



The River's Edge

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Spring Gala Brings Funds, Friends, Fun

The first annual Spring Gala sponsored by the BRTC Foundation generated a healthy amount of funds for the organization, and provided an evening of fun and friendship for the approximately 150 guests, according to Gala Chair Mike Dunn. The March 27 event netted more than \$4,000.

The evening included a festive and elegant dinner prepared by the BRTC Dietetics students, as well as entertainment by the Delta String Quartet of Jonesboro.

Dunn, who is the Chairman of the BRTC Board of Trustees and an ex-officio member of the Foundation, acknowledged the special efforts of BRTC staff members Ann French, Director of Marketing and PR, Tina Harris, Dietetics instructor, and Vickie French, Administrative Assistant to the President, in making this a memorable event.

He also acknowledged the work of BRTC Foundation Gala Committee members Dr. Martie Shull,

Stephanie Sutton and Ruth Ann Ellis, as well as the entire Foundation Board for their work in selling the gala tickets.

Plans for a repeat performance next year include the addition of a silent auction.



Linda & David Bowlin



Milton & Stephanie Smith



Tom and Becky Baker



Dr. Scott & Paula Lewis

Important Dates

April 6

Good Friday (campus closed)

April 13

Law Enforcement Graduation

Serendipity

April 19

Scholarship/Donor Luncheon

May 2

Fun Before Finals

May 9

PN Pinning Ceremony

René Tyler Added to Foundation



René Tyler and President Richard Gaines

The BRTC Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of a new member, announced Foundation President Mike Miller. René Tyler, a local CPA, has been approved for a four-year stint on the Foundation Board.

She attended an orientation session and was welcomed by BRTC President Richard Gaines on Friday. The Foundation now includes sixteen members.

“We are very pleased to welcome René to the Foundation Board,” said BRTC President Richard Gaines. “She is a lifelong resident of this community and she brings to this organization a wealth of knowledge and understanding, as well as a genuine desire to serve the college and the community.”

The BRTC Foundation functions as a “friend raiser and fund raiser” organization to support the college, its programs, and its needs, according to Miller.

Among the Foundation’s activities are an annual golf tournament, a Spring Gala, and an annual “Growing Strong” campaign. The organization also supports other fund-raising events, including a silent auction raising funds for the Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship program.



Samantha Foster



Autumn Moore



Jennifer Rice



Kristen Hall

Students Awarded Wal-Mart Scholarships

Four students at Black River Technical College have each been awarded \$500 scholarships from Wal-Mart for the Spring 2007 semester. They are Samantha Foster of Piggott, Autumn Moore of Maynard, Jennifer Rice of Hoxie, and Kristen Hall of Doniphan, Missouri.

Foster, Rice and Hall are currently enrolled in BRTC's Practical Nursing program, while Moore is pursuing a degree in business.

Health Fair Held



Dietetic student Angela Davis explains body mass index and body composition results to Catherine Richey of Powhatan during a Health Fair held recently at BRTC while Richey's husband Lloyd (background) has his weight checked.

Graphic Art Students Design for 'Real' World

Doing classroom work is one thing; producing a design for a 'real world' application is another. Students in Dr. Sandy Davis Baltz's Design I class are increasingly given opportunity to experience design work for what amounts to a 'client,' and Dr. Baltz think that's great.

Two such opportunities presented themselves recently. The design prepared by student Melissa Wilson was selected for

the cover of a "Master Plan" for Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Culture and History). Danielle Bramlett produced the winning logo design for the Kimbrough Choir. And now the students are working on a design for BRTC's BAT (Blood Alcohol Testing) mobile unit.

All three projects have ties to the college, but each of them resulted from an actual request from various individuals who, for all purposes, fit the role of client. This, according to Baltz, gives the students hands-on training for real life experiences. "I've been

pleased when the class gets the opportunity to understand the entire process, which includes not just creating the design but doing so according to the needs and wishes of businesses or individuals."

Baltz stresses that student design work is open for non-profit or community needs, but could not be used for commercial or personal needs.



Melissa Wilson



Danielle Bramlett

Shannon Jones Tapped for Culver Music Scholarship

Shannon Jones of Hoxie is the recipient of the Henry Culver Music Scholarship for the Spring 2007 semester at Black River Technical College. The scholarship, established last year by Oleita Young of Pocahontas in honor of her father, the late Henry Culver, provides tuition of one credit hour of choir at BRTC for one student each semester. Jones participates in both the Kimbrough Choir and the Kimbrough Quartet. Kimbrough Choir Director Joniece Trammel is the daughter of Young and granddaughter of Culver.



Pictured from left, Choral Director Joniece Trammel and Shannon Jones

Summer Registrations for Current Students begins April 16

Holocaust Presentation Reaches Large Numbers

Audiences for the recent Holocaust survivor presentation numbered more than 600, said Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development at BRTC. The visit by Bob Behr, who was imprisoned by the Nazis in Theresienstadt during World War II, provided a large number of students and community members with opportunity to hear a firsthand account of a piece of what is widely regarded “a watershed event” in human history.

The visit by Behr was made possible by funding support from the BRTC Foundation’s SEAS (Special Event and Activity Support) program, Mike and Barbara Dunn, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Behr, who is 85, was accompanied by Ellen Blalock, Director of Survivor Affairs at the Mu-

seum.

Behr volunteers his time and effort. He made three presentations during his two-day visit to Pocahontas, speaking to audiences of public school and college students, to the college’s Serendipity group, and to the general public. Prior to coming to Pocahontas, Behr and Blalock visited Little Rock’s Central High, where he also shared his story with students there.

“We continue to have positive follow-up comments from teachers and their students,” said Ziegler. “This sort of opportunity is one those who met Bob Behr will not forget, and it is a perfect example of how BRTC promotes lifelong learning. We know the importance of understanding the destructive power of hate, prejudice and



Behr shows ORC student Josh Roosa a pendant made by a fellow prisoner in Theresienstadt.

indifference. Bob’s experience is a powerful reminder,” she concluded.

Dietetics Grads Pass National Registry Examination

Tina Harris and Brenda Barnes, both graduates of BRTC’s Associate of Applied Science in Dietetics program, recently passed a national exam to become Registered Dietitians. Harris is employed by BRTC as an instructor in the Dietetics program, and Barnes works at St. Bernard’s Regional Medical Center in Jonesboro as a clinical dietitian.

Many people do not pass the (Registered Dietitian) exam on their first attempt, according to Angie Caldwell, Division Chair of Business and Technology programs at BRTC. “This is a tremendous accomplishment for both ladies,” said Caldwell, “and it is also a reflection of the high quality Dietetics program we offer at BRTC.”



Brenda Barnes and Tina Harris

BRTC Board Member Honored

Joe Wessell of Paragould was recently awarded a “Lifetime Achievement” award by the Paragould Chamber of Commerce. Wessell is a member of the BRTC Board of Trustees.

Currently with Bancorp South, Wessell served several years on the Paragould School Board, the Greene County Community Foundation, and other organizations. He is a past president of the Paragould Chamber and the Paragould Rotary Club.

Wessell has been a BRTC Trustee since 2001.



Joe Wessell

Wal-Mart Adds Additional \$2,000 for Scholarships



Wal-Mart in Pocahontas has given an additional \$2,000 in grant money to Black River Technical College to be used for scholarships. According to Assistant Manager Clay Crabtree, a total of \$12,000 in matching grant funds was awarded to various organizations in the community during the store’s Grand Re-Opening ceremony held March 23.

“After being notified by the corporate office of the amount of funds available to distribute, we selected a number of organizations in the community where we felt there was a need,” Crabtree

explained, “and the BRTC scholarship fund is certainly a worthy cause.”

“The Pocahontas store was one of approximately 1200 stores across the nation receiving a new makeover,” said Crabtree, “to provide an updated and modern look for the shoppers in addition to offering new items.” “I want to express our appreciation on behalf of the BRTC Foundation, which is the flow-through organization for scholarships such as this,” said Mike Miller in accepting the check for the college. Miller chairs the BRTC Foundation.

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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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From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

serve our students and the citizens of this community.

As a result of this new construction, we are presently considering new opportunities to re-configure campus offices once the Business Technology Center opens. The expansion of programs such as Pathways, a federally-funded program providing substantial benefits to eligible students, will now be moved into the Administration Building where it can better function alongside Student Services. Other offices or department consolidations will also be possible, allowing BRTC to better serve students and others.

Because we have grown so quickly during the past several years, physical plant decisions were often made in accordance with what was possible, rather than representing the ideal scenario. Now, thanks to our new facility, we can make many of those decisions in accordance with what will bring optimum efficiency. That bodes well for everyone.

Spring is always a busy time here at BRTC as the semester's work moves toward completion. This year is particularly busy with the nearing completion of our new Business Technology Center. This showcase high-tech facility is one we have long awaited, from the original planning to a projected use date of Summer II of this year. We are very grateful to the community and community organizations for their financial support, allowing us to complete the facility at a level that will well

Edington Joins Staff



Beverly Edington

VP for Finance Loretta Williams announced the hiring of Beverly Edington as cashier in the BRTC Bookstore. Prior to joining the BRTC staff, Edington worked as an office manager for physicians at Randolph County Medical Center. She is a resident of Biggers.

"We welcome Beverly to our institution," said Williams. "She brings a great deal of skill and solid work experience to this position, and we look forward to her being a part of BRTC."

2007 BRTC
Foundation Gala



Jack and Kay McCord

Jeremy & Lisa Baltz



Dr. Paul & Nancy Baltz

Charles & Sharon Watson