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# The River's Edge

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**Important Dates**

- February 27 - March 4**
- Mid-Term Exams
- March 20 - 25**
- Spring Break
- April 14**
- Good Friday - Campus Closed
- April 19**
- Last Day to Drop Classes
  - Intent to Graduate Forms Due
- May 3 - 9**
- Final Exams
- May 11**
- Graduation

## Gaines Scholarship Winners Named

The first ten students to be awarded the Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarships have been announced, according to the BRTC Department of Financial Aid. The scholarship program honoring the college president and his wife was established last August with a gift of \$25,000 from First Community Bank. Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for the Spring 2006 semester. Additional scholarships will be awarded in the Fall 2006 semester.



Kathleen Whitlock

Arlene Cline

Raymona Coe

Jimmy Downs

Edwin Tusing

Robert Sorg

Patti Gaines

Richard Gaines

Taylor Easley

Anna Jones

Joyce Rider

Lana Richey

Rebekah Overman

the staff of BRTC, then Black River Vo-Tech, in 1973, and became Director in 1978. He assumed the position of president when the institution became a college in 1991.

In announcing the gift, Dewayne Powell, CEO of First Community Bank, and FCB Vice President Robert Sorg acknowledged the major positive role the college plays in the communities it serves.

Students were se-

lected from a large pool of highly competitive applicants. Scholarship recipients are Arlene Cline, Jimmy J. Downs, Anna Jones, Kathleen Whitlock, Edward Tusing

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The gift from FCB is designed to pay tribute to Gaines and his wife for their many years of dedicated service to the college and the community. Gaines joined

## Manley Named to Foundation Board



Steve Manley

Steve Manley of Memphis, Tennessee, has been selected as the newest member of the BRTC Foundation Board at the organization's January 13 meeting. His term will run through 2010.

Manley is founder and CEO of Universal Asset Management, a Memphis-based

firm which disassembles airliners and then sells the components to airlines and repair facilities. The international company has plants in several locations, including Memphis, Atlanta, and Melbourne, Australia, as well as at Walnut Ridge. UAM also has a warehouse for parts in Pocahontas.

The entrepreneur last year established "The River's End" incentive award, a brand new car, to encourage

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## Financial Aid Department Visits Area Schools

The Financial Aid Department of Black River Technical College has been busy making visits to area high schools to discuss financial aid options available to students preparing to continue their education at the college level. "We go over the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and explain the methodology behind it – what everything means," said Brandi Chester, Financial Aid Officer. "The FAFSA determines eligibility for all types of federal aid including the Pell grant, Stafford Loans, and work-study."

Requirements for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship are also discussed during the meetings as

well as BRTC scholarships that are available. "I encourage the students to do lots of scholarship searching on the internet," Chester added. "I emphasize to them how important it is to apply for any and every scholarship they can get their hands on. We give handouts listing a lot of useful websites for scholarships and other financial aid information."

Since November, department representatives have visited Pocahontas, Hoxie, Walnut Ridge, Black Rock, and Delaplaine schools. Employees representing BRTC at the financial aid meetings include Chester, Mary Anderson, and Carolyn Collins of the Financial Aid Depart-



*Brandi Chester and Mary Anderson at Black Rock High School.*

ment, and Joniece Trammel, BRTC Recruiter. Any school interested in scheduling a visit by BRTC

representatives to discuss financial aid can call 870-248-4000.

## 'Families in Collision' Theme at Serendipity

Discussion and readings at the January Serendipity meeting centered on the theme, "Families in Collision" and featured a Hemingway short story and an excerpt from the best selling novel set in Afghanistan, *The Kite Runner*. The meeting included a growing number of Serendipity members who attend monthly luncheon meetings and discussions.

The organization is sponsored by the BRTC Department of Continuing Education and Business Outreach and the BRTC Foundation. It is designed to bring together community members for thought-

provoking discussions and fun at monthly meetings, with this year's theme of "Themes in Dreams: Stories from a Small World."

Serendipity Coordinator Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for Development, said the readings are clustered around different topics each month, and feature short readings. "One reading is always from the American experience and one reading from another culture," she explained. "By doing this," she said, "we are reminded that people the world over have much more in common than we sometimes think. And really, people do not have

to read the selections—we can all talk from our life experiences."

The organization is an outreach project of the BRTC Development Office and serves as a way to connect the community to the college. "This activity directly supports the mission of the college to provide lifelong learning," she said. "It is designed especially for those who are retired or nearing retirement, or even those who wish they were," she added. "We know that keeping our minds active and stimulated leads to healthier lives, and Serendipity is one way we can do that."

## Gaines Scholarships

and Rebekah Overman, all of Pocahontas; Lana Richey of Powhatan; Raymona Coe of Knobel; Taylor Easley of Walnut Ridge; and Joyce Rider of Hoxie.

A Pocahontas High School graduate, Cline is an LPN major.

Downs is majoring in Industrial Maintenance, and plans to pursue studies also in counseling or associate laymanship. He is a graduate of Pocahontas, and serves as the current president of Phi Theta Kappa, the college's honor society.

Also a PHS graduate, Jones plans to complete college basics and then to major in archaeology at a four-year institution.

Currently an LPN, Whitlock is employed at Randolph County Medical Center. A 1990 PHS graduate, she is pursuing an RN degree. She received the Pediatric Clinical Award for the 2004 PN nursing class at BRTC.

A native of Dell and graduate of Dell High School, Tusing is enrolled in the Aircraft Maintenance program at BRTC.

Overman, who is active in Phi Theta Kappa, was homeschooled. She is completing college basics at BRTC and plans to major in Early Childhood Education at Williams Baptist College.

A Hillcrest High School graduate, Richey is pursuing college basics before transferring to a four-year university where she will major in ath-

letic training and physical therapy.

Coe is a graduate of Corning High School and is pursuing studies at BRTC in Practical Nursing. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Easley is majoring in Aviation Maintenance at BRTC, and plans to transfer to Henderson State University where he will seek a four-year degree in Aviation Maintenance Management. He is a native of Hernando, Mississippi.

A native of Granite City, Illinois, Rider is pursuing a degree in Practical Nursing at BRTC.

Applications for the next cycle of the Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarship are currently being accepted. Deadline for the Fall awards is April 15.

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# Instructors Attend Simulator Training

# Manley

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Ramonda Housh and Verna Smith with SimMan Trainer Tabitha Jones-Thomas of New Orleans, LA

Verna Smith and Ramonda Housh, nursing instructors at BRTC, attended a SimMan mannequin training in Gatesville, Texas this past month. “We went to a two-day intensive workshop to learn how to install, put to-

gether and run the SimMan mannequin recently purchased for the nursing department,” said Housh.

SimMan, produced by the Laerdal Medical Company, is an interactive patient simulator used for healthcare training. The realistic, anatomically accurate mannequin is programmed to speak and communicate specific health problems and simulate realistic vital signs to allow for a variety of realistic patient care scenarios. “We will be setting him (SimMan) up and training the other instructors in the coming weeks,” noted Housh. “We have ordered additional equipment and supplies needed to run the mannequin and have rearranged the lab into modules to simulate various hospital situations.”

Once operational, the virtual mannequin will be utilized by the departments of Nursing, Respiratory Care, Phlebotomy, and EMT/Paramedics.

BRTC students to complete their degrees. A second new car will be presented to an eligible student at the May graduation.

“We are so pleased to welcome Steve to the Board,” said Foundation President Mike Miller. “He has certainly shown his support of this institution in many ways, and we are pleased he is willing to share his time and talents with us as we work for the good of this institution.”

The high tech mannequin was purchased with funds from a Perkins Grant.

# Single Parent Scholarships Impact Growing Numbers

Since its inception in 1992, the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship program has provided scholarship assistance totaling over \$57,000, representing more than 140 awards to single parent residents of Randolph County.

According to records compiled by Vickie French, Administrative Assistant to the President at BRTC, the scholarships have been awarded to 71 different individuals pursuing degrees in higher education. The

scholarships amounts have grown to the current award level of \$500 for full-time students for the fall or spring semester, and \$250 for part-time students or for summer enrollment.

MSSPS Chair Janna Guthrey expressed her appreciation to the contributions of the BRTC faculty, staff, Board members and other guests during the college’s annual fundraising event, a silent auction at the Christmas potluck. A certain

amount of funds raised locally are matched up to 150 percent by the statewide Single Parent Scholarship Fund. The BRTC Foundation also provides a funding stream for the program.

“This program makes a huge difference in the lives of single moms and dads who want to build a better life for themselves and for their children. I am very pleased with the support the employees and the Foundation are giving this pro-

gram,” Guthrey said.

Individuals in the community may make donations to this program through the BRTC Foundation by contacting Vickie French at BRTC at 248-4070.

Applications for the spring semester are open through February 1 and can be downloaded from BRTC’s website at [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org) or picked up in the office of Financial Aid.

# Charlotte Power, Others Honor MLK

Among the guest speakers and presenters at the January 16 Eddie Mae Herron Center celebration of Martin Luther King Day was Dr. Charlotte Power of BRTC. She joined a full house of guests and other presenters, including State Representative David Cook, Harmon Seawel, WBC choral students and students at Alma Spikes Elementary School and Pocahontas Middle School.

Dr. Power reminded the audience that Dr. King’s dream was in some respects still not realized. He advocated, she pointed out, that all people earn a living wage, something that is not universally the case in America today.

Power acknowledged the importance of efforts of the local community in preserving the Eddie

Mae Herron Center, formerly the AME church and a one-room segregated school for the African American students until the Civil Rights movement. She concluded by saying that all should work together to eliminate prejudice and injustice based on ethnicity, class and other characteristics.

Pat Johnson, Eddie Mae Herron Center Board President, coordinated and facilitated the event, which began with a march to the center. A large number of students participated through song, readings, and display and discussion of their art work commemorating the life of the slain civil rights leader. WBC students performed spiritual selections.



Charlotte Power with portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King at Eddie Mae Herron Center.

# 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  
Fax: 870-248-4100

Phone: 870-239-0969  
Fax: 870-239-2050

Website: [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org)

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

[janz@blackrivertech.org](mailto:janz@blackrivertech.org)  
[annd@blackrivertech.org](mailto:annd@blackrivertech.org)  
[dina.hufstedler@blackrivertech.org](mailto:dina.hufstedler@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.*

### On-line Application address:

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

## From the President's Desk



The new year here at BRTC brings with it a record number of scholarships. The major factor in this situation is a generous gift of First Community Bank. Their gift of \$25,000 in honor of my wife Patti and me has allowed us to give ten new scholarships, with an anticipated additional ten scholarships to be awarded in the Fall 2006 semester. In addition to being grateful to FCB for the honor their decision brings to my family, I also greatly appreciate their tremendous support of this college and this community, shown not only through the scholarship gift,

but also through their generous underwriting support of our annual golf tournament.

This issue features also a new scholarship by the Lawrence County Young Democrats, and we recently announced a new memorial scholarship in honor of Jay Williams, formerly a member of the Advisory Board for our Respiratory Care program. We soon will be announcing the awarding of a number of scholarships through the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship program. These are just a few examples of a growing interest and willingness of this community to support those who are trying to help themselves have a better future.

On behalf of the many students who find this assistance makes their dreams possible, all of us at BRTC express our gratitude, and assure you that if creating a scholarship is of interest to you, we will help you link up your gift to deserving students.

## LawCo Young Democrats Present Scholarship



*From left, Craig Stone, Lynetta Jones, Jonathan Sanders*

The Young Democrats of Lawrence County have awarded their first scholarship, a \$500 award to BRTC student Lynetta Kay Hancock Jones of Walnut Ridge. Jones is majoring in Business.

Making the presentation were Jonathan Sanders, organization president, and Craig Stone. The funds were raised in part through a concert and in part through assistance from the Lawrence County Democratic Central Committee.

"We hope to make this a continued event," Stone said. He is a past president and founder of the organization, and also serves on the Lawrence County Democratic Central Committee.