



# The River's Edge

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### Important Dates

- November 7  
*Choir Festival*
- November 8  
*Free Flu Clinic*  
*Board of Trustees Mtg*
- November 9  
*Serendipity*
- November 16  
*LETA Graduation*  
*Foundation Board Mtg.*
- December 13  
*Graduation*

## Business Technology Center Celebrated

A standing-room-only crowd was on hand last week for the long-awaited dedication and open house ceremony celebrating the completion of BRTC's Business Technology Facility. The event, held on October 30, featured a keynote address by Governor Mike Beebe.

Also on hand were other public officials, including State Senator Paul Miller of Melbourne, Mike Patterson of Piggott, and David Cook of Williford. Several city and county officials also were present, along with members of local civic organizations, BRTC staff and students, and members of the public.

The \$4.5 million facility includes 25,600 sq. ft. and features the high-tech City of Pocahontas Conference

Center, the Bank of Pocahontas Student Center/ Internet Café, the First National Bank Lecture Hall, and the Universal Asset Management CVN Classroom. These areas

were named in recognition of the financial support, totaling more than one-half million dollars, provided by the respective organizations or businesses. Those organizations, recognized during the ceremony, were represented by Pocahontas Mayor

Gary Crocker, BOP President Terry Dickson, FNB President Milton Smith, and UAM CEO Steve Manley.

Also adding to the day's festivities were the participa-

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Students Practice 'Art' at Rice House

Drawing I students in the class of Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz of BRTC practiced their art skills on-site at the Rice House in northern Randolph County last week. The house, documented by dendrochronology as the oldest standing log structure of its type in the state, is slated for restoration by the college. The house will be restored to an 1836 interpretation date.

A total of eighteen students traveled to the homestead, which was recently donated to BRTC by Jean Upshaw and family, descendants of early settler Reuben Rice, who constructed the house in 1828. Also present were Historic Preservationist Joan Gould of Fayetteville, and Dr. Lila Robinson, a retired cultural anthropologist who formerly adjuncted for BRTC.

Students in the class naturally enjoy drawing, Baltz

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*Garold Brady, Drawing I student, draws the fireplace in the Rice House in conjunction with the REACH Scholars Program.*

## Art Class (Continued from Page 1)



*Dr. Sandy Davis-Baltz shows how to achieve perspective when drawing the chimney.*

explained, "but drawing from life outside on a gorgeous day makes it more interesting and special." Some of the students recorded the outside of the structure, while others drew close-

ups of the boards on the interior, or the fireplace.

The students' work will form a part of an archive of the restoration project, or Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Culture and Heritage). The restoration is being funded by a grant from Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council.

Students in other BRTC academic areas will participate in their appropriate discipline-specific activities in the coming months. Other educational entities are also invited to participate in Project REACH.

Rueben Rice and his kinsman, William Looney, settled in the Eleven Point River Valley in the early 1800s. They migrated from Tennessee, bringing with them their families, key possessions, and in some instances, their slaves.

## PTK Blood Drive Once Again Exceeds Goal



*Second semester LPN student, Crystal Loyd of Corning donating blood for her second time with Stephanie Bible (left) from the Jonesboro's office of the American Red Cross.*

Once again, the quarterly blood drive sponsored by BRTC's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society has exceeded their goal with 49 pints collected. The society's goal for the drive held

October 24 was to collect 33 pints, according to PTK Advisor Dr. Linda Moss.

"As always, we appreciate those who donate blood," said Moss, "as well as the volunteers and PTK members who participate."

The blood drive is held each quarter in collaboration with the American Red Cross. The next drive will be in January.

*Free  
Flu Vaccine Clinic  
RCDC  
November 8  
9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.*

## LETA Students "Treat" Head Start



*Officer Shae Smith, center front, and fellow LETA students visit with students of Black River Head Start.*

Several students in BRTC's current Law Enforcement Training Academy class made a special trip to the Black River Head Start last week to visit with the children and hand out "goodies." The idea was the brainchild of Maumelle Police Officer and current LETA student Shae Smith. "We (the current class of

students) have been here for eleven weeks," Smith explained, "and I wanted to give back to the community that we have been residing in."

The idea of visiting Head Start came about, she said, "Because I really like kids and I have worked at day cares. I want children to recognize officers in uniform as a good

thing instead of something bad, and I wanted to do something for the children that would have a positive impact."

Smith went to LETA Director Steve Shults with the idea and he contacted Head Start Center Director Judy Swann to propose the idea. "I had originally thought about passing out candy to the children to coincide with Halloween," noted Smith, "but, that idea was nixed because of the dental care curriculum that's implemented at the school."

So, Smith decided that other treats could be given instead. "I took up a collection of donations from fellow students and went bargain shopping over the weekend," Smith said. What she came up with was a variety of items including rulers, stickers, pencils, Play-Doh, stuffed animals and such. She, along with a dozen or so fellow students who were also interested in participating, fixed up bags of treats for each of the children to have, and then delivered them to

the center located on the BRTC campus.

"The LETA students were wonderful and it was a great learning experience for the children," said Swann. "They did a great job and interacted really well with the children."

The officers who participated enjoyed the trip as well. "We had a great time visiting with the children and playing with them on the playground," Smith added. "I think we accomplished the goal of having a positive impact on the children."

"We teach the children that police officers are our friends," added Swann, "and the visit helped to prove that." Swann said she really appreciates the time, money and effort the LETA students provided for the Head Start Children. "The children were very excited over their treat bags and the visit was a great and fun experience for them. We would love for the students to visit again whenever possible."

## PTK Inducts Fifty-Four New Members



The BRTC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society, welcomed 54 new members during its Fall induction ceremony held October 31 in Randolph County Development Center on the BRTC campus. Requirements for selection include maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or above while enrolled in at least 12 college credit hours per semester. PTK has been recognizing academic achievement in two-year colleges since 1918.

Current PTK officers are Jonathan Bennett, President; Terri Milburn, Vice President of Scholar-

ships; Whitney Crouch, Vice President of Leadership; Staci Adams, Vice President of Service; Mike King, Vice President of Fellowship; Melinda Ray, Secretary; Patricia Segrades, Public Relations; and Dawn Chitty, Treasurer.

Chapter advisors of PTK include Dr. Linda Moss, Dr. Gary Buxton, Phillip Dickson, Ruth Schaa, and Joan Linnstaedter. Dawn Chitty is currently serving as Regional Vice President of the Eastern division of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Region.

## BT Dedication

Continued from Page 1

tion of Tromberger Post 4556 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard for the posting of the colors and the performance of patriotic music selections by members of the BRTC Kimbrough Choir under the direction of Joniece Trammel. Those performing included J.R. Briggs, Lee Pulliam, Howard Dunn, Sandy Hudson, Lynn Ables, Jaren Prince, Jake Cooper, and Joniece Trammel.

BRTC Board of Trustees Chair Mike Dunn served as moderator. President Richard Gaines introduced Governor Beebe, who urged those present to take personal interest in prospective students--young people who might not have the exposure and encouragement needed to ensure their enrollment in higher education. Beebe praised the leadership of the college and the community in working for economic development. He pointed to the role of the college in training workers as a vital part of the state's economic prosperity.

Prior to the ceremony, Beebe had attended a joint luncheon meeting of Kiwanis, Rotary, and the Lion's Club, along with BRTC officials, where Pocahontas Chamber of Commerce Director Wayne Gearhart announced the expansion of one industry, Paslode, and the creation of a new industry, Dynarex, a medical supply distribution company. Initially, these industries will provide an additional 60 new positions, with the number expected to climb within a year.

Following the ribbon-cutting, guests enjoyed touring the new building and seeing demonstrations of the advanced technology the facility offers. BRTC Ambassadors provided tours, and members of the college's Dietetics program prepared and served hors d'oeuvres.

The BT facility, in addition to the "named" spaces, includes an additional lecture hall, twelve faculty offices, four computer labs and four classrooms, and a coffee shop which will serve Starbucks products.

## BRTC to Host Choral Festival

The BRTC Kimbrough Choir will be hosting a choral festival involving several choirs from surrounding schools Wednesday, Nov. 7, in Randolph County Development Center, according to Joniece Trammel, Kimbrough



Joniece Trammel

Choir Director and coordinator of the event.

Students from area choirs will be on campus the entire day participating in voice master classes with Craig Jones, Director of Choral Music at Harding Academy. The individual choirs will also perform pieces they have been practicing at their schools this semester. All groups will participate in a mass performance with the Kimbrough Choir at the conclusion of the festival.

The community is invited to attend the festival and watch the voice master class from 8:15 – 9:15 a.m., as well as individual performances from 12:30-2:00, followed by the mass choir performance of "How Can I Stop Singing My Song."

## Gaines Scholarships Open for Spring Semester

The deadline for students to apply for the Richard and Patti Gaines Scholarships for the Spring 2008 semester is November 26, according to Brandi Chester of the Office of

Financial Aid. A total of ten scholarships for \$1,000 each will be awarded.

Through a program established

by Pulaski Bank to honor longtime BRTC President Richard Gaines and his wife, Patti, up to 25 Gaines scholarships are awarded annually.

Interested students, including those who have previously received this award, may apply online or contact Chester at 870-248-4000, EXT 4021, for more information.

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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  
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**On-line Application address:**

<http://connect.blackrivertech.org/nappadm.html>

## From the President's Desk



*Richard Gaines*

The much awaited Dedication and Open House for our new Business Technology Center was all we had hoped for—and more, thanks in large part to a large outpouring of people from the campus and the community. From the presentation of the colors by our local VFW Post 4556 Honor Guard, through the singing of patriotic songs by members of the BRTC Kimbrough Choir, and the comments of our major donors, the ceremony was truly a celebration of the collective effort of many people in making this new

facility a reality. Having our governor, Mike Beebe, as the guest of honor was just icing on the cake for an already memorable day. Governor Beebe has long appreciated and supported higher education opportunities for all. He was right when he said that the new facility with its technology means, among other things, that BRTC students and the community are in step with or ahead of communities anywhere in the state.

The many community members who took time not only to come to the dedication and ribbon-cutting, but also to tour the building, showed great enthusiasm, and well they should. This is easily the largest building project we have undertaken here at BRTC, and we are very pleased with the results. The 25,600 sq. ft. facility includes well-designed and well-equipped spaces that allow us to do what we are all about: to teach and to learn. We anticipate many positive results from this facility, especially the classes, lectures, conferences, and just

socializing in our new City of Pocahontas Conference Center, Bank of Pocahontas Student Center/Internet Café, First National Bank Lecture Hall, and Universal Asset Management CVN classroom. This day could not have happened also with-

out the dedication and hard work of a number of BRTC staff members. I appreciate them and the hours of planning and executing this exciting day of celebration for BRTC and the surrounding communities.

## Foster is New Community Outreach Coordinator



*Rhonda Foster*

Rhonda Foster of Pocahontas has been hired as Career Pathways Community Outreach Coordinator for BRTC. For the past eleven years she served as Director of Human Re-

sources for Randolph County Medical Center (now Five Rivers Medical Center) in Pocahontas. She formerly worked as Director of Marketing at Harris Hospital in Newport, Assistant Manager with Wal-Mart, and at Futrell Pharmacy.

Foster is a graduate of St. Louis High School and earned a Bachelor in Business Administration degree from Harding University. She and her husband, Paul, have two sons.

She joins Pathways staff members Tom Baker, Director, Cathy Crawford, Recruiter, Bridgett Guess and Helen Shipley, Secretaries.