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# The River's Edge

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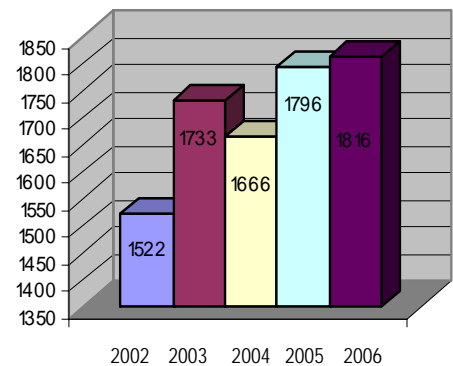
## Spring Enrollment Breaks Records

The Spring 2006 enrollment at BRTC is the largest ever posted during a spring semester, and the second highest enrollment ever, according to VP for Student Services Dr. Michael Sullens. This spring's numbers are especially good because they also show a significant increase in FTEs, the number that impacts state funding to colleges and universities.

Actual "headcount" enrollment at BRTC's Pocahontas and Paragould campuses totals 1816, an increase of 20 students over Spring 2005. But more significantly, enrollment records show an FTE, or full-time equivalency, of 677, an increase of 9 percent over last spring's FTE enrollment of 619.

"This means that not only do we show an increase in actual numbers over both last fall and last spring," said Dr. Sullens, "but also that those students are enrolled in more classes."

**Five-Yr. Spring Enrollment History**



The college's highest enrollment to date occurred in Fall of 2003, when the headcount stood at 1837. This  
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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

## Bank of Pocahontas Makes Donation To Construct Technology Center



*From left, BOP Vice President Mike Miller, BRTC President Richard Gaines, BOP President Terry Dickson and BOP Business Development Officer Carol Belford-Lewallen*

campus of Black River Technical College. BRTC President Richard Gaines, who accepted the \$20,000 check on behalf of the college, expressed his gratitude to BOP President Terry Dickson, along with bank officers Michael Miller, Vice President, and Carol Belford-Lewallen, Business Development Officer.

In making the presentation, Dickson said "Bank of Pocahontas is proud to make this initial contribution of \$20,000 to Black River Technical College to be used for the Business Technology Center. Our bank is honored to partner with BRTC to help make this building a reality."

The new facility, which will house the college's computer technology program, will include a community conference room, four classrooms, four computer labs, two lecture halls and a student center area.

Dickson said the bank is "particularly excited to be  
*(Continued on page 3)*

The Bank of Pocahontas has made its initial contribution toward the construction of the new Business Technology Center currently under construction on the



Erich Doles

Dennis Moore



Stacey Brown

Tammy Lundry

## Four Students Awarded Spring Scholarships

The Department of Financial Aid has announced the names of students awarded tuition scholarships for the Spring 2006 semester. Erich Doles, Dennis Moore, Stacey Brown and Tammy Lundry.

Doles, a native of DeWitt, has been awarded a BRTC Foundation Scholarship. He is majoring in Aviation Maintenance Technology, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The son of Dennis and Sherry Moore of Pocahtontas, Moore has been awarded a Presi-

dent's Scholarship. He is majoring in Fire Science.

A 1983 graduate of Oak Grove High School, Brown is a Dietetics major. She is currently serving as an officer of the BRTC Dietetics Club, and has been awarded a President's Scholarship.

Also a President's Scholarship recipient, Lundry is majoring in Dietetics and plans to become a Registered Dietician after transfer to a four-year college. She is a graduate of Pocahtontas High School.

## 3M Rep Visits Auto Collision Repair Program

Damon Tate, a representative with 3M Corporation of Memphis, was on the BRTC campus recently to speak to students in the Auto Collision program. "The representative showed students new products being used in the auto collision repair industry that make repairs easier and faster," said Butch Dail, Auto Collision instructor.

Having 132 plants in sixty different countries, 3M Corporation is a diversified technology company with a presence in seven different markets, including transportation, which is based in Memphis. They provide high-quality products and services to automotive manufacturers, automotive body shops, the aerospace and marine industries, and other segments of the transportation market worldwide

for the manufacture, repair and maintenance of autos, aircraft, boats and other vehicles.

The major products manufactured by the 3M Transportation Company include abrasives, tapes, films, adhesives and specialty materials. "Tate showed the students masking papers and tapes, buffing pads, compounds and other products that make for a better gloss and make the job quicker and easier," Dail added. "The 3M Company will be donating some of the items to the Auto Collision department for students to use before graduating in May."



Pictured from left, 3M Representative, Damon Tate left and Butch Dail speaking to BRTC's Auto Collision class.



Roland Freeman, Photojournalist Black History Presenter

## 'Mule Train' Presentation to Highlight Black History Month

and Reminiscences," will be held in the Randolph County Development Center and is part of the 4th Annual Black History Celebration being conducted by the Eddie Mae Herron Center.

Freeman began his career as a freelance photographer in the 1960s, photographing the Civil Rights Movement. He has since received numerous awards and was the first photographer to be awarded a Young Humanist Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Humanities in

1970. Along with serving as a faculty member at several universities, Freeman as been a research associate for the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage since 1972.

In his "Mule Train" presentation, Freeman captures the powerful evocative experience of recent American social history when a group of ordinary people tried to awake the conscience of America to see, acknowledge and address the conditions of their lives. Towards

the end of 1967 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., announced the "Poor People's Campaign," a broad approach for addressing the extensive poverty within America's own borders. He foresaw a movement that would encompass actions involving all of America's poor, and would center on continuing demonstrations and education events in Washington, DC during the summer of 1968.

To participate in the demonstrations, caravans of poor people would

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The public is invited to a presentation by Photojournalist Roland Freeman, founder and president of The Group for Cultural Documentation, on Friday, February 24, 7:00 p.m., on the campus of BRTC. Freeman's presentation, "The Mule Train: Documentary Photographs

## New Ambassadors Honored At Luncheon

BRTC's new Student Ambassadors for the Spring 2006 semester were announced at a luncheon held in their honor January 20. The ambassadors, who receive a tuition waiver, are selected competitively to represent the college at various events, as well as to assist in various campus-based activities.

The six ambassadors are Jana Griffin and Amanda Mathews of Pocahontas; Tim Blalock and Robin Morgan of Jonesboro, Alvin Lewis, Jr. of Smithville, and Rosemary Johnson of Walnut Ridge.

Kim Bigger, Coordinator of Retention and Placement in the office of Student Services oversees the ambassador program.

At the luncheon, BRTC President Richard Gaines expressed his appreciation to the students for their commitment to the college. In addition to President Gaines and Mrs. Bigger, other college officials on hand for the luncheon were BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn, VP for Student Services Dr. Michael Sullens, and VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler.



*Pictured, from left, President Richard Gaines, Board Chair Mike Dunn, Jana Griffin, Amanda Mathews, Tim Blalock, Robin Morgan, Alvin Lewis, Jr., Rosemary Johnson, and Ambassador Coordinator Kim Bigger.*

## Bank of Pocahontas

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able to sponsor the 'Bank of Pocahontas Student Center with Internet Café.' He said the decision of the bank to participate in the college's capital campaign for this project was based on the belief that "BRTC is a tremendous asset to Randolph County and to Northeast Arkansas. We are honored to partner with them in their continued growth," he added.

The bank's total pledge, to be given over a five-year period, qualifies the institution for a naming opportunity in the Technology Center. Other naming opportunities for various spaces, including lecture halls, classrooms, labs and offices remain available. For more information, contact Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for Development, at 870-248-4000.

## Black History Continued from Page 2

travel to Washington from the four corners of the United States. One caravan, made up of mule-drawn wagons rather than buses, cars and vans, would provide a powerful symbol of the heart of the Campaign. After departing from Marks, Mississippi on May 13, 1968, the Mule Train arrived in Atlanta on June 13 after various delays and complications along the way. It was then shipped by train to Alexandria, Virginia where it was reassembled, crossed the Potomac River, and entered Washington most dramatically.

The 45 days during which the Mule Train was organized and enroute from Marks to Washington are treated in depth and are the main focus of Freeman's presentation. With the use of slides, his presentation recreates a chronology of events from the birth of the Campaign, through the organization of the poor people's caravans from around the country and their travel to Washington, D.C.

The event, sponsored by the Eddie Mae Herron Center with financial assistance from the Black River Technical College Foundation, is provided to the public at no charge.

### Eddie Mae Herron Center and Black River Technical College Announce 4th Annual Black History Celebration February 2006



#### Demonstrations/Presentations

February 6, 8, & 10, Monday, Tuesday, & Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. or by appointment

- Living History Enactment: Rosa Parks (reservation requested)
- Tours of EMH Center/Museum

February 13, 15, & 17, Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Quilting Demonstration
- Tours of EMH Center/Museum

February 18, Saturday

- Hog Killing
- Lunch - 11:30
- ACT III - Performance of slave dance, song - 1:00 p.m.

February 20, 22, & 24, Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Quilting
- Tours of EMH Center/Museum

February 23, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

- Community Potluck
- Panel Discussion

- Documentary: "A Way Out for African Americans"

February 24, Friday, 7:00 p.m., Randolph County Development Center, BRTC

- "The Mule Train: Documentary Photographs and Reminiscences"  
Roland Freeman, Photojournalist, The Group for Cultural Documentation

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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



We have recently begun an initiative here at the college to bring groups of educational leaders to the campus for an early morning "virtual tour" of BRTC and its programs. The first of these "Breakfast with the President" sessions was held recently with administrators from two of the schools in our service area attending. We have a two-fold purpose in these and future meetings.

For one thing, our campus and our college are growing and changing, and many people may not be aware of the breadth of programs of study and other educational opportunities

we provide. Another purpose is so that we can listen to school officials and better understand the needs they and their students have, thus enabling us to work mutually for all levels of education in Northeast Arkansas.

We have seen a tremendous increase in the number of students enrolled in concurrent classes this year, and we expect this trend to continue as more and more people realize the benefits of dual enrollment. Those students who are capable will be able to graduate from high school well on their way to that two-year college degree, and well on their way to eventually completing a four-year degree.

Educators at the first "Breakfast" meeting also expressed strong interest in finding a way high school students can take advantage of our technical programs as well, and we will be further exploring this possibility in the future.

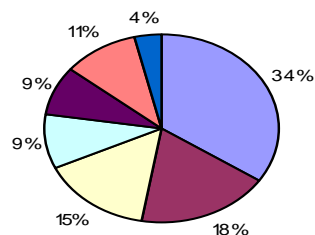
## Enrollment Continued from Page 1

spring's number is an increase of about 100 students over the number enrolled in Fall 2005.

Counties of origin for the spring enrollment show that in rounded numbers, 35 percent live in Randolph County, 18 percent in Lawrence, 15 percent in Greene, 9 percent in Clay, 9 percent in Craighead, 11 percent in other Arkansas counties, and 4 percent live out of state.

BRTC President Richard Gaines said he is pleased to see the numbers at this level. "We know that higher education is the way for a better future, and apparently the public we serve also realizes this, as evidenced by continued growth here at BRTC."

### Counties of Origin -- Spring 2006 Enrollment



■ Randolph   ■ Lawrence   ■ Greene  
■ Clay   ■ Craighead   ■ In-State  
■ Out-of-State