



# The River's Edge

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### Important Dates

November 21 - 23

*Thanksgiving Holiday  
Campus Closed*

November 30

*Foundation Board Mtg.*

December 10

*RT Pinning Ceremony*

December 11

*RN Pinning Ceremony*

December 13

*Graduation*

December 20—January 1

*Christmas Holidays  
Campus Closed*

January 7

*Classes Begin*

## LETA Ceremony Honors 49 Grads

A total of 49 officers from across the state graduated Friday, November 16, from BRTC's Basic Police Training Course offered through the college LETA (Law Enforcement Training Academy) program. The public was invited to attend the ceremony held at 11 a.m. in Randolph County Development Center.

John Miller, Jr., a retired bomb technician and former member of the Arkansas State Police, was the guest speaker at the event. Miller is a veteran of the Vietnam War.



*LETA Class 2007-B taking the Oath of Honor*

Graduating students completed the thirteen-week, 589-hour course which began August 20. The course included instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal, educational, technical skills and practical exercises. Officers are required to maintain an academic score of at least 70% on each exam, and must consis-

tently fire at least 80% during the firearms training exercises in order to graduate.

Arthur Noel III of the Faulkner County Sherriff's Office received the Top Overall Award, which is earned by having the highest overall average in the areas of academics, firearms, and physical fitness. Noel also received the Top Physical Fitness Award. Shane Baldwin of the Paragould Police Department received the Top Academic Award, and Matthew Nix of the Jonesboro Police Department received the Top Firearms Award.

Class members selected Jonathan R. Schmidt of the Trumann Police Department to serve as class spokesman. LETA Director Steve Shults served as Master of Ceremonies.

## Spring Orientation Required for All New and Transfer Students

All new and transfer students who plan to attend BRTC in the Spring 2008 semester must attend a student orientation, where they will be given opportunity to learn the "Rules of the Road," announced the Office of Student Services. The new daylong orientation has been developed in order to make the transition to BRTC easier, ensuring the likelihood of students' success in their academic studies.

Orientation dates are November 26, November 27, and January 3. The sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on each of those days. Lunch will be provided. Students may choose the day that best fits their schedules. For students who are unable to attend any of the three day sessions, an Online Orientation is also available.

New and transferring students who have not completed an orientation session, either on campus or online, will be unable to enroll in classes.

The orientation will include a wealth of important information and guidance, including sessions on Financial Aid, Placement Testing, Academic Advising, Time Management, Grades, Blackboard,



*Dr. Michael Sullens and Regina Moore prepare for orientation*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Starting Over—Mary Morgan Takes the Plunge



*Pictured (center), Mary Morgan, with daughters Chrystal Tritch (left), and Kim McCandless. Both daughters also have ties to BRTC, Tritch as an alum and McCandless as a current student.*

Mary Morgan never thought she would have to “start over” at 51.

She, like so many others, believed her job at Waterloo would carry her through to retirement. That did not happen, though, and with the closure of the Pocahontas plant last March, Morgan’s thirty-plus years of factory employment were over. She faced a future of uncertainty with significant fear and more than a little anger.

“I was mad, yes,” she admits. “I kept thinking, ‘I’m so mad at what they’ve done to me.’ I didn’t want to go back to school after all that time, but really, there was no choice.” Morgan was referring to the TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) program that provided

extended unemployment and educational benefits for those who would enroll in an approved program of study.

“I felt I had no choice, so I did it [enrolled at BRTC], and so far, I’m not sorry one bit,” she says, then adds: “There was a time, though, after my first test in Basic Human Nutrition, when I seriously thought I might not make it.”

Morgan is completing her first

semester as a Dietetics major, working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree. “Actually,” she says sheepishly, “after that first test, I was ready to quit. I went so far as to fill out an application at Wal-Mart.” Morgan actually earned a “C” on that exam, but the encouragement from her instructor, Angie Caldwell, her advisor, Tina Harris, and from her husband, Glen Morgan, and especially daughters Kim McCandless and Chrystal Tritch, turned her around.

Both daughters have BRTC connections. Kim is currently enrolled at BRTC in the EMT/Paramedic program, and Chrystal completed BRTC’s Practical Nursing program. She works as a surgical nurse in a Jonesboro Hospital.

“I had all ‘A’s at mid-term,” Morgan says. “Don’t know how it’ll turn out for semester. It’s just a lot of work. When I decided to go into Dietetics, I had no idea about studying amino acids and how the body works. I just thought I might want to

work in a school cafeteria.” Now, when she looks to the future, she sees the many options her career field holds. “I didn’t know before about the food shows, catering, restauranting, hospitals, nursing homes—now I don’t know for sure where I want to be. I may even decide to go back to college after I finish my degree. I might get a job I really like—look forward to going to work every day—that would be cool.”

Morgan says with emphasis, “I do know one thing. If I had kids at home, I couldn’t do it. I see all these young girls with kids, and I don’t know how they manage.” Her life, however, is not without its outside responsibilities. Morgan goes daily to her parents’ home where she helps her father, Bill Snow, care for her disabled mother, Opal, and her adult sister, Helen Snow, who is mentally disabled. Glen Morgan’s words mean everything when he tells his wife, “It’ll all be worth it when you get to walk down that aisle.”

## Choral Festival Held at BRTC



*The BRTC Kimbrough Choir in performance at the first BRTC Choral Festival held November 7. The choir is under the direction of Joniece Trammel and includes approximately thirty members.*

The BRTC Kimbrough Choir was host to their first choral festival November 7 in the Randolph County Development Center. Over 100

choir members from Pocahontas, Corning and Paragould High Schools and the Kimbrough Choir attended the event which featured voice mas-

ter classes with Craig Jones, Director of Choral Music at Harding Academy.

The idea of hosting a choir festival came about after the Kimbrough Choir attended a similar festival in Fort Smith the previous year, according to Kimbrough Choir Director Joniece Trammel. “I knew there wasn’t a choir festival of this nature in the area, so I decided to put one together to not only promote BRTC and its choral program, but to encourage support among the area choirs.”

Each choir had individual rehearsals and performances during the one day event, and the festival concluded with a mass performance directed by Jones involving all choirs singing “How Can I Stop Singing My Song.”

## Orientation

(Continued from Page 1)

Study Skills, Academic Program Counseling, and Campus Tours. At the conclusion of each session, students whose documents have been submitted will be able to enroll and obtain IDs and parking permits.

“We believe the incorporation of an orientation will prove a very positive step to help students get a good start,” said Dr. Martie Shull, who has assisted in developing the orientation sessions as a part of the “Bridge to the Future” project. “We know that students who know what to expect and who understand what college is all about are more likely to persist and to complete their studies. It’s very important to know the ‘Rules of the Road,’ and these sessions are designed to help them to do that.”

## Buxton in Folklore Lecture



*Dr. Gary Buxton displays fiddle used in presentation*

Dr. Gary Buxton, instructor of English and Humanities at BRTC, presented a session November 9 at the Missouri Folklore Society's Annual Meeting in Jefferson City, Missouri. His lecture covered the performance of the auctioneer applying the Parry-Lord oral formulaic theory to auctioneers and giving a

historical overview of auctions with emphasis on comparing and contrasting tobacco and livestock auctions in the United States.

The presentation came about, according to Buxton, when the director of his dissertation and longtime member of the Folklore Society, Dr. Bill Clements, suggested he send in his paper to the society. After sending it to them, they invited him to give a presentation at their annual meeting.

Buxton concluded his lecture by reciting "The Touch of the Master's Hand," during which time Howard Marshall, professor emeritus from the University of Missouri at Columbus, stepped in and played "Seamus O'Brien" on the fiddle.

"The finale was a real crowd pleaser," said Buxton. "The audience loved it. The whole experience for me was very enjoyable and I hope to attend again next year."

## Realistic Training Prepares Officers



*LETA student Rusty Coleman of the Marion Police Department applies skills in a felony traffic stop training exercise.*

The guns were non-functioning, and the threats were not real, but to observers, the scenarios looked—and sounded—totally authentic. The enactment was all part of a class on procedures to conduct a Felony Traffic Stop. Students from BRTC's Basic Police Officer program role-played a felony traffic stop gone bad during a training session at BRTC recently.

On hand to observe were Ozarka College's Criminal Justice students.

LETA Director Steve Shults explained the students were learning proper procedures, including safely exiting the vehicle and approaching the suspect. Protocol in resolving conflict when making the felony traffic stop was also a part of the training.

Students also alternately participated in a class on administering the

Breathalyzer test. In this class, Sheridan resident Ken Slocum, Jr., of the Arkansas Department of Health, explained and demonstrated the technical aspects of the task of how to operate breath testing instruments used in checking for DWI in Arkansas. Slocum works with the Office of Alcohol Testing, teaching students in Little Rock and at field sites.

## Representatives of DuPont Give Presentations



*Auto Body instructor Butch Dail listens as DuPont representatives talk with students.*

Representatives of DuPont, a professional supplier of automotive paints and services in the refinishing industry, gave presentations on the BRTC campus last week. An evening session was held for the public and employees of area auto-body shops, and a daytime session was

held for students in BRTC's Auto Collision and Repair program. Both sessions were sponsored by Baltz Auto Supply of Pocahontas.

Area representatives Jim Butler of Jackson, Tennessee, and Roger Sheffer of Memphis, along with Dale Fox,

Customizing Specialist from Nashville, presented information regarding the newest products and procedures available in the automotive refinishing industry, according to Auto Collision and Repair Instructor Butch Dail. The presentations are held each semester.

## Business Instructors Attend Conference



*Pictured, from left, Debbie Prichard, Darend Kersey, and Ruth Schaa*

Debbie Prichard, Darend Kersey, and Ruth Schaa, Business instructors at Black River Technical College in Pocahontas, attended the annual conference of the Southern Business Education Association (SBEA) in Little Rock, October 24-27.

The SBEA is an affiliate of the

National Business Education Association, headquartered in Reston, Virginia. The purpose of the association is to promote better business education in the Southern Region and throughout the nation. The SBEA represents over 3,000 business educators from 12 states, which includes: Ala-

bama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The conference consisted of computer workshops, interest sessions, seminars, exhibits, vendor sessions, business tours, and keynote speakers.

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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.*

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

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## From the President's Desk



*Richard Gaines*

Sometimes in education, as in other areas, it seems we go "back to the future." At least that is one way to consider the growing trend among institutions of higher learning to once again *require* new students to go through an orientation session. I remember this was standard practice when I entered college, but through the years, things changed. Students, we assumed, were more savvy. We, and that includes most colleges and universities, assumed that information was so readily available from so

many sources, including online sources, maybe they did not really need to spend time in an orientation session on the front end.

Now we here at this college, like our sister institutions, have realized that orientation sessions may not only be useful, but necessary. This is a time when our new or transferring students learn about what is expected of them, and how to negotiate through their studies from beginning to end.

For the first time in several years, BRTC is requiring all new and transfer students to complete an orientation session. Our faculty and staff have worked to develop a highly informational and beneficial program to assist students on such areas as study skills, financial aid, online options and traditional classroom expectations. Students will learn about the many academic programs and graduation requirements, and they will have opportunity to obtain parking permits and tour the campus. They will be able to

meet with academic advisers, and if all required documents are submitted, they can complete the registration process and enroll in classes at the conclusion of the session. We are calling the orientation session "The Rules of the Road," and we believe their attending this will greatly streamline the educational experience here at BRTC.

Most of all, we believe this step will increase the chances these students will encounter fewer obstacles and will be more likely to succeed.

That will certainly make this time well spent for all of us.

### Orientation First Time Entering and Transfer Students

November 26  
November 27 or  
January 3

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
RCDC

## Flu Shots Given

BRTC Nursing I student Holly Rogers gives Danny McCandless, BRTC Maintenance Department, a flu shot during the free flu vaccine clinic held Thursday, November 8, in RCDC. Students in the Practical Nursing program at BRTC administered the shots, under the direction of the Randolph County Health Department. According to Ramonda Housh, Director of Nursing at BRTC, the health department hoped to give 1000 flu shots that day, and exceeded that goal with 1200.

