



The River's Edge

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LETA Students Graduate

A total of 52 students who successfully completed the Basic Police Training Course at Black River Technical College Law Enforcement Training Academy were recognized during a graduation ceremony held April 13 in Randolph County Development Center.

Class spokesperson for the 2007-A graduating class was Officer Neal Williams of the Marion Police Department. John Vorhees of the Green County Sheriff's Office played the bagpipes during the processional and recessional. Acting Director Michael Doyle presided over the ceremony and Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel presented the keynote

address to the graduates and their families.



2007-A Class Spokesperson
Officer Neal Williams

The 13-week, 587-hour basic police training course includes instruction in standard police tactics, firearms, legal, educational and technical skills, and practical exercises.

Patrolman John P. Hope of the Jonesboro Police Department received the Overall Top Student Award, which is earned by having the highest overall average in the areas of academics, firearms, and physical fitness. Hope also received the Top Physical Training Award and the Top Academic Award.

Patrolman Duane Busby, also of the Jonesboro Police Department, received the Top Firearms Award.

Scholarship-Donor Luncheon Celebrates Giving

Important Dates

- May 1**
Fun Before Finals
- May 3**
Board of Trustees Meeting
- May 9**
PN Pinning Ceremony
- May 10**
BRTC Graduation
- May 17**
BRTC Foundation Board Meeting
Serendipity Banquet



Lawana Watson

A large number of scholarship recipients and those who make the awards possible were on hand Thursday, April 19, for the annual Scholarship-Donor Luncheon in Randolph County Development Center. The event

was organized by the BRTC Foundation in order to recognize student scholars and the community of donors for their awards and for their generosity.

The event was emceed by BRTC Foundation



Stacy Brown

Kimberly Bates, Brent Garner, Lawana Watson and Stacy Brown shared briefly of their personal experiences, and expressed appreciation on behalf of all students for the assistance they have received in the form of scholarships. Brown concluded the students' comments by stating her hope is that all the student scholars will one day choose to become donors in order to help others as they have been helped.



Brent Garner

President Mike Miller of Bank of Pocahontas. Following a meal prepared by the BRTC Dietary Department, BRTC President Richard Gaines welcomed guests and acknowledged donors, while Miller acknowledged the student scholars.

Student spokespersons

Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for

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Annual 'Fun Before Finals' Scheduled May 1



Mike Greene shows the volleyball medallions made in machine shop to Carl Hawkins and Michael Doyle during a FBF committee meeting.

BRTC's annual Fun Before Finals event will be held Tuesday, May 1, outside the Joe R. Martin Health/Science Building from 10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. "The event was developed three years ago as a means for relaxing and having fun prior to beginning final exams," explained Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair of General Education and coordinator of Fun Before Finals. Final exams begin Wednesday, May 2.

Johnson would like to encourage all BRTC students, faculty and staff to participate in the event which will include competitions, music, free food, and a dunking booth. Drawings for prizes will be held for current students.

Competitions will be volleyball, horseshoes, scavenger hunt, 1.5 mile walk, golf pitching, hula

hoop, and tug-of-war. Sign-up sheets for these competitions are posted in the student lounge area of the administration building. Prizes to be awarded include: volleyball – medallion for each team member made in BRTC's own machine shop; horseshoes – trophies for each player of the winning team, also made in machine shop; scavenger hunt - \$20 Pizza Hut gift certificate donated by Phi Theta Kappa; 1.5 mile walk – to be determined; golf - \$25 gas card donated by Phi Theta Kappa; and hula hoop – steak dinner at Don's Steak House donated by Kay Ellis.

For more information on Fun Before Finals contact Johnson at 248-4000 ext. 4169, or, to find out more about the competitions, contact Michael Doyle at 248-4000 ext. 4192.

Kiss-a-Pig Contest to Raise Money for Cancer Society

A Kiss-a-Pig contest is currently underway by a group of employees of Black River Technical College to raise money for American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life event. Instructors and board members of the college are competing for

the chance to kiss a live pig during BRTC's Fun Before Finals' celebration May 1. Candidates are Dr. Jason Morrison, Dr. Gary Buxton, Dr. Roger Johnson, Jack McCord, Ramonda Housh, Mike Dunn, and Dr. Paul Baltz.

Containers have been placed in Student Services in BRTC's Administration Building as well as with each individual contestant. Anyone interested in casting a vote may do so by placing money in the container representing the candidate of their choice.

The candidate with the most money collected by May 1 will be the one to kiss the pig.

All money raised will go to the American Cancer Society. For more information, contact Regina Moore or Kim Biggers at 248-4000.

Biology Students Visit Local Nursery



BRTC science instructor Jana Culp, along with students in her biology class, recently visited Mill Creek Gardens nursery in Pocahontas, owned by Jerry and Amy Swann. The purpose of the trip, according to Culp, was to provide students an opportunity to gain "real world" knowledge about plants. Mrs. Swann talked to the group about organic gardening, perennials, annuals, soil composition, and natural gardening. Students also viewed the greenhouse. "She (Mrs. Swann) even let the students taste pineapple mint, chocolate mint, and regular mint plants," Culp noted. "We appreciate Mrs. Swann for talking to the students and giving them a tour of the facility," said Culp. "I am very glad that we have businesses in the community that work so closely with BRTC to help our students gain much needed real-world experience."

Lambert Shows Age No Barrier to Success as Student



Elby Lambert

He is long since retired from the military, and also from the postal service. But Pocahontas native Elby Lambert figured he still had things to do, and high on his list of priorities, which for him means “doing what I want to do, not what I have to do,” was completing BRTC’s Basic Police Officer Training.

Check that one off.

Lambert was among the 52 officers to graduate last week from the intensive 13-week course. His distinction was that at age 68, he is the oldest person ever to complete this program of study.

Lambert currently serves as Constable of Ward 3. He also is a mem-

ber of a local police reserve unit, and this involvement also played a role in his decision to enroll in the LETA program, Lambert explained. A Vietnam-era veteran, Lambert said the program was physically demanding, but not beyond what he could handle. “I’ve actually lost a few pounds,” he said, “and I have more stamina than before.”

He believes his greatest strength brought out by this program is his maturity gained through life experiences. These have given him a certain tolerance for pain and an ability to stay calm under stress, he said.

The most challenging part of the training program for Lambert was

Defense Tactics Week, he explained. “They actually try to exhaust you if they can,” he added. Also challenging was the training with paint balls. “Those hurt,” he admitted. “I actually had bruises. The firing range—that was fun, as well as the skid cars.”

Now that his coursework is over, Lambert is considering whether he will remain in retirement or perhaps work for a short time in police work, along with continuing to spend time helping his wife, Pat, on community activities. “I’m a ‘go-fer’ and I’m good at carrying tables—things like that,” he said. He also spends time hunting, fishing, and volunteering with a veteran’s organization.

Dietary Managers Meet at BRTC



Verlene Hardaway

Verlene Hardaway of Little Rock and a registered dietitian and surveyor with the Office of Long Term Care gave a presentation during the Northeast Central Dietary Managers Association

meeting held April 17 in the Randolph County Development Center on the BRTC campus.

“BRTC hosts the spring meeting each year to provide our dietetic students an opportunity to network with dietary managers from across northeast Arkansas,” explained Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Technical programs. “We provide six hours of continuing education for the CDMs and five and a half hours for administrators of long-term care facilities.”

According to Caldwell, Hardaway’s presentation was on dietary regulations and tags in the long-term care setting.

Luncheon

(Continued from Page 1)

Development, provided an address to the audience in which she stressed that “the true mark of greatness is not what we *get*, but what we *give*.”

Guests were entertained by the BRTC Kimbrough Singers, under the direction of Joniece Trammel, with accompaniment by Glenda Blasini.

Among those recognized at the luncheon was

David Burnett of the Entergy Corporation, whose match to the Arkansas Single Parent Foundation increases the amount of funding available to the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship program.

Also recognized was Dexter Kimbrough whose gift to the foundation established the BRTC choral music program.

Hino Reps Visit Machine Shop



Hino representatives, from left, Greg Parish and Randy Farrin visit with Machine Shop instructor Gary Meier.

Representatives of Hino Motors Manufacturing in Marion were on the BRTC campus recently

to visit with students of the Machine Shop program, according to instructor Gary Meier. Randy Farrin, Stamping Supervisor, and Greg Parish, Team Leader of Tooling, both representing the producer of parts for Toyota trucks, plan to soon hire five individuals who have completed machine shop training. This is a part of Hino’s five-year expansion plan.

Both Farrin and Parish worked with Meier for many years at Waterloo Industries in Pocahontas and are familiar with BRTC’s Machine Shop program. “They contacted me about visiting with students to discuss job opportunities available at Hino,” Meier explained. “I will also be traveling with the Machine Shop students to Marion later this month to tour the Hino facility.”

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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.

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From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

The Scholarship Donor Luncheon held last week provided a good opportunity for all of us in the BRTC community—students as well as donors—to consider just how important scholarship support is. We can all take heart from the words of the students who were speaking on behalf of all scholarship students concerning how the scholarships have impacted their lives.

They spoke of their difficulties and their fears when faced with the financial sacrifices they knew they

would face once they made a commitment to work toward a degree. They spoke of their appreciation for being offered a chance to pursue their dreams in their chosen field, and said this is the greatest gift someone can receive. They spoke of a determination to meet their goals, which they identified as being a desire to remain focused on their children, while being successful in the classroom. They spoke of the benefit of having to worry less about how to pay bills while pursuing those goals.

They spoke also of the realization that they, like those donors who have made their successes possible, have a responsibility someday to become donors themselves. All in all, they spoke with the words of wisdom that can only come of experience. Everyone who heard them was moved and touched, and we at BRTC add to theirs our own words of appreciation to the businesses, organizations, and individual donors, many of whom are our own faculty and staff.

Pathways Adds Two to Staff

The Career Pathways program at BRTC has added two additional employees to assist the growing number of students being served by the program, announced Pathways Director Tom Baker. The two are Kathy Dust and Bridget Guess.

Dust has assumed duties as Community Outreach Coordinator, while Guess will serve as a Pathways Secretary.

A Pocahontas native, Dust previously worked in Customer and Technical Support at Verizon in Dallas, Texas. She is currently working on a master's degree in Business at the University of Dallas. Her responsibilities at BRTC will include

working with Pathways participants and the community to establish internship opportunities.

Guess formerly worked at First Community Bank in the area of Deposit Operations Support. She will be involved in record maintenance and other aspects of the Pathways program.

"We welcome both these individuals to BRTC and to the program," said Baker. Each of them will enhance the work we are doing to make college accessible to more people."

For more information on the Career

Pathways program, contact the office at 248-4000, ext. 4064 or ext. 4068.



Kathy Dust



Bridget Guess