



# The River's Edge

### Inside this issue:

- Local History Class Features Guest Speakers* 2
- AATYC (Cont'd from page 1)* 2
- Golf Tournament (Cont'd from page 1)* 2
- Preamble Reading Highlights Constitution Day* 3
- Serendipity Theme is "Power of Place"* 3
- Higher Ed Bond Act Explained* 3
- From the President's Desk* 4
- Bosch Company Donates to BRTC* 4

### Important Dates

- November 2**  
*Board of Trustees Meeting*
- November 6**  
*PN Meet and Greet*
- November 7**  
*ASSET Test 8:00 a.m. BRTC Library*
- November 17**  
*LETA Graduation*



Jim Ulmer

## FCB/BRTC Foundation 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

A total of 74 teams participated in the Thirteenth Annual First Community Bank/BRTC Foundation Golf Tournament held October 14 at Rolling Hills Country Club in Pocahontas. It was another successful year according to tournament coordinator Jim Ulmer, Director of Admissions at Black River Technical College.

"Thanks to the generous donations and support from individuals, businesses, vendors and the community, the tournament continues to be very successful," said Ulmer. He expressed his appreciation for the many individuals who worked to run the tournament.

BRTC President Richard Gaines also expressed appreciation for the continued support of First Community Bank who sponsors the tournament each year with an initial donation of \$10,000. Additional sponsorships are purchased in varying amounts by individuals and businesses. Proceeds from the event will

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Four honored at AATYC



Donna Statler

Rita Cullum

Rachel Koons

Regina Moore

Four individuals associated with BRTC were honored at the recent Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges' fall conference in Hot Springs. They are Donna Statler, Outstanding Faculty; Rita Cullum, Outstanding Staff; Rachel Koons, Outstanding Alumni; and Regina Moore, Academic All-Star. A large group of BRTC faculty and staff members attended the conference.

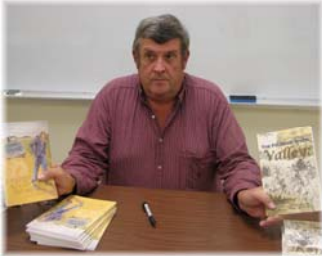
As the college's Academic All-Star, Moore received  
*(Continued on page 2)*

**ACT 1**  
**For College Students**  
**November 7**

# Local History Class Features Guest Speakers

A new class at BRTC, Local Community Heritage, has featured several guest speakers, including most recently Randolph County historian and author Harmon Seawel, and Nita Barlow, ER nurse. The class was developed and is taught by Gary Buxton, instructor in English and Literature.

Seawel is a retired school administrator and retired legislator. He has published two books, one on the humor of Old Time Randolph County and one on the history of the Fourche River area.



Harmon Seawel

After 30 years of service to the Maynard Public School, Seawel retired to become a full time legislator. He served in the Arkansas House of Representatives for six years, four of them being House Majority Leader.

The class enjoyed the many old time sayings such as, "I surely to God do dread it" which was used by Seawel in response to a plea by then Governor Bill Clinton to help the 1984 Democratic ticket of Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro.

Barlow's topic focused on Cajun Culture, including several different aspects of Cajun cultures such as religion, music, law, weather and the customs of Mardi Gras.

Ms. Barlow also brought samples of Jambalaya from the store that she and her husband own and

operate, Cajun Connection. Their store is located on the corner of Pyburn and Van Bibber streets in Pochontas.

The Local Community Heritage class is a humanities elective. This class focuses on local and regional cultural customs, heritage, and tradition.

"This class has something significant to offer the community," Buxton said. "Other subjects include food ways, rites of passage, superstitions, and life during the great depression," Buxton continued.



Nita Barlow

## AATYC

a four-year tuition scholarship to the Arkansas university of her choice.

Statler has taught math at BRTC since 1987. She earned her BSE and MSE degrees in math from Arkansas State University. Cullum has worked in the custodial department at BRTC since 2001. Statler and Cullum were recognized at a banquet ceremony in Hot Springs' Convention Center. The two were selected by a vote of their peers at the end of the last academic year.

Koons and Moore were recognized with a

plaque and "star," respectively, at the AATYC Awards Brunch the following morning. Koons, who graduated from BRTC with an AA degree before completing a four-year degree at Williams Baptist College, is employed at Families Incorporated as a counselor/case manager, working with children ages 4 to 18, as well as adults.

Moore, who returned to college after almost 20 years in the workplace, is working on her AA degree, and then plans to pursue a bachelor's degree and later a master's degree. She is a member of

## Continued from Page 1

PTK honor society.

Keynote speakers included Tony Zeiss, President of Central Piedmont Community College, North Carolina, Linda Beene, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and the Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates, Mike Beebe and Asa Hutchinson.

Among those presenting "breakout" sessions at the conference were Patti Blaxton of Continuing Education and Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development.

## Golf Tournament

be used by the BRTC Foundation to support scholarship programs and other needs of the college.

Winners of the Championship Flight were Doc Teaster and Steve Southard, 1<sup>st</sup> place; Lenny Teaster and Jonathan Madison, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; Cade Liebhaber and Luke Holt, 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

First place in each of the other flights were: A Flight – Stan Molecki and Dennis Thielemier; B Flight – Johnny Boatner and Bonnie Boatner; C Flight – Jodie Sifford and

Darby Bennett; D Flight – Bill Stacy and Harold Perrin.

Closest to the pin winners were Lloyd King, Len Teaster, Stan Hovis, and Tom Wallburgh, each of whom received a prize of \$100.

In completing his 13<sup>th</sup> and final year as tournament coordinator, Ulmer indicated how the event for him has been "a labor of love." "Not only do I love the game of golf," he explained, "but I also love the atmosphere of this one-day event. It's just a fun tournament."

## Continued from Page 1



# Preamble Reading Highlights Constitution Day

To recognize Constitution Day, Dr. Jason Morrison and Dr. Charlotte Power, history instructors at BRTC, recently led an audience of faculty, staff, students, and guests in a reading of the Preamble of the Constitution. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to gather in the lobby of the Administration building to participate in the reading. Power and Morrison both addressed the group on the significance of Constitution

Day, which is September 17.

As part of the Constitution Day and Citizenship Day law, schools and federal agencies are required to hold education programs on the Constitution in attempt to “spread a deeper appreciation and understanding of our nations founding document,” according to the National Constitution Center located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



*Dr. Charlotte Power and Dr. Jason Morrison*

# Serendipity Theme is ‘Power of Place’

The opening luncheon meeting for Serendipity will be held Friday, October 27, in the Continuing Ed Building at BRTC. Serendipity is an organization developed by BRTC’s Department of Continuing Education and Office of Development to meet the social and lifelong learning needs of those who are retired or nearing retirement.

According to Patti Blaxton, Di-

rector of Continuing Education, and Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development, programs this year will focus on “The Power of Place: Where I Belong.” Short stories, music and film will augment the discussion, but reading the stories is not required, Ziegler stressed. “Because we are dealing with life’s common experiences, everyone can take part in the discussions, whether they have read

the stories or not.” In addition, the group may organize short excursions as appropriate to the members’ interests.

“We are in our third year of Serendipity,” Ziegler said, “and the organization has evolved somewhat since it began, based on the wishes of the members. But what has remained constant,” she added, “is the fact that we have fun while engaging

provocative topics, that we meet new people, and that we are all challenged to look at our preconceived ideas in new ways.”

Membership in Serendipity is \$50 per year, and includes monthly luncheons through May, as well as other social events. For more information, contact Blaxton at 870-248-4181.

# Higher Ed Bond Act Explained



*Dr. Roger Johnson*

colleges. Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair for General Education at BRTC, was one of several staff members explaining the proposal to the staff and to members of the public in recent days.

Johnson said to staff members gathered for an information session last week that BRTC stands to gain \$2.2 million for capital and technology needs,

An initiative on the ballot in the November 7 General Election will mean, if approved by voters, substantial financial benefits for Arkansas’ two-year and four-year

with most of the new money earmarked for new facilities at the BRTC Paragould campus.

Known as the “Higher Education Bond Act,” the proposal will re-structure \$100 million of the state’s existing bond debt, and provide \$150 million in new revenue. This new revenue goes to the state’s four-year colleges (\$100 million) and to the 22 two-year colleges (\$50 million).

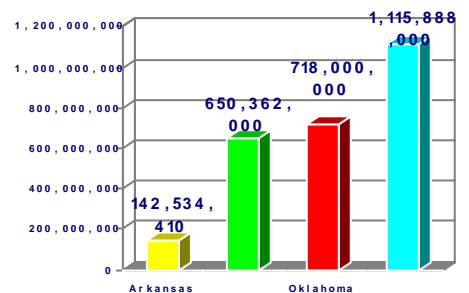
Johnson noted that this is not a new tax, but is instead similar to a home equity loan, meaning that the amount of payments will remain the same, but the repayment will extend over a longer period of time.

His presentation also revealed that while the number of students attending the state’s institutions of higher learning has outpaced the rate in neighboring states in the past ten years, the amount of state funding for new construction and renovation of academic facilities in that same time period has lagged far behind Arkansas in comparison with state funding in those other states.

Enrollment at the BRTC/Paragould campus increased to 380 (headcount) in the Fall 2006 semester. “We are almost at capacity in the credit classes,” pointed out BRTC President Richard Gaines. “Very little additional growth can take place there without additional funding for facilities.”

Early voting is currently underway.

State Funding for New Construction & Renovation of Academic Facilities: 1994/95-2004/05



# Black River Technical College

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

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

Phone: 870-248-4000      Phone: 870-239-0969  
Fax: 870-248-4100      Fax: 870-239-2050  
Website: [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.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.*

*The River's Edge is produced by the  
Office of Development.*

*[janz@blackrivertech.org](mailto:janz@blackrivertech.org)  
[annf@blackrivertech.org](mailto:annf@blackrivertech.org)  
[dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org](mailto:dina.hufstедler@blackrivertech.org)*



On-line Application address:

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

## From the President's Desk



**Richard Gaines**

Here at BRTC we are all extremely busy as the Fall semester passes its midpoint. At this season each year, we once again express our heartfelt appreciation to First Community Bank for its generous support of our annual FCB/BRTC Foundation golf tournament. This event, which always fills with participating golf teams, is the college's premier fundraiser for locally funded scholarships. The fact that FCB has made a tradition of supporting this event with a \$10,000 donation is the key

factor in the success of this fun-filled day, held this year on October 14 at Rolling Hills Country Club.

This year is particularly special, however, as it marks the end of another tradition—the role played by BRTC Counselor Jim Ulmer as the tournament's coordinator. We have known for a while that this year would be his last to run the event, as he has announced his (and wife, Erma Ulmer's) retirement in the months ahead.

His work is greatly appreciated by the institution, by the Foundation Board, and by the many students who reap the financial benefit of the annual event. I am proud to say that, year in and year out, this tournament has grown in prestige and in quality, and one of the key people has been Jim Ulmer.

Of course, many other staff members, Foundation Board members, and FCB officials do their part also to cover all the many responsibilities

## Bosch Company Donates to BRTC

Officials from Robert Bosch Tool Corporation at Walnut Ridge presented a check recently to the BRTC Foundation. Accepting the check was (center) President Richard Gaines. Making the \$5,000 donation, which will be used for furnishing the student lounge area of the new Business Technology Center, were, from left, Steve Engelken, Operations Manager, and Nick Lee, Human Resources Manager, of the Walnut Ridge plant. While manufacturing operations have been transferred out of Walnut Ridge, the corporation continues to



have a significant presence in the area through its service operations division. President Gaines expressed his appreciation to the corporation for its long-standing support of education and of BRTC.

that come from a tournament such as this one. Already we are grooming Dr. Roger Johnson as the new tournament coordinator, and others will be stepping up to fill in the gap. But we owe a great deal of appreciation to FCB, to the Foundation and to the staff members who work to make this a success, but especially to Jim

for his dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to our annual golfing fundraiser.

We owe appreciation also to the community in general for its generous support in sponsorships and donations for this event.