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Volume 4, Issue 8



# The River's Edge

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**Important Dates**

May 15 - May 25

*Intersession*

May 22 - May 30

*Registration Summer I*

May 23

*ASSET Test*

May 30 - June 29

*Summer Session I*

June 6

*ASSET Test*

July 5 - August 3

*Summer Session II*

July 13

*Foundation Board Meeting*

## 143 Graduate from BRTC

Black River Technical College President Richard Gaines conferred degrees on a total of 143 students during commencement exercises held Thursday, May 11, in Randolph County Development Center. Of this number, forty-two students completed the Associate of Arts, or college transfer degree. Some twenty-seven students earned two-year Associate of Applied Science degrees, while a total of 86 students were awarded Certificates (one-year degrees) or Certificates of proficiency (one-semester degrees). Some students earned more than one degree.

Dr. Martha Shull, member of the BRTC Foundation Board, was guest speaker. Formerly division chair and faculty member at the college, Dr. Shull encouraged the graduates to remain intellectually interested in life and to "keep asking questions" about the things that matter.

Alvin Lewis, Jr. of Smithville served as student spokesperson. He acknowledged and praised the assistance provided by the BRTC staff and faculty.

BRTC Vice President for Academics Jack McCord presented departmental awards. Those receiving General Education awards were Rebekah Overman, English; Brent Earley, Fine Arts Visual; James Jumper, Drawing I; Robyn Morgan, History; Veronica Peppers, Math; Nick L. Searcy, Biology; Krystal Upshaw, Chemistry; and Carolyn Lane, Social Science.

Technical education awards were presented to William Sanders, Auto Collision; Jesse Ray, Auto Services Technology; Erich Doles, Aviation; Suzie Hall, Accounting; Retha Barron, Microcomputer Business Applications; and Scott Strickland, Networking.

Other technical education award recipients were Susan Hancock, Dietary Management; Nancy Holmes, Dietetics; Kelly Evans, Early Childhood; Michael VanWinkle, Industrial Electricity /Electronics; Marty Hogan, Machine Tool Technology; Brian Brown, Paramedic/EMT; Winter Gutierrez, Phlebotomy; and Patrick Bunn, Welding.



May 2006 Class Spokesperson Alvin Lewis, Jr.

## BRTC Graduate Thrilled with "River's End" Award

Margo Jones of Hoxie is the recipient of the "River's End Incentive Award" - a new automobile - presented by Steve Manley of Universal Asset Management. Jones, a teacher at Walnut Ridge Head Start, graduated from Black River Technical College in December, 2005, with an Associate of Arts degree.

The award came at the conclusion of the college's commencement ceremony Thursday evening, May 11, at Randolph County Development Center on the campus of BRTC.

Established last year as a way to honor and encourage students to complete their degrees, the "River's End" is awarded



BRTC President Richard Gaines and Steve Manley congratulate Margo Jones

(Continued on page 3)



Brian Beeman



Chris Coats



Jacklyn Cox



Autumn Cowen



Leandra Elkins



Tara Gentry



Keri Holder



Amy King



Cody Wallis



Britton Wofford

## Academic Distinction Scholarships Announced

An additional 10 students have been awarded Academic Distinction Scholarships to BRTC for the Fall 2006 semester, according to Brandi Chester, Financial Aid Officer. This brings the total number of Academic Distinction Scholarships for the Fall semester to 25, and more awards are anticipated.

The awards are based on the students' academic test scores or class ranking. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition and are renewable with maintenance of a specified GPA. Students may also be eligible for transfer scholarships to four-year universities, following their studies at BRTC.

The recipients are Keri Holder of Pocahontas; Jacklyn Cox and Autumn Cowen of Maynard; Cody Wallis, Amy King and Chris Coats of Hoxie; Tara Gentry of Walnut Ridge; Leandra Elkins and Britton Wofford of Piggott; and Brian Beeman of Corning.

Keri Holder is the daughter of John and Kathy Holder. A graduate of Pocahontas High School, she plans to complete college basics at BRTC and transfer to a university where she will major in Psychology.

The daughter of Lonnie and Shelly Cox, Jacklyn plans to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy at a four-year institution after completing basics at BRTC. She is a Maynard High School graduate.

Autumn Cowen, a Maynard High School graduate, plans to major in Business.

Hoxie graduate, Cody Wallis plans to complete college basics at BRTC before transferring to a four-year college and major in Physical Education. His parents are Shawn Wallis and the late Ben Wallis.

The daughter of Jeff and Debbie King, Amy graduated from Hoxie High School. She plans to major in nursing, transferring eventually to a uni-

versity where she will become a Nurse Anesthetist.

Hoxie High School graduate Chris Coats is the son of Ronnie and Tracy Coats. His major area of study is undecided.

Tara Gentry is the daughter of Terry and Melissa Gentry. She graduated from Hoxie High School and plans to complete college basics at BRTC. She will transfer to a four-year college and major in Physical Education and Sports Medicine.

Piggott High School graduate Leandra Elkins plans to major in Nursing. She is the daughter of James Elkins and Lynn Elkins.

The son of Dale and Tonnie Wofford, Britton plans to pursue a career in Computer Networking. He is a Piggott High School graduate.

Brian Beeman is a graduate of Corning High School. The son of Sam and Marlena Beeman, he plans to major in Business Networking.



## Students Tour Automobile Manufacturing Plants

Students in the Auto Collision and Repair program at BRTC recently returned from their annual trip of touring automobile manufacturing plants. This is the sixteenth year Butch Dail, Auto Body instructor, has organized the trip for his students.

Seventeen students, accompanied by Dail, Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Bus/Tech, Jack McCord, VP for Academics, and Phillip Roark of the Arkansas State Police, toured the Nissan and Corvette manufacturing plants.

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# BRTC Students and Staff Have “Fun Before Finals”

The third annual “Fun Before Finals” was held May 2 on the campus of Black River Technical College, where students and staff enjoyed a day of food, fun, music and games. The concept of “Fun Before Finals” began with Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair for Gen Ed, who thought it would be a good idea to bring together students and staff for a day of fun and relaxation before heading into a week of final exams.

A large number participated in competitions such as volleyball, horseshoes, scavenger hunt, and a 1.5 mile run/walk. Drawings for prizes were also held throughout the day, and free food consisting of grilled hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks was available.

Johnson acknowledged the generous donations and contributions from the following businesses

that made the event possible: Bank of Pocahontas, First Community Bank, First National Bank, Simmons First Bank, Regions Bank, Bank of America, Commerce Bank, CitiBank, BancorpSouth, Scentations, Imperial Dinner Theatre, Personalities Plus, Pizza Hut, Tool Central, El Acapulco, Wal-Mart, Subway, Waterloo, Snowman’s T-Ricks, BRTC Bookstore, Coral Reef Tanning, Wendy’s, McHaney Vision Center, Little Debbie Snacks, edamerica, Mohela, and Arkansas Student Loan Association.

In addition to Johnson, event chair, Fun Before Finals committee members were Angie Caldwell, Kim Adams, Joniece Trammel, Kim Biggers, Carl Hawkins, Victoria Barkley-Robinett, Phillip Dickson, Dina Hufstедler, Tina Harris, Regina Moore, Sharon Watson, Julie Radcliff, Kim White, Janna

Guthrey, and Kelly Grooms.

“The event was a huge success thanks to the tremendous continued support of local businesses, the talents and hard-work of our committee members, and the participation of students, faculty, and staff in the activities,” said Johnson.

## “River’s End” Award Award Continued from page 1

annually to a student meeting specified requirements. This year’s award was a Chevrolet Cobalt. Jones’ name was selected from a pool of five December graduates and five May graduates. Their names had been randomly drawn from all eligible graduates. Manley was on hand at the ceremony to draw the winning name and present the key to the new car, along with a \$200 gas card.

In addition, Manley announced that he will award \$500 savings bonds to the other nine students who were among the “finalists.” Those students are Chad Lee Day, Tiffany N. McFadden, Laurie Ann Wilkerson, Amanda Lois Kent, Mike A. Skaggs, Angela D. Ashcraft, Andrea Dawn Cox, Lora Bess Bennett, and Jesse Rohrer.



# Jeremy Baltz Named to BRTC Foundation Board



Jeremy Baltz

Pocahontas native Jeremy Baltz is the newest member of the BRTC Foundation Board. His four-year term on the 13-member body has been hailed by Richard Gaines, president of Black River Technical College, as a “very positive and exciting step forward.”

Gaines said Baltz brings to the Foundation Board not only his skills and understanding associated with the operation of a business, but also “a fresh new perspective—that of a home-town individual who has lived and studied in a totally different environment. He now brings back those experiences to the Pocahontas community,” Gaines noted, “and we will all benefit from them.”

The son of A.J. Baltz, Jr. and Patsy Baltz, he graduated from Pocahontas High School in 1993 and went on to complete a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering at Notre Dame University in 1997. Baltz worked for IBM in Microelec-

tronics Marketing for the next four years. He served as Business Unit Marketing Manager for JDS Uni-phase until 2003, when he returned to Pocahontas to join the family business, Baltz Feed Company and Ace Hardware.

Baltz and his wife Lisa have three children and attend St. Paul’s Church.

According to Dr. Jan Ziegler, BRTC Vice President for Development, the BRTC Foundation is the development arm of the college. Its purpose is to support the college in fulfilling its mission to students and to the community. Funding for scholarships, for special events and

activities, and for capital projects and annual campaigns are among the projects undertaken by the Foundation.

“Foundations such as ours have become increasingly important,” Ziegler said, “as state funding faces growing demands. Colleges are no longer considered to be ‘state-supported,’ but rather ‘state-assisted.’ This means we have to take up the slack by various means, and the Foundation is an important way of doing that. We greatly appreciate the support the Foundation and community have given us, and we welcome Jeremy to this effort,” she added.

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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



*Richard Gaines*

This is truly a time when all of us at BRTC can take a moment just to feel good about the entire academic year. We have just celebrated the graduation of 143 students of all ages in a wide range of academic disciplines. We know that many of these individuals will move on to a four-year institution where they will pursue a baccalaureate degree. Many will go directly into full-time employment. In all cases, these graduates will have open to them opportunities and benefits they did not previously have, and it is a good feeling to

know that this college is an important part of that.

We can celebrate also the generosity of those in this community—people like Steve Manley of Universal Asset Management, who presents a new car to one of our graduates each year. He does this as a way to provide incentive and encouragement for students to complete their degrees. A member of the BRTC Foundation Board, Mr. Manley provides support to our students and graduates in many other ways as well.

The Foundation at BRTC is a vitally important organization, and another cause for celebration is the new Foundation Board member, Jeremy Baltz, who brings another level of diversity to this body. We greatly appreciate the Foundation's funding support for this institution and for our students in the form of scholarships.

## Students Tour Plants

### Continued from Page 2

The Nissan plant, located in Smyrna, Tennessee, manufactures around 2,000 automobiles per day, while the Corvette plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky produces just over one hundred per day, according to Dail, and is the only Corvette plant in the world.

Donations from the projects they work on during the year along with

money raised from an annual car-wash cover all expenses for the trip.

“Thanks to the fundraisers and supporters, the trip is of no cost to the student,” said Dail. “If there was a cost involved, several students would not be able to attend, and the trip is something the students always look forward to and get excited about early in the year.”

