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# The River's Edge

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## UAM Gives to Business Tech Center



*Pictured, from left, President Richard Gaines, Dr. Jan Ziegler, Mike Dunn, and Steve Manley.*

26,000 sq.ft. center adjoining the existing Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus.

The equipment will allow for interactive video classes, so that students at distant sites from BRTC may take part in the classes being taught there, or may receive transmission from other CVN classrooms in distant locations. The donation from Manley and UAM actually enables the college to restore the interactive equipment to the building plan. Earlier cost constraints had resulted in the elimination of the hardware.

"I have been thinking for quite some time how I could help make a small difference with that effort, but I really wanted to do something that would satisfy a specific need rather than pledging an amount to cover a blanket requirement," Manley said. He added that when he learned of the need for the equipment, this was what he wanted to do.

President Richard Gaines expressed his appreciation to Manley and to the community for the tremendous support shown on this project. The new center is scheduled to open in late spring of 2007.

Manley is a member of the BRTC Foundation Board. His company, UAM, purchases and refurbishes airliner components for re-sale. With headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee, the international company also has facilities in Walnut Ridge and Pocahontas.

Universal Asset Management CEO Steve Manley has pledged his company's support of the Business Technology Center currently under construction at BRTC with a gift of \$50,000. On hand to accept the pledge were BRTC President Richard Gaines, Board of Trustees chair Mike Dunn, and VP for Development Dr. Jan Ziegler.

Manley has directed the pledge to the equipping of a CVN (Compressed Video Network) classroom in the

### Important Dates

July 13

*Foundation Board Meeting*  
*Sesquicentennial Lecture*

July 25

*ASSET Test*

August 1

*ASSET Test*

August 3

*Board of Trustees Meeting*

August 14 - 19

*BRTC In-Service*

August 15

*ASSET Test*

August 21

*Classes Begin*

## New "Local Heritage" Course Offered



*Gary Buxton holds a corn dolly, an artifact he will use in the new class.*

opportunity to earn three hours of humanities elective credit at BRTC this fall in the new "Local Community Heritage" course to be taught by Gary Buxton, Instructor in the English Department. The new course will introduce students to various aspects of local heritage through a cross-disciplinary approach. Timing couldn't be better, college officials note, with the area celebrating its Sesquicentennial in September and October.

The class will examine several topics, ranging from foodways,

rites of passage, and photography as viewed through the lens of folklore, history, anthropology and culture, Buxton explained. Students will learn about the theories of these disciplines and will then have opportunity to make practical applications in the local community. In the end, he said, "students will come away with a better knowledge of their own culture and of how and why we see things as we do."

Buxton, who also teaches creative writing in addition to more

Students of all ages will have

# Youngsters Attend BRTC's Kids' College

The Department of Continuing Education at Black River Technical College recently held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids' College. Approximately 96 children entering first through sixth grades attended the four-day event which provided four classes of educational activities each day.

The classes offered and the presenters were: "All About Bugs," ProTech Termite and Pest Control; "Arkansas Wildlife," Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; "Balloon Animals" and "Castle Jump," Bonnie Davis of Party Package; "Civic Awareness," Kiwanis; "Computer Fun," Gena Farrin; "Creative Crafts," Tammie Lemmons; "Healthy Food and Fitness," Misty Gilbie of Randolph County Cooperative Extension Agency; "Living History," Travis Eddleman of Old Davidsonville State Park; "Nature's Art," Mike Andrews of Randolph County Cooperative Extension Agency; "Pocahontas Sesquicentennial," Cindy Robinett; "Police Talk," Todd Grooms of the Pocahontas Police Department; and "In the News," Dalton Sullivan of the Star Herald.

First through third grade students attended the

morning session from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, and fourth through sixth grade students attended the afternoon session from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The students also enjoyed games and snacks throughout the day.

According to Patti Blaxton, Coordinator of Continuing Education and Business Outreach, the event was once again a huge success. "I want to thank the many volunteers who assisted with the program and offered their time and talents in working with the students," said Blaxton. "Because of their hard work and dedication, Kids' College continues to be a successful event offered annually to area children."

In addition to the class presenters, volunteers assisting with the program were Dana Clay, Julie Hendrix, and Renee Davis, BRTC staff; Kathy Murdock, BRTC Ambassador; Randy Brinkley, Arkansas Department of Economic Development; and Pat Lambert, Mary Goode, Kay McDonald, Dorothy Rapert, Millie Thielemier, and Emmy Lambert, Pocahontas Women's Club.



# Serendipity Celebrates Second Year of Activity



The BRTC Serendipity group celebrated its second year of events and activities with a banquet on June 22 in the Department of Continuing Education on the BRTC campus. The evening included members and their guests and focused on an overview of the year's focus on "Themes and Dreams: Stories from a Small World."

Open to any members of the community, Serendipity is designed specially to appeal to those who are retired or nearing retirement. A series of luncheon meetings during the past year included readings and discussions on a

variety of topics. The organization is a project of BRTC offered in fulfillment of the college's mission to provide lifelong learning opportunities.

"I have greatly enjoyed working with the organization," said Dr. Jan Ziegler, Vice President for Development, who, along with Patti Blaxton, Coordinator of Continuing Ed/Business Outreach, organizes the program. "It is great meeting new people and getting to know others better, and I always learn more than I

ever imagined from our sessions." Engaging people in thoughtful dialogue and stimulating the intellect are hallmarks of Serendipity, she added.

In addition to the monthly luncheons, Serendipity plans special outings or events. The next event will be an overnight trip later this summer to southeastern Arkansas for visits to Desha and Chicot Counties. While there, the group will visit

Lakeport Plantation and other sites in Lake Village, as well as the historical memorial sites of Rohwer and Jerome Relocation Centers, where thousands of Japanese Americans were imprisoned after being expelled from their homes on the West Coast during World War II.

For more information about Serendipity and its third year of programming, contact Patti Blaxton, 870-248-4181.

**Sesquicentennial Lecture Series**  
**RCDC - 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, July 13  
 Dr. Joe Key  
 "Early Native Americans in Arkansas"

Friday, July 28  
 Judge Morris S. Arnold and Dr. Kathleen Cande  
 "Territory, Early Statehood, and Archeological Finds"

Friday, August 18  
 Cindy Robinett, Harmon Seawel, Kirby Riffel, Gary Gazaway

# Students Participating in CSI Camp Visit LETA



Jared Bassham

Seventeen high school students from Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri recently visited the Law Enforcement Training Academy on the BRTC campus as part of a week-long "Crime Scene Investigation"

camp being held at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Sponsored by ASU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the camp serves to inform and prepare students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement and, more specifically,

CSI. While on campus, the students and two camp instructors met with LETA Instructor Jared Bassham who discussed fingerprinting and other aspects of crime scene investigation.

Bassham demonstrated some of the techniques and equipment used

for fingerprinting and collecting evidence. He also led the group on a tour of the academy and showed them the Firearms Training System (F.A.T.S.) used for instructing students during basic police training.



## Music Scholarship Announced

Pictured are Joniece Trammel, Recruiter and Choral Music Instructor at BRTC, with her mother, Oleita Young. Mrs. Young and her husband, Merle Young, have established a music scholarship to be given in the fall and spring semesters for a student enrolling in the BRTC Kimbrough Choir. The scholarship is given as a memorial to Oleita Young's father, the late Henry Culver, who taught Music Schools using the "shape note" method in small country congregations throughout Clay County in the 1960s-70s. For more information about applying for the scholarship, contact Mrs. Trammel at 870-248-4000, EXT 4157.

# Scholarship List Growing



Mallory Cook



Anthony Cathcart



Patricia Segraves



Marti Tate

An additional four students have been awarded scholarships to attend BRTC in the Fall 2006 semester, according to Financial Aid Officer Brandi Chester. They are Patricia Segraves, Mallory Cook, Anthony Cathcart and Marti Tate. This brings to 42 the total number of scholarships accepted to date for Fall.

Cook and Cathcart are receiving the Academic Distinction Scholarship, Tate is receiving a President's Scholarship, and Segraves is receiving a BRTC Foundation Scholarship. The Academic Distinction Scholarships, full tuition for one semester, are renewable if students meet GPA requirements. The President's Scholarship and Foundation Scholarship

provide full tuition for one year.

Additional scholarship awards will be made, Chester said. Students may apply for the Academic Distinction Scholarship through August 15. Also available to qualifying students are Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarships.

Mallory Cook, a graduate of Rector High School, is the daughter of Laura and Matt Hollis and Tommy Cook. She will take college basics at BRTC, transferring to a university to pursue a degree in Athletic Training, and eventually, a master's degree in Physical Therapy.

The son of Kim and Jerry Tiner and Mark Blagg, Cathcart plans to

study Electrical Engineering. He is a graduate of Biggers-Reyno High School.

Patricia Segraves, recipient of a BRTC Foundation Scholarship, is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree at BRTC, with plans to transfer to the University of Arkansas where she will major in Marketing and Accounting. She is a 1984 graduate of Corning High School.

Sloan-Hendrix graduate Marti Tate is the daughter of Rick Tate. She plans to major in nursing.

For more information, students may contact Brandi Chester at BRTC at 870-248-4000, EXT 4021, or go online to [www.blackrivertech.org](http://www.blackrivertech.org).

# Heritage

Continued from Page 1

traditional writing and literature courses, said the new course is "basically an outgrowth" of his studies at Arkansas State University where he is working on his dissertation for a Ph.D. degree in Heritage Studies.

He is currently serving as Director of the newly developed Randolph County Heritage Museum. Buxton indicated students in this course may have opportunity to become involved in the museum's activities, and that they will do some sort of local research. In this way, he noted, students will potentially "peel the layers back" to reveal what are now unknown pieces of local history and culture. "I like for students to learn in a context where their studies are concerned with something that matters," he concluded. "This class will, I believe, be that sort of class."

The course is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12:30. For more information, contact Buxton at 870-248-4000, Ext. 4154.

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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*

In a word, progress is a way of life here at BRTC. That is evident whether we consider the physical surroundings or the human aspect at this college. Most obvious to the visitor to our campus is the new construction between the Administration Building and Randolph County Development Center. This is the site of the new Business Technology Center, a first-class facility that will bring to our campus and to our community the latest technology. The news in this week's issue that a benefactor, Steve Manley of Univer-

sal Asset Management, has stepped forward with a sizeable donation to ensure the technology we need is in place, is welcome news to all of us. This project is one with wide community support. In addition to this contribution, other major funding commitments have been made by the City of Pocahontas, by Bank of Pocahontas, and by First National Bank of Walnut Ridge, Hoxie and Pocahontas. In addition to its computer classrooms, this facility will feature a new student lounge and internet café, two lecture halls, and a specially equipped Community Conference Center for campus and community use.

Another sign of our progress here at this college is the growth in the scholarship offerings we are able to provide our students. This year will be a record year, with additional scholarship announcements to be made in coming weeks. None of this would be possible absent the com-

## Cater Named Registrar



*Elise Cater*

Elise Cater of Jonesboro has been named Registrar at BRTC, according to VP for Student Services Dr. Michael Sullens. She replaces Margaret Snapp, who retired from the post in June of this year.

Cater began her employment at BRTC in 1994, working as Tech Prep Director. Her duties changed to Educational Advisor, a position she held for several years before taking a position as teacher in the Memphis City Schools.

She returned to BRTC in Spring of 2004 as Registrar Assistant, and has worked in that capacity until assuming the Registrar position earlier this summer.

"We know Ms. Cater has the skill and experience to do a great job in this vital position," said Dr. Sullens, "and we congratulate her on this promotion." Cater said she is excited about her new position and loves working with BRTC staff and students.

mitment and support from people throughout our service area. Both these signs of progress—new facilities and increased scholarship opportunities—point in the long-run to

improved economic development for our communities. It is so true that when we help others, we help ourselves in the process.