



The River's Edge

Inside this issue:

PTK Honored at Regional Convention 2

Bank Art Exhibit 2

Annual Advisory Dinner Draws Large Group 2

Etiquette Luncheon Held by Business Department 3

BRTC Hosts PN Educators Conference 3

From the President's Desk 4

Political Art Forum Held 4

Important Dates

March 16 - 27

Bank Art Exhibit

March 20 - 25

Spring Break

April 4

Holocaust Survivor Presentation

April 6

BRTC Board of Trustee Meeting

April 7

Law Enforcement Graduation

April 12 - 13

PTK Yard and Bake Sale

April 19

Last Day to Drop Classes

Intent to Graduate Forms Due

April 20

Scholarship Donor Luncheon

April 30

Student Art Showcase

Inter-Agency Council Donates to Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship



Pictured, from left, Donald L. Waterworth, Kim Junkersfeld, Richard Gaines, and Sheila Williams.

The Randolph County Inter-Agency Council presented a check recently to the BRTC Foundation. On hand to make the donation to BRTC President Richard Gaines were Inter-Agency Council Chair, Donald L. Waterworth, Secretary Kim Junkersfeld and Agency

Treasurer Sheila Williams. This is the last official act of the board for the Randolph County Inter-Agency Council.

The \$868.94 donation was designated for the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship Fund. The funds will be matched by up to 150%. The Randolph County Inter-Agency Council was organized 25 years ago by Donald L. Waterworth and Regina Bachmann and was one of the first Inter-Agency Councils organized in the State. The Council has helped organize many local organizations such as AARP, BRAD Food Bank, BRAD Clothing Bank, and helped to reorganize the local chapter of the American Red Cross. The Council also helped organize the Living Farm Museum in the Ozarks and also worked with the office of volunteerism in Little Rock.

Mr. Gaines expressed his appreciation to the Inter-Agency Council in giving to such a worthwhile scholarship fund.

Holocaust Survivor Presentation Is April 4

Charlene Schiff, a survivor of the Holocaust, will speak at a community presentation at BRTC on Tuesday, April 4. She is a resident of Alexandria, Virginia, and is an active volunteer with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. She participates in the museum's guided writing workshop, "The Memory Project," as well as the Speakers' Bureau affiliated with the museum's Office of Survivor Affairs.

The event, which is sponsored by the BRTC Foundation and open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. and will be held in Randolph County Development Center. There is no charge for attendance.

Schiff was born in 1929 into a Jewish family in Horochow, fifty miles from Lvov, in eastern Poland. Her home town was first under occupation by the Soviet Union in 1939, followed by the Nazi invasion in 1941. The family was forced into a ghetto, remaining there until rumors the ghetto would be destroyed prompted Schiff, then 14, to flee with her mother. While the two

were hiding in a river near the town, her mother vanished. Schiff would spend the next three harrowing years in hiding from the Nazis in the forests near Horochow, seeking to find her mother.

"Apparently I wanted to live very, very badly, because I did indescribable things. Somehow I survived. I don't know why. I keep asking myself. But I did," Schiff said.

She never saw her mother again, and never found out what happened to her.

Mrs. Schiff will also present a lecture for students and community guests earlier that day at 12:30. For more information, contact Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice-President for Development, at 870-248-4000, EXT 4185, or at janz@blackrivertech.org.



Mrs. Schiff

PTK Honored at Regional Convention



Seated, from left, Gary Buxton and Dr. Linda Moss. Standing, from left, Shala Amiker, Jimmy Downs, Alvin Lewis, Karen White, and Dawn Chitty.

The BRTC Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society of two-year colleges, received the Five-Star Status Award and second place in Scholarship Hallmark at the Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Convention held recently in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Each of Phi Theta Kappa's twenty-nine regions sponsors an annual awards program, honoring outstanding chapters, members and advisors within the region. Five-Star status is the highest status awarded by Phi Theta Kappa.

The Five Star Program for Chapter Development recognizes chapters for achieving specified levels of participation in society programs. Chapters set annual goals but are rewarded solely on their accomplishments. The Scholar-

ship Hallmark is one of the comprehensive programs implemented along with Leadership, Service, and Fellowship. Activities designed to implement the Scholarship Hallmark focus primarily on promoting scholarship among fellow students, faculty, and pre-college students.

PTK's mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming. To be eligible for PTK, a student must have completed at least twelve hours of coursework leading to an associate degree program and maintain a 3.5 grade point average.

Bank Art Exhibit



The Drawing II and Painting I classes at Black River Technical College will be displaying art pieces through March 27 at six banks in the Pocahontas area. On display will be a variety of media and subject matter such as pen and ink, graphite, pastel, watercolor and oil, depicting

abstracts, still life, landscapes, portraits and wildlife.

Students participating in the exhibit from the Drawing II Class are Rachel Clifton, Fay Collier, Stacy Crommie, Onera DeClerk, Rita Dust, James Gates, Brian Hatfield, Courtney Haynie, Sharon Hornickle, Loretta Hutchings, Shannon Jackson, Logan Jarret, James Jumper, Darlene Moore, Andrew Ratliff, Johanna Smith, Tammy Snyder, Diania Thielemier, Jordan Vandergriff and Cassie Waddle.

Students participating from the Painting I Class are Midge Baltz, Patsy Baltz, Bootsie Barre, Jessica Blevis, Marie Boyd, Fay Collier, Michael Culbreath, Marcella Davis, Becca Davis, Sue DeClerk, Amy Dooley, Rita Dust, Bea Harper, Sarah Holder, Cameron James, Anna Jones, Clara Keech, Shelley King, Rebekah Overman, Leona



Pecoraro, Allyson Rapert, Charlotte Sullivan, Jordan Vandergriff, Cassie Waddle and Kim Ward.

"The pieces to be displayed in the exhibit are a small example of the students' work that will be available for purchase during the Starving Artist Sale," said Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, art instructor. The sale will be part of the BRTC Art Showcase to be held April 30 in the Randolph County Development Center.



Annual Advisory Dinner Draws Large Group



Pictured, from left, Chris Jones of the Imboden and Walnut Ridge Fire Departments; Alan Dunn of the Jonesboro F.D.; Steve Jones, BRTC Fire Science Instructor; Scott Baltz of the Pocahontas F.D.; and Stacy Horton of the Ash Flat F.D.

The annual Advisory dinner last week attracted a large group of businessmen and women to discuss the technical programs at BRTC. The college offers technical certificates and associate degrees in sixteen different areas of study. Each technical discipline is served by an advisory board composed of community individuals who are active in and have understanding of the respective career fields represented by the programs. Those attending the meeting viewed video spots on two of the technical programs, Aviation and Fire Science. The spots were produced and aired on KAIT television recently.

BRTC's student Ambassadors assisted in the event. They served as hosts and also helped in recording minutes from the committee meetings which followed the dinner.

"This is an important means of assessing our technical programs," said Angie Caldwell, Division Chair for Technical Programs. "In the individual committee meetings, we ask the advisory board members to evaluate the program and to make recommendations and suggestions for future programs. We always gain invaluable advice from these community volunteers."

Etiquette Luncheon Held by Business Department

Students enrolled in business classes at BRTC recently participated in a Business Etiquette Luncheon presented by Dr. Martie Shull, former BRTC instructor and current Foundation Board member. According to Debbie Prichard, Business Department Head, over 40% of business is discussed over a meal. "Students may have a job interview over lunch or be in a position to have a business dinner with their boss," she explained, "and this experience will help prepare them for such an occasion. Like it or not, management equates good manners with competence in business and poor manners with incompetence."

The business department has provided students with opportunities to attend etiquette dinners in the past, but this was the first one to be held on the BRTC campus. "After discussion among department staff, we decided to raise funds and hold our own etiquette luncheon to cut costs and give more students an opportunity to participate," Prichard explained. The luncheon was held March 8 in the Randolph County Development Center.

Attending the luncheon along with Prichard, Shull and forty-four students were Kay Ellis, Rhonda Stone, Ruth Schaa, Phillip Dickson, Bert Clevenger, and Linda Stacy, BRTC business instructors; Erma Ulmer, librarian; and Dina Hufstедler, Department of Development.

The luncheon began with a welcome by Prichard and self-introductions by

the business instructors before Prichard introduced Shull who led the group through the event with instruction on proper etiquette for a business luncheon. Shull started with explanations of the table setting, the proper place for each piece and the use of each. Throughout the luncheon, she spoke about differences in customs and practices among various countries. "This will help graduates who have the opportunity to travel in their career," Prichard noted regarding Shull's sharing of cultural differences in dining etiquette. Shull also shared some history about utensils and how they came into existence, and explained the "reasons" for their use.



Dr. Martie Shull discusses etiquette as business student Carol Ring listens.

Food for the luncheon was prepared by Dietetics students under the direction of Tina Harris, Dietetics instructor. The full-course meal consisted of tossed green salad, raspberry sorbet, grilled bayou chicken, rice pilaf, steamed garden vegetables, roll, snicker cheesecake, and beverages. Servers for the event were Alvin Lewis, Janna Griffin, and Rosemary Johnson, BRTC Ambassadors.

"Several students who attended the luncheon have told me how much they learned from Dr. Shull and that they enjoyed it very much," Prichard said. "They are sure it will be very beneficial to them when they pursue their business careers." The department hopes to continue offering the etiquette luncheon to business students on an annual basis.

BRTC Hosts PN Educators Conference



Nurse educators observe SimMan demonstration.

Black River Technical College's Department of Nursing was host to the Annual Arkansas Practical Nursing Educators Conference March 9-10 on the Pocahontas campus. Director of Nursing Ramonda Housh, with the assistance of the BRTC nursing staff, was in charge of the event attended by thirty-six instructors representing eleven schools throughout the state.

According to Housh, the two-day event included a variety of break-out sessions with area

professionals speaking on issues relevant to the nursing field and role of the Nurse Educator. Area health-care professionals making presentations included Dr. Drew Dawson, M.D., Pocahontas Medical Clinic; Angie Smith, RN, Nurse Recruiter, St. Bernard's Medical Center, Jonesboro; Dr. Scott Lewis, M.D., Emergency Department Medical Director, RCMC, Pocahontas; Paula Lewis, RNP, Pocahontas Medical Clinic; Dr. Mike Broyles, Pharm D., RCMC; and Dr. Bryan Harvey, M.D., Harvey Pediatrics, Jonesboro.

BRTC staff presenters were Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Business and Technology; Brandi Chester, Financial Aid Officer; Karen Liebhaber, Distance Education Coordinator; Steve Shults, Law Enforcement Training Instructor; Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice-President for Development; and Sandy Green, RN, MSN, Nursing Instructor.

Those attending were also given an opportunity to see a demonstration of the SimMan manikin by

Laerdal Representative Bryan Lee of Gatesville, Texas. SimMan was purchased earlier this year through a Perkins Grant awarded to BRTC. Other exhibitors in attendance were Coursey Enterprises, Inc.; Immersion Medical; Elsevier; Arkansas Methodist Medical Center; Randolph County Medical Center; St. Bernard's Regional Medical Center; Educational Resources, Inc.; Thomson Delmar; and Health Education Systems, Inc.

Participants were entertained by the BRTC Kimbrough Quartet, led by Joniece Trammel, during their lunch on Thursday, and then dined at the Imperial Theatre Thursday evening while watching a command performance of "Pump Boys and Dinettes."

According to Housh, the PN Educators Conference has been held annually since the 1970s and offered to all Practical Nursing programs in the state. "Its purpose is basically for the networking of PN Educators and to provide an opportunity for continuing education," said Housh. "This is the first year for BRTC to serve as host, and the conference was a huge success in large part due to the involvement and support of the community."

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

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

janz@blackrivertech.org
annd@blackrivertech.org
dina.hufstедler@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



Richard Gaines

Funding issues are always on our mind at BRTC, and this time of year is no exception. Work is already underway for budget development for the next biennium, the period of time from July of 2007 through June of 2009. We are especially interested in the move to equalize funding among the state's two-year colleges. Currently a great deal of difference exists in the amount of funding per FTE, or full-time equivalency among the state's 22 two-year colleges.

Although BRTC has shown tremendous growth since it became a college in 1991, that growth has

slowed in recent years. In some parts of the state, however, particularly the state's booming northwest area and the area around Little Rock, population increases have resulted in extremely high growth rates in the community colleges serving these population centers. The reality is, state funding has not kept pace with the growth of such institutions.

Indications suggest the Department of Higher Education will recommend that most new funding flow to those rapid growth colleges. This is certainly understandable. But for many of the two-year colleges, achieving greater equity in funding will result in few or no new dollars. Ours is among that group of institutions.

The Board of Trustees and administration will be considering these developments in the coming months, as we seek to make decisions that will allow us to serve existing needs and continue to respond to new opportunities as we have in the past.

Political Art Forum Held

Students and guests from the community attended a forum on "Art and Political Controversy" recently on the campus of BRTC. The event featured three faculty members at the college, and allowed for a question and answer session from the audience.



Pictured, from left, Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz and Dr. Jason Morrison.

Participants and their topics included Dr. Jason Morrison, who presented examples of political cartoons which have been the subject of recent controversy from members of the Muslim community; Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz, who presented images and discussion on the history of art as a tool of controversy; and Dr. Jan Ziegler, who presented images and discussion on the role of the political cartoons of Dr. Seuss in criticizing Charles Lindbergh and the "America First Movement," as well as the United States' isolationist ideas in the months before the U. S. declaration of World War II.

Morrison is instructor of History and Political Science, Baltz is instructor of Fine Arts and History, and Ziegler is instructor of German and The Holocaust. Dr. Charlotte Power, instructor of History, was unable to present due to illness.