



The River's Edge

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Nine Accept Academic Distinction Scholarships for Fall Semester



Elizabeth Adams Jeremy Baker Justin Broadway

According to Financial Aid officer Brandi Chester, an additional nine area high school seniors have accepted Academic Distinction Scholarships to attend BRTC in the fall. Six students accepting the scholarship were announced earlier. The scholarship covers full cost of tuition and is renewable at BRTC provided the students meet certain GPA criteria.



Henry Clark Jennie Leigh Gates Angela Mahan

Accepting the awards are Angela Mahan and Lesa Young, Corning High School; Henry Clark, Rector High School; Jeremy Baker, Hoxie High School; Ashley Russell and Tiffany Swetnam, Highland High School; Jenny Gates and Justin Broadway, Pocahontas High School; and Elizabeth Adams, Sloan-Hendrix High School.



Tiffany Swetnam Ashley Russell Lesa Young

Mahan, daughter of Richard and Wanda Mahan, is considering a major in Business Administration. Young will also be studying in an area of business. She is the daughter of Rob and Karen Young. Clark, son of Garry Clark and Jamee Pruet, plans to major in engineering. Baker, who is undecided on a major, is the son of Vincent and Paula Baker.

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Important Dates

- April 30**
Student Art Showcase
- May 3 - 9**
Final Exams
- May 2**
Fun Before Finals
- May 5**
Foundation Board Meeting
- May 11**
Board of Trustees Meeting
- Graduation*
- May 15 - May 25**
Intersession
- May 30 - June 29**
Summer Session I
- July 5 - August 3**
Summer Session II

Public Invited to Student Art Showcase

The public is invited to the second annual Student Art Showcase, Sunday, April 30, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center. The Showcase will feature the talents of students from the Art, Business, Dietetics, and Choral Departments.

From 1:00-2:45, a large number of students' art pieces, baked goods, and business and gift cards, will be available for purchase. From 3:00-4:00, the Kimbrough Chorus will present a concert featuring selections from the WWII era in honor of Pocahontas' Sesquicentennial Celebration.

The artwork available for purchase will include oil
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Business students, clockwise from left, Laura Tribble, Ashley Cox, Barbara Bishop, Shawna Reid and Karen White prepare business cards for showcase.

Hwy 62 Poet Is “High” on Pocahontas

BRTC's Serendipity group hosted an April 21 presentation of poetry reading and storytelling by Michael Czarnecki, a poet and author whose current project is the "Hwy. 62 Poetry Tour." The tour began near Niagra Falls, New York, and will conclude in El Paso, Texas, the northern and southern ends of U. S. Hwy 62.

Czarnecki also spoke at a community event at the Eddie Mae Herron Center later that evening.

The poet lives in New York. He has authored several books of poetry and "haibun," an ancient Japanese genre combining "haiku" and condensed prose. His topic at the Serendipity meeting was "alienation," and his theme at the EMH Center was "Assumptions We Make about Others." At the conclusion of his 21-day tour, Czarnecki will write another book on the experience, incorporating stories of each of the places he visited.

Czarnecki keeps a journal which goes out via e-mail to all participant communities. Following his stay in Pocahontas, he posted to his message the following impressions of Pocahontas:

"An evening and a whole day in Pocahontas, AR, and I feel I could linger here much longer. While here I've asked seven different people I've had incidental contact with to tell me one thing I

should know about Pocahontas. Each and every one said the people—friendly, sincere. From my little time here I would have to agree."

The poet describes the town in some detail in his posting, and mentions both the Serendipity and EMH events. He writes the Serendipity group is "a once-a-month group of seniors who read material ahead of time and then get together to discuss, reflect, share thoughts and ideas. A very lively, interested group.... Good discussion during the presentation and then afterwards."

His posting on the evening's presentation says: "Another great turnout and event. We had pie beforehand and then I presented a talk on assumptions and prejudices... I learned so much there. It felt good to present a program at a place that is being used for education and a remembrance of what things were like in America... There is so



much more I can write about the Herron Center, stories I heard, what I saw, learned. That will have to wait for the book. But, it is a good thing they are doing here in Pocahontas with making this old school from not that long ago segregated America into a place that puts value on history, pride, education and the breaking down of assumptions and prejudices."

Czarnecki plans a return visit next year to present his book to the local community. His entire posting and upcoming messages are accessible at <http://www.poetguy@foothillpublishing.com>.



Students Aid Tornado Victims

Two BRTC students, Robyn Morgan of Jonesboro and Samantha Blackwell of Maynard, provided assistance to victims of the recent tornado in the Shannon community. The students saw a genuine need and wanted to do something to help, so they collected donations from fellow classmates and provided funds for the purchase of tarps for those whose homes had been damaged. They are pictured here with one of the homeowners, Joyce Matthews, who benefited from their generosity.

BRTC Hosts Country Feast Day

Students in BRTC's World Civilization, Drawing and Painting classes collaborated with Dietetics students to host a multicultural event featuring a feast of foods from fifteen different countries. The authentic recipes were researched and prepared by Dietetics students under the direction of Tina Harris, Dietary Manager.

Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz's World Civilization Class presented facts about the fifteen various nations, and her Painting and Drawing Classes provided the artwork from the specific regions denoting master's examples and religious symbols.

Steve Manley, BRTC Foundation Board member and CEO of Universal Asset Management, Inc., funded the feast and was served a special Australian dish. The college's administrators were special guests at the event.

"The instructors feel that the students benefited from the event by learning about the different cultures, their artwork, and their food," said Baltz. "Enjoying the meal enhanced the normal lecture-style agenda of a college class."



World Civilization students Cody Holland and Kai Rorex gave a presentation on Spain.

Art Showcase

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paintings, watercolors, pastels, charcoals, pencil drawings, paper collages, and acrylics produced by past and present students.

Many stylish business and gift card samples created by business students will be on display. Custom orders will be taken and cards will be printed on-site using business card stock.

Dietetics students will be offering cakes, cookies, fried pies, brownies, bread, fruit baskets, jar treats and such for sale. Items will be available by the piece/slice or whole product. Sugar-free items will also be available.

The public is invited to attend this special event to

Scholarships

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The daughter of Jo M. and Clayton Russell, Ashley Russell plans to earn a Fire Science degree. Swetnam will be pursuing a career in the field of health care. She is the daughter of Kenny and Janet Swetnam. Gates, who plans to become a Registered Nurse, is the daughter of Amos and Paula Gates. Broadway and Adams both plan to earn a nursing degree from BRTC and then enter a nurse anesthetist program. Broadway is the son of Jeff Broadway and Jeanette Durham, and Adams is the daughter of Douglass and Bonnie Yasler.

The students may be eligible for a transfer scholarship at a four-year college after their studies at BRTC, pending approval by the institution to which they are transferring, according to Chester.

Summer Registration Now in Progress

**For a current schedule visit our website
www.blackrivertech.edu**

Scholarship Donor-Student Luncheon Celebrates Success

A large number of scholarship donors and student recipients attended an annual luncheon on Thursday, April 20, in Randolph County Development Center on the campus of BRTC. The



Kathleen Whitlock

event, sponsored by the BRTC Foundation, is designed to acknowledge the contributions of businesses and individuals who contribute scholarship dollars, and to recognize the effort and accomplishments of the student scholarship recipients.

Guest speaker for the event was Ralph Nesson of Springdale, executive director and founder of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Foundation. Highlighting the luncheon were brief presentations by three student spokespersons, Cora Kildow of Maynard, and Jimmy Downs and Kathleen Whitlock, both of Pocahontas. A quartet composed of members of the Kimbrough Choir also performed. Quartet members are Howard Dunn, Joe Hardin, Michael Guthrey, and Ben Johnson. Glenda Blasini served as accompanist.

Nesson stressed the importance of scholarship assistance for both for the financial and the psychological boost the funding provides. He noted the Randolph County affiliate of the state organization, the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship

program, has provided more than 160 scholarships since its inception.

Kildow, Downs, and Whitlock affirmed the role of scholarships in their lives and in the lives of their follow students. They also indicated a commitment to help others in the future as they have been helped.

In addition to recognition of all donors and recipients, President Richard Gaines acknowledged the major contribution of corporate and organizational donors who have pledged sizeable gifts toward the construction of BRTC's new Business Technology Center: the City of Pocahontas, Bank of Pocahontas, and First National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Hoxie and Pocahontas.

Dr. Jan Ziegler also acknowledged unique donor gift-givers Dexter Kimbrough, whose contribution established a choral music program, and Steve Manley of Universal Asset Management, who provides a new automobile each year to a qualifying graduating student as special incentive to encourage students to complete their degrees.



Ralph Nesson, center, recognizes Arlene Cline and Stacey Peoples who along with Jennifer Hall were named Entergy Scholars of the Single Par-

Lewis Receives International PTK Award

Alvin Lewis, Jr. of Smithville, member of BRTC's Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, was awarded the 2006 George O. Bierkoe Distinguished Member Award while attending the PTK International Convention in Seattle April 20-22.

Recipients of the award are selected based on the student's embodiment of the Hallmarks of the PTK Society, emphasizing participation in society programs. The award is named for the late President of Endicott College

in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Lewis received the Hallmark Distinguished Member Award on the regional level, which qualified him for the award on the international level. He was one of thirty PTK members from across the United States and several other countries who received the prestigious award.

Lewis will be graduating in May from BRTC with an Associate of Arts degree.



Alvin Lewis, Jr.

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

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

janz@blackrivertech.org
annd@blackrivertech.org
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



Richard Gaines

It is easy to get caught up in our particular jobs and responsibilities and lose sight of the "big picture" sometimes. That's why events like our recent Scholarship Luncheon can be so important. Such an event allows us to acknowledge and express our appreciation to those who contribute scholarship funding through private donations and through the annual Golf Tournament, which is very important. But perhaps more importantly, the event allows us to showcase the student recipients of the funding assistance, and often to introduce the students to

those who made their scholarships possible.

Each year we ask some of the students to represent all recipients and to share their stories and to say what the scholarships have meant to them. Without exception, this is a meaningful and rewarding time in the program.

When we hear first-hand from our students how the scholarships have impacted their lives, and what their future may hold in part because people cared enough to give, then we remember, in case we have forgotten, why we are here. No doubt we will have a similar experience in a couple of weeks when this year's class of graduates walk across the stage to accept their diplomas.

**BRTC 2nd Annual
Student Art Showcase**
Sunday, April 30,
1:00 - 2:45
Kimbrough Chorus Concert
3:00 - 4:00

PTK Spring Induction

BRTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa inducted twenty-seven new members during its spring ceremony held Wednesday in the Randolph County Development Center. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or above and be enrolled in at least twelve college credit hours per semester to qualify for induction into PTK, an international honor society of two-year colleges.

Current PTK officers are Jimmy Downs, President; Alvin Lewis, Vice-President of Scholarship; Elizabeth Snow, Vice President of Leadership; Trella Moore, Vice President of Service; Laura Alderson, Secretary Public Relations – Pocahontas campus; Jeanna Howard, Secretary Public Relations – Paragould campus; and Karen White, Treasurer.

Chapter advisors of PTK include Dr. Linda Moss, Gary Buxton, Phillip Dickson, Ruth Schaa, and Joan Linnstaedter.



Pictured here are new Phi Theta Kappa Inductees.