



The River's Edge

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Academic Year 06-07 Sets Graduation Records

A total of 175 BRTC students graduated with degrees and certificates during the Spring 2007 Graduation ceremony held Thursday, May 10, at Randolph County Development Center, repeating the previous December 2006 record number of 175. This number, added to the December 2006 graduating class, brings to 350 the total number of graduates for Academic Year 2006-07, a record number for the academic year 2006-07.

The event featured keynote speaker Dr. Ed Franklin, Director of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, and student spokesperson, Stacey Brown of Paragould.

This year's graduating class included 33 students completing the Associate of Arts college transfer degree; 15 completing an Associate of Applied Science in the Business Technology degree cluster; 9 with an AAS in Criminal Justice; 6 with an AAS in Dietetics; 6 with an AAS in Fire Science; 2 with an AAS in General Technology; 2 with an AAS in Paramedic; 1 Certificate in Accounting Assistant; 12 Certificates in Auto Collision Repair Technology; 13 Certificates in Automotive Ser-

vice Technology (Electrical Engine); 4 Certificates in Auto Service Tech Master Technician; 4 Certificates in Auto Service Tech (Powertrain-Systems Specialty); 13 Certificates in Aviation Maintenance Technology (Airframe General); 3 Certificates in Dietary Manager; 1 Certificate in Fire Science; 12 Certificates in Industrial Electricity/Electronics; 3 Certificates in Machine Shop; 23 Certificates in Practical Nursing; 8 Certificates in Welding; 1 Certificate of Proficiency in Crime Scene Investigation; 5 Certificates of Proficiency in Medical Transcription; and 10 Certificates of Proficiency in Phlebotomy.



Stacey Brown
May 2007 Class Spokesperson

In addition to their diplomas, the following students were recognized for outstanding achievement by receiving departmental awards: English, Janene Halcomb; Drawing II and Music, Ben Johnson; Graphic Design, Amy Dooley; Math, Shane Bullard; Chemistry and Physical Science, Stacy Crommie; Psychology, Elisabeth Carol Woodard; and Criminal

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Important Dates

- May 17**
BRTC Foundation Board Meeting
- May 24**
Serendipity Banquet
Conference on Domestic Violence
- May 29**
Summer I begins



Michael Bovill, River's End Winner

Rice Dwelling House to be Restored

BRTC has been awarded a grant to restore the "Rice Dwelling House" in northwestern Randolph County, according to college officials. The structure, built by Reuben Rice in 1828, is the oldest documented log structure in Arkansas, according to dendrochronology or "tree-ring dating" studies conducted in the East Arkansas Settlement Study in 2002-03.

The grant award from Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council (ANCRC) for \$575,000 will allow the college to restore the unique historic structure to an 1836 interpretation date. Plans call for removal of all non-historic elements, repairs to the foundation, repair and/or replacement of logs, installation of period-appropriate doors and windows, installation of a

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Pictured at the Rice House are Tommy Jameson, Architect, Loretta Williams, V.P. for Finance, Brian Carnahan, Associate AIA, and Roy Clark, Director of Physical Plant.

Students Accept Academic Scholarships



Barkley Anis



Adam Baldrige



Joshua Barker



Courtney Cagle



Randi McCurter



Brittany Niswonger



Dustin Smith

An additional seven high school seniors have accepted Academic Distinction Scholarships to BRTC for the Fall 2007 semester, according to Brandi Chester, Financial Aid Officer. The award provides full tuition, and may be renewed each semester for students maintaining GPA requirements.

The scholarships are awarded to students based on their ACT standardized test scores and/or class ranking. Students may also be eligible for transfer scholarships once they transfer to four-year institutions, pending approval of the receiving college or university.

The students are Dustin Smith, Barkley Anis, Joshua Barker, Courtney Cagle, Randi McCurter, Brittany Niswonger and Adam Baldrige.

A Pocahontas High School senior, Smith is the son of David and Melba Smith. He plans to study Business at BRTC.

Aerospace Engineering is the career selected by Barkley Anis, son of Randy and Diane Anis. He is a Pocahontas High School senior who plans to take college basics before transferring to a university.

Josh Barker, a senior at Greene County Tech, plans to pursue a career in Nursing. His parents are Lisa Cole and Jeff Barker.

Maynard High School senior Courtney Cagle plans to major in Radiology, completing her two-year degree before transferring to a four-year institution. She is a daughter of David and Kim Cagle.

Randi McCurter plans to study Accounting at BRTC. A Maynard High School senior, she is a daughter of Harold and Rhonda McCurter.

A Hillcrest High School senior, Brittany Niswonger plans to major in Nursing at BRTC. Her parents are David and Penny Niswonger.

Highland High School senior Adam Baldrige plans to major in Electricity/Electronics at BRTC. He is a son of Jim S. Baldrige and Cynthia Baldrige.

Students may apply for this scholarship through the beginning of the Fall 2007 semester. Classes begin August 20. For more information, contact Chester in the Office of Financial Aid, 870-248-4000, ext. 4021.

“Fun” Event Draws Hundreds

BRTC’s fourth annual “Fun Before Finals” event held May 1 was once again a huge success, according to event coordinator Dr. Roger Johnson, Division Chair of General Education at BRTC. “The event was developed three years ago as a way for students, faculty and staff to relax and have fun the day before final exams begin,” Johnson explained, “and participation in the event has grown each year.”



Dr. Roger Johnson kisses the pig.

The day’s activities consisted of music, food, prize give-a-ways, and competitions in volleyball, horseshoes, scavenger hunt, 1.5 mile walk, golf chipping, hula hoop, and tug-of-war.

Johnson expressed his appreciation to committee members Carl Hawkins, Mike Doyle, Janna Guthrey, Tina Harris, Angie Caldwell, and Joniece Trammel, who helped with the planning and organization of the

event, and to the many volunteers and sub-committee members who assisted.

Also acknowledged by Johnson were the following businesses and individuals for providing food, drinks and prizes for the drawings: Bank of Pocahontas, First Community Bank, BancorpSouth, Imperial Dinner Theatre, BRTC Bookstore, BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy, Don’s Steak House, Personalities Day

Spa and Salon, CASE IH, Cherokee Village, Merle Norman, Tool Central, and JMR Vending. Prizes for the competition winners were donated by Pizza Hut, Phi Theta Kappa, Don’s Steak House, BRTC’s Machine Shop program, and business instructor Kay Ellis.

The event also included a fund-raising “Kiss the Pig” contest finale, with proceeds of \$275 going to the American Cancer Society.

Domestic Violence Conference Set

A conference on “Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking” will be held on Thursday, May 24, on the campus of Ozarka College in Melbourne. This event is designed to assist those in educational and other agencies who deal with students or clients who may be victims of Domestic Violence. CEUs (Continuing Education Units) are available for nurses, pharmacists, attorneys and teachers.

The conference is co-sponsored by Ozarka and by Black River Technical College. Attendees must pay only a \$5 lunch fee, as registration costs are covered through a grant awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U. S. Department of Justice.

Keynote speaker is Attorney General Dustin McDaniel. Other speakers include Jason French, BRTC LETA instructor; Michelle Garcia, Director of the Stalking Resource Center for the National Center for Victims of Crime; Michael Mundy of the Domestic Violence Unit of the Independence County Sheriff’s Department; and Ginger Kimes, an attorney specializing in sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse cases.

For more information or to register, contact French at BRTC at 870-248-4000, ext. 4196 or register online at www.ozarka.edu. The conference will be held in the John E. Miller Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lucky Student Receives “River’s End” Award

Michael Bovill had a hard time convincing his parents via cell phone that he had, indeed, won a brand new car at the conclusion of BRTC’s graduation ceremony Thursday night. Bovill, who completed an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science, was the winner of a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt given by Steve Manley, CEO of Universal Asset Management as a special incentive to encourage BRTC students to continue their studies and complete their degree.

Bovill’s name was drawn by Manley from a container with the names of ten eligible “finalists” for the award. Five were December 2006 graduates, and five were members of the May class. In each case, the names had been drawn from the pool of qualified recipients for “The River’s End” award.

The young man repeatedly assured his parents, who live in New Jersey, that he was telling them the truth about the car. Bovill said he had moved around a lot with his family, growing up mostly in Florida. While his father was working for a time in Arkansas, he had learned about the outstanding Fires Science program at BRTC, and decided this was the career choice for him.

This is the third year of the awarding of “The River’s End” Incentive Award by Manley, who indicated he has always been impressed with the caliber of the graduates from BRTC’s Aviation program, many of whom work for his firm at either Walnut Ridge or Pocahontas. BRTC officials and Board members, meeting with Manley for dinner prior to the graduation, expressed their appreciation for his unique and generous support

of BRTC students as well as his continued work with the local business community.



Bovill (telephoning family with good news) with River’s End donor Steve Manley of UAM.

Rice Dwelling

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wood shingle roof, and reconstruction of the stone chimney to its original state, including two fireboxes. In addition, archeological excavation around the site will help guide archeological and restoration decisions.

The grant also includes funding for additional historic research for continued study of the structure and home site, and for expanding the study to other sites of significance in the region. BRTC will organize a faculty core group to develop educational activities in conjunction with the project. The college’s proposal, Project REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage on the Eleven Point) includes an extensive Master Plan and Historic Structure Report calling for the eventual development of an education center to include the Rice Dwelling House and a second historic structure on the opposite side of the Eleven Point River, the Looney Tavern/Inn. The college plans to seek in a subsequent grant with ANCRC funding to restore the Looney structure, built in 1833 by a kinsman of Rice, William Looney.

“We are elated with ANCRC’s decision,” said Dr. Jan Ziegler, VP for Development at the college. “This is a

tremendous opportunity for our community and for our college, and none of this could happen without the vision, perseverance and generosity of many key individuals.”

Foremost among these individuals, Ziegler said, are the family descendants of Reuben Rice and William Looney, Dorothy Jean Upshaw and her family and Jack and Christina French and their family, who deeded the properties to BRTC last year, making them eligible for ANCRC funding.

She also noted the support of BRTC officials, including the Board of Trustees, for approval of Project REACH. “The educational benefits are so exciting, for our faculty and students, for public school teachers and students, and for students and scholars and others around the state and beyond who care about our heritage .”

Representing Project REACH at the ANCRC meeting in Little Rock on May 9 were BRTC VP for Finance Loretta Williams, Ziegler, Preservation Architect Tommy Jameson of Little Rock, and Historic Preservation Consultant Joan Gould.

Scholarship Honors Dave Statler

Diamond State Tool and Die has established a full tuition scholarship for a student majoring in BRTC’s Machine Shop Technology program. The award honors longtime Machine Shop instructor, Dave Statler, and has been named the “David A. Statler Scholarship,” according to information from the Office of Financial Aid.

This new scholarship, to be awarded for the first time to a student enrolling for the Fall 2007 semester, covers the full cost of tuition and fees at 15 hours per semester (\$1,035). Students with financial need will receive priority in the application process.

Statler started the program at its

beginning in 1972 at then-Black River Vo-Tech. He remained in the position for thirty years and was instrumental in the program’s growth. Statler said that he challenges all his former students who are in business for themselves to do the same thing Diamond

State Tool & Die has done in an effort to enhance continued growth in Machine Shop.

The scholarship application can be

downloaded from BRTC’s web site at www.blackrivertech.org, following the link to Financial Aid.

Interested persons may also pick up a blank application in the Office of Financial Aid. The deadline to apply is August 1.



Dave Statler and Gary Meir

**To establish a scholarship, contact the Office of Development:
Dr. Jan Ziegler, Ann French, or Dina Hufstedler at 870-248-4000**

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

From the President's Desk



Richard Gaines

The graduation of 175 students Thursday night marked another milestone for BRTC. This number matched the previous record set in December, bringing to 350 the total number of students completing degrees and certificates in the academic year ending June 30. We celebrate the achievement of each of these graduates, and we celebrate the new record set by BRTC.

As our Governor Mike Beebe has recently said, the performance of colleges and universities will in the

future be measured more by retention and graduation rates, rather than simply the number of students or FTE (Full-time Equivalency) rates. It is imperative that the state of Arkansas increase the number and the percentage rates of our citizens who hold college degrees. Arkansas' current rate is well below the national average. Degree attainment is important to our economic development efforts.

We know that BRTC is doing everything possible not just to recruit students to the pursuit of higher education, but also to provide the necessary support and assistance that will lead to their success in the form of retention and degree completion. We appreciate also the gesture of Steve Manley and Universal Asset Management in the provision of *The River's End Incentive Award* as a unique way to encourage students to complete their degree. This program is a great way to underscore the importance of staying committed to completion of one of the most important goals a person will ever set.

Entergy Supports MSSPS Program



Entergy official David Burnette is greeted by Janna Guthrey, chair of the BRTC Mary Sallee Single Parent Scholarship Committee, during the recent annual Scholarship Donor/

Recipient Luncheon held at the college. The Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship program provides a 150% match to local scholarship dollars raised. BRTC was awarded a grant from Entergy making it possible for the local chapter to receive additional matching funds. This spring, the MSSPS chapter funded eleven scholarships to eligible single parent students. To date, the MSSPS has funded more than \$76,000 in scholarships in Randolph County.

Graduation Continued from Page 1

Justice, Rhonda Stone.

Also, Auto Body, Crystal Brower; Aviation, Arvin Tucker; Administrative Services, Elisabeth Woodard; Business Administration, Peggy Cannady; Micro-computer Business Applications, April Ridenhower; Dietary, Susan Hancock; and Dietary Manager, Kathy Murdock. Also, Fire Science, Chris Griffin; Industrial Electricity/Electronics, Jim Hurst; Machine Shop, Nick Ross; Welding, Roger Clements; Medical Transcription, Lana Byrd; Practical Nursing, Lisa Dickson; and Phlebotomy, Melissa Freeman.