in this "land of the midnight sun," creating the added hazards of "dead heads" or bobbing trees which could damage the boat as it made its way north, processing the salmon the "tender" boats had purchased. The trip back "down" included work around Kodiak Island and culminated around July 4 with the "big run" of salmon at Bristol Bay.

When he was about 30, Coone decided to enroll in college, attending Eastern Oregon University and then eventually transferring to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. He said he loved ASU from the start, completing his bachelor's and then a master's degree in English. Coone's mother had always suspected if her son ever returned to her native southland, he might find he wanted to stay. She was right.

Trout fishing in the Spring River is not quite the same as the big salmon run, but it can be pretty exciting and lots of fun, Coone points out. The oppressive summer heat and humidity that keep people holed up all summer here is a reverse parallel to the bitterly cold Oregon winters that have

much the same impact. The way Coone sees it, the time for outdoor fun is simply switched, with Arkansas' mild winters providing relief from the summer hibernation, a phenomenon which takes place in Oregon in winter. "I especially love the foliage, the many layers of green and the changes in the leaves here," he says. What he does *not* like are the critters—the bugs and snakes and spiders—though he admits to growing accustomed to those, saying, "You get used to things after a while."

"As for the people, well, they are different, but fundamentally, they are the same," he observes. He notes that cultural differences between his former and current home state are real—eating fried catfish versus smoked or grilled halibut and salmon, for example. But whether in Oregon or in Arkansas, he adds, people share many commonalities: they work in agriculture or they work in business or education; they are liberals or they are conservatives. They have hopes and they have fears—but definitely not the same fears. "People around here would be freaked out with the sightings of cougar or bears," he concludes, "things I wouldn't have a problem with at all. But on the other hand, just the thought of jumping into one of those murky red-dish-colored mud holes full of water and who knows what else...that's not for me."



Tim Coone

Academic Distinction Scholarships Awarded

Two additional students have accepted Academic Distinction Scholarships to BRTC in the Fall 2005 semester. They are Krickett King, a 2005 graduate of Biggers-Reyno High School, and Sara Crocker, a 2005 Pocahontas High School graduate.



Krickett King

Sara Crocker

King is the daughter of Melvin and Angie Warren of Biggers and David and Cheryl King of Reyno. She plans to complete basic courses at BRTC before transferring to Arkansas State University where she will major in art.

Crocker, daughter of Pocahontas Mayor Gary and Karen Crocker, plans to take college basics at BRTC before transferring to a university where she will major in criminology.

The Academic Distinction Scholarship, which covers the cost of tuition, is awarded to students based on their cumulative grade point average or their class rank. The scholarship may transfer with the student to a university provided certain grade criteria are met.

College Student Refugees Can Attend BRTC

BRTC has joined the state's other two-year colleges and universities in announcing that Arkansas college students who had been enrolled in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana can attend college this semester in their home communities tuition-free. Those students displaced by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath will be able to enroll in the next few days without having to present the usual documentation, including shot records or transcripts.

In addition, displaced students whose residency is in one of the three affected states will be allowed to waive out-of-state tuition and pay the applicable in-state rate when they enroll in Arkansas' institutions.

Funds Available for Undergraduate Research

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education is proud to sponsor the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF), which is designed to allow undergraduate students to conduct in-depth research projects in their specific fields of study with the assistance of faculty mentors. The fellowship can provide up to \$2,650 for undergraduate research projects in any discipline.

All types of undergraduate research are eligible

for support, and all academic disciplines are encouraged to apply. In addition to the usual science, engineering and mathematics projects, this program will support, for example, a philosophy major who is preparing a paper in the area of bioethics, or an art major who wants to sculpt a major project. Funds are provided for students to travel to conferences to present their accomplishments.

To be eligible to apply for these funds, students

must have a minimum GPA of 3.00, 30 or more hours of credit toward his/her degree at the time of funding, and the support of a faculty mentor. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

SURF applications must be received by November 1 at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Financial Aid Division, 114 East Capitol, Little Rock AR 72201. A promotional brochure and further information can be found online at www.arkansashighered.com/SURF/SURF.

Nursing

Continued from Page 1

Academics Jack McCord, also expressed their congratulations to Housh, the nursing staff, and students for a job well done.

Instructors involved in teaching the May LPN graduates include Housh, Verna Smith, Tara Miller, Judy Forrester, Paula Lewis, Susan Ramsey, and Sandra Green, along with the assistance of several adjunct clinical instructors.

The LPN program is a three-semester course and students are selected for



Ramonda Housh, MNS, APN Director of Nursing
 Judy Forrester, RN Instructor
 Tara Miller, RN, BSN Instructor
 Sue Ramsey, RN, BSN Instructor
 Verna Smith, RN Instructor



Carolyn Ballard
 Greg Burns



Melissa Carpenter
 Crystal Orrick, President
 Mable Hooton, Vice President
 Emily Carter



Rebecca Collins, Treasurer
 Judy Jenkins, Secretary
 Keim Craig



Felicia Johnson
 Heather Johnson
 Charlotte Lay
 Ruth Russell



Eileen K. Snyder
 Trina Swift
 Sandra Wetherton

admission based on a point system consisting of ACT/ASSET scores, overall GPA, pre-requisite scores, and the student's Nursing Entrance Test score.

Since passing the NCLEX, many of the students have found employment in area hospitals, nursing homes, and doctor's offices, and several are applying for the RN program offered at BRTC. "We are very proud of our graduates and look forward to their possible return to BRTC for the LPN to RN transition program," Housh added.

Local Communicator Wins National Award



Dr. Jan Ziegler of Pocahontas has been named a national winner in the annual National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) communications contest.

Ziegler, Vice President of Development at Black River Technical College, received first place for "Teaching the Holocaust: Why Should We? How Should We?" in the speeches category. The entry previously received a first-place award at the state level.

Contest awards will be presented Saturday, September 10, during the NFPW Annual Communications Conference in Seattle, Washington. Ziegler's winning entry was among those selected from 957 submitted in 73 major categories. All entries were

judged by professionals from across the country.

NFPW is an organization of professional journalists and communicators. For 67 years, it has promoted the highest ethical standards in communications; provided professional development, youth programs and networking; and advocated for protection of First Amendment rights. Ziegler is a member of Arkansas Press Women, an affiliate of NFPW.

A complete list of national contest winners can be found on the NFPW web site, www.nfpw.org.

College Assists with Hurricane Victims

In an effort to provide relief for victims of hurricane Katrina, BRTC's Nursing Department with the support of Phi Theta Kappa will be accepting donations of non-perishable items through Friday, September 9. The items will be distributed to refugees who are seeking shelter in northeast Arkansas and nearby areas.

The greatest need is for personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine products, towels, and washcloths. Diapers, baby wipes, baby food and juice, as well as canned goods are also needed. Items may be dropped off in the hallway of the science and health building.

Monetary donations will also be accepted and checks should be made payable to the "American Red Cross." For more information, contact Tara Miller or Dana Clay at 248-4000.

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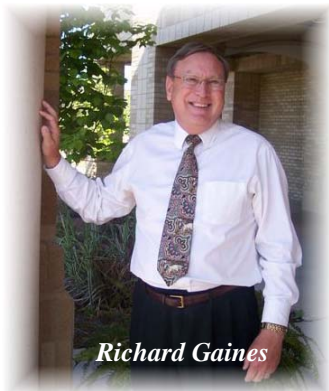
Mission Statement

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

The upcoming golf tournament sponsored by First Community Bank and the BRTC Foundation reminds me once again how much BRTC owes to the community and the many individuals who give of their time and resources in support of this institution. FCB's support in this endeavor has proven crucial in helping us to reach new goals every year. The funding proceeds from this event, in turn, allow us to provide growing numbers of student scholarships annually.

The role of the BRTC Foundation also can not be overstated. As the fundraising arm of the college, this organization is the vehicle through which individuals and organizations can provide tax-exempt funding support to BRTC. Made up of individuals with a genuine commitment to serving with their own time and resources, the Foundation has become a continuing tradition of such service. Colleges throughout the nation are increasingly dependent upon private fund-raising bodies for operational support as public funding as a percentage of overall funding needs continues its decline.

The BRTC Foundation has been well-served by a number of caring individuals, including its past president, Scott Trammel, and its new president, Mike Miller. I look forward to the coming months and years and to working with Mike as he provides leadership and inspiration to this very important group.

Golf Tournament

Continued from Page 1

gives us the extra motivation to work even harder to make this tournament a major fund-raiser for the Foundation. And when this happens, everyone, especially our students, benefits."

The tournament's goal this year is to net \$30,000. Foundation members are currently contacting area businesses, organizations, and individuals for various sponsorship levels:

\$500 for three-star sponsorship with team entry fee and golf cart included; \$250 for two-star sponsorship; and \$125 for one-star sponsorship. All levels of sponsorship include recognition.

BRTC Foundation donations qualify for tax exempt status. For more information, contact Vickie French, Administrative Assistant, at 870-248-4070.

Save Money by Carpooling

With rising gas prices, BRTC has decided to begin a carpooling initiative that will assist students and faculty who wish to share rides to and from the campus. Members of Phi Theta Kappa will help to connect interested individuals based on their geographical location.

A bulletin board in the Administration Building lists individuals who wish to carpool along with their hometown and contact information. PTK members will also be on hand in the lobby of the Administration Building to answer questions and assist students in posting their information.

For further information contact Dina Hufstедler, Dept. of Development, 870-248-4000, ext. 4187, or Dr. Linda Moss, PTK Advisor, 870-248-4136.