



The River's Edge

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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 14**
Public Meeting - Historic Structures
- November 17**
Foundation Board Meeting
LETA Graduation
- November 20**
Serendipity

Gaines Scholarship Luncheon Recognizes Students and Donors



President Richard Gaines, center, is pictured with First Community Bank officials, from left, David Doherty, Robert Sorg, Dewayne Powell, and Brad Snyder.

Students who have been awarded Gaines Scholarships, along with representatives from the donor organization, were recognized at a luncheon Friday at RCDC on the Pocahontas campus. The scholarship program was established last year by First Community Bank in honor of Richard and Patti Gaines. Gaines has served as president of BRTC for more than thirty years.

In recognizing the Gaines Scholars, President Gaines expressed his appreciation to FCB for the bank's generous support of the college and for the personal honor the gift represents.

Gaines scholarship recipients are selected for the \$1,000 award from a competitive application process.

FCB representatives at the luncheon included David Doherty, Brad Snider, Dwayne Powell and Robert Sorg, along with Mrs. Shirley Sorg. Gaines Scholars present were Kayleigh Wilson, Stacey Brown, Hope Cox, Kathy Murdock, Kathleen Whitlock, Arlene Hays and Jimmy Downs.

The audience responded warmly to the comments of several of the students, Brown, Cox, Murdock, Whitlock and Downs, who spoke briefly about their college experience and about the impact of the scholarships.

Also recognized were Financial Aid Director Carolyn Collins, and Financial Aid Officers Mary Anderson and

Brandi Chester, for their assistance in administering the program.

Other guests included Pocahontas Mayor Gary Crocker and Chamber of Commerce Director Wayne Gearhart, along with members and spouses of both the BRTC Board of Trustees and the BRTC Foundation Board.

Applications for the Gaines Scholarship for the spring semester are currently being accepted. For more information, contact Brandi Chester (870-248-4000), or check online at www.blackrivertech.org.



Pictured with Patti Gaines (far right) are, from left, scholarship recipients Kathy Murdock, Stacey Brown and Kathleen Whitlock.

PTK Inducts 49 New Members

BRTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society welcomed 49 new members during the Fall 2006 Induction ceremony October 24 in the Randolph County Development Center. PTK has been recognizing academic achievement in two-year colleges since 1918. To receive this honorable membership, one

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PTK Inducts 49 New Members

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PTK inductees take part in candle-lighting ceremony at recent PTK Induction.

must complete twelve hours of applicable course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or more.

The Fall 2006 inductees are

Rhonda Hill of Bono; Andrea Edwards and Brenda Graddy of Corn- ing; Trina Burns and Rachel Freeze of Hoxie; Lisa Dickson of Imboden; Tim Rigsbee of Jonesboro; Sherry Hawkins of Lafe; Carl Finley of Marmaduke; Kathy Murdock and Andrew Pearson of Maynard; Brit- tany Bonner, Marla Davis, Suzanne Johnson, Courtney Kueter, Jimmy McPhink, Pamala McPhink, Jessica Moss, Dealie Ursery and Shannon Williams of Paragould; Joey Durdin, Christine Caples, Vicky Carter, Crystal Due, Jana Griffin, Heather Hanson, Kathy Hanson, Kim Lamb, Thomas Nelson, Rhonda Rice, Launa

Smith, Terri Smith, Eileen Snyder, Nancy Stayton, and Tracy Ward of Pocahontas; Chris Griffin of Ravenden; Candace Robinson of Rector; Melissa Freeman and Erica Steele of Reyno; Dilliu Henderson of Strawberry; Jonathon Bennett, Cryst- al Clark, Sharon Dulaney, Susan Harper, Ben Johnson, Jessica Marik, and Amber Young of Walnut Ridge; Steve Matlock, Patricia Seagraves and April Stickel of Warm Springs.

PTK officers are Lana Richey, President; Stephanie Richey, Vice President of Leadership and Service; Shala Amiker, Vice President of Service; Joy Clairmont, Secretary

and Public Relations Officer; and Laura Alderson, Treasurer. Advisors are Dr. Linda Moss, Ruth Schaa, Gary Buxton, Phillip Dickson, and Joan Linnstaedter.

Special guests participating in the induction were Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair for Academics; Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for De- velopment; Debbie Prichard, Busi- ness Department Head; and Elise Cater, Registrar.

Alderson expressed appreciation on behalf of PTK for the special guests and those who helped make the induction ceremony a success.

Historic Houses Meeting Set

The public is invited to a public meeting on the Center for REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cul- tural Heritage) project on Tuesday, November 14, at 7 p.m. in Randolph County Development Center. The meeting will focus on the ongoing research and other work on the his- toric Rice-Upshaw and Looney- French houses in Randolph County.

The evening will include images and updates on new findings, as well as discussion on the plans for even- tual restoration of these valuable old houses. The meeting will allow for public input as to the long-range development and use of the prop- erties, which have been deeded to BRTC. Outcomes from the meeting will be included in development of a

Historic Structures Report and Mas- ter Plan .

Among those present for this public meeting will be Tommy Jami- son of Little Rock, Project Architect, and Joan Gould of Preservation Matters of Fayetteville, historical consultant for the project.

Funded by a grant from Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Coun- cil, Project REACH is the first step of an effort to save the Rice-Upshaw structure, the oldest documented log structure in the state of Arkansas, as well as the Looney-French structure, also valuable historically and cultur- ally as the oldest known tavern or inn still in existence in Arkansas.

The structures date, respectively, to 1828 and 1833.

Serendipity Opens with Focus on 'Place'

New and returning Serendipity members heard an overview of the monthly luncheon topics at their opening meeting on October 27. A program of the Department of Con- tinuing Education and Office of Development at BRTC, the organiza- tion combines luncheon and other social gatherings with occasional day trips to provide lifelong learning opportunities to its members.

The sessions are organized and led by BRTC staff members Patti Blax- ton and Dr. Jan Ziegler. Typical luncheon meetings include discus- sion of readings of short stories or excerpts from novels, along with

music and occasional video clips centered on the day's topic. The readings are provided at the previous meeting for upcoming discussion, but because the discussions center on universal topics, reading the material is not required, Ziegler said.

"We are focusing this year on the theme, 'The Power of Place: How We Belong,'" Ziegler explained. "The theme is really broad, when you think about the fact that the people are connected to the idea of 'place' on many, many levels—not just the geographic place where we are, but also the idea of 'place' in the social, or ethnic, or psychological sense."

Businesses Donate to First Aid Center

The Nursing Department of Black River Technical College recently received donations from area businesses to re-stock the first aid center located in the health building. According to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing, the department received donations of supplies from City Phar- macy, Futrell's Pharmacy and Wal-Mart, all of Pocahontas.

"The first-aid center is a tremendous asset to the college and its stu- dents," said Housh. "We appreciate the generosity of these businesses that help keep the center stocked with health care supplies."



The first session included reading excerpts from the novels, *One Mis- sissippi* and *Icy Sparks*, as well as from the short story, "Country Lov- ers" by Nadine Gordimer.

Serendipity normally meets on Fridays, but the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, in the Continuing Education Building. For more information on the orga- nization, contact Blaxton at 870-248- 4181.

Emergency Training Proves Effective



First responders are on the scene at the Lawrence Co. bus mishap.

A recent Hillcrest School District bus accident turned out not to have been as bad as it appeared at

first glance, but the emergency response was quick and efficient, ready for any eventuality, said BRTC Fire Science and Emergency Services Head Steve Jones.

The mishap occurred when a school bus carrying sixteen students overturned in Lawrence County. Eight students and the driver were injured in the accident.

Among those responding, according to Jones, were five fire departments, two ambulances, Arkansas State Police, Lawrence County law officials,

school personnel and hospital personnel. He estimated that possibly 90% of the responding individuals had undergone emergency services training through BRTC's program.

"We definitely had the assets in place where they were needed," Jones said. "We had just gone through a county-wide disaster drill on September 25 with 181 persons participating. We were ready."

BRTC offers an AAS degree in Fire Science and EMT/Paramedic. In addition to those seeking degrees, Jones explained, many people in key first responder positions enroll in specialty classes such as the auto extrication class just offered at Lynn.

Harris Completes Degree



Tina Harris

Tina Harris, BRTC Dietetics Instructor/Cafeteria Manager, has completed requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Harris joined the staff of BRTC in 2000.

She was among the individuals who found themselves unemployed with the closure of Brown Shoe. She enrolled at BRTC with assistance provided by the re-training funding available to the former shoe factory workers. Harris completed BRTC's AAS degree in Dietetics.

"We are very proud of Tina," said Angie Caldwell, Division Chair for Technical Education and formerly Harris' instructor. "She is definitely a 'home-grown' professional, and does a wonderful job both as instructor and as manager of the cafeteria. I know she plans to continue learning and growing in the field of Dietetics, and I encourage her in those endeavors."

Harris said she will take a bit of "breathing time," but does plan eventually to pursue her master's degree.

Ambassadors Honored at Luncheon



BRTC's Ambassadors were recognized at a recent luncheon with members of the President's Cabinet, Ambassador Coordinator Kim Bigger, and BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn in attendance. Pictured here are, from left, Kim Bigger, Coordinator of Retention and Placement, and BRTC Ambassadors Kathy Murdock, Ben Johnson, Jana Griffin and Amanda Mathews. The Ambassadors are selected by a competitive process. They represent the college in various on-campus and off-campus activities, and assist in a variety of ways.

BRTC Welcomes Two to Staff



Audra Howerton

Audra Howerton of Paragould has joined the Black



Krystal Hendon

River Technical College staff as Business/Industry and

Computer Instructor for the Paragould campus, and Krystal Hendon of Strawberry has filled the position of Library Tech I in BRTC's library on the Pocahontas campus.

Howerton is a graduate of Greene County Tech High School and received a Bachelor of

Science in Education from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She has been running her own website development company since 1998 after teaching English, Speech and Journalism for eight years at Paragould High

School. She and her husband Lane have one son who is a student at ASU.

Hendon is a 2004 graduate of Sloan-Hendrix High School and part-time student at BRTC pursuing an Associate of Arts degree.

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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.

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On-line Application address:

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

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

BRTC, like all the colleges in Arkansas, will be watching closely the outcome of the final item on the ballot in the November 7 election. This issue is the Higher Education Bond Issue, often referred to as the "Act 1 for College Students" initiative.

The issue, if passed, will mean a significant amount of funding to the state's four-year and two-year institutions.

Basically, this act will mean an

influx of \$150 million in new revenue for the universities and colleges, along with \$100 million to pay off an earlier bond issue. This is not a new tax, but it is a refinancing of an existing indebtedness, extending the repayment time.

The four-year institutions will share \$100 million of the new revenue, which they will use for capital improvements and for linkage to the e-corridor, enabling them to better participate in research activity. Two-year colleges, who will share \$50 million, will also target the money to capital and technology improvements.

BRTC will receive approximately \$2.2 million. The Board of Trustees has identified spending priority needs for this institution as new facility construction at the BRTC/Paragould campus and renovation and technology upgrades at the Pocahontas campus.

Scholarship Deadline Nears

The deadline for applying for a Gaines Scholarship for the Spring 2007 semester is November 15, announced the Office of Financial Aid at Black River Technical College. The scholarships provide \$1,000 awards.

Applicants must enroll or be enrolled full-time (twelve hours or more) in a degree or certificate program at BRTC in the semester for which the scholarship is awarded. Applicants must have a GED or high school diploma.

To apply, applicants may download an application from the website (www.blackrivertech.org) or call (870-248-4000) or come by the Pocahontas or Paragould campus of BRTC.

Our local media have expressed their support of this issue, a fact which we at BRTC greatly appreciate. Any voter who would like addi-

In addition to an application, applicants must submit a high school transcript, GED scores, or their most recent college transcript, along with a short typed essay (100-200 words) in which they provide information about their career goals and need for the scholarship. Completed applications and other required materials must be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid at BRTC.

The Gaines Scholarship program was established by a gift last year from First Community Bank as a way to honor long-time BRTC President Richard Gaines and his wife, Patti Gaines. A total of 18 Gaines scholarships have already been awarded. Gaines has served as head of the institution for more than thirty years.

tional information may contact my office, and we will be happy to provide additional information.